



*Photography by Jules Doyle*



## WFTDA RANKINGS CALCULATOR (REV. OCTOBER 2014)

### BACKGROUND

In conjunction with the launch of the Competitive Divisions system, the WFTDA released a math-based Rankings Calculator in the first quarter of 2013. Teams are ranked from top to bottom through the entire membership based on the average number of game points the team has accumulated in a 12-month period. Game points are based on an algorithm that takes into account the strength of the opponent and the percentage of total game points the team scores. WFTDA Rankings are released on a monthly basis throughout the year, with the exception of tournament season.

## BASIC PRINCIPLES

- Teams are awarded points for each game played based on a formula that incorporates opponent strength and points scored.
- A team's total point accumulation over twelve months of play is averaged by the number of games played.
- The formula rewards good performances against stronger teams. The teams earn ranking points based on their ratio of the total final game score. Earning points is not an "all or nothing" proposition based only on wins.
- Rankings are released monthly, with the exception of rankings periods that cut across the Playoff season.
- A membership confirmation process is in place to review and discuss calculator output.

## CALCULATOR FORMULA AND REQUIREMENTS

### GAME FORMULA

Points for a single game are determined by:

$$\text{Total Game Points earned} = \text{Win/Loss Factor} \times \text{Opponent Strength} \times 100$$

### WIN/LOSS FACTOR

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

For example: Team A wins against Team B, with a score of 100-50. Team A scored 67% of the total points (100 points scored/150 total points) and Team B scored 33% of the total points (50 points scored/150 total points) in the game. Therefore the Win/Loss Factor for Team A for this game is 2 (67% of the 3 possible), while Team B receives 1.

### OPPONENT STRENGTH

Each WFTDA team is assigned a Strength Factor based on their most recent ranking. Highly ranked teams have higher Strength Factors than lower-ranked teams. For year one of the Rankings Calculator (2013) the Strength



Factor was based on a team's ranking placement. Starting with games played on or after December 1, 2013, the Strength Factor is based on average ranking points, rather than the team's actual ranking placement.

The Strength Factor for a team is calculated by:

**Team's Ranking Point Average ÷ Median Ranking Point Average in the Calculator**

If there are an odd number of ranked teams in the WFTDA Rankings Calculator, the ranking point average of the team in the middle will be used. For example, if there are 199 teams, the Median Ranking Point Average is the ranking point average of the team ranked #100.

If there is an even number of ranked teams, the average of the two teams in the middle of the rankings will be used. As an example, if there are 200 ranked teams, the average of teams ranked #100 and #101 will be the Median Ranking Point Average.

For example:

If Team A's Ranking Point Average is 350 and the Median Ranking Point Average is 150, Team A will have a Strength Factor of  $350 \div 150 = 2.33$ .

If Team B's Ranking Point Average is 120 and the Median Ranking Point Average is 150, Team B will have a Strength Factor of  $120 \div 150 = 0.80$ .

There is no upper limit on Strength Factor value. There is a minimum Strength Factor of 0.5. All Unranked teams and all teams with the lowest Strength Factors have a minimum Strength Factor of 0.5.

## TEAM RANKINGS

Team Ranking Points are determined using the following calculation:

**Total Game Points accrued in a 12-month period**  
÷  
**Number of Games played in that 12-month period**

Teams are ranked in order of their resulting Ranking Points.

## MINIMUM GAME REQUIREMENTS

In order to be eligible for ranking for the first time, a team must play a minimum of three sanctioned games against three unique opponents, regardless of assigned Division. In order to function and create a ranking for a team, the Rankings Calculator must have a minimum of two games registered for any given 12-month period. If a team does not meet this minimum number, the team will be dropped to Unranked status with the minimum Strength Factor of 0.5 until the team has registered the minimum number of games.

## RANKINGS RELEASE SCHEDULE

Rankings are released on a monthly basis. Each release includes data from the twelve months prior to the release date, on a rolling basis.

Rankings	Approximate Release Date	Games Included
<b>November 30</b>	December 15	December 1 of the prior year – November 30 of the release year. Sets Competitive Divisions for the Competitive Season starting December 1.
<b>December 31</b>	January 15	January 1 – December 31 of the prior year.
<b>January 31</b>	February 15	February 1 of the prior year – January 31 of the release year.
<b>February 28 (29)</b>	March 15	March 1 of the prior year – February 28 (29) of the release year.
<b>March 31</b>	April 15	April 1 of the prior year – March 31 of the release year.
<b>April 30</b>	May 15	May 1 of the prior year – April 30 of the release year.
<b>May 31</b>	June 15	June 1 of the prior year – May 31 of the release year.
<b>June 30</b>	July 15	July 1 of the prior year – June 30 of the release year. Tournament seeding for the current year's Playoff Tournaments will be based on this release.
<b>Post-Playoffs</b>	Approximate Release Date of mid-October	Any games in a 12-month period prior to the end of the last Playoff Tournament of the year.

See the Competitive Divisions System white paper for more information about WFTDA Playoffs seeding and the Divisions structure.

### MEMBER CONFIRMATION

A Membership confirmation review verifies the game data and rankings and allows the WFTDA Rankings Committee to make any adjustments to the Calculator.

WFTDA Rankings Calculator results are released to Membership immediately following the end of the ranking period. The WFTDA Membership reviews the results and their league's game data to ensure that the data is correct and complete and flags any issues to the WFTDA Rankings Committee. Once the data is confirmed, the WFTDA Rankings Committee will remove any leagues who have not yet fulfilled their initial rankings requirements and will release the official WFTDA Rankings to the public on [wftda.com](http://wftda.com).

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the WFTDA Rankings Calculator, please contact Teenie Meanie, Rankings Committee Chair at [rankings@wftda.com](mailto:rankings@wftda.com) or Karen Kuhn, Managing Director of Games at [karen@wftda.com](mailto:karen@wftda.com).