

## PDGA Player & Course Ratings System Questions & Answers - Year 2000



The PDGA rating system calculates each player's skill level and also the difficulty rating of each course played in PDGA events. Your Player Rating (PR) is a number that shows how close your average round scores are compared to the World Class Par (WCP) of the courses you've played in competition. Players who average WCP on courses played will have a rating of 1000. If they average even lower scores, their rating is over 1000.

Most competition players average scores higher than WCP so their ratings range somewhere between 700-999. Every 10 points equals one throw on an 18-hole course. If you average 5 throws over WCP, your rating will be 950.

Everyone has a few bad rounds. The system uses at least 85% of a player's best rounds relative to the course WCPs from PDGA events that have been entered into the system. Ratings will be updated 4 times per year by the middle of January, May, July and September. All rounds entered into the system during the 12 months prior to each update will be evaluated to calculate your current rating.

**Why is the PDGA creating this rating system?** Dealing with 'sandbagging' - playing in a division lower than your skill level - has been one of the more difficult challenges. Player Ratings can be used to group players in competition brackets that are more fair and provide a basis for a much more accurate ranking of the world's top players on the PDGA Tour compared to the existing points system. Course ratings pave the way for difficulty comparisons of courses around the world with the potential to improve their designs and levels of challenge. Course WCP ratings provide a benchmark for local players to gauge their skill improvements. Ratings will allow players to handicap their play against others.

**When will the rating system go live?** The first official Player & Course Ratings based on many 1999 events was published in March 2000.

### Q&A for Players

**How do I get a rating?** Players who enter a PDGA event in a division tracked by the PDGA will automatically get their results entered into the ratings system. However, only ratings of current PDGA members will be published.

### Q&A for Players (cont.)

**How many rounds do I have to play to get a rating?** A provisional rating will be calculated after only 2 valid rounds of tournament play.

**Where can I see my rating?** Ratings are published on the PDGA website: [www.pdga.com](http://www.pdga.com) The Disc Golf World News may print all ratings once per year. All Tournament Directors of ratings based events will receive the current PDGA member list with individual player ratings included.

**How do I use my rating?** Your rating will be used to determine the lowest bracket you may enter in PDGA RA, RB or RC-tier events advertised as using ratings (see Rating Bracket Table). You may also use your rating to handicap (adjust) your scores against other players in casual play. For example, if your rating is 30 points higher than your buddy, it means you're about 3 throws better on average. Giving your buddy 2 or 3 throws per round would make the competition a little more fair.

**Do I still earn PDGA points in "Ratings" events?** Yes. You earn points to help qualify for the Am or Pro Worlds. Points for all Pro and Advanced divisions will be credited in the division you're registered under in the PDGA. Top Pro and Am players will notice little different in ratings based events. The top brackets have the top players. Ams *not* registered in an Advanced division will not earn points until they inform the PDGA of their upgrade to Advanced.

**Will World Championships use ratings brackets?** No. The existing mens and womens divisions including age based divisions are planned to continue.

**Sometimes women want to play against only women, or geezers against only geezers. Don't ratings events prevent this?** First, there will still be many more traditional events than ratings events for a while. In ratings bracket events, we've determined that most women will be in the same bracket with other women of similar skill and that most geezers in the same age range will end up in the same bracket. So, you'll likely play in a group with your cohorts several times in a multi-round event.

### Q&A for Course Pros

**What does the World Class Par (WCP) mean?** The WCP is an estimate of the average score 100 world class pros would shoot on that course configuration. The WCP will be roughly 4-6 throws higher than the record on an 18-hole course. Most courses suitable for pro competitions have WCPs that range from 47-54 with the toughest courses in the world almost 60.

**Where can I find official WCP values for courses?** Once tournament results have been turned in and processed, the WCP values for courses played will be posted or updated on the PDGA website. A process for submitting locally generated WCP values for posting on the website may eventually become available.

**How do I get a WCP for my course?** Hosting a PDGA event is the official way to get a WCP for your course. Your course will get a WCP rating when at least 10 current PDGA members with official ratings over 900 play it in PDGA competition. On courses not played in PDGA events or those with multiple tees or pins, you can calculate WCP values for other configurations by gathering scores from local players who have ratings. More details are available from Chuck Kennedy at: [Ratings@PDGA.com](mailto:Ratings@PDGA.com)

**How does the off-season or abnormal weather affect the WCP calculation?** The tournament report should indicate whether the weather was abnormal for any rounds or whether there were unusual conditions. Off-season timing, such as a January PDGA event in the northern U.S., would also not be suitable for an official WCP rating. Even if no snow was on the ground, the lack of foliage on broadleaf trees would probably be inappropriate for calculating an official WCP.

**If a course WCP is less than 54, how do I know which holes are Par 2?** The PDGA rating system does not produce ratings for individual holes, just for the whole course. Just because a WCP is less than 54 does not mean any holes should be labeled par 2. Course pros may decide to calculate average scores per hole to rank them from easiest to most difficult for fun, for knowledge or for use in local handicapping style events.

**Our course has hundreds of tee and pin combinations. How can all of these WCPs be tracked?** We recommend that TDs select a specific group of configurations to be used regularly for tournament and league play. This way, players have benchmark WCP values to compare against whether for local leagues or major events. However, the PDGA will track WCP info for every configuration submitted for ratings as part of PDGA events.

**Q&A for Tournament Directors**

**Why should our club host a Ratings based event?** A primary goal of Player Ratings is to group people fairly by skill level and eliminate sandbagging. A player's rating determines his/her bracket. The only challenge is to place unrated players in the correct bracket. This format provides opportunities for women and older players to play against others with similar skills in fields larger than they are accustomed. There are fewer brackets than the current division system with never more than 4 in Pro and 4 in Am.

**Should Entry Fees or Payouts be different for ratings based events?** Not necessarily. Because players enter skill based brackets, the entry fees for the lower brackets can be closer to the top bracket. About 70-80% of net sponsor cash should be added to the top pro Gold bracket as an incentive for lower rated players to play up, with the remaining 20-30% divided on a "per player" basis among the other 2-3 pro brackets. New PDGA 2000 payout tables have been designed for TDs to handle both the regular and ratings based divisions.

**Q&A for Tournament Directors (cont.)**

**What are the recommended ratings brackets?** [ < 900 means 'under 900' ]

**AMATEUR PLAYERS**

Bracket	A, B, C tier
Blue	Open to Ams of any rating*
White	< 900
Red	< 850
Green	< 800

**PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS**

Bracket	A tier	B tier	C tier
Gold	Open to Pros of any rating		
Silver	< 970	< 960	< 950
Bronze	< 935	< 920	< 900
Ferrite	< 900	< 880	< 850

*\* Note: Recommend Ams with ratings above 950 play in a Pro bracket in B & C tier events and decline cash prizes to retain Am status.*

Examples: Am rated 890 could play in White (or Blue) bracket in A, B, C-tier. A Pro rated 910 might play in Bronze bracket in A or B and Silver in C-tier.

**How do I apply to schedule a ratings based event?** Register your event using the standard PDGA event forms. Ratings based events for 2000 will be coded as RA, RB or RC tier. Player Ratings were first published in March 2000 so ratings based events shouldn't be scheduled before May 2000.

**What about small field divisions at ratings based events?** Just like the current system, the TD can choose whether to host brackets with less than 3 players. And, like the current system, Ams can choose to play in a pro bracket. If they end up "in the money", they have to decline cash and only accept prizes if they wish to retain their amateur status.

**MORE SPECIFIC DETAILS FOR TDs WILL BE AVAILABLE IN APRIL 2000. CONTACT CHUCK KENNEDY AT: [Ratings@PDGA.com](mailto:Ratings@PDGA.com)**

**Q&A for Mathematicians**

**Where can I get the mathematical details on this system?** Tech questions may be directed to Roger Smith at [Stats@PDGA.com](mailto:Stats@PDGA.com) or Chuck Kennedy at [Ratings@PDGA.com](mailto:Ratings@PDGA.com). More details will be posted on the PDGA website by April 2000 for those who are interested.