

General & Experienced Player Guidelines — Supplement to the NTRP Guidelines

| | | 6.0 - 7.0 | 5.5 | 5.0 | 4.5 | 4.0 | 3.5 | 3.0 | 2.5 | 2.0 | 1.5 | 1.0 |
|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|--|-----|
| NTRP General Characteristics | The 6.0 player typically has had intensive training for national tournaments or top level collegiate competition, and has obtained a national ranking. The 6.5 and 7.0 are world-class players. | This player has developed pace and/or consistency as a major weapon. This player can vary strategies and styles of play in competitive situations and hit dependable shots in stress situations. | This player has good shot anticipation and frequently has an outstanding shot or attribute around which his or her game can be structured. This player can regularly hit winners or force errors off of short balls and puts away volleys. He or she can successfully execute lobs, drop shots, half volleys, overheads, and has good depth and spin on most second serves. | This player can vary the use of pace and spins, has effective court coverage, can control depth of shots, and is able to develop game plans according to strengths and weaknesses. This player can hit the first serve with power and accuracy and can place the second serve. This player tends to overhit on difficult shots. Aggressive net play is common in doubles. | This player has dependable strokes with directional control and the ability to alter depth of shots on both forehand and backhand sides during moderately paced play. This player also has the ability to use lobs, overheads, approach shots, and volleys with success. This player occasionally forces errors when serving. Points may be lost due to impatience. Teamwork in doubles is evident. | 3.5 This player has achieved stroke dependability with directional control on moderate shots, but still lacks depth, variety and the ability to alter distance of shots. The effective use of lobs, overheads, approach shots, and volleys is limited. This player is more comfortable at the net, has improved court awareness, and is developing teamwork in doubles. | This player is fairly consistent when hitting medium-paced shots, but is not comfortable with all strokes and lacks accuracy when trying for directional control, depth, pace or altering distance of shots. Most common doubles formation is one up, one back. | This player is learning to judge where the oncoming ball is going and how much swing is needed to return it consistently. Movement to the ball and recovery are often not efficient. Can sustain a backcourt rally of slow pace with other players of similar ability and is beginning to develop strokes. This player is becoming more familiar with the basic positions for singles and doubles, and is ready to play social matches, leagues and low-level tournaments. | This player needs on-court experience, with an emphasis on play. This player struggles to find an appropriate contact point, needs stroke development/lessons and is not yet familiar with basic positions for singles and doubles. | This player has had limited experience with stroke development and is still working primarily on getting the ball into play. This player is not yet ready to compete. | This player is just starting to play tennis. | |
| | | Strengths: can hit offensively at any time; can vary strategies and styles of play in competitive situations; first and second serves can be depended upon in stress situations. | Potential strengths: covers and disguises weaknesses well; can hit offensive volleys and half-volleys from mid-court; can employ physical or mental fitness as a weapon. | Potential strengths: points are frequently won off the serve or return of serve; able to offset weaknesses; may have a weapon around which their game can be built. | Potential strengths: dependable second serve; recognizes opportunities to finish points. | Potential strengths: Players can generally rally from the baseliner opposite a net player. Players at this level may start to utilize mental skills related to concentration, tactics and strategy. | Potential limitations: inconsistency when applying or handling pace; difficulty handling shots outside of their strike zone; can be uncomfortable at the net. | Potential limitations: grip weaknesses; limited swing and inconsistent toss on serve; limited transitions to the net. | | | | |
| World Class Players. Did you have an ATP or WTA ranking in the top 400 more than five years ago? | Age 45 and under | Age 46 to 55 | Age 56 to 65 | Age 66 and over | | | | | | | | |
| Satellite, Futures, Circuit Players (over # 400 in world in the last 5 years) | Age 35 and under | Age 36 to 45 | Age 46 to 55 | Age 56 and over | | | | | | | | |
| Satellite, Futures, Circuit Players (over # 400 in world more than 5 years ago) | | Age 35 and under | Age 36 to 45 | Age 46 to 55 | Age 56 and over | | | | | | | |
| Div. I Top 125 ranked college player | Age 30 and under | Age 31 to 40 | Age 41 to 50 | Age 51 to 60 | Age 61 and over | | | | | | | |
| Div. I Unranked college Team | | Age 30 and under | Age 31 to 40 | Age 41 to 50 | Age 51 to 60 | Age 61 and over | | | | | | |
| NAIA, Div. II & III college team or player ranked in top 25 | | Age 30 and under | Age 31 to 40 | Age 41 to 50 | Age 51 to 60 | Age 61 and over | | | | | | |
| Domestic or foreign Junior 18's ranked in top 150 nationally | | Age 30 and under | Age 31 to 45 | Age 46 to 55 | Age 56 and over | | | | | | | |
| Domestic or foreign Adults ranked in the top 20 nationally or in a section in the top 10 | | Age 30 and under | Age 31 to 45 | Age 46 to 55 | Age 56 and over | | | | | | | |
| NAIA, Div. II & III unranked college team player (committed to, playing, or played) - program with no scholarships | | | Age 25 and under | Age 26 to 35 | Age 36 to 50 | Age 51 and over | | | | | | |
| Junior College player (ever played or committed to play) | | | | Age 25 and under | Age 26 to 35 | Age 36 to 50 | Age 51 and over | | | | | |
| Tennis on Campus player (USTA sponsored program started in 2000) | | | Men who played in national championship | Women who played in national championship | Men who did not advance to national championship | Women who did not advance to national championship | | | | | | |
| Former Junior who had a National or Sectional (foreign or domestic) ranking but did not tour or play in college | | Age 35 and under | Age 36 and over | | | | | | | | | |
| High school tennis athlete (within last 15 years) may not self-rate below 3.0 and will be higher if they participated in post season play | | | | | Played in High School State Championships | Played High School varsity singles | High School Experience | | | | | |
| Players new to tennis who have had competitive experience in other sports should consider the rapid improvement anticipated and not rate below 3.0 | | | | | | | Athletic ability | | | | | |

NOTES:

For more details concerning specific playing characteristics, see NTRP Specific Characteristics on www.usta.com/league. All assigned ratings may be immediately appealed electronically on TennisLink. Individuals with expired NTRP ratings will be limited to their last published rating. Players in wheelchairs should use these same General Characteristics to determine their NTRP skill level. The only difference observed is mobility and power on the serve based on the severity of the injury. The very best World Class players in wheelchairs have an NTRP rating in the low 4.5 range.

The USTA League Committee has approved these guidelines as a tool for accurate self-rating and NTRP Self-rate Grievance decisions. These guidelines will be available to players and captains and will be considered fair warning to players and captains who commit or condone future self rating abuses. USTA League Grievance Committees may suspend captains for condoning self rating abuses. Grievance Committees have the authority to dismiss complaints when they deem appropriate. The USTA League Committee asks all players, captains, coordinators, tennis professionals and volunteers to join the campaign to maintain the integrity of the NTRP Rating System. Current and past college team rankings for Div. I, Div. II, Div. III, NAIA and Junior Colleges may be found at www.itatennis.com. Updated April 2014