

## Tennis BC Ranking System – Frequently Asked Questions

As many of you have noticed from the Ranking Website and Tennis BC's 2008 Handbook, the ranking system has undergone a significant change as of January 1, 2008. On the front page of the Ranking Website and in the Handbook we outlined the technical aspects of the new system. Now we would like to expand on the rationale for the system by presenting some answers to some questions that have already arisen from the players.

### **Q: Why did you make this change?**

Our chief objective is to do a better job of ranking players in order according to their skill. The fundamental principle of the new system is that:

*A player's merit is better reflected by his or her **average** tournament performance than by his or her **cumulative** performance*

In the old system, a player's results were accumulated over all the tournaments they played. This gave a large advantage to those players who played in many tournaments. It frequently happened that a moderately skilled player who played many tournaments was ranked well ahead of a skilled player who played fewer tournaments, even in cases where the more skilled player had easily defeated the moderate player. In these cases the ranking system failed to place the players in order according to their skill. The old system rewarded quantity over quality.

The new system uses a player's average performance as a basis for ranking. Thus it emphasizes the quality of a player's results. This also allows Tennis BC to compare players that have played different numbers of tournaments on a level playing field. This is very important because in BC most tournament players play one or two tournaments a year but there are many who play more than five.

### **Q: If you use average performance, won't a player be tempted to stop playing if they have an unusually good result – the next tournament is bound to bring their average down!**

No. In addition to focusing on quality of the results, the new system explicitly rewards participation. A player's average result is multiplied by "Participation Factor" which increases with the number of tournaments played.

So, as a player plays more tournaments, his or her participation factor increases, making previous results more valuable.

### **Q: Why does a single excellent result at Stanley Park heavily influence a player's ranking?**

Because of its larger draw sizes and tougher competition, Stanley Park offers significantly more points than any other tournament. A win at the Park will certainly increase a player's average result and thus have a major impact on a player's ranking. However the ranking system is tuned so that a player playing only Stanley Park and winning that tournament will not be ranked ahead of a player who has performed very well over several Summer Series tournaments.

### **Q: The old system based rankings on a best X of Y results - is that still being done?**

No. We think that poor results and good results are all indicative of a player's merit. The system therefore uses *all* of a player's results to calculate a ranking.

### **Q: Will the ranking system change the way tournament seeding is done?**

Yes. Tournament directors have always put more weight on a player's average performance than on their cumulative performance when it came to seeding. As a result, rankings and seeding were often not aligned. Because the new ranking is based on a player's average result, seeding and rankings will be better aligned.

**Q: I was in the top X of event Y at the end of 2007 but the new system dropped my ranking – am I still ineligible to play in that event next year?**

We have evaluated this on a case by case basis and we have rescinded the ineligibility of several players in their events. The revised 2008 ineligibility list is on the Tennis BC tournaments page.

**Q: Why are out-of-province players shown in the ranking system?**

This year, the Senior Nationals were held in BC and when the results from that tournament were loaded, all the players were added so that the ability to view detailed match results was supported. In future we plan to filter those players out of the actual ranking lists.

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If you would like to submit a question for inclusion on this list, or you would like to comment on the ranking system, you can write to [rankings@telus.net](mailto:rankings@telus.net).