

RATINGS

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Submitted: 04/28/2023

- I. Introduction: Purpose of this paper is to provide an overview of pickleball ratings in general, and then outline the basics of USSP ratings within PickleballBrackets.com (PB.com). It's important to understand that pickleball ratings are in flux. Expect change in the coming months.

With regard to my ratings background, I was the ratings chair at USAPA (now USA Pickleball) for four years. I led a team in a two-year project to replace the subjective rating system (tournament director recommendations) with an objective and standardized rating system based on match results. The end result was the implementation of the UTPR (Universal Tournament Pickleball Rating) system in June, 2015. All USA Pickleball sanctioned tournaments since that date have utilized the UTPR system.

- II. Major Ratings Systems: This is a condensed view. The reader can Google more in-depth information online. There are four major pickleball ratings systems at the current time.
 1. DUPR – This the newest rating system. It is the Dynamic Universal Rating System. DUPR's web site claims that their system is the best, most inclusive and the only "global" pickleball ratings system. However, they only have men's and women's singles and doubles ratings, no MXD ratings. In terms of international recognition, IPTPA (which will be

described next) claims their system is “nationally and internationally” recognized. DUPR’s algorithms are based on the ELO (professor and chess player) system. DUPR’s individual player ratings go from 2.0 to 8.0. DUPR has four types: Novice, Intermediate, Advanced and Pro. DUPR promotes and publishes extensive “rankings” of players. For example, Ben Johns was ranked first in MS with a rating of 7.13 on November 16, 2022. DUPR partners with MLP (Major League Pickleball), PPA (Professional Pickleball Association) and Pickleball.com

2. IPTPA – This stands for the International Pickleball Teaching Pickleball Association. IPTPA is a rating system for pickleball players and instructors. IPTPA partners with Gamma Sports, USPTA (US Professional Tennis Association), and US Open Academy. This is not free to use. Individual memberships cost \$25, and allow IPTPA-certified rating specialists to rate individuals in groups of one, two or three.
3. WPR – This stands for World Pickleball Rankings. It was launched in June, 2021 by Pickleball Tournaments.com (PT.com). This was announced as an “improvement” to the ELO system. WPR does not use ELO algorithms but does use the Glicko-2 rating system. WPR includes match results from tournaments that are NOT sanctioned by USA Pickleball. WPR is also endorsed by the APP (Association of Pickleball Professionals) and the US Open Pickleball Championships.

4. UTPR – Is the Universal Tournament Pickleball Rating system developed by USA Pickleball. This is used in sanctioned USA Pickleball tournaments.
- III. USSP ratings: These ratings (in PickleballBrackets.com) are based on the ELO system of algorithms. For a more detailed description, logon to PickleballBrackets.com, click on “features,” and then page down to the section entitled “PickleballBrackets.com ELO Ratings.”

Features include ratings for singles, doubles and mixed doubles; inclusion of a factor for game point differential (not just wins/losses); and team (doubles) rating not calculated as 50/50. This is because we know the weaker player will get 65% to 80% of the balls. PB.com moves the team rating to 65 / 35. This is the USSP rating system and USSP can review and make changes that more suite the senior pickleball player community.

The schedule for updating a player’s rating based on tournament results are:

1. Actual tournament game results will first be uploaded 6 days following the official close of an USSP tournament.
2. “Future” ratings always visible and updated every night at 2 AM. This allows players to see how they rank up on a daily basis.
3. “Live” ratings are always updated on the 1st day of every odd month (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep and Nov).