WFTDA Rankings Policy

This document outlines the WFTDA Rankings system and programs and explains WFTDA Rankings Committee processes and procedures in regards to league rankings. (Updated January 2019.)

WFTDA Rankings Calculator

A team's monthly WFTDA Ranking is based on the WFTDA Rankings Algorithm and is managed by the WFTDA Rankings Calculator. The WFTDA Rankings Calculator is available to WFTDA Member leagues at http://rankings.wftda.com/. Rankings are calculated monthly with public releases nine times a year due to the WFTDA Playoffs.

See the *WFTDA Sanctioning Policy* for information on the game types listed in this document and for all requirements for games to count towards a WFTDA Ranking.

WFTDA Rankings Algorithm

The WFTDA Rankings Algorithm is built on several formulas that calculate a weighted average of all games played in a 12-month period. This section details how these formulas are calculated.

A team's ranking is determined by comparing its Rankings Point Average to that of other teams. Rankings are calculated at the end of every month.

Calculating the Rankings Point Average

A team's ranking is determined by comparing its Rankings Point Average to that of other eligible teams. The Rankings Point Average is a weighted average of Total Game Points Earned for all sanctioned games played in a 12-month period.

Rankings Point Average = Total Game Points Earned in the 12-month period / Weighted Game Count of Games Played in the 12-month period

Total Game Points Earned

The sum of the Individual Game Points earned in the 12-month period

Weighted Game Count

The number of games played in the 12-month period, weighted semi-annually using a **Decay Factor**:

- Games played in the most recent six months of the 12-month rankings window have a Decay Factor of 1.0.
- Games played in the oldest six months of the 12-month rankings window have a Decay Factor of 0.5.

This weighted average of games played, in combination with the Decay Factor applied to game points (see below), ensures that teams who have played more games in the oldest six months of the 12-month period are not penalized, and allows for different season schedules.

Weighted Game Count = (# of games played in oldest 6 months * 0.5) + (# of games played in newest 6 months)

For example:

A team has played a total of 8 games in the 12-month ranking period, with 5 games in the most recent six months of the 12-month period, and 3 games in the oldest six months.

The Weighted Game Count will be:

5 + (3 x 0.5) =
5 + 1.5 = 6.5 Weighted Game Count

Calculating Individual Game Points Earned

Each sanctioned game contributes a set number of points towards a team's Ranking Point Average using the following formula:

Individual Game Points earned = Win-Loss Factor x Opponent Strength x Decay Factor x 100

Win-Loss Factor

Each sanctioned game is worth a value of 3 points. That value is divided between the two teams based on the percentage of the total points each team scored in the game.

Win-Loss Factor = [Team's Points / (Team's Points + Opponent's Points)] x 3.

For example:

Team A plays Team B and the score is Team A 200 - Team B 100. The total points scored in the game is 300.

> Team A's Win-Loss Factor is (200/300) x 3 =
> > .67 x 3 = 2.0 Win-Loss Factor
>
> Team B's Win-Loss Factor is (100/300) x 3 =
> > .33 x 3 = 1.0 Win-Loss Factor

Opponent Strength (Factor)

Each team is assigned a Strength Factor based on its Ranking Point Average compared to the Ranking Point Average of every other team.

Strength Factor = Team's Ranking Point Average / Rankings Point Average of the Median Team in the Calculator

Strength Factors are calculated once each rankings period (currently monthly) and are valid for the entire period, regardless of whether games have been played in the current month.

For example: The Strength Factors used for a game played on June 20 are based on the results of the May rankings. If the team played a game on June 10, this will not impact their June 20 Strength Factor.

The Minimum Strength Factor is 0.5. Unranked teams and teams whose natural Strength Factors (i.e. the result of the calculation) are lower than 0.5 are assigned a Minimum Strength Factor.

Rankings Eligibility

1. Only WFTDA Member league Charter Teams are eligible to be included in WFTDA Rankings.

2. New member leagues must play a Strength Factor Challenge game before sanctioning games for rankings. See the Strength Factor Challenge Program information on how to apply and how the program works.

3. The minimum number of games to be ranked and to maintain a ranking in the WFTDA Rankings Calculator is two sanctioned games in any given 12-month period.

   If a team has fewer than two sanctioned games, they will be dropped to unranked status and will be given the Minimum Strength Factor value until the team has registered enough games to be ranked again.

Rankings Calculation Process and Member Review

1. **Score Entry and Verification**

   See the *WFTDA Sanctioning Policy* for score submission deadlines and procedures.

   The WFTDA Rankings Committee will enter the score from all sanctioned games into the Rankings Calculator. The score will be considered unofficial until the full paperwork is received and logged by the WFTDA Sanctioning Committee.

2. **Member Review**

   At the end of a public-release ranking period (generally one month), the WFTDA Rankings Committee will post the rankings on the WFTDA Forum for review and will list any sanctioned games that are missing scores. A deadline will be provided for any feedback on the rankings.

   The WFTDA membership will review the results and report any missing or incorrect scores to the WFTDA Rankings Committee.

   After review, the rankings will be posted online.

Public Rankings Release Schedule

Although rankings are calculated monthly for WFTDA Membership, the WFTDA issues public releases nine times a year due to the WFTDA Playoff season. Public releases of rankings will occur approximately one week after the rankings period ends, with the exception of June 30 rankings. June 30 rankings will be released with the Playoff brackets.

Rankings	Games Included
November 30	December 1 of the prior year - November 30 of the release year.
December 31	January 1 - December 31 of the release year.
January 31	February 1 of the prior year - January 31 of the release year.
February 28 (29)	March 1 of the prior year - February 28 (29) of the release year.
March 31	April 1 of the prior year - March 31 of the release year.
April 30	May 1 of the prior year - April 30 of the release year.
May 31	June 1 of the prior year - May 31 of the release year.

June 30	July 1 of the prior year - June 30 of the release year. Tournament Seeding for the current year's WFTDA Playoffs will be based on this release.
Post-Playoffs	Any games in the 12-month period prior to the end of the last WFTDA Playoff of the year. (Approximately mid-October of the previous year to the end of the last WFTDA Playoff of the release year.)

Should a WFTDA Playoff take place on a weekend at the end of a ranking period, in such a way that games are split between rankings periods, the WFTDA Rankings Committee will calculate all games in that tournament in the first of the two rankings periods. For example, a Playoff that runs from September 29 - October 1 would be a part of the September ranking period.

The WFTDA Rankings Committee Chair may, at their discretion, choose to calculate rankings more than the monthly interval for member league informational purposes only. Rankings are only final at the conclusion of a ranking period.

Strength Factor Challenge (SFC) Program

The WFTDA Strength Factor Challenge (SFC) Program provides a tool to give teams, who demonstrate that they merit a higher strength factor than they currently have, a temporary boost in strength factor to attract higher-ranked opponents for sanctioned play.

For information on the program, see the Strength Factor Challenge Program web page.

For More Information

For more information on WFTDA Rankings, Rankings programs and procedures, contact rankings@wftda.com.

Revisions

February 2019:
Removed 3 games/3 unique opponents requirements
Removed Apprentice Program requirements as AP Program was retired.
Moved Strength Factor Challenge program information into its own document.

June 2016:
Added decay factor to rankings algorithm per May 2016 membership vote.
Adjusted SFC boosted strength factor window from 3 months to 4 and the waiting period from 18 months to 12 months.