



# WFTDA RANKING POLICY

*This document outlines the WFTDA Rankings system and programs and explains WFTDA Rankings Committee processes and procedures in regards to league rankings. (Updated June 2016.)*

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.

## CALCULATING A TEAM'S RANKING

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

## 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.

## 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 12-month period, weighted semi-annually using a **Decay Factor**:

- Games played in the most recent six months of the 12-month ranking 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.

$$\text{Weighted Game Count} = (\# \text{ of games played in oldest 6 months} \times 0.5) + (\# \text{ of games played in newest 6 months})$$

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:

$$5 + (3 \times 0.5) = 5 + 1.5 = 6.5 \text{ Weighted Game Count}$$

## 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:

$$\text{Individual Game Points earned} = \text{Win-Loss Factor} \times \text{Opponent Strength} \times \text{Decay Factor} \times 100$$

### 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 the total points each team scored in the game.

$$\text{Win-Loss Factor} = [\text{Team's Points} / (\text{Team's Points} + \text{Opponent's Points})] \times 3$$

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.

$$\text{Team A's Win-Loss Factor is } (200/300) \times 3 = .67 \times 3 = 2.0 \text{ Win-Loss Factor}$$

$$\text{Team B's Win-Loss Factor is } (100/300) \times 3 = .33 \times 3 = 1.0 \text{ Win-Loss Factor}$$

## 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.

$$\text{Strength Factor} = \frac{\text{Team's Ranking Point Average}}{\text{Rankings Point Average of the Median Team in the Calculator}}$$

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.

## RANKING ELIGIBILITY

1. Only WFTDA Member league Charter Teams are eligible to be included in WFTDA Rankings.
2. To be publicly ranked for the first time, a team must play three games against three unique opponents. There is no time limit to complete these three games, as long as leagues have the minimum number games to be ranked in the WFTDA Rankings Calculator.
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 AND APPROVAL PROCESS

### 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.

### 3. Public Release

Teams ineligible for public ranking will retain their ranking in the WFTDA Rankings Calculator, however, they will be removed from the public release and teams below them will move up to fill in the gaps.

## 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 Rankings Committee has created a program to support new members and to allow current members to adjust their strength factors. This program utilizes a [Table of Strength Factors](#) that assesses a team's results against other opponents based on the strength of that team. The table is adjusted periodically to ensure it most accurately represents the current strength factors in the organization.

# Program Description

## Member Leagues

A **Strength Factor Challenge game (SFC)** is an unsanctioned game that a lower-ranked Charter Team (Challenging Team) plays against a higher-ranked Charter Team (Opponent Team) in order to attempt to temporarily increase their strength factor. If they are successful with their challenge by scoring the points indicated in the Table of Strength Factors, the Challenging Team will be assigned the applicable strength factor for a limited time while there is no effect on the Opponent Team. The assigned strength factor will expire at the end of the boost period or once their natural strength factor is higher than the assigned one. A team can lose an SFC game and still be successful in their challenge.

The benefit of a successful SFC game is that a boosted strength factor will aid the team in scheduling sanctioned games against higher-ranked teams during the boost period than they would have been able to schedule with their natural strength factor.

## Apprentice Leagues

WFTDA Apprentice leagues must play one Mock-Sanctioned game against any WFTDA Member league team to satisfy graduation requirements. Once the league graduates they will be assigned the Minimum Strength Factor.

However, before graduation, WFTDA Apprentice leagues may choose to play a Mock Sanctioned for an Initial Strength Factor game. A **Mock-Sanctioned for Initial Strength Factor game** is a mock SFC game played against a WFTDA Charter Team. Like a WFTDA Member league SFC game, if the team is successful with the game, the team will be assigned the applicable strength factor. This strength factor will be applied once they play their first sanctioned game as a full member. A team can lose a Mock-Sanctioned for Initial Strength Factor game and still be successful in earning a strength factor greater than the minimum.

The benefit of a successful Mock-Sanctioned for an Initial Strength Factor game to an Apprentice league is the same as with a Member league – they may gain the ability to schedule their first sanctioned games against higher-ranked teams than they would have been able to schedule with the minimum strength factor.

## PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS

1. Both teams must use approved Charter Teams for the game and all charter and game applications are due per the application deadline.
2. Apprentice leagues may opt to play as many Mock-Sanctioned for an Initial Strength Factor games as they wish while in the AP program.
  - a. If an Apprentice league plays more than one, upon graduation Rankings Committee will select the most successful game.
  - b. Mock-Sanctioned for an Initial Strength Factor games are valid for six months prior to graduation.

3. There is a limit to the number of times a Member league team may issue a challenge.
  - a. A Member league team may issue a SFC game once every 12 months.
  - b. AP graduates who participated in a Mock-Sanctioned for an Initial Strength Factor game may issue a SFC game 12 months after their graduation date.
  - c. There is no limit to the number of times an Opponent Team may be challenged.
4. Teams will maintain their boosted strength factor for four months, which includes the full month in which the SFC game was played, which includes the full month in which the SFC game was played, or until their natural strength factor is higher than their boosted strength factor.
  - a. An AP graduate's boosted strength factor will start with the month of their first sanctioned game as a member.
  - b. Games played in the same month as, but prior to, the SFC game will also be calculated using the boosted strength factor.
5. The WFTDA Rankings Committee and WFTDA Competitive Play Committee reserve the right to change the parameters of the program in particular cases, should they feel it is necessary to achieve the competitive goals and mission of the WFTDA.

## APPLICATION AND SCORE SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applications for SFC games are submitted via the WFTDA Dashboard and are due with any Charter Team changes **30 days** prior to the game.

The Sanctioning Committee will review the game application with the Rankings Committee and both committees must approve the application. The WFTDA Apprentice Program will be copied on any Apprentice league SFC submissions.

The WFTDA Rankings Committee will review both Team Charters against previously played games and will take into account issues like league turnover, particularly at the start of the year, granting leeway for roster decisions due to the low-risk nature of the SFC game for the Opponent Team. The WFTDA Rankings Committee may also review any upcoming games scheduled by the challenging team to ensure that the SFC game will have enough of a possible impact to be worthwhile for the challenging team. If the WFTDA Rankings Committee feels there is enough of a similarity between the proposed SFC charter and the Opponent Team's previous charter(s), and the ranking of the Opponent Team looks to be within the guidelines established by the Table of Strength Factors at the date of the game, the SFC game will be accepted.

Rankings may counsel for/against a SFC game, but it is the responsibility of the Challenging Team to choose a game that best benefits their particular strength factor issue. Rankings and Competitive Play may also approve the use of SFC games in tournament (non-WFTDA Playoff or Championship) or other event settings.

Once played, the challenging team must submit game scores and paperwork per the **WFTDA Sanctioning Policy**. Apprentice leagues must also copy their AP Coordinator on the paperwork submissions.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on WFTDA Rankings, Rankings programs and procedures, contact [rankings@wftda.com](mailto:rankings@wftda.com).

### Document History

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.

