

# OTTAWA DISTRICT (ODBA) JUNIOR RANKING SYSTEM

## 1. Introduction

The ODBA is implementing, on a one-year trial basis, a specially designed junior ranking system that will assign points to each Ottawa District junior player based on his or her participation and performance at specified tournaments and then rank these players according to the points they have accumulated.

This ranking system will, we hope, create more interest among junior players in all age groups to participate in our local tournaments, promote fairness in the seeding of players in tournaments, and give the players both recognition and the ability to compare their performance with that of others in the District.

We are also considering the possibility of awards to recognize the top ranked players at the end of the season.

The details of our ranking system, which draws on other systems, but has been developed uniquely for our District, are set out below.

## 2. Purpose

The Ottawa District Badminton Association (ODBA) Ranking is the official district ranking of players that are members of Clubs affiliated with the ODBA, in order of strength. The purpose of ranking players is:

- a) to encourage players to be the best they can be through competition;
- b) to allow players to measure themselves against other local players;
- c) to practice fairness in seeding players at tournaments;
- d) to encourage participation at tournaments by more recreational players;
- e) to use a unique local ranking system separately from any others;
- f) to give recognition to players doing well in all events, those organized directly by the ODBA (such as the Championships), as well as those not organized directly by the ODBA (such as the RA Eastern Ontario Yonex Junior Open);
- g) to give recognition to ODBA-affiliated Juniors who participate in High School Championships and OFSSA Provincials.

There is one ranking list for each age group, i.e. U10, U12, U14, U16, U19 and U23, and each event, i.e. Men's Singles (MS), Ladies' Singles (LS), Men's Doubles (MD), Ladies' Doubles (LD) and Mixed Doubles (MX). The U23 age group is included only to track results of U23 events at some Junior tournaments, but U23 players are NOT Juniors. Juniors are defined as U19 players. Players are ranked individually, not as pairs, since many players do not have regular partners.

## 3. Ranking

- a) Players accumulate points by playing in tournaments that are approved as Ranking Tournaments (see Section 4); the ODBA Junior Development Committee may select non-ODBA events to assign ranking points to ODBA-affiliated players;

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- b) To produce the initial ranking as of September 1, 2007, we used several tournaments from 2006-07 as shown in Table 1; High School play-downs and OFSSA results were not readily available at this time and were not used to establish the initial rankings;
- c) Rankings will be updated monthly based on the results of 2007-08 Ranking Tournaments as listed in Table 2;
- d) The total points earned during the previous 12 months determine rankings on a "rolling" basis, for example, at the end of October 2007, points earned between November 1, 2006 and October 31, 2007 are used;
- e) If two or more players have identical points, then the player who has played in the most tournaments will be ranked higher (to recognize participation);
- f) If two or more players have identical points and have played in an identical number of tournaments, then these players are ranked as equals, for example, if say 5 players are ranked 1 to 5, and then there are three players with equal points and number of tournaments, the ranking would be: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 6, 6, 9, 10, etc.
- g) Eligibility to play in a given age group is based on the year in which the player is born and remains the same for an entire season; for example, a player that is U16 in September remains eligible as U16 for the whole season, even if that player turns 16 during the season, say, in the following January. Ranking points remain within the age group in which they were earned, but can be earned by the same player in different age groups. For example, a U16 player could earn points as a U19 player by playing in that age category, but the points remain in each category and cannot be transferred or combined.
- h) Although the U23 age category is NOT a Junior category (as Juniors are defined as U19), results of Junior tournaments with U23 events are tracked through this system;
- i) While ODBA members may occasionally enter a tournament with a doubles or mixed doubles partner that is not an ODBA member, only the ODBA member will be ranked;
- j) In order to allow ranking of only ODBA members, the name of the player's Club must be included with the tournament registration;
- k) This Ranking System will be used on a trial basis for the 2007-08 competition season;
- l) Ranking is done on an Excel spreadsheet updated by a member of the ODBA Junior Development Committee or a representative;

### 4. Ranking Tournaments

- a) The 2006-07 Ranking Tournaments used to arrive at the initial rankings are listed in Table 1;
- b) Ranking Tournaments for 2007-08 are those approved by the ODBA Junior Development Committee and are listed in Table 2; these include tournaments sponsored directly by the ODBA, such as *The Bob O'Reilly District Junior Championships*, other tournaments that are hosted by affiliated Clubs, such as the *RA Eastern Ontario Yonex Junior Open*, and by exception, some tournaments which are non-ODBA affiliated such as High School and OFSSA events at which ODBA members compete;

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- c) Tournament organizers of Ranking Tournaments commit to use the ODBA Rankings to seed players for Ranking Tournaments; with the exception of the High School play-downs and OFSSA;
- d) Justification for deviation from the ODBA rankings at Ranking Tournaments must be submitted to the ODBA Junior Development Committee with tournament results; again, exceptions are High School play-downs and OFSSA;
- e) With the exception of the annual ODBA Junior Championships, if any of the tournaments listed in Table 2 is not held during the following badminton season, the organizer must re-apply to the ODBA Junior Development Committee to have it recognized as a Ranking Tournament;
- f) The reason that non-ODBA affiliated events, such as High School and OFSSA tournaments, are used for the ODBA Ranking System is to reflect the playing level of any players from ODBA-affiliated Clubs that have qualified for these tournaments;

### 5. Requirements for approval as an ODBA Ranking Tournament

With certain exceptions, such as the High School tournaments, only tournaments hosted by Clubs affiliated with the ODBA will be considered when approving Ranking Tournaments. The following is required for a submission to the ODBA Junior Development Committee to have a tournament approved as an ODBA Ranking Tournament:

- a) the submission must be received by the Junior Development Committee in time for the necessary adjustments to be made to the Ranking Systems; this will normally be at least 10 days prior to the start of the tournament;
- b) the tournament organizer must agree to use the ODBA Ranking System to seed players and set up the draw for each event;
- c) the tournament organizer must agree to abide by the conditions in this document for the purpose of ranking players;
- d) the tournament organizer must agree to report accurate results to the Junior Development Committee within one week after completion of the tournament;

### 6. ODBA Ranking List

The Rankings are updated after the completion of each Ranking Tournament. The complete ODBA Ranking lists will be posted on the ODBA web site:

<http://www.badmintonottawa.com/>

### 7. Tournament Seeding

Organizers of ODBA ranking tournaments are expected to seed players in accordance with their ODBA ranking and to set up the draw accordingly. For the purpose of seeding players for a Ranking Tournament, the following applies:

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- a) for singles play, the player with the highest calculated points will be ranked number one and so on;
- b) for doubles and mixed doubles pairs, the rank of the two players will be added to determine the pair's overall ranking, with the lowest total seeded highest; for example, the total of two players tied for 1<sup>st</sup> ranking would be 2, that of a 1<sup>st</sup> rank and 2<sup>nd</sup> rank would be 3, that of two players tied with #2 rank would be 4, etc; for seeding purposes, all unranked players will be deemed to have the same ranking that is higher than any of the ranked participants;
- c) the draw will be set up according to conventional tournament principles, that is, the top two seeds are assumed to win all their matches and will not meet until the final; similarly, the top four (4) seeds should meet in the semi-finals when they win all their matches, etc.
- d) the tournament organizer may deviate from using said rankings, but must document the reasons for doing so, to be presented to the Junior Development Committee, along with tournament results; one valid reason for deviating from the rankings is when exceptional players who normally play above their normal age group, are ranked in a higher age group, but wish to participate in their actual age group; another valid reason may be that a new player in the district has not been ranked in the district, but is an obviously talented player that can be inserted into the rankings by evaluating head-to-head matches with presently ranked district players;
- e) for tournaments using a "pooling" system rather than a straight draw, ranking should be used to set up pools in such a way that the top two seeded players/teams meet in the final, the top four meet in the semis, the top eight meet in the quarters, based on the assumption that higher ranked players will defeat lower ranked players;

### 8. Points System

Players win points according to how they finish in Ranking Tournaments. The following conditions apply to accumulating points:

- a) points are awarded for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place (finalists), and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place (bronze medal match) in all Ranking Tournaments;
- b) for the few Ranking Tournaments where placement of more than the top 4 places may be tracked (e.g. OFSSA), points are awarded up to 8<sup>th</sup> place (that's quarter finalists); refer to Points Tables 1 and 2;
- c) all other players not receiving ranking points as a result of their finishing place will receive points for participation, but there will be no "double-dipping" (see Points Tables);
- d) for all tournaments hosted by ODBA-affiliated Clubs, a minimum of three (3) players or pairs must participate in an event for ranking points to be awarded;
- e) Actual points awarded vary with the "difficulty" of the tournament, as estimated at the start of each competition season by the ODBA Junior Development Committee, based on two factors, the skill level of the participants and the total number of participants;

The following Points Table 1 was used to develop the initial rankings for the start of the 2007-08 season, based on 2006-07 results. High School and OFSSA results for 2007 were not readily available at this time and were not used.

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<b>TABLE 1 - Ranking Tournaments 2006-07</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>ODBA Junior Championships 2007</b>	25	20	15	10	0
<b>Bob O'Reilly 2007</b>	25	20	15	10	0
<b>Franco-Jeunesse 2006</b>	25	20	15	10	0
<b>SBA Thanksgiving 2006</b>	25	20	15	10	0
<b>SBA New Year 2007</b>	25	20	15	10	0
<b>SBA Easter 2007</b>	25	20	15	10	0

More tournaments are added for the 2007-08 season, firstly to account for the loss of some tournaments, secondly, to add High School and OFSSA results and other new local tournaments and thirdly, to add some points just for participation.

<b>TABLE 2 - Ranking Tournaments 2007-08</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Participant</b>
<b>First Junior and U23 Ranking Tournament (Turnbull)</b>	25	20	15	10	0	2
<b>OWG Fundraiser (Casselman)</b>	25	20	15	10	0	2
<b>The Smash (Franco Cité)</b>	25	20	15	10	0	2
<b>Jeunesse Franco-Forme Yonex Junior Open (RA)</b>	25	20	15	10	0	2
<b>ODBA Junior Championship (the "Bob O'Reilly")</b>	25	20	15	10	0	2
<b>Eastern Ontario Yonex Junior Open (RA)</b>	25	20	15	10	0	2
<b>National Capital High School Finals (NCSAA)</b>	20	15	10	5	0	5
<b>Eastern Ontario High School Finals (EOSAA)</b>	20	15	10	5	0	5
<b>OFSSA "A" Flight</b>	30	25	20	15	10	5
<b>OFSSA "B" Flight</b>	25	20	15	10	5	0

### 9. Awards

The ODBA is considering instituting at the end of the season an awards system to recognize its top-ranked Junior players. Taking into consideration that tournament winners and finalists have already been awarded medals, the idea behind the year-end awards focuses on a different level and may include the following categories:

- a) Male athlete of the Year, looking at ALL events by age category;
- b) Female athlete of the Year, looking at ALL events by age category;

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- c) Most improved female player, any age category;
- d) Most improved male player, any age category;

Because the U23 age category is NOT a Junior category, it will be specifically excluded from these awards.

A decision on this Awards initiative has not yet been taken and will depend on further discussion and the availability of funds.

***This ranking system has been approved by the ODBA Board of Directors and the ODBA Junior Development Committee.***

***It will be implemented for the 2007-08 competitive season in September 2007 for a one-year trial period.***