

About Rating Changes

2017-08-14

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I. Overview

You may have noticed that sometimes when you check your rating or you receive the notification that an event you have played in has been rated, that the USCF website doesn't seem to have that information yet. The reason for this is that there are different automated web site update tasks running at the USCF. These tasks run on different update schedules. Because of this you may happen to look for the update to your information on one of the pages that has not been updated yet.

II. Timing of individual or “Side Games” being rated

A frequent misconception is that if you play a rated game, in particular a rated “Side Game”, that the USCF will acknowledge the new rating results right away which may allow you to be over or under some qualifying rating floor.

- “Side Games” are only rated when the Tournament they are associated with are submitted for rating
- Tournaments are only submitted for rating when they have completed
- The games played as part of a tournament are rated “collectively” for the tournament and not as individual games played in sequence.
 - This document does not discuss how ratings are calculated.
- If you played in both the tournament and one or more “Side Games”:
 - Your “Side Games” will be rated after your rating for the tournament play is rated
 - The Pre-rating for calculating your side games will be the Post-rating from the tournament if you played in the tournament.

III. What happens when a tournament ends

A. The tournament is rated

- When a tournament ends it is submitted to the USCF for rating processing
- Tournaments submitted for ratings are:
 - Processed every hour except between **11 pm and 11 am** Eastern time

B. Email notification is sent when a players rating changes

- An automated email is sent to USCF players who have enabled email notifications
- It is possible to get this email before other USCF web pages have been updated.
 - You will need to wait for the USCF pages to catch up
- You can enable email notifications by going to:
 - <https://secure2.uschess.org/email/email-pref-update.php>
 - You will need your USCF ID and PIN which can be retrieved from
 - <https://secure2.uschess.org/pin-request.php>

C. Crosstables become available for downloading

- Crosstables:
 - Can be downloaded by **TDs (Tournament Directors)**
 - Can be downloaded by the **Organization**
 - **Cannot** be downloaded by general **USCF membership**

D. The MSA (Membership Service Area) web pages

- Are updated "shortly" after the crosstables are available.
 - Shortly seems to be up to **several hours**.
- You can find your MSA page by searching for your name at this link:
 - <https://new.uschess.org/players/search/>

1. The "General" tab:

- As stated on the page the rating there is from the Current Published Rating (Supplement) and only changes when that rating changes
- The computation of changes to rating floors
 - Seems to take **several days** to be updated

2. The "More" tab

- Is presumably updated **once a week**

3. The "Rtg.Supp." (Rating Supplement) tab

- Updated on the **3rd Wednesday** of every month
 - This will be the rating used by Tournament Organizers for the next month
 - Unless published as part of the Tournament rules all Tournament Organizers and Tournament Directors are obligated to use the current months Rating Supplement
 - This is done to assure that all ratings being used are no more current or behind than anyone else's. It provides a consistent approach to dealing with ratings that are always changing over time.

4. The "Tnmt. Hst" tab

- Updated within **2 hours** of when an Email notification would be sent to those players set up to receive Email notifications

IV. Why ratings change after you've seen them on the USCF site:

A. Reasons the ratings change

- A correction to a result was submitted by the tournament organizer or the TD.
- Tournaments were received and rated out of order
 - Organizers are required to submit tournaments for rating within 10 days of the end of the tournament
 - Tournaments are rated when they are received
 - Tournaments are supposed to be rated in the order that they completed, that is, by their end date.
 - This lets your rating change based on the order in which you played tournaments

B. When the ratings will change

- Daily Rating updates
 - Tournaments are rated **every hour except 11 pm to 11 am Eastern time**
- Weekly Re-Rating updates
 - Every **Tuesday "early" in the day**
- Monthly Rating Updates
 - Sometime **"just before" the 3rd Wednesday** of the month a Re-Rating is done
 - The 3rd Wednesday of the month is when the Rating Supplement page is updated with your Rating for the next month

C. While waiting for ratings to change due to corrections

The tournament cross table on the USCF site will display the following message in the "Processed" section of the section where a correction has been made:

Note: corrections have been made to this section.

Any impact these corrections may have upon the ratings from this section will not show up until after the next rerate of this section.

- The corrected result will appear in the cross table along with the corrected points.
- The rating will not appear as corrected until the next scheduled re-rate is performed.

V. Why ratings at the club and on the club website are different than the USCF

The rating you see online is always "up to date". The tournament ratings are estimates using the current months Supplement rating which was from the 3rd Wednesday of the previous month

- The pairing software used at the club is updated each month with the official Rating Supplement for each player as shown on the USCF web site on the "Rtg.Supp." tab (Rating Supplement Tab)
 - The Supplement rating is based on what your rating was on the 3rd Wednesday of the previous month
 - You may have played in one or more events since the supplement was published so you are seeing your current rating due to those events
 - The tournament organizers are obligated to pair you using your Supplement rating.
- The pairing software uses a built in formula to try and estimate what your rating would be if the tournament was to end after what it has for the latest round
- The pairing software uses the regular rating formula and not the "Provisional" rating formula so those players with Provisional ratings will likely see a very large difference with the USCF
- The pairing software formula may be out of step with the latest changes to the calculations the USCF may have made
- The pairing software cannot take into account re-ratings that may be done due to the ordering of other events or corrections made to them.