

General & Experienced Player Guidelines – Supplement to the NTRP Guidelines

		6.0 - 7.0	5.5	5.0	4.5	4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.0
NTRP General Characteristics	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.	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 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.	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.	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.	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.	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.	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.	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.	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.	This player is just starting to play tennis.	
		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: covers and disguises weaknesses well; can hit offensive volleys and half-volleys from mid-court; can employ physical or mental fitness as a weapon.	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.	Potential strengths: dependable second serve; recognizes opportunities to finish points.	Potential limitations: inconsistency when applying or handling pace; difficulty handling shots outside of their strike zone; can be uncomfortable at the net.	Potential limitations: grip weaknesses; limited swing and inconsistent toss on serve; limited transitions to the net.					
Class Players. You have an ATP World Ranking in the top 100 more than five years ago?	Age 45 and under	Age 46 to 55	Age 56 to 65	Age 66 and over								
USTA National, Futures, and Collegiate Players (over # 100 world in the last 5 years)	Age 35 and under	Age 36 to 45	Age 46 to 55	Age 56 and over								
USTA National, Futures, Circuit Players (over # 400 in more than 5 years ago)		Age 35 and under	Age 36 to 45	Age 46 to 55	Age 56 and over							
USTA National Top 125 ranked player	Age 30 and under	Age 31 to 40	Age 41 to 50	Age 51 to 60	Age 61 and over							
USTA National Unranked college Team		Age 30 and under	Age 31 to 40	Age 41 to 50	Age 51 to 60	Age 61 and over						
USTA National Div. II & III college team or player ranked in the top 25		Age 30 and under	Age 31 to 40	Age 41 to 50	Age 51 to 60	Age 61 and over						
USTA National USTA or foreign Junior 18's ranked in the top 150 nationally		Age 30 and under	Age 31 to 45	Age 46 to 55	Age 56 and over							
USTA National USTA or foreign Adults ranked in the top 200 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							
USTA National Div. II & III unranked college team player (committed to, playing, or on campus) - program with no scholarships			Age 25 and under	Age 26 to 35	Age 36 to 50	Age 51 and over						
USTA National College player (ever played or committed to play)				Age 25 and under	Age 26 to 35	Age 36 to 50	Age 51 and over					
USTA National 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						
USTA National USTA 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								
USTA National USTA 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					
USTA National USTA 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					

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 sue 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 captains for Div. I, Div. II, Div. III, NAI and Junior Colleges may be found at www.itatennis.com. Updated April 2014