



It has been just under a day since the USAPA Tournament Player Ratings were made public. The USAPA and PickleballTournaments.com wish to thank everyone that has provided feedback and support.

Reminders

Based on feedback that we have received and the things we have learned over the past 12 hours, we have a few reminders:

- A UTPR is a snapshot of player's tournament performance over time as determined by the algorithm.
- A UTPR is based on up to three years of tournament history contained in PickleballTournaments.com.
- A UTPR is not a perfect predictor of future play, only a tool based on past performance in tournaments.
- UTPRs are not "rankings" - We anticipate publishing rankings later this year that will include more than a player's rating.
- UTPRs provide an effective tool for seeding tournaments and will be available shortly for USAPA sanctioned tournaments.

The Rating System

We want to be sure everyone understands we have moved away from a completely subjective system and are using the [Elo rating system](#) to calculate the UTPRs. The Elo ratings started in chess but have been adopted in many other sports, including football, basketball, and baseball.

We want to draw special attention to the fact that UTPRs do not take match scores into account. Rather, it is based on the relative strength of a player, or a team if it is doubles. Using four-digit precision, this rating will be very effective for seeding tournaments. Including scores in the rating process does little to improve the "accuracy" of the ratings and actually introduces new variables that can complicate the ratings for skill determination and seeding purposes. A simple ratings system would use a win/loss ratio. This is what football and baseball use. The Elo system, as we have implemented it, is much more accurate and provides the granularity needed for accurate seeding.

The Data

The process of calculating ratings from PickleballTournaments.com historical data is a big task. There are nearly 50,000 players and many thousands of match results. The data structure of PickleballTournaments.com was not initially designed with ratings in mind so there are a number of data

transformations that must take place prior to being processed through the ratings algorithm. Some data complications being encountered include:

- Not all tournament data from the last three years is complete
- Players create multiple accounts
- Players have the same name as other players
- Matching player tournament data to the proper USAPA Member Account

How Can You Help?

We know that the UTPRs are not accurate for everyone. This is a very complex process matching the data to player. We encourage all members to review his/her tournament history by logging in to their USAPA Member Profile. Upon review, it is important for the overall accuracy of everyone's rating to send an email with details to MatchReview@PickleballTournaments.com.

We have been fortunate to have received a few hundred emails over the last week. We are researching each issue by hand. Common issues being reported include players with:

- No match data
- Results for a tournament but are missing a match or matches from the tournament
- Tournaments that were run not using pickleballtournaments.com
- Results from tournaments that he/she did not participate in
- Missing tournaments that just concluded
- Some tournament results were not properly entered by the tournament director

This is not unexpected. Indeed, this is why we are showing players their match history and encouraging them to contact us if they think they see an issue. The task of researching each player's issue can be time-consuming so we are asking for your patience over the next few weeks.

We did see an anomaly in the singles ratings that were initially released and we have corrected it and reposted the updated results.

What Is Next?

USAPA and PickleballTournaments.com wish to apologize to any USAPA player with tournament history issues causing his/her rating to be different than what was expected. We understand that there is intense interest in the new ratings, we assure that it is our goal to work together so that everyone will have an accurate rating as soon as possible. Over the coming weeks, we will be working diligently to address these concerns.

Overall, the UTPR rollout is progressing well. We are addressing the known issues (which are mostly exceptions) and the ratings will become more accurate over the next few weeks. It does seem that the vast majority of players have full match results and their ratings are calculating properly according to the algorithm.

To prove our commitment to accurate ratings and to ensure that we are on the right track, we will be implementing a process review tool that will track the accuracy of the ratings over time.

Again, thank you for your support and understanding as we roll out the new ratings.