

OTTAWA DISTRICT (ODBA) JUNIOR and U23 RANKING SYSTEM

1. Introduction

Following a one-year trial, the ODBA has implemented a junior ranking system that will assign points to each Ottawa District junior player, as well as players under the age of 23, based on his or her participation and results at specified tournaments and then rank these players according to the points they have accumulated.

This ranking system has already created great interest among junior players in all age groups to participate in our tournaments, has promoted fairness in the seeding of players in tournaments, and has given the players both recognition and the ability to compare their performance with that of others in the District.

Top ranked players will be recognized by the ODBA Board of Directors.

This Ranking System was developed for the ODBA and is described 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. The objectives of ranking players are.

- 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 promote fair seeding of players at tournaments;
- d) to encourage participation in tournaments by recreational players;
- e) to give recognition to players doing well in ODBA Ranking Tournaments;
- f) to help select players for the Ontario Winter Games teams (refer to separate OWG description).

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 (XD). 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 or younger. Players are ranked individually, not as pairs, since many players do not have regular doubles 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 will annually publish a list of designated ODBA Ranking Tournaments;
- b) Ranking points assigned to each Ranking Tournament may be revised from time to time by the Junior Development Committee to indicate the importance of a given district tournament, or its competitive level; points will be shown for each Ranking Tournament;

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- c) Rankings will be updated following each tournament;
- d) The total points earned during the previous 12 months determine rankings on a continual basis, for example, at the end of October 2008, points earned between November 1, 2007 and October 31, 2008 are used to begin the year;
- e) If two or more players have identical points, then they are listed alphabetically;
- f) 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 playing season (i.e., September 1, 2008 to August 31, 2009); for example, a player that is U16 in September 2008, i.e. is 15 years old, remains eligible as U16 for the whole season, even if that player turns 16 on January 1, 2009, during the season, say, in the following January;
- g) Ranking points remain within the age group in which they were earned, but a player can earn points in more than one age category.
- h) While players may occasionally enter a tournament with a doubles or mixed doubles partner who is not a member of an ODBA affiliated club, only the member of the ODBA affiliated Club will be ranked.
- i) Players will accumulate ranking points earned at ranking tournaments if they are a member of an ODBA affiliated club when they play in the tournament. Players affiliating later in the season will not be credited with any results from any ranking tournaments in which they may have played while they were not affiliated;
- j) Since ODBA affiliation fees are due by October 31 each season, players that are affiliated by that date WILL accumulate points earned at Junior ranking tournaments held during September and October. It is each Club's responsibility to provide the ODBA Treasurer with a list of affiliated junior players and this list will be used to validate eligibility for Junior ranking.
- k) Only players that are affiliated in the current season will be shown in the ODBA Ranking System.
- l) Players are asked to identify on the tournament registration forms, the Club through which they are affiliated and their birth year. However, in order to avoid previous years' confusion about school players that are not affiliated or about players that are affiliated through more than one Club, club affiliation and year of birth shown in the Ranking System will be in accordance with member lists provided by clubs upon affiliation.
- m) Only one Club will be listed on rankings published on the ODBA website, based on club membership lists as of October 31. When a player is affiliated by more than one Club at that date, and the Club name shown is not the one preferred by the player, the club name shown may be changed as requested by the player. However, affiliation through another club after October 31 will not change the original club affiliation. This is done to encourage players and clubs to affiliate prior to the deadline.
- n) A player's eligibility to play in and be ranked in a given age group is based on the year of birth shown in the Ranking System as provided by club affiliation lists. It's the responsibility of the player and his/her club to ensure that the correct year is identified. Corrections may be requested at any time.
- o) Only players with ranking points will show up on the ranking list when they're published on the ODBA website.
- p) If a player is not an affiliated member of any ODBA Club, or if a player's year of birth is not known, any ranking points earned are automatically converted to zero and will not show up on the rankings when published. If, subsequently, player information is corrected, then the ranking points earned will re-appear in the rankings, subject to the above.

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- q) Ranking is done on an Excel spreadsheet updated by a member of the ODBA Junior Development Committee or a representative.
- r) The results of any head-to-head matches between players will not be a consideration in this Ranking System. Only points earned at tournaments will determine ranking.

4. Ranking Tournaments

- a) Ranking Tournaments approved by the ODBA Junior Development Committee, along with their respective ranking points, are listed in Table 1;
- b) High School events, OFSSA tournaments and Provincial tournaments are NOT assigned ranking points under the ODBA system;
- c) Tournament organizers of Ranking Tournaments must use the ODBA Rankings to seed players for Ranking Tournaments;
- d) Justification for deviation from the ODBA rankings at Ranking Tournaments must be submitted to the person responsible for the Ranking System, along with the tournament results;
- e) With the exception of the annual ODBA Junior Championships, if any of the tournaments listed in Table 1 is not held during the following badminton season, the organizer must make a request to the ODBA Junior Development Committee to have it recognized as a Ranking Tournament;

5. Requirements for approval as an ODBA Ranking Tournament

Only tournaments approved by the ODBA Junior Development Committee will be considered as 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 Chair of the Junior Development Committee in time for the necessary adjustments to be made to the Ranking System; 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) an ODBA template (electronic and 11x17 hard copy – see sample) will be provided to tournament organizers, to complete as registrations are received; the names of all previous tournament players are shown on this template in order to facilitate check-off of information required for ranking, as well as other tournament management data; any new names should be entered at the bottom of the template;
- e) the tournament organizer must provide a full list of participants and top four results to the person maintaining the Ranking System within two weeks after completion of the tournament; the ODBA template must be used for this in order to facilitate timely updating of the system. Revised rankings will be

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- published at the end of each month (October through May), or no more than two weeks after submission of the tournament results;
- f) ranking tournaments must guarantee participants at least two matches. Matches may be best of three, single game, or round-robin, at the discretion of the tournament organizer. All games must use the rally-point scoring system.

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 for all players that have points: <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:

- a) for singles play, the player with the highest ranking will be seeded number one and so on;
- b) for doubles and mixed doubles, the two players' individual rankings will be added, and the team having the lowest total will be seeded number one, the team with the second lowest total will be seeded number two, and so forth. For example, the total of two players tied for 1st ranking would be 2, that of a 1st rank and 2nd rank would be 3, that of two players tied with #2 rank would be 4, etc; for seeding purposes, all unranked players will be assigned a ranking of 100;
- c) the draw will be set up according to conventional tournament principles, that is, the top two seeds should meet in the final, the top four seeds should meet in the semi-finals, etc.
- d) the tournament organizer may deviate from using said rankings, but must document the reasons for doing so, to be presented to the person responsible for ranking, along with tournament results. One valid reason for deviating from the rankings is when exceptional players who normally play above their own age group, and consequently are ranked in a higher age group, 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 previous competitive results.
- e) for tournaments using a grouping or 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.

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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 1st and 2nd place (finalists), and 3rd and 4th place (bronze medal match) in all Ranking Tournaments;
- b) all other players will receive points for participation. The top four finishers will not receive participation points because they already receive ranking points;
- c) for ranking points to be awarded, all Singles events in each age category must have a minimum of three (3) players participating and all Doubles events in each age category must have a minimum of three (3) teams participating; if tournament attendance is low, two age groups may be combined under the higher age group to achieve this minimum; if these minimums are not achieved, players will receive participation points since no ranking points are awarded;
- d) at the start of each year, the Junior Development Committee may decide to vary the actual ranking points awarded for each tournament, based on their view of how difficult it may be to win a tournament. This will normally be based on a high number of participants, or a high number of top District players.

TABLE 1 Ranking Tournaments 2009-10	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Participa nt
OWG Fundraiser (Casselman)	25	20	15	10	2
The Smash (RA)	25	20	15	10	2
Deep River Open (Deep River)	25	20	15	10	2
The Drive (Gisele Lalonde)	25	20	15	10	2
The New Year's (Turnbull)	25	20	15	10	2
The Spin (Gisele Lalonde)	25	20	15	10	2
The ODBA Junior Championships (the Bob O'Reilly - Casselman)	45	35	25	15	4
The Rush (RA)	25	20	15	10	2

9. Awards

At its Fall General Meeting, the ODBA will recognize its top players for the past season in the U10, U12, U14, U16, U19 and U23 age groups. 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, either a trophy or a plaque. The following awards will be given to the players with the highest combined ranking points based on all of their Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles events for the season, after the last Ranking Tournament of the season.

- a) Male Athlete of the Year by age category;
- b) Female Athlete of the Year by age category;