

Initial Ratings

A new player enters the ranking list as soon as he has had 2 significant wins against players who are already ranked. At this time, he is given an initial rating (or starting points) calculated on the basis of the results available. This initial rating is recalculated in each month where he is active until the player has had 5 significant wins and 5 significant losses against ranked players. Only then does this initial rating value become fixed or final. Only results within the last 4 years are considered, and the initial rating is always capped at the players 2nd best win.

This ongoing initial rating recalculation process is the reason why for many players each month, their rating may change very slightly, as when initial ratings are revised, all subsequent related results have the rating calculations re-done, and may result in further initial rating revisions. Players in the initial rating process however, i.e. with less than 5 significant wins and 5 significant losses against ranked players, may find that they move significantly from one period to another as the initial rating process gathers more information about their ability. Additionally, a player with 2 significant wins, may be removed from the ranking list if at least one of these wins becomes older than 4 years.

"Initial Ratings table"

Winner/Loser POINTS Points difference	Expected	Unexpected
0-24	8	9
25-49	7	10
50-74	6	11
75-99	5	12
100-124	4	13
125-149	3	14
150-174	2	15
175-199	1	16
>200	0	17

The Initial Ratings table is used to determine the Initial Rating (IR) in the same way the regular Ratings table is used to calculate the change in Rating for each player. Using the current set of results (last 4 years) available for a player (Be GINNER), a guess is made followed by a calculation of points exchanged using the IR table. Guesses are made until the highest guess possible is reached where GINNER's sum of pts won & lost is not negative.

Example-1 W-910, W-840, L-1165 are the 3 matches against ranked players for GINNER, where W=Win, L=Loss, and the number is the Rating of the opponent.

Opponent	Guess-1	Guess-2	Guess-3
	1039	1040	1041
W-910	+3	+3	+3
W-840	+1	+0	+0
L-1165	-3	-3	-4
NET	+1	0	-1
Result	increase guess	increase guess	decrease guess

The highest guess with a Net that is not negative is Guess-2. The calculated value of the IR is 1040. Since the 2BW is lower (840), 840 is the IR for GINNER.

Example-2 continuing with example-1 results, we add 2 more matches, W-895, L-1205

Opponent	Guess-1	Guess-2	Guess-3
	1043	1044	1045
W-910	+3	+3	+3
W-895	+3	+3	+2
W-840	+0	+0	+0
L-1165	-4	-4	-4
L-1205	-2	-2	-2
NET	0	0	-1
Result	increase guess	increase guess	decrease guess

The highest guess with a Net that is not negative is Guess-2. The calculated value of the IR is 1044. Since the 2BW is lower (895), 895 is the IR for GINNER.

Example-3 continuing with example-2 results, we add 3 more matches, L-830, L-880, L-940

Opponent	Guess-1	Guess-2	Guess-3
	884	885	886
W-910	+10	+10	+9
W-895	+9	+9	+9
W-840	+7	+7	+7
L-830	-11	-11	-11
L-880	-9	-9	-9
L-940	-6	-6	-6
L-1165	-0	-0	-0
L-1205	-0	-0	-0
NET	0	0	-1
Result	increase guess	increase guess	decrease guess

The highest guess with a Net that is not negative is Guess-2. The calculated value of the IR is 885. Since the 2BW is higher (895), 885 is the IR for GINNER.

As matches are added or as the opponents' ratings change, so do the IR calculations. This process repeats until a player has at least 5 SigW (Significant Wins) and 5 SigL (Significant Losses). A SigW or SigL is defined in each calculation as match that has a non-zero points exchange. The W-840 match is NOT significant in examples 1 & 2, but IS significant in Example-3.

This is an automatic procedure that allows us to filter out the matches of GINNER that should have no bearing on his Initial Rating. These are the Wins against players that he is much stronger than, and the Losses to players that he is much weaker than.

On each ranking list there are codes shown to the left of the names of many players. These codes have the following meanings:

- n A newly ranked player
- i Initial rating has been calculated
- c Initial rating has been capped at 2nd best win
- f Initial rating has become final