

Why are ratings important?

It is no fun to play with someone at a different ability level in any sport but particularly in tennis. Players are hesitant to play with new players mostly to avoid the unpleasant experience of playing with a completely incompatible player. Thus new people have trouble breaking into tennis communities and players often find themselves playing with the same individuals all the time. Tencap wants to help mitigate unpleasant on court experiences and increase the number of close matches. This is the reason for our dynamic rating system and why we go to great lengths to make sure these ratings are accurate.

How the Ratings Work:

- 1.) The Lower the number the better your rating (0 is an ATP pro, 80 is a beginner)
- 2.) Ratings act as a predictor of the score between two opponents
- 3.) 2pts difference in rating = 1 game difference per set
- 4.) 8 Sets are required for a rating adjustment. Ratings can trend a certain direction after only 1 match, but will not change until after 8 sets.
- 5.) Ratings do not change in the middle of a match. If your 8th set is the first set of your match you will see a rating change or confirmation after the match not after the 8th set.
- 6.) Your rating will improve if on average you play better than the computer predicts and your rating will decline if on average you do worst than the computer predicts, regardless of whether or not you are winning matches.
- 7.) Ratings are not impacted when playing opponents more than 10 rating points apart.
- 8.) Ratings are unaffected unless each player has a Tencap rating.
- 9.) Any set played that does not reach 4 games does not count towards a rating calculation. i.e. a 3-2 score in a set will not count towards your rating.
- 10.) Rating adjustments are ultimately made utilizing Tencap's proprietary algorithms
- 11.) In doubles the ratings work the same way taking the average of the two partners Tencap Rating playing against the average of the opponent's ratings.

For more information regarding Tencap ratings please watch the [Ratings Explained Video](#).

- a. Example 1: Player A is Rated a 20 Player B is Rated a 18
 - i. The system predicts Player B on average would win a set 7-6
 - ii. If Player B beats Player A by the score of 6-3, Player B did better than expected and thus his rating will improve and Player A's rating will get worse.
- b. Example 2: Player A is Rated a 36 Player B is Rated a 42
 - i. The system predicts Player A would win a set on average 6-3
 - ii. If Player A beats player B 6-4 player A's rating will get worse while player B's will improve. ***(Remember ratings adjustments are made every 8 sets so ratings may not change after 1 match)***

Rating Accuracy Levels:

In order to identify the accuracy of a player's rating in the Tencap system, Tencap has created three different accuracy levels. Flex Leagues will require a minimum of a provisional rating to qualify for prizes, and depending on the league may require an official rating to participate in certain divisions. Introductory ratings are often times self-ratings that are either given by a pro or assigned using Tencap's rating assignment wizard. The rating assignment wizard is used to provide you with the most accurate initial rating possible. The result is consistent, quality competition that our members appreciate.

Introductory rating- This is either a self-rating obtained through the rating assignment wizard or a subjective rating that a club pro may have given you. It will take 8 sets for your rating to adjust and become more accurate.

Provisional rating- Your rating has slightly adjusted, but you are still trying to find your true rating. You have played a limited amount of matches and players (at least 8 sets played against at least 2 different players). If you play 8 sets against only one person, your rating will adjust but your rating accuracy will not.

Official rating- Your rating has gone through several rating calculations and now you have found your most accurate rating or skill level. You have played at least 16 sets against at least 6 different people.