

Table Hockey - World Ranking Algorithm

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1 Overview

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Website

The Official Table Hockey World Ranking website – www.ithf.info/ranking - is developed and maintained by Stanislav Kraus from the Czech Republic.

Also, Pascal Theriault of Canada has made the overall design of the ITHF page.

1.1.2 Statistics Providers

Thanks to all who maintain table hockey websites, and to those who submit league and tournament results. Without you, it would be very difficult to maintain this site effectively!

1.2 General Description of the Ranking

The Basic Idea of The Rankings is:

- All tournaments from the last 24 months qualify in the rankings.
- Tournaments involving higher ranking players shall be worth more points accordingly.
- In each tournament played, a certain number of points is awarded to each player.
- All players count their best 4 results.

1.3 Contact Persons

1.3.1 Responsibilities for The Contact Person

All nations that participate in the rankings shall assist by assigning one official contact person. The responsibility of that contact person is:

- To assist in determining which tournament shall be considered as a Level 3, Level 4, Level 5 and Level 6 tournaments (see chapter 2.2).
- To ensure that all tournaments from their country is added to the rankings.
- To actively attempt to contact local leagues that do not submit their results.

1.3.2 Current responsible persons

There will soon be a web page at ITHF site with the list of contact persons.

2 Tournaments

2.1 Which Tournaments Count?

All tournaments played during the last 24 months count in this ranking. All tournaments shall be sent to its country contact representative, and he will send them to the WR when all required information exists. Or you can report results to the WR directly by using web form at the world ranking web pages.

Tournaments must meet following rules:

- the tournament must be open for everybody who is interested to play at,
- if using more basic groups the players must be seeded using a ranking (local, national or WR),
- the tournament cannot have ONLY play-off,
- if the tournament has a play-off the final ranking must be counted using the play-off results. The group placement can be used for the players participating in play-off only to determine the final placement for those who were eliminated at the same round of play-off,
- if the tournament doesn't meet the criterias above the WR Level 6 will be used for this tournament.

The following tournaments are not to be included in the rankings:

- tournaments that are not played on Stiga games,
- tournaments where players consume alcohol before or during play,
- tournaments where players throw (deliberately lose) a match(es), in order to allow another player to gain ranking points.

2.2 Tournament Levels

Tournaments are divided into the following seven levels:

Level 1 – World Championships

Level 2 – World Tour B6 and Continental Championships

Level 3 – World Tour

Level 4 – National competitions

Level 5 – Sanctioned Local competitions

Level 6 – Other Local competitions

Level 10 – Team competitions

2.2.1 Level 1 - World Championships

In this level there are 3 different tournaments, World Championships and competitions for Women, for Veterans, and for Juniors.

The values of these tournaments are hard-coded. The World Championships is always worth 1000 points for the winner.

2.2.2 Level 2 - World Tour B6 and Continental Championships

European Championship (also Women, Veterans and Juniors competitions) and World Table Hockey Tour Big Six Tournaments belong to this level. If any other continental championship (American, Asian etc.) will be ever held, it will belong to Level 2.

2.2.3 Level 3 – World Tour

World Table Hockey Tour Tournaments belong to this level. It means all World Tour tournaments which do not belong between Big Six tournaments.

2.2.4 Level 4 - National Competitions

Level 4 tournaments are the national series of the highest ranking tournaments in each country. If the number of these tournaments is higher than 13 during a year Technical Commission of ITHF can change the levelling. The ITHF member is responsible for WR levels at its country. Technical Commission of ITHF is responsible for the other countries.

2.2.5 Level 5 – Sanctioned Local Competitions

Level 5-tournaments are very serious local tournaments, which are sanctioned by national federation and by ITHF.

2.2.6 Level 6 – Other Local Competitions

Level 6 tournaments include all “other” tournaments.

A tournament need not be deemed “official” to qualify as Level 6. The ranking system has been developed so that “unofficial” or “unsanctioned” tournaments will yield significantly less points than an official one. This system allows for these types of tournaments to be included in the rankings.

Though, the World ranking responsible has the right to remove tournaments that seem too unserious.

2.3 Tournaments With Only 3 Players

Tournaments with only 3 participants, are not counted in rankings. At least 4 players are needed for it to give ranking points.

2.4 Aging Tournaments

When a tournament gets older than 2 years, its value is set to 0. It will remain on the rankings website for reference, but player points will no longer be in effect.

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3 Points calculation

For each tournament, each position is given a value. The value for each position is calculated in 7 steps, which all are needed to get a good ranking.

3.3.1 Minimum value for winner

Step 1 is to calculate the minimum value for the winner of the tournament. The rules are:

Level 6	20 points
Level 5	40 points
Level 4	70 points
Level 3	100 points
Level 2	100 points
World Champs Junior/Veteran/Ladies	500 points
World Champs	1000 points

3.3.2 Sort players

Players are sorted after their highest point during the last 24 months.

3.3.3 Basic points per place

For each position, the points are calculated. For 1st place, the 4 best players from 2.3.2 are considered. It is their points that are used. For 45th place, players 45-48 are considered.

3.3.4 Tournament level influence

Each tournament has a level, saying how important it is. This level is turned into a coefficient, which is multiplied with all points calculated in 2.3.3. The coefficients are:

Level 2	0.99
Level 3	0.98
Level 4	0.9
Level 5	0.7
Level 6	0.4

3.3.5 Number of Players beaten

To make sure that all players get points, there is a rule saying that you are guaranteed at least as many points, as the number of players you beat. Plus one extra points for participating. So if you are 20 players, and you finish 18, you get 1 point for participating, plus 2 for the players you beat.

If the basic calculation gave you more points, the basic calculation is the one that count.

3.3.6 Degrading of points in new nations

If a tournament turns out to get 100 points to the first place and for example 5 to the next, there is a rule needed. Otherwise this would influence new nations too much.

Therefore, if a tournament winner gets 100 points, 2nd place is guaranteed $100/2 = 50$. 3rd place is guaranteed $50/2 = 25$, and so on.

This means that tournaments that would have had a points scheme as 100,7,6,5,4,3,2,1 instead gets 100,50,25,12,6,3,2,1.

3.3.7 World Champs

The World Championships are the biggest tournament in the world, and it is also reference for all other tournaments in the world. In order for it to give relevant information about nations quality, it is not only calculated as described in the above 6 bullets. The value from World Champs can also be determined as in the old ranking algorithm, i.e. the points are linearly decreased so that last place gets 1 points, and 1st place gets 1000.

4 Players

4.1 Which Players are Included in the Rankings?

All players having participated in a reported tournament during the last 2 years are added to the rankings.

4.2 How are the Total Points for a Player Calculated?

Players may only count their best 4 tournaments. Meaning the 4 tournaments where they have received the most points, but played during the last 2 years. Those 4 values are added, and the sum is the players ranking points. The rankings on the website are sorted in order of the ranking points, the higher the points, the better the ranking.

5 Women's Ranking

The Women's Rankings include all players, who have been reported as female. If someone is missing from the rankings, or if someone is ranked that shouldn't be, please email your nation's contact with the correct information.

6 Junior Ranking

The Junior Rankings for season 2007/2008 should include all players, who are born 1990 or later. If anyone is missing, or anyone should not be there, please email your nation's contact with the correct information.

7 Veteran Ranking

The Veteran Rankings for season 2007/2008 should include all players, who are born 1968 or earlier. If anyone is missing, or anyone should not be included there, please email your nation's contact with the correct information.

8 Clubs

8.1 Which Club Do I Belong To?

The club that has been included after your name is obtained from the information that I have gathered from various Internet sites, or from different contacts around the world. If any detail is wrong, please contact the nation's representative with the correct details.

8.2 What If I Do Not Play For a Club?

Then I will include your hometown or state instead. If I do not have club information, the Club field is left empty. I would appreciate an email stating which club or city you are from.

If others see that there are players from this region, they may try to contact you, and a new league could start up.

8.3 Club Rankings

For each club in the rankings, the best 4 players (ranking wise) have been considered as a team. 4 were chosen since there are 4 players in each team in club team championships, for example, the World Club Championship or Swedish Team Championships. The 4 players total ranking points are added together, and the total value is the club's ranking points. The ranking is sorted according to this.

9 Nations

9.1 Which Country Do I Play For?

If you hold multiple nationalities, you can yourself decide which country to play for. Please send me a mail if you want me to change your or anyone else's nationality.

9.2 Nation Rankings

For each nation in the rankings, the best 5 players (ranking wise) have been considered as a national team. 5 were chosen since there are 5 players in each team in world team championships. The 5 players total ranking points are added together, and the total value is the clubs ranking points. The ranking is sorted according to this.

10 Guideline for Country Responsibles

10.1 How Shall a Tournament Be Reported

Tournaments shall be reported here:

<http://www.ithf.info/stiga/ithf/ranking/enterres.aspx>

10.2 Correct Erroneous Data in the Rankings

All data in the rankings is of course not always correct. Whenever something can be corrected, just send me an email about it! For example, if someone plays for another club than is listed. Or someone is club-less, but you have knowledge of where they live. Or if you obtain knowledge of someone's birth year -- please forward.

10.3 Get All Tournaments Reported

It is very important to try to get all tournaments reported. Local leagues and non-official tournaments are good to have on the rankings as well, because it makes people more motivated, and increases the probability that a player might show up at big tournaments.

Some local leagues still do not report their results. I would like you, as national representatives, to request them to do so. Why is that important? Well, take as example my friend Peter Stensmyr, ranked 60th in the world. He is soon moving to Sydney, and he did not think that they played Stiga table hockey. He found at the rankings that there were results from Sydney, and guess where he will soon play? So it is very significant to get results from local leagues.

So if you do not hear anything from a local league for some time, please send them contact about their status and intentions.

10.4 Calendar of Events

On the WR website www.ithf.info/ranking, there is also a "Calendar" of events. All Level 1 - 4 tournaments should be included in this list. Level 5 and 6 tournaments are also welcome.

Assistance in compiling this list would be appreciated.