

BFA Player Ratings

Document Owner: Stephen Lyall

Version: July 2025

Status: Approved by the Board



This document intends to define the British Foosball Association (BFA) Player Ratings, why they exist, what they mean and how they are attained.

What are the BFA Player Ratings?

The BFA Player Rating is the categorisation of a player's current skill level. Every player has a BFA Player Rating. There are currently five different ratings in the following order from lowest to highest:

- Beginner
- Amateur
- Semi-Pro
- Pro
- Master

All new players, i.e. players who have not participated in a BFA-recognised event previously, nor have been involved with another national federation's organised competitive structure, start with a Beginner rating.

Why do Player Ratings exist?

Player Ratings are a useful tool to allow ability-restricted competitions to exist. There is a wide gap in skill level between new players and Masters, therefore many event organisers choose to hold ability-restricted competitions to provide meaningful competition for players of different skill levels. For example, Amateur events targeted towards Amateur and Beginner players allow for these players to have meaningful competition, without having to play against players above their skill level. These types of competitions are important to the growth of foosball because they provide a more welcoming introduction to competitive foosball.

When are Player Ratings assigned and changed?

Player Ratings are initially assigned after a player enters their first BFA-recognised event.

Player Ratings are reviewed every 6 months by the BFA Competition Working Group, usually in January and July each year.

All Club Leaders are sought to provide input to the Competition Working Group during the review process.

How are the Ratings defined, and how good do I need to be to achieve each one?

Broadly speaking, the Ratings can be defined as follows:

Beginner

New to competitive foosball. Will not have an established passing or shooting series, or defensive set up.

Amateur

Has gained some experience of competitive foosball. Will have either a passing or shooting series, or some options within both, and some basic defensive strategies. Will be competitive in Amateur events in the UK.

Semi-Pro

Has gained a reasonable amount of experience of competitive foosball. Will have both a passing and a shooting series, along with a reasonable understanding of defensive strategies. Will be competitive in Semi-Pro events in the UK, and occasionally challenge Pro players in Open competitions.

Pro

Has gained a lot of experience of competitive foosball. Will have a strong and reliable passing and shooting series, a strong understanding of defensive strategies, and an understanding of matchplay mechanics. Will be competitive in Open events in the UK.

Master

Has gained a lot of experience of competitive foosball at the highest levels, including internationally. Will have many very strong and reliable passing and shooting series, an excellent understanding of defensive strategies, an excellent understanding of matchplay.

Will be regularly challenging and winning Open events in the UK, and regularly challenging in international events.

Anything else to consider?

There are ranges within each rating. No two players are the same, and players may be at the top, middle or bottom end of their player rating depending on their experience and skill level. The higher end ratings have the biggest range in overall ability.

There is one rating per player, but some players will inevitably be stronger as goalies in doubles and perhaps underperform in singles (or vice versa). The rating judgement should take this into account.