

The year-end USTA ratings came out on December 2nd and with the upcoming January leagues, the USTA Committee thought it might be helpful to explain how USTA ratings work.

Dynamic Ratings

The year-end rating from USTA is published to a tenth – 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, etc. However, ratings are actually calculated to the hundredth. For example, players with a 3.0 rating can range from 2.51 to 2.99 and 3.5 players can range from 3.01 to 3.49. These are called *dynamic* ratings because a rating is updated to the hundredth each time match results are entered on the USTA website. Occasionally, players who are in the upper or lower limit of their range may see their ratings change in the middle of a league season if match results cause the dynamic rating to spill over into a different range.

Players with newly upgraded ratings are likely to have dynamic ratings in the lower range, while players whose ratings are recently downgraded are likely to have dynamic ratings in the upper range of their new ratings. As a player competes and more data is compiled, dynamic ratings are adjusted to reflect the player's match results.

Rating Calculations

To calculate dynamic ratings, the USTA uses a mathematical algorithm that is proprietary. There are attempts to replicate the algorithm on websites such Tennisrecord.com. Although these replications are just estimates, they can provide a general picture about your being in the lower, middle or upper range of your rating.

Here's a simplified summary on how the USTA algorithm works.

- The algorithm applies the dynamic ratings of opposing players who compete in a USTA match.
- Based on the players' dynamic ratings, the algorithm predicts the outcome of the match with a winner and an expected score.
- If the players' dynamic ratings are relatively close, the predicted score will be close. If there is a large difference between dynamic ratings, the predicted score will reflect the difference.

This is how a match outcome can affect the dynamic ratings of the players involved.

- If the predicted winner wins the match by the expected score, there are no changes in the dynamic ratings, since each player performed as expected.
- If the predicted winner wins the match by more than the expected score, the winner's dynamic rating will increase, and the loser's dynamic rating will decrease. The opposite result occurs if the predicted winner wins the match by less than the predicted score.
- If the predicted winner loses the match, that player's dynamic rating will decrease and the opponent's dynamic rating will increase.
- Increases or decreases depend on how much higher or lower each player scored in comparison to the expected score. A win over the predicted winner can have the greatest impact.

Remember that rating increases and decreases are small increments in the hundredths, so large swings in a rating are infrequent.

Rating Calculations for Doubles

It's easy to understand how dynamic ratings are developed in singles, where it's just one player against another. Doubles is a different scenario. The USTA algorithm averages the dynamic ratings of each doubles team and predicts the outcome based on those averages. For those who play doubles, understanding dynamic ratings is more complex because there are more variables.

- Unless you play exclusively with one partner, the average dynamic rating of your team will be different with each partner.

- With different partners, your team's average will result in different predicted winners and scores, depending on your opponent's team average.
- Ideally, you want your team's average to be lower than the opposing team's average so that you have more to gain. If you defeat a team with a higher average, your dynamic rating will increase for sure. And if you lose the match, but still won more games than the expected score, your dynamic rating will also increase.

There's nothing wrong with wanting to play doubles with your favorite partners and friends. But if you're trying to improve your rating, you may have to be more strategic. So, what does this mean regarding doubles partnerships? Try pairing up with a lower-rated player whose game is on the upswing and practice playing together. You can't control who your opponents are, but you can strategically partner with someone who might bring your team average below the average of your opponents.

NOTE: Dynamic ratings are not affected when playing in mixed doubles or combo leagues.

Work the System

Understanding how dynamic ratings work can help your mindset when preparing for competition. You won't know who your opponents are until match time and you won't know their dynamic ratings. What you *can* control is your attitude and willingness to battle on the court.

- Keeping in mind that you don't know the expected score, try to win as many games as possible.
- If it turns out that you have a higher rating than the opponent, you want to win by more than the expected score.
- If your opponent has the higher rating, you have everything to gain. Even losing the match could increase your rating if you can win more games than the expected score.
- If your rating is important to you as a doubles player, understand that you aren't likely to increase your rating if you always play with the strongest partners on your team just to rack up wins.

Q & A

We hope this information helps to answer some commonly asked questions.

My teammate didn't win as many matches as I did, so why did she get bumped up?

- Your teammate may have started out with a lower dynamic rating than yours and she may have done better against the expected scores in her matches.
- She may have had more opponents with higher dynamic ratings, which gave her larger rating increases if she did well against them or even defeated them.

I went undefeated in my leagues this year, so why didn't I get bumped up?

- In your wins, you may not have performed against the expected score by enough to increase your dynamic rating.
- Some of your opponents may have had lower dynamic ratings than yours. When you defeated them, you would have had to win by at least the expected score just to maintain your dynamic rating. If you won, but didn't meet the expected score, your dynamic rating may even have lost a little ground.


Our team was very strong this year. My doubles partner and I usually played in the second or third line and we did well, contributing to our team wins. Why didn't either of us get bumped up?


- If your team captain put together lineups according to strength, your opponents may have had lower dynamic ratings, since they played in lines two or three.
- Also, your opponents may have had dynamic ratings close to yours, so you would have had to exceed the expected score by larger margins to impact your dynamic ratings.

Appealing Your Rating


If you think you might be close to the upper or lower range of your rating, you may want to appeal your rating. Some players would prefer a lower rating due to injury or other limitations. Others want a higher rating that enables them to join more competitive teams and play more challenging matches.


- To appeal your rating, go to <https://tennislink.usta.com/Leagues/Common/Default.aspx>. Click the **LOGIN** tab.

USTA LEAGUE	TOURNAMENTS	JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS	USTA FLEX LEAGUES	MY TENNIS	LOGIN	PROCESSED BY 
<p>Home > TennisLink > USTA League</p> <div><p>The 2022 USTA NTRP ratings are now available!</p><p>How To Find Your NTRP Rating</p><p>NTRP Rating Information + NTRP level videos!</p><p>How To Appeal NTRP Rating</p><p>Contact Section League Coordinator</p><p>More NTRP FAQs</p></div>						<p>Welcome!</p> <p>Log in or create an account</p> <p>Oakland, CA 94618</p> <p>change</p>



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We won't post to any of your accounts without asking first

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- Sign in with your chosen account. If you don't have an account, click the **Sign up** link on the bottom right. Once you've signed in, your personal USTA League information displays.

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The 2022 USTA NTRP ratings are now available!
[How To Find Your NTRP Rating](#)
[NTRP Rating Information + NTRP level videos!](#)
[How To Appeal NTRP Rating](#)
[Contact Section League Coordinator](#)
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Welcome! Karen Gee
Logout

No. California > Northern California

NTRP Level: 4.0 12/31/2021
Appeal Rating Level
USTA Account: 919427922
Manage Account

- Click the **Appeal Rating Level** link on the bottom right.

Automated Appeal Entry

[Click here for more information about the automated appeal process](#)

Current Player Information

Player USTA# :	919427922	Player Name:	Karen Gee	
Player City:	Oakland	Player State:	CA	
Rating Date:	12/31/2021 12:00:00 AM	Rating Level:	4.0	Rating Type: C

Select to Appeal Rating Up or Down:

☐ Up
☐ Down

Submit
Cancel

- Before proceeding with your appeal, you may want to click the link at the top to understand more about the appeal process. Remember that if your appeal is granted, ***it cannot be reversed***.
- When you're ready, click the option to appeal your rating **Up** or **Down**.
- Click the **Submit** button. You will receive an instant decision based on National USTA criteria and guidelines.

For more information about the appeal process, go to:

https://support.activenetwork.com/usta/articles/en_US/Article/Appeal-NTRP-Rating.

NOTE: Remember that if your appeal to move **Down** is granted, this places your rating in the upper range of the lower rating. With an appeal, you are subject to the USTA 3-strike disqualification process. You may be in jeopardy of having your rating go back up in mid-season, resulting in your match wins being reversed.

For example, your appeal is granted to move from 3.5 to 3.0. You play in the first three matches for your 3.0 team and win each match. Your match results trigger the 3-strike process and your dynamic rating goes back up to 3.5. Your wins are reversed to losses, affecting your team's match score. If your team won a match 3-2, for example, your reversed win changes the score to a 2-3 loss for the team.