

BFA Rankings Document

Distribution: BFA members

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BFA Rankings Document – **March 2013**

The BFA introduced a new Ranking System for tournaments from January 2004 and this document gives an overview of the features of the new system, as most recently updated in **March 2013**.

The system was applied retrospectively to all tournaments held since November 1999, with points for placing and bonus points applied as if the new system had been in place throughout, to be as fair as possible. The system was applied to Bonzini from 2004 and to Tornado Rankings in 2008. From 2010-11 individual table rankings are discontinued and a unified ranking system introduced with a player having a single rank applying to all tables.

The system has proven stable and responsive over the long term, avoiding any need for resets and keeping top players within reach if their form fades.

The system is based on several elements:

- 1 **Even points distribution** – logical 'bottom-up' points distribution based on number of rounds negotiated in Double-Elimination tournaments, or equivalent positions in World Cup or Swiss format competitions with increments for intermediate placings.
- 2 **Weighting of events by status of tournament** – tournaments of greater status/prestige carry greater weight.
- 3 **Weighting of results by year** – historic events are down-weighted so that rankings greater reflect current form over past glories.
- 4 **Base Points** – Added to a player's starting position according to status on other ranking lists, tournament wins, or promotions. These prevent players from falling too far or quickly in rank through inactivity, and also give a higher entry point for players with a ranking in foreign ranking lists or who have been successful in major international tournaments.
- 5 **Bonus Points** – points are exchanged where a lower-ranked player/team beats a higher-ranked team according to the length of match.

Pos Chart	No of Players/Teams														
	4	6	8	12	16	24	32	48	64	96	128	192	256	384	512
1	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100
2	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90
3	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80
4	3	8	13	18	23	28	33	38	43	48	53	58	63	68	73
5		3	8	13	18	23	28	33	38	43	48	53	58	63	68
6		1	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65
7			3	8	13	18	23	28	33	38	43	48	53	58	63
8			1	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60
9			•	4	8	13	18	23	28	33	38	43	48	53	58
10			•	3	7	12	17	22	27	32	37	42	47	52	57
11			•	2	6	11	16	21	26	31	36	41	46	51	56
12			•	1	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55
13			•	•	4	8	13	18	23	28	33	38	43	48	53
14			•	•	3	7	12	17	22	27	32	37	42	47	52
15			•	•	2	6	11	16	21	26	31	36	41	46	51
16			•	•	1	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
17-18			•	•	•	4	8	13	18	23	28	33	38	43	48
19-20			•	•	•	3	7	12	17	22	27	32	37	42	47
21-22			•	•	•	2	6	11	16	21	26	31	36	41	46
23-24			•	•	•	1	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45
25-26			•	•	•	•	4	8	13	18	23	28	33	38	43
27-28			•	•	•	•	3	7	12	17	22	27	32	37	42
29-30			•	•	•	•	2	6	11	16	21	26	31	36	41
31-32			•	•	•	•	1	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40
33-36			•	•	•	•	•	4	8	13	18	23	28	33	38
37-40			•	•	•	•	•	3	7	12	17	22	27	32	37
41-44			•	•	•	•	•	2	6	11	16	21	26	31	36
45-48			•	•	•	•	•	1	5	10	15	20	25	30	35
49-52			•	•	•	•	•	•	4	8	13	18	23	28	33
53-56			•	•	•	•	•	•	3	7	12	17	22	27	32
57-60			•	•	•	•	•	•	2	6	11	16	21	26	31
61-64			•	•	•	•	•	•	1	5	10	15	20	25	30
65-72			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	4	8	13	18	23	28
73-79			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	3	7	12	17	22	27
81-88			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	2	6	11	16	21	26
89-96			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	1	5	10	15	20	25
97-104			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	4	8	13	18	23
105-112			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	3	7	12	17	22
113-120			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	2	6	11	16	21
121-128			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	1	5	10	15	20
129-144			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	4	8	13	18
145-160			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	3	7	12	17
161-176			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	2	6	11	16
177-192			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	1	5	10	15
193-208			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	4	8	13
208-224			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	3	7	12
225-240			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	2	6	11
241-256			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	1	5	10
257-288			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	4	8
289-320			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	3	7
321-352			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	2	6
353-384			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	1	5
385-416			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	4
417-448			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	3
449-480			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	2
481-512			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	1

Points are awarded per round advanced, with 10 points per round for podium placings. The system uses 'half' charts so no points are awarded for a full round of 'byes'.

World Cup Groups/Swiss Placings – Final placings for players/teams failing to qualify for the knock-out stage are determined on the basis of 1 highest number of wins and 2 lowest number of defeats. Goal difference is not taken into account.

Event Weightings

Points from each event in a tournament are weighted according to the status of the tournament as a whole. Where tables are offered as prizes the monetary value will be determined according to the distributor price of the relevant model. The BFA reserves the right to alter the weighting applied to individual events as appropriate and the above is intended as a general guide for events corresponding to a standard tournament format.

Tournament Categories & Weightings						
Cat.	Open	Pro or Masters	SP or Pro-Am	Am or Mixed	Novice	Age/Womens
E	20%	15%	15%	10%	10%	10%
D	40%	25%	20%	15%	10%	10%
C	100%	40%	30%	20%	10%	10%
B	120%	50%	40%	30%	15%	15%
A	140%	60%	50%	40%	20%	20%
A+	160%	70%	60%	50%	30%	40%
A++	200%	100%	80%	70%	50%	100%

Categories of tournaments are determined by status with category pre-designated by TCC/ITSF EC vote.

Tournament Categories		
Cat	Minimum Fund	Status
E	£0	Local/Clubs
D	£100	Regional/Limited
C	£500	National
B	£1000	ITSF Pro-Tour
A	£2000	ITSF Master Series
A+	£5000	ITSF International
A++	£10000	ITSF WCS

Rankings are based on events held in the UK and Ireland, plus points gained by UK/Irish players in overseas ITSF tournaments.

Events which count

Open Singles / Doubles
 Pro or Masters Singles/Doubles
 Semi-Pro Singles / Doubles
 Pro-Am/Limited doubles
 Mixed Doubles
 Novice/Amateur Singles / Doubles
 Junior/Senior Singles / Doubles
 Womens Singles / Doubles

Events which don't count*

DYPs
 FSO
 GW
 2BRB
 Super Melée
 Fastball/Al Volo
 Events using non-standard rules
 Handicapped Events

* Can count towards Cat E tournaments and/or club championships

Local Events – Category E tournaments & Sanctioned Tours

Where local events are held on a one-off or regular basis, they can contribute to the UK rankings as Category E events or Sanctioned Tours. Criteria are:

Category E tournaments & Club Championships

- (a) Maximum 12 events in calendar year (i.e. maximum of monthly events)
- (b) Dates must be advertised in advance with minimum 1 weeks notice
- (c) Each event must have a minimum 4 entrants/teams
- (d) Club Championships can include other events (e.g. DYPs, 2-ball) within a range of competitions contributing to an overall finishing position, provided that at least 50% of contributing events are either standard singles or doubles.
- (e) Tournaments using non-standard rules may be considered eligible for Cat E status at the discretion of the Tournament Coordination Commission"
- (f) Organisers are strongly recommended to use either ITSF or simplified BFA rules of play, however this is not a strict requirement for Cat E status

Cat D - Sanctioned Tours

- (a) Minimum of 3x events per discipline in calendar year – no maximum
- (b) Events to take place in a single venue or within a closely-defined geographical area
- (c) Dates must be announced at outset of the tournament series or be regular (*e.g. every Friday, or 3rd Wednesday of the month*)
- (d) Points are allocated according to the final overall placing and total number of competitors
- (e) Tours will be treated as a Cat D competitions or of the category corresponding to the total prize fund for the event (if higher)
- (f) Contributing events are restricted to open, womens, senior, junior and/or Rank-Limited Singles and/or Doubles using standard ITSF or simplified BFA Rules of Play

For all Cat E or Sanctioned Tour events

- (a) Promoters must provide or publish FULL results (first to last) for each event (Cat E), OR the final table for the competition as a whole (Cat D), including full names of players (surname first) and keep records of years of birth and nationalities of all competitors
- (b) Events must be open to all competitors, unless limited by rank
- (c) Weightings will be allocated according to the highest ranked player competing

The points from Category E events will only be added to a players' total at the next monthly update or following the next tournament. Points for Sanctioned Tours or Club Championships will be applied at the next update following the conclusion of the series of events.

Annual Weightings (2013 season)

Year	Weighting Factor
2013	100%
2012	100%
2011	80%
2010	60%
2009	40%
2008	35%
2007	30%
2006	25%
2005	20%
2004	15%
2003 and earlier	10%

Annual weightings serve as a brake on the upwards points drift, allowing players to fall in position and ranking status if inactive or if less successful than in previous years.

Annual weightings are recalculated on the 1st of January each year, with the current year and past full year worth 100%, with each previous year worth 20% less until the total reaches 40%, falling 5% per annum thereafter until a minimum of 10% for points over 10 years old.

Player Categories

All players fall into one of four player categories depending on their nationality. Points are earned in the same way for all categories, but base points (see next section) are awarded differently in each case.

- Z UK national and UK resident. This is most UK players. This group also includes players who have lived in the UK for 5 years and are eligible to represent the UK (i.e. they have changed their nationality with ITSF).
- Y Overseas national and UK resident. Examples: Foreign university students, recent immigrants to the UK.
- X Republic of Ireland national.
- W Overseas national and overseas resident.

Only players in category Z appear on the BFA website's official ordered rankings. However, all players are listed alphabetically in monthly updates on the BFA forum.

Base Points

Base points are added to a player's starting position according to status on other ranking lists, tournament wins, or promotions. These prevent players from falling too far or quickly in rank through inactivity, and also gives a higher entry point for players with a ranking in foreign ranking lists.

Effectively, a player's total points can never fall below their base points (except via losing bonus points), because all other points are earned on top of this number. The number of base points a player has can increase or in some cases decrease. Since other points are earned on top, this means the player's total points will also increase or decrease by the same amount when their base points change. Base points do not reduce year on year.

There are five groups of ways to get base points, listed as A, B, C, D and E. The way that a player's base points are calculated from these groups is determined from their category (W,

X, Y or Z). See the Player Categories section for information on which category a player falls into.

Player category	Base points
Ⓐ (UK national and UK resident)	900 + MAX(A, B, D)
Ⓑ (Overseas national and UK resident)	900 + C + MAX(B,D)
Ⓒ (RoI national)	900 + C + MAX(B,D)
Ⓓ (Overseas national and overseas resident)	E + MAX(B,D)

These are the four groups A, B, C and D and the points available for various achievements in each. Players only receive the highest points in a category for which they qualify.

Group A - Rank Criteria

100	Ever been Semi-pro
200	Ever been Pro
300	Ever been Pro-Master

Group B - Performance Criteria

100	AS/AD winner or OS/OD 3rd >5 yrs, or 2 nd place OS/OD in Cat D
200	OS/OD 3 rd place <5 yrs or SPS/SPD/PS/PD winner or OS/OD 2nd >5 yrs, or OS/OD winner in Cat D
300	OS/OD 2nd <5 yrs or OS/OD winner >10 yrs
400	Open Singles/Doubles winner in past 6-10 years (Cat C or above)
500	Open Singles/Doubles winner in past 5 years (Cat C or above)

Group C – Performance and Rank Criteria for non-UK players

0	First UK tournament. This overrides higher values in this category to allow players to have one go as a 'novice' before being promoted.
100	Not woman or junior
200	AS/AD winner or have ever been Semi-pro
300	SPS/SPD winner or have ever been Pro
600	OS/OD winner

Group D – Performance Criteria for Overseas Tournaments

300	3rd Place WCS 6+ years
400	3rd place WCS < 5 years , 2nd place WCS or 3rd place WCh 6+ years,
500	2nd Place WCS or 3rd Place WCh < 5 years , 1st Place WCS, or 2nd Place WCh 6+ years
600	1st Place WCS or 2nd Place WCh < 5 years, 1st Place WCh 6+ Years
800	1st Place WCh < 5 years

Group E – Points allocation based on overseas ranking lists

Visiting overseas players will be ranked for entry-fee and eligibility purposes according to their highest published rank in BFA, International, European or World Rankings. The following systems are used as a basis to rank overseas players on a sliding scale between 1100 and 3000 points according to the following criteria:

Base Point Allocations from Overseas Ranking Systems						
BFA Base Points	ITSF Open Combined	P4P (sing/doub avg points)	FFFT	IGR (sing/doub avg points)	USTSF & IFP	NL/BE Leagues
3000	> 900 pts	Elite/Elite pts > 2700	PM > 900 pts	Either > 1500	Top 4	
2850	700-899 pts	Elite/Elite or Elite only pts 2400-2699	PM > 700-899 pts	Avg > 800	Places 5-16	
2700	500-699 pts	Elite/Elite or Elite only pts < 2400	PM > 400-699 pts	Avg > 500	Places 17-30	
2550	300-499 pts	Elite/Master pts > 2000	PM < 400 pts or Master > 400 pts	PM avg < 500	Place 31-50	Top National
2400	200-299 pts	Elite/Other	Master 300-399 pts	P/P or Any player avg > 400pts	Other PM	2nd National
2250	175-199 pts	Master/Master pts > 2000	Master 200-299 pts	P/Other avg < 400	> 2500	
2100	150-174 pts	Master/Master or Master only pts < 2000	Master < 200 pts or Pro > 250 pts	SP/Other 300-399 pts	> 2000	Top Regional
1950	125-149 pts	Master/Amateur	Pro 100-249 pts	Any 200-299 pts	> 1700	
1800	100-124 pts	Master/Neulinger	Pro < 100 pts	SP 101-199 pts, or any 150-199 pts	> 1500	2nd Regional
1650	n/a	Amateur/Amateur	Semi-Pro >100 pts	Any >100pts	> 1400	
1500	75-99 pts	Amateur/Neulinger	Semi-Pro 50-99 pts	SP <100pts	> 1300	3rd Regional

Multiple Jurisdictions: Where a player is listed in two or more of the above systems their base points will be the highest points according to the above criteria.

Inactive Overseas Players: All existing players in system over 1500 base points have base points reduced by 150 pts to minimum 1500 points, if a player's new rank is lower the starting points fall by a maximum 150 per year

Visiting overseas players who do not appear in International Rankings will be given a value for this category of 1200 for men and 1100 for women, unless they can show they are treated as novice/rookie by their home federation.

The BFA Rankings Director may, in exceptional circumstances, use his or her discretion to vary the starting points of players where it would be in the best interests of fairness to do so. This normally applies to UK nationals resident abroad, or to experienced players returning to tournaments after a long absence..

Bonus Points

Bonus points are awarded for beating a player or team of higher rank, or lost for losing to a player or team of lower rank. Bonus points are weighted according to the length of match. A doubles team assumes the rank of the higher-ranked player in the team.

Bonus points form part of a player's annual total, and are weighted according to year. Bonus points always receive an initial 100% weighting. Bonus points are not awarded for Cat E events, Sanctioned Tours, Pro-am or Mixed doubles events.

Bonus Points awarded to the winner/lost by the loser

Winner	Loser	Match Format				
		1 to 5	1 to 7	1 to 9	Best of 3	Best of 5
Nov/Am	Semi-Pro	5	10	15	20	25
Nov/Am	Pro	10	15	20	25	30
Nov/Am	Pro-Master	15	20	25	30	35
Nov/Am	Pro-Master*	20	25	30	35	40
Semi-Pro	Pro	5	10	15	20	25
Semi-Pro	Pro-Master	10	15	20	25	30
Semi-Pro	Pro-Master*	15	20	25	30	35
Pro	Pro-Master	5	10	15	20	25
Pro	Pro-Master*	10	15	20	25	30
Pro-Master	Pro-Master*	5	10	15	20	25

Pro-Master players over 3000, 3600, 4200, 4800 and 5400 points (etc) are each treated as an extra division for bonus point purposes.

Ranking Thresholds

Points	Rank
900	Novice (Start)
950	Amateur
1200	Semi-Pro
1800	Pro
2400	Pro-Master
3000	Pro-Master*

An extra * is awarded to pro-master players for each complete 600 points above the Pro-Master Threshold

Unifying the Rankings into a single system

With effect from January 2011 the separate table-specific rankings are discontinued and replaced by a unified system with a single player rank applicable to all tables. Historic points (1999-2010) were weighted by year according to the total proportion of points generated by a table-type (Tornado, Garlando, Bonzini and Other) during a specific year.

Summary of January 2005 changes:

Ranking thresholds increased

SP 1100 to 1200

Pro 1500 to 1800

Pro-Master 2000 to 2400

Reset points

Increased to retain existing safeguards

Tornado SP - 50 to 100

Tornado Pro - 100 to 200

Tornado/Garlando Pro-Master - 200 to 300

OS/OD winner - 200 to 300

Now all semi-pro, pro and pro-master players receive the same reset points according to their highest achieved rank on either table.

Prize money

Thresholds increased for B, C & D level tournaments going forward

Level D £200-£500 (was £100-£300)

Level C £500-£1000 (was £300-£800)

Level B £1000-£2000 (was £800-£2000)

Bonus Points

Bonus points apply symmetrically from Jan 2005 going forward

Womens Rankings

Points from Womens events now contribute to Womens ranking only (restrospective).

Summary of January 2006 changes:

Basic Distribution

Points now graduated and no longer based on equivalent DE placings alone (from 2006 going forward)

Minimum of 1 point (before weighting) for last place (from 2006 on)

Weightings

Cat E tournaments discontinued (superceded by local events)

Weighting scheme simplified

Local Events

BFA Sanctioned Tours introduced for regular local competitions (from 2006 on)

International

Points at ITSF tournaments now count towards BFA ranking status (retrospective)

Summary of January 2008 changes:

General

Rankings System extended to all table types (inc. Bonzini & Tornado)

Tornado results to be recalculated using the new system (not inc bonus points)

Weightings

Tournament Category Thresholds revised (2008 on)

Differential thresholds for different table types

Simplified additional weightings for ITSF events

Weightings for different events/categories revised downwards

Player of the Year Rankings

Multitable event-based rankings formalised

Reset Points

Now apply to all tables

International

Criteria for ranking status codified (as used informally over past 2 years)

Summary of August 2008 changes:

Weightings

Weightings for all divisional events amended and applied retrospectively from January 2008

Summary of August 2009 changes

Performance RBPs included in Bonzini/Roberto-Sport Rankings

Summary of Autumn 2010 changes

Integrated/unified ranking system replacing rank by table type
Performance RBPs introduced/uprated for all tables (podium finishes in Open events, winners of divisional events)
Upating of weightings for divisional events in major tournaments
Changes in prize fund threshold to reflect recent turnouts and provide a level playing field for different tables
Option of Sanctioned Tour status or Cat E tournaments for regular/local events
More gradual annual downweightings for points 5-10 years old
Changes to allocation of POY points

Summary of 2011 changes

Feb 2011 - Additional Bonus Point divisions every 600 points within pro-master division (an extra 5 points exchanged per division)
July 2011 – USA Rankings changed from USTSA to IFP, thresholds revised.
Allow a wider range of events to count in Cat E tournaments
Changing tournament designation from prize-fund based to status based, revisions to weightings
November 2011 – New starting points thresholds for Irish players and UK-resident players from overseas

Summary of 2012 changes

Feb 2012 – Terminology changes, amalgamating Performance Reset Bonus Points, Rank Reset Bonus Points, and starting points of overseas players into the single concept of 'Base Points'. Formalises discretion of BFA Rankings Director in exceptional circumstances.
April 2012 – Formalising and codifying the treatment of overseas players with rankings elsewhere, performance points introduced for top 3 fineshers in ITSF WCS or World Championships

Summary of 2013 changes

Jan 2013 – Review of ranking boundaries for overseas players
Mar 2013 – Reintroduce Cat D standalone events and performance base points