



Tournament Seeding Guidelines

This document outlines the process used to "Seed" the draws in Tournaments conducted by Table Tennis NSW.

1 Basic Principle

TTNSW will use Ratings Central as the principle means of "Ranking" players for seeding of events. Where players are not listed in Ratings Central, the Tournament Director and Selectors can use their judgement / knowledge of a player's ability to "Rank" the player or leave them unranked.

Ratings Central is an objective statistical system that generates a measure of a player's "playing strength" over the lifetime of that player. Ratings Central is not perfect, but it provides a consistent and generally objective way of "Ranking" players to seed events.

2 Understanding Ratings Central

It is important to have a basic understanding of Ratings Central. A player has two components to their rating. They have the "Rating" and the "Standard Deviation".

The Rating gives an overall picture of a player's "Playing Strength". The Standard Deviation gives everybody a clue as to how confident the system is that the player's rating is accurate. The lower the standard deviation the more confident the system is about the player's rating.

To understand more about Ratings Central please go [here](#).

3 Seeding Events

The Tournament Director will in the first instance seed the players for events based on Ratings Central information. Where there is some doubt, the TD will contact the relevant panel of Selectors for their feedback on how to rank the players for seeding.

4 Common Scenarios

We will use the table shown below to explain Scenarios A and B.

List	Rating	SD	Low	High	Seeding	Name
1	1460	78	1382	1538	2	ABC, A
2	1456	48	1408	1504	1	DEF, A
3	1377	46	1331	1423	3	GHI, A
4	1351	45	1306	1396	4	JKL, A
5	1245	51	1194	1296	5	MNO, A
6	1236	66	1170	1302		PQR, A

4.1 A - Maximum Rating for Event is 1400 (shown on Entry Form)

You will notice in the table above that the players listed as 1 and 2 both have a "Rating" above 1400 and you would normally expect them to be excluded from the event because they have a rating above the maximum.

If however you take into account their "Low Rating", which is their Rating minus 1 Standard Deviation, you will see that the player listed as 1 is now below the Rating Cut-off for the event.



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The player listed as 2 is still above the maximum rating for the event, but only by 8 points. Typically if a player has a "Low Rating" of 30 or less points over the Event Maximum Rating, then they may be allowed to compete in the event.

Why is this. If you read the documentation provided on the Ratings Central Website, you will see that they talk about a players real playing strength could be within 2 Standard Deviations of the strength listed. Therefore if a player is less than 30 points above the cut off and their Standard Deviation is above 30 (normally 25 or higher) then it stands to reason that their real playing strength could well be below the cut off.

4.2 B - Change Ranking Order based on Low Rating

In the table above you will notice that the player listed as 1 (with a rating of 1460) was seeded as 2 and the player listed as 2 (with a rating of 1456) was seeded as 1. Why is this?

The players listed 1 and 2 are only 4 points apart based on their rating. In this case we look at the additional ratings information. When we then take into account their standard deviation you will see that the player listed as 1 has a "low" rating of 1382 and the player listed 2 has a "low" rating of 1408. Based on their "low" rating they are 26 points apart.

Because the "Low Rating" of the player listed as 2 is higher than the "Low Rating" of the player listed as 1, the player listed as 2 is seeded above the player listed as 1. In other words we are more confident that the player listed as 2 is a better player than the player listed as 1 because his "Low Rating" 26 points higher than the "Low Rating" of the player listed as 1.