

## **Purpose**

The purpose of the AMSA Rankings is to provide a common grading for all Masters Squash players throughout Australia. Organizers can use the AMSA Rankings to assist in grading players in state and national tournaments. Players can use the AMSA Rankings to determine how they are graded compared to other Masters Squash players around Australia.

The AMSA web site provides access to three reports:

1. The AMSA rankings. Select by state or for all Australian Masters Squash players.
2. The match results used to determine the rankings. Select by player name.
3. Tournament rankings for the 2007 AMSA Individuals and Teams championships that show how players performed within their events.

## **How the rankings are calculated**

The AMSA Rankings are calculated using a computer based system that analyses the match results from state and national Masters Squash tournaments. At 30 Dec 2007 over 1800 players were graded using over 25,000 results from 51 state and national tournaments.

Rankings are calculated using 3 years of results in order to provide enough data to measure the relationship of every player to all other players. The relationships are similar to family trees and require many calculations. Results over 3 years old are removed.

## **The Base Grade**

The Base Grade is the main grading value that is calculated for each player. It is calculated using all recorded match results and reflects the player's average ability over the last 3 years.

The Base Grade can be used to predict the probable outcome of matches. For example, players within 1.00 grades of each other are likely to score at least one game in a match (2-1, 3-1 or 3-2). In other words, the players are equally graded.

The winner may not be predictable if the players are within 0.50 Base Grades of each other. Where the players are over 0.50 Base Grades apart the winner can be predicted over 85% of the time.

Players between 1.00 and 2.00 Base Grades apart should have a good match but the loser probably won't win a game. Players over 2.00 Base Grades apart are probably unevenly matched.

The Base Grade can be used in singles tournaments to check that players are in the appropriate draw. It can be used to grade teams by averaging the team members Base Grade values. Players and organizers can use the Base Grade to arrange social matches or reserves.

## **Accuracy**

The Base Grade won't vary much if a player's form changes for short periods. Even when players are injured they rarely play more than 1.00 below their Base Grade. The worst case noticed was a player who had injured his right hand and played left handed in the 2007 Teams championships. His performance during the tournament was only 0.90 below his Base Grade. A player's performance in individual matches can normally swing up to 1.00 either side of their Base Grade.

The AMSA Ranking system is deliberately designed to determine the GRADING relationship between players from around Australia and may not provide a RANKING as accurate as state or pennant ranking systems where the Base Grades are within 1.00. In other words, equally graded players could be ranked the wrong way around, mainly because of the effect of using three years of match results.

The Base Grade may not be accurate if a player has only played one or two matches. The AMSA Rankings report includes a column showing the number of matches won and lost. The Base Grade will probably be close enough to guarantee the player good matches.

## **Seeding players in draws**

The Base Grade is a good way of matching up players in draws in a tournament but organizers may need to consider other factors when SEEDING players within a draw.

The AMSA Rankings report includes columns that show the grading by year. The tournament ranking reports show a player's performance in the last tournament. The previous winner may need to be seeded at the top regardless of their current grading. The match results can also be checked.

## **Adding new match results**

The AMSA Ranking system can accept match results from just about any scoring system including best of 3 games, best of 5 games, fixed 3 games, normal 10 point, 11 point, 15 point, point-a-rally, or a continuous game up to 100 points. Handicapped scoring systems would not be acceptable because the ratio of points won and lost is crucial to the grading calculations.

State representatives can send results from any Masters tournaments to the AMSA Registrar for inclusion in the AMSA Rankings.

The AMSA Ranking system has been used by the Australian Masters Squash Association since 2004. It has been particularly successful in grading teams for the AMSA Teams championships each year.

For more information, contact:

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