

Guidelines for SCTA's Competitive Programs

FIRST AND FOREMOST: if a member wants to play social tennis exclusively, a Self or USTA S rating is accepted. SCTA sponsored tennis socials are non-competitive events where ratings are not required.

SCTA's competitive programs currently include Intraclub Leagues, World Team Tennis Leagues, Mix & Match Tournament and Club Championship Tournament. The **mission** of any of these programs is to provide a competitive, structured, and fun opportunity for **like-rated** SCTA members. Fair play and parity among teams is an expectation.

SCTA Rating Policy

SCTA is aware that ratings can be a sensitive issue for some of our membership. Some members rarely think about their rating while others are emotionally invested. SCTA recognizes that its policy can never please all members; nevertheless, our goal is to have a policy that promotes the **mission** as stated above.

SCTA will accept two types of ratings for its competitive programs: **Club rating and USTA C rating**. SCTA will **not** accept any Self rating or USTA S rating for its competitive programs.

ACCEPTABLE

1. **Club rating** – a rating provided by Sun City's tennis professionals based on performance at a rating clinic. Players who have already received a Club rating from Intraclub Coordinators will retain that rating.
2. **USTA C rating** – a computer-generated rating based on performance in USTA matches over a period of time.

Note: An appeal granted by USTA (USTA A Rating) shall be treated the same as a C Rating.

UNACCEPTABLE

3. **Self rating** – a rating that a member provides for themselves when registering for SCTA membership - based entirely on the member's self-evaluation.
4. **USTA S rating** - a self rating based on answers to a questionnaire that a player fills out when joining (or rejoining) USTA - the answers are taken at face value.
5. **USTA Expired rating** - player has been inactive in USTA for so long that their rating has expired; player no longer has the rating they once had. The player's rating type is changed to a Self rating in SCTA's database.

Rating changes will be obtained through the following:

1. **New Members** - New SCTA members without a USTA C rating, **MUST** obtain a club rating to participate in any competitive SCTA events including Intraclub Leagues, World Team Tennis Leagues and SCTA tournaments. If a member is interested in playing social tennis exclusively, a Self rating or

USTA S rating is acceptable.

2. **Current SCTA members with a USTA C (Computer) rating** - Any current SCTA member with a USTA C (Computer) rating can participate in SCTA competitive events.
3. **Current SCTA members who are Self rated** - Current SCTA members who are Self rated ***MUST*** get club rated in order to be considered for play in any SCTA competitive event. Individuals may sign up for a Club rating clinic once every six months.
4. **Current SCTA members seeking a level change** - Any SCTA member who wishes to determine current skill level can be Club rated by signing up for a Club rating clinic, which they are able to do once every six months. The outcome, either up or down, will be valid for Sun City competitive events and if higher, will supersede a lower USTA rating for Sun City competitive events.

NOTE: In a situation where a player has two ratings (Club and USTA), the **higher** rating prevails for all SCTA competitive tennis. If someone has a 3.5 USTA C rating and gets re-rated at a 4.0 Club rating, they may not enter an SCTA tournament at the 3.5 level.

APPEALS of Club ratings - SCTA members who wish to appeal their Club rating may do so by contacting the Pros and scheduling a meeting to discuss the outcome. If an individual has been playing Intraclub tennis, they may request that the Intraclub coordinator provide supporting documentation to be presented to the Club Pros to assist in the appeal of a Club rating. The Appeal must occur within 10 days of the rating email provided to the member following the rating clinic.

5. **Current SCTA members that are determined to need a Club rating based on their ability or inability to perform at current level** - A player asked to Club rate under these circumstances is being asked to do so to support SCTA's competitive tennis mission statement. An individual may need to rate up or down based on the abilities displayed during play.

This can be a sensitive issue, but if evidence indicates that a player's overall match skills and performance record are not equal to or even exceed the required level of play, the player may be asked to get re-rated to determine the level at which they should be playing.

These situations require a **personal** discussion between the League Coordinator and the individual being asked to re-rate. The conversation should focus on evidence (match skills and performance record) that indicates the player needs to be evaluated to determine appropriate level of play.