

# General & Experienced Player Guidelines

## Supplement to the NTRP Guidelines

NTRP General Characteristics	7.0	6.5	6.0	5.5	5.0	4.5	4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5				
	This player is a world class player.	This player is currently playing USTA circuit events in hopes of a professional tennis career.	This player has had intensive training for national tournaments or top level collegiate competition and has obtained a national ranking.	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 their game can be structured. This player has the confidence to regularly hit winners or force errors off of short balls and can put away volleys, can successfully execute lobs, drop shots, half volleys, overheads and has good depth and spin on most second serves.	This player has begun to vary the use of pace and spins, has good movement, can control distance and depth of shots, and is beginning 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 achieved improved stroke dependability with directional control on moderate shots, but still lacks depth and variety and the ability to alter distance of shots. The effective use of lobs, overheads, approach shots, and volleys is limited due to a lack of confidence. 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 execution 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 ball is going although movement and recovery are not in sync. Can sustain a 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. This player is ready to play social matches, leagues and low-level tournaments.	Potential 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: points are won and lost off the serve more often; better able to cover weaknesses; beginning to develop a weapon around which their game can be built.	Potential strengths: less likely to beat themselves; more dependable second serve; recognizes opportunities to finish points.	Potential limitations or strengths: "This is the level at which it begins to be about what skills a player can display on court, not what they can't." Players at this level may start to utilize mental skills related to concentration, tactics and strategy.	Potential limitations: consistency when applying or handling pace; difficulty handling shots "outside of their strike zone"; can be uncomfortable at the net.
World Class Players. Did you have an ATP or WTA ranking in the top 400 more than five years ago?	Age 35 and under	Age 36 to 45	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](http://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](http://www.itatennis.com). Updated April 2013