



HOW THE UPDATED RANKING SYSTEM WORKS

ELIGIBLE GOLF TOURS

Official Tournaments from the leading professional Eligible Golf Tours from around the world, as well as Major Championship, World Golf Championships, and the Olympic golf competition, are eligible for World Ranking Points (excluding team events).

Players competing in these tournaments will receive Ranking Points subject to their respective finishing position and according to each tournament's Total Field Rating.

The Eligible Golf Tours currently included in the OWGR System are:

Abema TV Tour	China Tour	KPGA Korean Tour	PGA TOUR Latinoamerica
All Thailand Golf Tour	DP World Tour	MENA Golf Tour	PGA Tour of Australasia
Alps Tour Golf	EuroPro Tour	Nordic Golf League	ProGolf Tour
Asian Development Tour	European Challenge Tour	PGA TOUR	Professional Golf Tour of India
Asian Tour	Japan Golf Tour	PGA TOUR Canada	Sunshine Tour
Big Easy Tour	Korn Ferry Tour	PGA TOUR China Series	



HOW THE UPDATED RANKING SYSTEM WORKS

RANKING POINTS

The Ranking Points for each player are accumulated over a two-year "rolling" period, with Ranking Points awarded for each tournament maintained for a 13-week period to place additional emphasis on recent performances.

Ranking Points are then reduced in equal decrements for the remaining 91 weeks of the two-year ranking period. Each player is then ranked according to their average points per tournament, which is determined by dividing the total number of Ranking Points by the number of tournaments he has played over that two-year period.

There is a minimum divisor of 40 tournaments over the two-year ranking period, with no more than the most recent 52 tournaments within the two-year period counting towards a player's Ranking position.

Implementation is set for Week Ending 14th August 2022, at which point all future eligible tournaments will utilise the updated system.



HOW THE UPDATED RANKING SYSTEM WORKS

FIELD RATING

As of the 8th of August 2022, each player in the OWGR system has a Strokes Gained (SG) World Rating based on their actual scores in stroke-play events adjusted for the relative difficulty of each round played over a rolling two-year period. A player's SG World Rating determines the number of Performance Points the player brings into a tournament.

The sum of the Performance Points for all players in the field determines each tournament's Field Rating, which equals the total Ranking Points to be distributed at the conclusion of the event.

Players with 10 or fewer recorded scores in eligible tournament's will contribute 0.1 Performance Points to the event, while players with fewer than 50 recorded scores in eligible tournaments can each contribute a maximum of 10% of an event's Field Rating.

As the pinnacle of men's golf, the Masters Tournament, Open Championship, U.S. Open Championship, and U.S. PGA Championship are rated separately, with each Major Championship awarding 100 First Place Points and onwards according to the OWGR Points Breakdown. The PLAYERS Championship will award 80 First Place Points, and all other tournament's will award Ranking Points according to the Field Rating, with a maximum of 80 First Place Points



IMPLEMENTATION

As of the Ranking issued on the 14th of August 2022, Ranking Points derived from each tournament's Field Rating are distributed according to the OWGR Points Breakdown to all players making the primary cut and completing the tournament.

8th August 2022

All tournaments from this day forward will utilise the modernised Field Rating calculation and Ranking points distributed to all players making the cut.

14th August 2022

The first Ranking utilising the updated system.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHY DID THE RANKINGS NEED TO CHANGE?

Since its inception, OWGR has continually evaluated its adherence to its mission to produce a credible and accurate ranking based on performances of players.

While the Ranking has served men's professional golf exceptionally well, analysis has revealed that by modernising two components of the system, the Ranking could provide significantly greater accuracy differentiating performances (i.e., rank) of all players included in the system.

WHAT HAS CHANGED?

OWGR's Field Rating calculation has been modernised so that fields will be evaluated based on the skill level of every player in the field, rather than just those in the field among the current Top-200 of the Ranking.

With this enhancement, Minimum Point Levels, Flagship Tournaments, and Home Ratings are no longer needed, removing the bias that can result from their use.

Additionally, all players making the cut will receive Ranking Points according to the Points Breakdown.

The other primary components of the OWGR system will remain the same.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHY DID OTHER COMPONENTS OF THE SYSTEM REMAIN THE SAME?

(e.g., 2-year period; average points; divisor)

Each component of OWGR serves a purpose in delivering a Ranking that is accurate, credible and justifiable.

Altering other components of the Ranking (e.g., 2-year period; average points; divisor) would have had a negative impact on the suitability of the Ranking.

HOW MUCH OF A CHANGE IN THE RANKING IS EXPECTED BETWEEN THE PREVIOUS SYSTEM AND THE UPDATED SYSTEM?

As top players often compete against each other, the Top-10 is likely to remain the same, while the Top-50 is likely to change by 2-5 players.

Implementation will only impact future events and previously earned Ranking Points will not be affected.

Therefore, changes in the Ranking will be gradual, taking two years to be fully realised.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CHANGES AND IMPLEMENTATION

WHY ARE SOME TOURNAMENTS / TOURS AFFECTED BY THE CHANGES MORE THAN OTHERS?

The previous version of the system used several assigned values (e.g., Minimum Point Levels), resulting in a bias in the system. By adopting modern analytic techniques, OWGR can accurately evaluate the Field Rating of all eligible tournaments through mathematically justifiable methods.

The impact on tournaments / Tours relative to each other is a result of the move to a more accurate system and underscores the reason OWGR is updating its system.

WITH SOME TOURS AND TOURNAMENTS AWARDED FEWER POINTS THAN PREVIOUSLY, IS OWGR CONCERNED ABOUT A POTENTIAL NEGATIVE IMPACT ON GLOBAL PLAYER PATHWAYS?

As many of the game's best players have risen through the ranks to compete on its biggest stages, a thriving global golf ecosystem is important to OWGR and to the organisations represented on its Governing Board.

Therefore, a comprehensive impact analysis was conducted by the OWGR, with reviews internal to each organisation being held to ensure players have appropriate opportunities to advance. Also, OWGR is developing mechanisms that will assist in identifying top worldwide players. These mechanisms will be provided to Majors and Tours for potential inclusion in tournaments and Tour eligibility.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

IS THIS THE RIGHT TIME TO BE UPDATING THE RANKING?

The changes to OWGR are the result of three years of analysis and consultations with governing bodies, Championships, and Tours of men's professional golf.

Also, the changes are in keeping with the OWGR's efforts to make modifications as required, a policy it has maintained since its outset to ensure the Ranking represents the most accurate available in the game of men's professional golf.

HOW DID OWGR CONDUCT ITS ANALYSIS?

The OWGR Governing Board began discussions to review the Ranking in July 2018. Following this, nearly a dozen academics, sports analytics experts and other interested parties conducted independent reviews of the Ranking and potential enhancements.

The work produced by these parties was monitored and reviewed by the OWGR Technical Committee and internally appointed Working Groups. A final review of the data and recommendations was performed by the OWGR Governing Board.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW ARE RANKING POINTS DISTRIBUTED FOLLOWING A TOURNAMENT?

Each tournament has a Field Rating, reflective of its strength and depth of field.

After the conclusion of an event, Ranking Points are distributed according to the OWGR Points Breakdown, a similar schedule to what has been used by OWGR to distribute Ranking Points for Major Championships and by the primary Tours of the world for purse and points distribution.

Each player making the primary cut will receive Ranking Points, allowing for differentiating of performances to a greater degree than previously possible.

HOW IS A TOURNAMENT'S FIELD RATING CALCULATED?

Every player in a tournament field contributes Performance Points as determined by the player's individual Strokes Gained (SG) World Rating. The sum of these Performance Points determines the Field Rating.

Field Rating replaces what was previously referred to as tournaments Strength of Field(SoF).



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS STROKES GAINED (SG) WORLD RATING?

A player's SG World Rating is based on his actual scores in stroke-play events adjusted for the relative difficulty of each round played over a rolling two-year period. This rating is presented relative to all players within the Ranking.

SG World Rating is made possible by the interconnectivity of professional golf. In a given two-year period, there are approximately 2,800 rounds in which 8,600 players post 250,000 scores. With so many rounds in common, professional golfers are interconnected at and through all levels of play.

The player with the best SG World Rating might have a value of 2.53, the 10th a Rating of 1.88 and the 20th of 1.45.

HOW IS THE RELATIVE DIFFICULTY OF EACH ROUND AND SG WORLD RATING CALCULATED?

To account for round difficulty — including differences in field, course, and scoring conditions — a widely statistical modelling calculation known as fixed effects regression simultaneously uses all scores in a two-year period to standardise all rounds relative to one another, providing the appropriate adjustment value necessary.

A round with highly skilled players and challenging scoring conditions played on a difficult course will have scores adjusted down, while a round with lesser skilled players and more benign scoring conditions played on an easier course will have scores adjusted up.

The adjustment value is unique to each round and is applied to all scores within that round. Each player's adjusted scores are then averaged and presented relative to all other tracked players.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CHANGES AND IMPLEMENTATION

HOW ARE THE PERFORMANCE POINTS FOR EACH SG WORLD RATING DETERMINED?

Each SG World Rating has a corresponding value of Performance Points determined by the Performance Curve.

To calculate the curve, each player's posted scores over a two-year period are used in a series of simulated events to determine the average Ranking Points expected per skill level (SG World Rating), which are then plotted to create the Performance Curve.

WILL THE PLAYER WITH THE BEST SG WORLD RATING ALWAYS CONTRIBUTE THE SAME NUMBER OF PERFORMANCE POINTS?

Each player's SG World Rating will fluctuate according to his two-year record of posted scores, with more recent scores receiving more emphasis.

Better scores will result in more Performance Points, while worse scores will result in fewer.

Therefore, it is likely that a player's Performance Points will fluctuate to some degree depending on recent performances.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WILL THE GAP IN PERFORMANCE POINTS BETWEEN THE PLAYER WITH THE BEST SG WORLD RATING AND THE PLAYER WITH THE 2ND BEST RATING BE CONSTANT?

The gap in Performance Points between two players will change to reflect the gap in exhibited skill.

Meaning, if the player with the best SG World Rating is playing exceedingly well as compared to others, it will be reflected in the number of Performance Points he brings to an event.

Similarly, if the level of skill among players is relatively close, this too will be reflected in the Points contributing to a tournament.

WHY NOT MAKE A RANKING BASED SOLELY ON PLAYERS' SG WORLD RATING?

If every player's SG World Rating were used for a ranking system (i.e., the player with the best SG World Rating would be ranked first in the world, the player with the second-best would be ranked second, and so forth), the system would be efficient in its ability to predict future performance.

However, a Ranking system such as this would not place a premium on winning (i.e., winners of a tournament would not appreciably rise in the Ranking) and would not adhere to commonly accepted norms of the game (e.g. Majors are the pinnacle of the sport).



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WILL A PLAYER'S POSITION ON THE SG WORLD RATING LIST AND THEIR RANKING BE DIFFERENT?

A player's position on the SG World Rating list reflects a player's skill based on scores posted in the previous two years.

A player's Ranking reflects his rank in consideration of commonly accepted golf norms (e.g., premium on winning; Majors as the pinnacle of the game).

It is expected there will be some difference between the lists as they serve different purposes.

IN THE TWO-YEAR PERIOD, WHY AND HOW DO MORE RECENT SCORES RECEIVE MORE EMPHASIS THAN OLDER SCORES?

Recent scores receive more emphasis in a player's SG World Rating to provide a better reflection of the player's current form.

To do this, a weighted average is applied to the player's scores, providing an ageing of scores over a two-year period that is similar to that used in the ageing of Ranking Points earned.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW DO PLAYERS ENTERING THE RANKING FOR THE FIRST TIME OBTAIN A SG WORLD RATING?

Players with fewer than 10 rounds posted will contribute 0.1 Performance Points to events in which they play.

Players with fewer than 50 recorded scores in eligible tournaments can each contribute no more than a maximum of 10% of a tournament Field Rating.

THERE ARE DIFFERENT STYLES OF PLAYERS; SOME PLAY CONSERVATIVELY WHILE OTHERS PLAY AGGRESSIVELY – THE LATTER POTENTIALLY LEADING TO ERRATIC SCORING BEHAVIOUR. DOES THIS HAVE AN EFFECT ON THE ACCURACY OF THESE PLAYERS SG WORLD RATINGS?

When individual scores are adjusted according to round difficulty, there is more normality in distribution than is seen in raw scores.

Therefore, erratic scoring behaviour is minimised, causing little effect in a player's SG World Rating and no effect on the Ranking.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CHANGES AND IMPLEMENTATION

WHY IS SG WORLD RATING USED TO DETERMINE A TOURNAMENT FIELD RATING?

SG World Rating provides a mathematically justifiable approach to evaluate the skill level of all players within an event while putting the player in control of his contribution via his posted scores.

DOES OWGR PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR UPWARD MOVEMENT IN THE RANKING FOR PLAYERS FROM SMALLER TOURS?

By being agnostic to Tour affiliation, the Ranking accurately evaluates Field Ratings for tournaments on all tours, providing appropriate upward mobility to reward play that is proportionate with achievement.

In its analysis, OWGR ensured that consistent high-level play resulted in significant improvement in a player's Ranking, regardless of which Tour he competes.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WITHOUT MINIMUM POINT LEVELS, WILL THE RANKING BE CIRCULAR, WITH ONLY PLAYERS ON THE STRONGEST TOURS BEING HIGHLY RANKED?

By using players' SG Rating to determine the Field Rating—instead of a player's Ranking or pre-determined Tour Minimums—the OWGR will accurately reward a player's performance relative to that of other players in the system, ensuring the system is not circular.

It should be noted, although some Tours award more Ranking Points relative to others, a high level of play is required for players on these Tours to maintain or improve their Ranking.

Finally, because the same Points Breakdown is used by all Eligible Tournaments, the number of players moving up in the Ranking, staying the same, or moving down, is about equal in any given event in the OWGR system.

CAN ALTERATIONS TO COURSE SETUP, FIELD SIZE OR CUT SIZE HAVE AN UNINTENDED IMPACT ON THE RANKING?

Course Setup – A change in course setup would affect all player in a round/tournament, and—since scores are relative to others posted—there would be no impact on the Ranking.

Field Size – Field size has no effect on the Ranking because all fields award the appropriate number of Ranking Points for the relative performance required.

Cut Size – The cut size has no effect on the Field Rating, and a cut to a smaller number of players would lead to those players making the cut receiving more points as a reward for a more difficult accomplishment.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW DOES A TOURNAMENT'S FIELD SIZE IMPACT ITS FIELD RATING?

On average, the skill required to win a tournament is directly impacted by the size of its field, which should be reflected in the tournament's Field Rating and the quantity of Ranking Points available.

For example, consider two tournaments, one with 70 players and another with the same 70 players plus an additional 30. It should be expected the second tournament—the one with 100 players—is statistically more difficult to win than the first, and therefore should award more Ranking Points.

WHAT IS THE "POINTS PER PLAYER" STAT FOR A TOURNAMENT AND HOW IS IT CALCULATED?

Points per Player is a new stat tracked by OWGR that is intended to provide an additional tool for comparisons between and among fields of differing sizes.

While the Field Rating and the First Place Points of an event with a larger field might be greater than that of a smaller field, Points per Player provides additional context for comparison.

A tournament's Points per Player is calculated by dividing its Field Rating by the number of players in its starting field.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHY ARE MAJORS ASSIGNED 100 FIRST PLACE POINTS, THE PLAYERS 80 FIRST PLACE POINTS AND ALL OTHER TOURNAMENTS LIMITED TO A MAXIMUM OF 80 FIRST PLACE POINTS?

Major Championships are widely recognised as the pinnacle of men's professional golf and are rewarded as such in the Ranking.

THE PLAYERS Championship is set at 80 First Place Points to reflect its strength and depth of field and all other events capped at 80 First Place Points to ensure the Majors maintain a 25% premium.

Additionally, keeping the Majors at 100 First Place Points and the PLAYERS at 80 provides continuity between systems at the game's highest level.

TO WHAT POSITION DOES THE UPDATED SYSTEM RANK PLAYERS?

At any given time, 5,000+ players are ranked according to their performance, providing significantly more granularity to the Ranking compared to the current system, which has thousands of players tied with zero Ranking Points earned.



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