

WTN ALGORITHM CHANGES FAQ'S

1. GENERAL QUESTIONS

Why is the World Tennis Number (WTN) algorithm changing?

The enhancements improve how ratings reflect match performance and respond to feedback from players, coaches and National Associations. The changes are designed to make ratings fairer, more reflective of current playing level, and better aligned with player development.

Will my rating change because of these updates?

Algorithm enhancements could affect all players, as we are making fundamental changes to how ratings are calculated. However, players who compete regularly are generally less likely to see a significant change in their position relative to other players.

Overall, will most players see their ratings go up or down?

There is not expected to be a single overall direction of change. Some players may see their rating go up, some may see it go down and others may see no change at all. The primary outcome is improved rating accuracy, with ratings better reflecting current performance, player development and relative position among peers.

Will these changes affect competitions that use WTN?

Competitions will continue to operate as normal and if they use WTN, they will do based on the information available prior to the entry deadline. The primary change is that ratings should provide a more accurate reflection of current playing level and competitive performance.

Will the WTN algorithm change again in the future?

Yes. WTN will continue to evolve as participation grows globally and feedback is received from players, coaches, National Associations and competition organisers.

How is the doubles algorithm affected?

The doubles algorithm will also have the same set of changes applied to it. In addition, the doubles algorithm will also stop considering the rating of your partner in the calculation to better reflect your performance against your peers.

2. GAME-LEVEL SCORING ("EVERY GAME COUNTS")

What does "Every Game Counts" mean?

While set outcomes remain the dominant component of the rating system, game-level results will also be considered. This means that closer sets, such as 6-4 or 7-5, are treated differently from more one-sided sets such as 6-0, providing a more accurate reflection of match performance following feedback from players and coaches.

By recognising performance within sets, the system better reflects relative playing strength.

I won my match but my WTN didn't improve. How is that possible?

WTN reflects not just whether you win, but how you perform compared to expectations. If you are expected to win comfortably but the match is closer than the algorithm's expectation, your rating may stay the same or get worse. This helps ensure ratings accurately reflect performance levels.

Is there a benefit to winning by a larger score?

Generally, more decisive wins can result in greater positive impact, especially when they exceed expectations. However, the system is designed to recognise overall performance.

Is there a limit to how much a big win can improve my rating?

Rating changes continue to consider the rating of your opponent as a key part in your performance. For example, a dominant win against a stronger opponent is likely to have a greater impact than a dominant win against a weaker opponent.

Do different match formats affect ratings differently?

Yes. All recognised match formats are included in the WTN calculation. The system adjusts weights for different format structures to ensure ratings remain fair and consistent across competition types. Therefore, longer form sets have more weighting than shorter form sets.

How are tiebreaks treated in the rating?

Match tiebreaks are included as part of the overall match result. However, they have a lower weight to a full set because they are played over a shorter format.

3. THREE-YEAR RATING WINDOW & ACTIVITY

What is the three-year rating window?

The algorithm now focuses primarily on match results from the past three years, helping ensure ratings reflect recent performance and current playing level.

Will older match results disappear?

Older results will continue to appear in a player's match history. However, once they fall outside the three-year rating window, they will no longer influence rating calculations.

Will my rating drop suddenly when older matches fall outside the three-year window?

No. The transition is gradual. Older matches naturally reduce in influence over time, so rating changes are typically smooth rather than sudden.

Can playing more matches remove older results faster?

No. The three-year window is based on time, not match volume. Playing more matches will not accelerate the removal of older results, but it will provide more recent results that help inform your current rating better.

What happens if I don't play many matches?

Ratings are most accurate when based on recent activity. If you play less frequently, your rating becomes less reliable, and your confidence level will decrease over time.

4. INACTIVITY & RATING DECAY

Why are ratings adjusted for inactive players?

If a player has not competed for a long period of time, their rating may no longer reflect their current level. Gradual adjustments help maintain fair competition and improve the accuracy of ratings.

Will my rating decrease if I stop playing for a while?

If you do not compete for over a year, a small and gradual adjustment may be applied to reflect the impact of inactivity.

What happens if I return to tennis after a long break?

Your rating may have adjusted slightly during your period of inactivity, but it will quickly become more representative of your current level once you resume competing regularly.

5. PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

Will younger players see changes to their ratings over time?

Yes. The system includes a small adjustment to reflect natural player development, particularly among junior players. This helps ensure ratings remain aligned with improving physical and technical ability.

6. GAME ZONE

What happens if I play someone outside my Game zOne?

Matches against players both inside and outside your Game zOne count toward your rating. The Game zOne is a representation of where level-based play can happen. If you win against someone rated better than your Game zOne, you will improve more than if you win against someone within or worse than your Gam zOne.

Will playing opponents far above or below my level harm my rating?

Not necessarily. The system considers the expected outcome of the match. Playing stronger or weaker opponents will not negatively impact your rating if your performance aligns with expectations.

7. MATCH COMPLETION & RETIREMENTS

What happens if a match is not completed, for example due to retirement?

The algorithm considers available score data while maintaining fairness and integrity within the rating calculation.

Is there any advantage to stopping a match early to protect my rating?

No. The system is designed to discourage this behaviour. Completing matches and competing for every game provides the most accurate reflection of performance.