How The SONY RANKING Works

The SONY RANKING, a specially developed computerized ranking, will be the authoritative reference source on the relative performance of the top 200 players in the world based on results from all official tournaments (nearly 160 in all).

1. PROPOSED GRADING

The basic concept involves looking at each of the geographic tours and circuits, and then grading the events according to their status and the strength of the field playing in each tournament. There are four grades:

- Major Championships (US Open, US Masters, Grade 1: British Open and US PGA).
- Grade 2: Leading tournaments and championships (the majority of US Tour events fall into this category, together with some of the leading events in Europe and Japan, plus the Australian Open).
- Intermediate tournaments and major Grade 3: invitational events (most of the remaining events on the European and Japanese Tours, together with the leading events on the Australian/New Zealand, South African, and also Asian Tours plus major invitational events such as the World Match Play Championship etc).
- Other tournaments and invitational events Grade 4: (remaining events on the US, Europe and Japan Tours; remaining events on the Australian/New Zealand, South African, and Asian Tours; Safari and South American events; individual events attached to team competitions such as the World Cup etc).

Points are awarded to the top 25 (and ties) in Grade 1, top 10 in Grade 2, top 5 in Grade 3 and top 3 in Grade 4 in proportion to the standard prize money distribution, with a minimum of 50 points, 20 points, 10 points and 5 points in each grade respectively.

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2. BONUS POINTS

However, to take into account the strength of the field in any event in Grades 2, 3 or 4, additional weighting (or bonus) points are awarded depending on the number of "top 20 ranked players" competing in the tournament. This allows some lower grade events with high quality fields in a particular year to, in effect, be raised to the grade above. For example, if all of the players in the "top 20" competed in the (Grade 2) US Tournament Players Championship, its 1st place value would be raised to 35 points. Should an event have consistently high weighting, its status would be reviewed for succeeding years.

The bonus points system is not applied to Major Championships (Grade 1) as the larger differential in basic Ranking Points, relative to the other three grades, has in effect already been weighted to reflect the higher quality of the event and the field participating.

3. SONY RANKING ADJUSTMENTS

The SONY RANKING is based on a rolling three year period. This allows a genuinely good player to remain in the ranking for a reasonable time despite a period of poor form, injury, etc. In addition, the three years are also weighted in favour of the more recent years, thus allowing a new star to get into the ranking on good current form, but not to get too high a position until he has proved himself over a reasonable period of time.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

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