



## Chicago District Tennis Association

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## CDTA UTR Meeting (September 2019) - Notes from Q&A

The following document tracks the Q&A discussion at the UTR meeting with parents and coaches held at the CDTA office on September 18, 2020. Dave Fish, from UTR, made the presentation.

**Q: What is the difference between a rating and a ranking?**

A: Rankings and standings are determined by points earned and results at tournaments. They are based on performance at events and may not indicate the actual skill level/competitiveness of a player. Ratings assign a skill level to player based on past outcomes regarding competitiveness. Applying a competitive threshold to the analysis of past scores provides a way to predict the outcome of future matches between two players.

**Q: Where does the prize money at UTR Tournaments come from?**

A: Many ways: Donated court time, entry fee, sponsorships, parent pool of money, no paid referees.

**Q: There are so many systems out there: USTA, NTRP, UTR, the in-process World Tennis Rating. How is UTR different?**

A: UTR is relatively new and is based on more than 1,000 events/month. UTR is an evolution of a system intended to encourage competitive, level-based play. The USTA uses UTR rating in the Midwest/CDTA for tournament seeding purposes and some selection.

**Q: What can the CDTA do to offer UTR events?**

A: Invite local clubs to try the UTR platform. UTR offers free templates on how to create draws. The web-based platform can be made available free to high school programs.

**Q: How does UTR compare to Tennis Recruiting?**

A: Tennis Recruiting rates tennis players in relation to one another in the same high school graduating year. It uses a star rating system based on a point in time. UTR has more than 20,000 players' play records and gives no regard to age. No distinction is made for a player with a UTR of 7.0 – they could be 12 years old or 80 years old; but if the 2 players competed, it is very likely they would have a close, competitive match.

**Q: What is UTR's near-term plan and focus?**

A: Adapt to modern formats (1-day events); Evolve to meet player demands; Get kids to try tennis and have no fear of failure.

**Q: What can parents do right now to make a UTR event happen?**

A: Talk to local clubs to request more level-based play events.

**Q: What matches count towards UTR?**

A: All High School scores if coach has registered and entered them; All USTA Tournaments; Any score from a match between players whose UTR levels have at least a 2.0 differential does not count (unless the lower UTR player wins). UTR is constantly working to partner with additional sources of play so the tool can include as many results as possible. Additionally, there is a second UTR category for Unverified matches; anyone can enter results from matches to be included in an Unverified category.

**Q: How do we influence what appears to be tournament withdrawals based on fear of losing to a lower UTR (there is some evidence of an increase in back-draw withdrawals that may be influenced by the advent of UTR)?**

A: If prize money is available, UTR has seen very few dropouts. UTR needs to develop safeguards to minimize these withdrawals.