

NTRP General Characteristics

NTRP Rating

1.0	This player is just starting to play tennis.	
1.5	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.	
2.0	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.	
2.5	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.	Potential limitations: grip weaknesses; limited swing and inconsistent toss on serve; limited transitions to the net.
3.0	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.	Potential limitations: inconsistency when applying or handling pace; difficulty handling shots outside of their strike zone; can be uncomfortable at the net.
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.	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.
4.0	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.	Potential strengths: dependable second serve; recognizes opportunities to finish points.
4.5	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.	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.
5.0	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.	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.
5.5	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.	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.
6.0 - 7.0	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.	



General & Experienced Player Guidelines

Supplement to the NTRP Guidelines

	2.5	3.0	3.5	4.0	4.5	5.0	5.5	6.0 - 7.0
Players new to tennis who have had competitive experience in other sports should consider the rapid improvement anticipated and not rate below 3.0								
I am new to tennis and play one of the following racquet sports at a competitive level: squash, racquetball, badminton, paddle/platform tennis, pickleball.	Minimum level							
Recreational Tennis Players	I'm just getting into tennis. I have little match play experience.	I have played for a few years and play matches.	I have a reliable, solid game built over years of match play.					
High School Tennis - played varsity tennis within last 20 years		Played primarily varsity doubles or played junior varsity or played less than four years on varsity	Played all four years and ended up playing singles or #1 doubles	Advanced to state championship semi-finals or finals in singles or doubles				
Current or former Junior with a year-end national ranking of 451-800 but did not play in college or tour professionally.				31 and Over	30 and Under			
Current or former player with a year-end national ranking in the Junior 16's or 18's in the range 151-450 and/or top 20 sectional ranking				Age 46 and Over	Age 31 to 45	Age 30 and Under		
Current or former player with a year-end national ranking in the junior 16's or 18's in the top 150 and/or top 10 sectional ranking				Age 56 and Over	Age 46 to 55	Age 31 to 45	Age 30 and Under	
Played or committed to play for a Junior/Community College		Age 51 and Over (Men and Women)	Age 26 - 50 (Women) Age 36 - 50 (Men)	Age 25 and Under (Women) Age 26 - 35 (Men)	Age 25 and Under (Men)			
Played or committed to play for a Division II, III or NAIA college team?			Age 36 and Over (Women) Age 51 and Over (Men)	Age 26 - 35 (Women) Age 36 - 50 (Men)	Age 25 and Under (Women) Age 26 - 35 (Men)	Age 25 and Under (Men)		
Played or committed to play for a Division I college			Age 61 and Over	Age 41 to 60	Age 31 to 40	Age 30 and Under		
Played for a DII, III or NAIA college and I or my team were unranked or ranked out of the top 10 in ITA rankings			Age 36 and Over (Women) Age 51 and Over (Men)	Age 26-35 (Women) Age 36-50 (Men)	Age 25 and Under (Women) Age 26-35 (Men)	Age 25 and Under (Men)		
Played for DII, III or NAIA college team and I or my team were ranked in the top 10 in the ITA rankings and I regularly played #3 singles or lower			Age 41 and Over (Women) Age 51 and Over (Men)	Age 26-40 (Women) Age 41-50 (Men)	Age 25 and Under (Women) Age 26-40 (Men)	Age 25 and Under (Men)		
Played for a Division II, III or NAIA college team and you or your team were ranked in the top 10 in the ITA rankings and you played #1 or #2 Singles or #1 Doubles				Age 51 and Over	Age 41 to 50	Age 31 to 40	Age 30 and Under	
Division I college and college was ranked in the Top 75 teams, or you played #1 or #2 singles or #1 doubles at an unranked Division I college				Age 51 and Over	Age 41 to 50	Age 31 to 40	Age 30 and Under	
Played for a Division I college and ranked in the top 125 players				Age 61 and Over	Age 51 to 60	Age 41 to 50	Age 31 to 40	Age 30 and Under 6.0
Current or former player ranked (US or foreign) in an adult age group in the top 20 in the nation or top 5 in a section						Age 31 & Over	Age 30 & Under	
ITF, Transition Tour, Pro Circuit, Satelline or Futures player more than 5 years ago and didn't earn points				Age 40 & Over	Age 39 & Under			
ITF, Transition Tour, Pro Circuit, Satelline or Futures player more than 5 years ago and earned points					Age 40 & Over	Age 39 & Under		
ITF, Transition Tour, Pro Circuit, Satelline or Futures player less than 5 years ago and didn't earn points						Age 35 & Over	Age 34 & Under	
ITF, Transition Tour, Pro Circuit, Satelline or Futures player less than 5 years ago and earned points							Age 35 & Over	Age 34 & Under
A World Class ranking outside the top 400 in the ATP or WTA more than five years ago					Age 56 and Over	Age 46 to 55	Age 36 to 45	Age 35 and Under 6.0
A world class ranking outside the top 1000 in the ATP or WTA in the last five years								Any Age 6.5
A former World Class player ranked in the top 400 in the ATP or WTA more than five years ago					Age 66 and Over	Age 56 to 65	Age 46 to 55	Age 35 and Under 6.5 Age 36 - 45 6.0
A ranking in the top 1000 in the ATP or WTA in the last five years								Any Age 7.0

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 February 2019.