

Tennis Rating and Re-evaluation Procedure

Proper ranking of Palmira Tennis Club members is key in order to avoid uneven play, to place individual players in competitive tennis where they can achieve success, and to ensure competitive/enjoyable play for all members.

All players are ranked at a specific level (2.5, 3.0, 3.5, etc.) and those who play competitive league tennis are ranked *within* their level from the strongest player/position to the lowest position. The ranking of team members within their level is determined by the Director of Tennis in concert with the team captain.

The ranking within a level also determines which court you play on. For example, those who are ranked at the lowest level of the 3.5 players will begin playing on highest-numbered court utilized, while the highest ranked players will be on the lowest-numbered court (usually court 1). The Director of Tennis and team captains develop their match line-ups based on ratings, results and partnerships.

Players who participate in non-competitive tennis are evaluated by the Director of Tennis (and placed in the appropriate playing group) in an initial hitting session.

When promoting a player to the next level, our club pro considers a number of factors, which may include, but aren't limited to the following criteria:

- physical ability: movement on the court, strokes and positioning
- inter-club league player scores
- winning on court 1
- technical and tactical competence
- number of players at the club combined with the overall strength of the club, the league and other clubs in the area
- ability and desire to compete, and enjoyment of competition
- outlook for future improvement
- participation in clinics and lessons to improve their game
- scheduling may sometimes be a factor based on an individual's availability

A player's ranking may change up or down depending on these factors.

When it comes to those who play in inter-club league, in most cases the promotion of a player to the next level is a joint decision between our Director of Tennis and the league coordinator taking these factors into consideration.

Self-rating: While the USTA does permit self-rating for play on USTA teams, self-rating is not encouraged at Palmira for a number of reasons. Typically, our tennis pro will be pro-active in promoting players. However, all Palmira Tennis Club members have the opportunity to move to a higher level if you feel your skill level has improved, you haven't been promoted by our Director of Tennis, and you would like to be re-evaluated.

You have three options for re-evaluation:

- 1) You may opt to have an independent USPTA professional evaluate your ability and rating. Please see our Director of Tennis to arrange this independent evaluation. (You will have to pay the independent pro's hourly fee.) You cannot use your personal teaching pro for evaluation or re-evaluation.
- 2) If you participate in play within Palmira, you have the opportunity to move to the next level by requesting a challenge match. To move to a higher level, the top two positions of a level can request a "best of three matches play off" with the bottom two positions of the next higher level. If the lower level players win, they will be moved up. Losers remain at their current rating. (For example, the top two 2.5 players can request a playoff with the bottom two positions of the 3.0 players. If the 2.5 players win, their rating will be increased to 3.0)
- 3) If you play on Court 1 on any of Palmira's teams and win 75% of your matches, you'll be moved up to the next level. If you play on Courts 2, 3, or 4 and win about 50% of the time, you're competing at the proper level and your rating is essentially self-proven.

If you wish to review your rating, please call or drop by the Tennis Center or contact our Director of Tennis, Denny Rager: dr@renaissancecenterclub.com

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