

Report on Player Ratings Objectives

Jan 1,2022

So many aspects of Pickleball in Canada this past year have been subjected to what can only be likened to being thrown into a washing machine during the spin cycle. For many clubs their programs have been on again, off again, and tournament play has been akin to the searching for a yellow pickleball in a field canola at harvest time.

The efforts to advance player ratings has seen a reasonable amount of success. The direction has been results-based game capture of players in both the Tournament arena, and that of club development. Early in 2021 PCO forged an agreement with Pickleball Brackets, a company, who develops ratings engine software that captures game results ,and spits out individual player ratings numbers, based not only on win-loss, also point spreads, first projected and then evaluated, based on final outcomes. Part of that equation is to consider the combination of partnering for Doubles play that looks at the lower rated partner in relationship to the higher rated partner. This is done in such a dynamic environment as to re-calculate after each and every game, setting up new player numbers before starting against new opponents. In Round Robin club play as each partnership changes so the initial input numbers are changed as each subsequent game becomes totally reshaped in real time. While the players themselves never think in these terms as games are played, the computer processor makes it happen in chronological order and the results are available overnight for viewing.

A number of major tournaments in Canada in 2021 captured player results using Pickleball Brackets software and on Jan 1/2022 data was ported over to what is to be known as the CTPR (*Canadian Tournament Player Rating*) To date there are 1350 players who have “rolling CTPR ratings” using tournament data from 2021.

All players who participate in Canadian PCO Sanctioned Tournaments from Jan 1,2022 forward will automatically be establishing a CTPR. This provides many more Canadian players the opportunity to establish a tournament rating without have to compete in the USA as well.

There will be an effort this year to help clubs to advance performance/results-based ratings for club ratings. A major benefit, or outcome, is that using results allows organizers to place or seed players during both scored and non-scored events in an effort to create good solid match ups.

Clubs can also look at skills-based ratings as offered up by the IPTPA Certified Ratings Specialist program. This program was revised late in 2020 to include both skills and actual game assessment. Players can be assigned basic skill ratings which can then be enhanced by future performance/results events.

For those BC clubs looking to move forward in 2022 there are already a number of clubs operating game results capture and expertise is not far away to help get started. Player ratings have been described as a “struggle” for most clubs but help is out there.

Barry Montgomery
PBC Director & Chair PCO Ratings Group