

APRIL 17, 2019

## APTA Men's Ranking Committee

Ray Crosta, chair  
Peter Berka  
Anthony Cosimano  
Brian Heil  
Scott Kahler  
Jon Lubow  
John Noble  
Mark Ruppert

The Ranking Committee's main objective is to provide accurate and fair rankings for all men's teams which enables us to properly weight tournaments. In addition, we provide all NRT Directors with all seeded and placed teams and specific rules on how we pull their draw. Tournament Directors are invited to join the conference call we have to pull the draw. The draw call usually consists of myself, Ann Sheedy, Isabel Cabanne and Shannon Vinson if that tournament is a Grand Prix. While it has taken a few years to get to a point now where we feel like we are confident, we still strive to improve each year by listening to player's suggestions and taking them into consideration.

The 2018-19 season was another successful one for our committee. For the second year in a row we did not need to make any changes to our rating table and point thresholds. This means that we are where we need to be. This is a fluid system that we will monitor each and every year and make the necessary adjustments if needed.

This year we implemented the National's only point scale that we used last year for the first time. We made a few tweaks to the points to better replicate the point averages going into nationals. This point scale will be evaluated every year prior to National's and adjustments will be made if necessary. We also implemented a rule where we allowed tourneys rated below a 2.0 to place local teams that would otherwise not be placed. The actual seeds will not be compromised but we will allow tournament directors to provide local knowledge to protect the integrity of the draw. This rule was well received and we will continue this next year. This year, we will give these regional NRT's a little more latitude placing local teams. Our unwritten rule of not placing more than 40% of a draw will be increased to 50% for these smaller tourneys that contain mostly local players. We hope this will help tournament directors with scheduling and avoiding local players playing each other in early rounds, if at all.

This year posed a few challenges for us. First, we discussed using some subjectivity when newly formed teams have more points individually than they do as a team. We ultimately decided to leave our process unchanged as we feel that points earned as a team are more important than individual points earned with various partners. I'm sure this will be discussed in the offseason again leading up to next year. Second, our biggest issue of the year was posed by the new Grand Prix format used at this year's Short Hills invitational. Having two different draws created a few challenges for us. While the Elite draw was only 16 teams, our rating table uses the top 24 teams entered in any given tournament. We compared the Elite draw to the top 16 teams in all the other Grand Prix tourneys the last few years to

give us a credible weighting. The more challenging issue was how to award points for the Open draw. We ultimately made a few tweaks to the points that we felt more appropriately awarded points for the Open vs the Elite draws. There was a lot of back and forth amongst the Ranking and Player's Committees on this issue and while finally decided on a point schedule, this issue will be discussed and reevaluated if this format should be used again.

Pending a vote from our committee, we are likely to change the 50% rule for players that don't have 3 tournaments to 75% going one year back and 50% going back 2 or more years in order to get 3 tournaments for a player. It should be noted that, pending approval by the Board, Jon Lubow will be taking over as Ranking Committee Chairman for myself going forward. Also, long time Ranking Committee members Peter Berka, Mark Ruppert and Brian Heil will be stepping down and being replaced by Randy Lofgren, Mike Montalbano and Graham McNerney.

Sincerely,

Ray Crosta