

BOWERS RATING SYSTEM

February 21, 2007

To all the Raters,

I want to give all of you a big, big “**THANK YOU**” for all of your hard work. I know sometimes it does not seem worth it, especially when you get criticized by someone because he/she does not like a rating or Rater, etc. Shuffleboard Tournaments have grown significantly because of your efforts and it is my opinion that the future of Table Shuffleboard is largely in our hands. We should do everything we can to support the Table Shuffleboard Association and our Shuffleboard Tournaments. We should continually strive to keep and maintain the integrity of the game and the Ratings.

The idea comes up every year or so since the Ratings began (1992) to compile the ratings with statistics in lieu of a cumulative average of our total number of Rater’s opinions. I have looked hard and long at this option, along with several people more knowledgeable on this subject than me. Shuffleboard tournaments have so many variations, divisions, type of games, partners, teams, etc. that it just does not seem feasible to get an accurate rating compiling such a mishmash of statistics on our 2800 rated players. It does seem like it possibly could be done successfully in a League format because all the games are similar, but a lot of tournament players do not like the league type play. Most local areas have their own local league ratings. I still believe that our current rating system is the best solution for rating tournament players. It is certainly not perfect, but with your help, we can make it better.

There seems to be a lot of misconceptions and some concerns about the Ratings. I am going to try to clarify the rating process and make some additional safeguards to aid in our attempt to create a viable table shuffleboard handicap rating system.

Intent:

The purpose for the Ratings is to aid Shuffleboard Tournaments and their directors. The Ratings are provided free of charge to our tournament directors to use to help format a tournament that can offer fair and competitive events. If a tournament director does not agree with a rating, he/she has the right to change it. However, if a tournament’s entry criteria is advertised as *Bowers Ratings Used*, it is to the tournament director’s advantage to ensure every rated player is made aware of any change(s) before arriving at the tournament. The success of the tournament is on the director’s shoulders and he/she should have the final say.

Revisions to the Rating System:

Two new safeguards will be added to the Rating process.

First, I am forming a **Rating Committee**.

The committee will consist of approximately 20 of our more seasoned Raters selected from different areas of the country, so that all areas will be fairly represented. This committee will have the power to review or change a players rating; and the power to add and delete Raters. They will also have access to view who rated who what. I hope that they will also aid in new ideas to help better the Ratings. Our website will continue to be maintained and updated as any player rating data is updated or changed throughout the year. Please do not duplicate, distribute, or publish elsewhere and/or post on other websites. This is to better ensure data integrity and consistency in the rating information being publicly communicated about our ratings.

Second, there will be an **additional ratings check** for mistakes and or questions before the final printing. This will go out to every rater that has access to email.

The Process:

I will be contacting Raters more by email in the future.

Please send your email address to Ron Bowers at: ronbowers@sbcglobal.net and include your phone number and address. If you do not have an email account, please try to use an email account of a relative or friend.

Step 1. - October 1, 2007

You will be asked to send a list of **new players** and players who should be deleted. You can send earlier if you prefer.

Deadline to submit your list of is October 15, 2007

Anyone left off the list will have to wait until next year to be added.

Please make sure the names are spelled correctly. This is important because each year we have two or three players who are rated with different names.

Please place the names of all known deceased players and players who have been inactive for two or three years that are not expected to return to the game anytime soon on the delete list. If a rated player does not receive a rating in the current year, his/her rating remains unchanged for three years and is shown to have been rated by one rater. The rating is not deleted sooner in an effort to minimize the number of *unrated players* who appear for tournaments. This procedure is under review and may be changed by the new Rating Committee.

Step 2: - October 20, 2007

You will receive the updated list of players for you to rate.

I have someone working on a program that will let you do your ratings by email.

Hopefully it will be up and going by November, if not, they will be mailed to you.

If you cannot get access to email, they will be mailed to you.

Step 3: - November 15, 2007 (updated 2/22/07)

This is the deadline for you to send your ratings back. Please send as early as possible.

Please rate everyone you have seen play recently, the one year is only a guideline; it is not a hard and fast rule. Try to make the ratings a year long job. Take notes, etc, at every tournament. A good time for this might be while players are being introduced before each tournament. The integrity of Raters is the backbone of the Ratings. The ratings are only as good as you make them.

Step 4: - December 1, 2007 (updated 2/22/07)

The Raters with email access will have the opportunity to review and **check the new ratings.** If you see anything that does not look right, please advise.

Step 5: - December 10, 2007 (updated 2/22/07)

The ratings will be sent to the printer.

They will be mailed to you as soon as possible.

Thanks once more!!!

Please call or email with any questions, concerns, or suggestions.

Ron Bowers

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