



## **Overview**

The 'Objective' of CTPA's rating system is to facilitate play with and against players of similar skills. It is well known and universally accepted that players derive the most enjoyment from playing with others who have a reasonably similar skill set and that play involving a wide range of skills is usually unsatisfactory for all players. Therefore, our goal is to design programs, competitions and skill development sessions with the intent of having fairly even competition. To satisfy this 'Objective' it is important that we have accurate skill ratings.

For 2019 CTPA will use a new software-driven rating system from Clique and Club (C&C) to help us properly categorize members. This is a similar method as the one used by USAPA for pickleball tournaments and is a well-proven, objective system that is strictly results based. In essence, if you win a game, your 4-digit rating number will increase; if you lose, your rating will decrease. CTPA will then translate this 4-digit C&C rating into conventional 2-digit ratings (2.5, 3.0, 3.5, etc.) for use as our Club Rating.

Optionally, for those players who participate in tournaments, their USAPA rating, if higher than their C&C Rating, may be used as their Club Rating. Also, members may elect to undergo a rating exam administered by IPTA and if successful and the resulting rating is greater than their C&C or USAPA rating, can elect to use this rating as their Club Rating.

Also, members may elect to use their C&C rating to determine their CTPA Club Rating even if their USAPA and/or IPTA ratings are higher. Your CTPA Club Rating is relevant only within the club and does not translate into a USAPA rating.

## **What are the advantages of the new C&C rating system?**

- Precise and based strictly on results (wins and losses) among CTPA members
- Objective - no human evaluation
- Immediate updates to 4-digit ratings
- Timely movement in 2-digit Club Rating
- Accounts for variance in skills of partner and opponents
- Achieves accurate rankings with balanced brackets and seeding
- Similar system used by USAPA for their rankings

## How will we use C&C to determine CTPA Club Ratings?

Beginning in mid-April we will start gathering game results and loading them into the C&C software, which will produce 4-digit ratings (i.e., 3.429, 2.692, etc.). This number will then be translated to a CTPA Club Rating as follows:

**Rating Ranges Table**

<b>C&amp;C 4-digit rating</b>	<b>CTPA club rating</b>
2.250 to 2.749	2.5
2.750 to 3.249	3.0
3.250 to 3.749	3.5
3.750 to 4.249	4.0
4.250 to 4.749	4.5

## How does the C&C calculation work?

The calculation averages your 4-digit rating with that of your partner and compares that result to the average rating of your two opponents to establish a likely winner. The team with the higher average rating will be team expected to win. If the team expecting to win ends up winning the game, that team's ratings will improve slightly. Conversely, if the team expecting to win ends up losing, their rating will drop by a larger amount. For each increase in rating for the winning team, an identical decrease will be applied to the losing team's rating (i.e. if winning team member's ratings increase by 0.047, then losing team member's rating would decrease by 0.047). It is important to note that the calculation is based strictly on wins and losses; so final scores will play no role in it. This is consistent with the method used for the USAPA ratings. An 11-4 win is the same as an 11-9 win.

## How much will my 4-digit score fluctuate from game to game?

The magnitude of change resulting from a game will vary based on the ratings of all four players. The system uses the previous 4-digit rating for all participants to project a likely outcome. If all 4 players are nearly evenly matched, the outcome of the game will only slightly increase or decrease your C&C rating. However, if one team's rating is significantly higher than their opponents, and the underdog wins, the resulting change in ratings for all players will be more significant

## How often will CTPA post C&C ratings?

We intend to begin gathering the results of games and entering them into the C&C software in mid-April and will update C&C ratings on the 1st and 15th of each subsequent month beginning in May. In addition to updating the 4-digit C&C rating, we will also convert this rating to the CTPA Club Rating in accordance with the rating ranges table shown on page 1. On May 1, May 15, June 1, June 15, etc., each player who has completed the required games in their 'Hold Period' (described on page 3) will have a revised 4-digit C&C rating, and potentially a revised 2-digit CTPA Club Rating.

## **How does my initial (baseline) C&C rating get established?**

For most players who were CTPA members in 2018 we will simply start with your current CTPA rating (i.e. 2.5, 2.75, 3.0, 3.25, 3.5, 4.0, and 4.5). Some players may elect to use their 2-digit or 4-digit USAPA rating instead and some members who have an IPTPA rating may elect to use that as their baseline.

Those members who are currently rated at 2.75 or 3.25 can choose to participate in events rated  $\frac{1}{4}$  point higher and/or  $\frac{1}{4}$  point lower during the Hold Period. So, for example, a player rated at 2.75 can CHOOSE to participate in some 3.0 events and some 2.5 events during the Hold Period. At the conclusion of the Hold Period, your resulting C&C rating will then apply.

For CTPA members who do not have a club rating from 2018, a separate procedure is being devised to determine your original baseline rating for C&C. This will include an evaluation for new members, who have prior experience and perhaps tournament results, to determine what level they should begin in.

## **What is the 'Hold Period' and why do we need it?**

Since the calculation within C&C is based on cumulative results we anticipate that it will take some time for the results of the calculation to stabilize. For instance, a baseball player's batting average is somewhat meaningless early in the season and it takes a number of plate appearances before his average becomes meaningful. The ratings generated by C&C are similar.

As a result, we will have a period during which game results will be entered into the C&C software, but results will not be available and CTPA Club Ratings will not be increased or decreased. We refer to this period as the 'Hold Period'.

## **How long is the Hold Period?**

We have established 20 games as being a sufficient number to enable the software calculation to stabilize. At the conclusion of an individual's first 20 C&C games, they will exit the Hold Period and we will begin to make their 4-digit C&C rating available to them and will use it to calculate their 2-digit CTPA Club Rating.

For those players currently rated either 2.75 or 3.25, the 20 games must be completed prior to July 15. Otherwise, your club rating will be reduced  $\frac{1}{4}$  point from your current CTPA rating (i.e. 2.5 or 3.0). We want to see all members participating in C&C events regularly, and there's no limit on how many C&C games a member may take part in.

## **What information will be available to me to monitor my ratings?**

After the Hold Period we will be able to provide each player their 4-digit C&C rating, which translates to their 2-digit CTPA Club Rating (unless they have a higher USAPA or IPTPA rating and choose to use it). In addition, although not currently available, we anticipate the capability to provide each player with historical data resulting from their game results. For instance, players could view their 4-digit C&C rating for each prior rating period (see above for details about rating periods). In addition, we hope to be able to provide each player with a graphical representation of these historical results over time.

## **Who else will be able to view my C&C rating?**

We are aware that many members are uncomfortable with sharing their 4-digit C&C ratings. As a result, with very few exceptions, you will be the only person in CTPA who will have access to your C&C rating and any related historical data. As a result of his/her duties, the C&C administrators will be able to view each member's C&C ratings and history but will not share the results with any member other than the individual to whom the rating applies.

## **What is the process for a player to get promoted to a higher CTPA Club Rating?**

The C&C administrator will review each member's 4-digit C&C rating at the end of each rating period (see above for rating periods). For those members who have a C&C rating that exceeds the maximum for their current rating range (see rating ranges table on page 1), the administrator will closely monitor the results from the subsequent rating period. In addition the member will be notified of their current status. If that result also exceeds the maximum for their current rating range and they have played a minimum of 6 additional games, the player will be promoted to the next higher CTPA Club Rating level. If 6 games have not been played between rating periods, the player's rating will not be increased until they have participated in at least 6 games and are able to maintain a rating above the threshold. For instance, consider the following example:

- Member has a 3.5 CTPA Club Rating
- Member's 4-digit C&C rating on May 1 is 3.783 which exceeds the max for a 3.5 player (3.749)
- Member's 4-digit C&C rating on May 15 is 3.751 which also exceeds the max and player has played at least 6 C&C games between May 1 and May 15
- This member would now have a CTPA Club Rating of 4.0

## **What is the process for a player to move down in their CTPA rating?**

The C&C administrator will review each member's 4-digit C&C rating at the end of each rating period (see above for rating periods). For those members who have a C&C rating that falls below the minimum for their current rating range (see rating ranges table on page 1), the administrator will closely monitor the results from the next 3 subsequent rating periods. In addition the member will be notified of their status. If the result continues to fall below the minimum for each of those 3 rating periods the player's CTPA Club Rating will be reduced accordingly. However, if their 4-digit C&C rating equals or exceeds the minimum during any of the 3 subsequent rating periods, the player's current CTPA Club Rating will be retained and the process will start anew. For instance, consider the following example:

- Member has a 3.0 CTPA Club Rating
- Member's 4-digit rating on May 1 is 2.744 which is below the minimum for a 3.0 player (2.750)
- Member's 4 digit rating for the next 3 rating periods are:
  - May 15 – 2.748
  - June 1 – 2.739
  - June 15 – 2.742
- This member would now have a CTPA Club Rating of 2.5
- If this player's results would have equaled or exceeded 2.75 at the end of any of the three rating periods (May 15, June 1, June 15), they would have retained their 3.0 CTPA Club Rating and the process would have started again.

### **What events will be used to contribute to my C&C rating?**

It is anticipated that each level of play will have numerous events that will contribute to your C&C rating and these events will be clearly marked on our club's calendar of events. Types of play below will be selectively scheduled for C&C, but only for instances identified in the schedule.

- Ladders
- Round Robins
- Up/Down Split
- Challenge
- Shootout

**Note:** Because a player is able to choose their partner for the Challenge and Shootout formats, these will not be used during the Hold Period.

Some events may include players from an adjacent rating category. For instance, we may conduct events where all 3.0 and 3.5 players are invited. We will not gather results from any events where the disparity in ratings for the players exceeds ½ point.

All completed games at these events will be recorded and entered into the C&C system. For instance, if bad weather terminates an event, any games that have concluded will be recorded.

**If I opt to be unrated & not participate in C&C events, what playing options will be available?**  
Some court time will be available for unrated play but will be limited and unavailable during prime times

### **How long am I able to use my USAPA rating or IPTPA rating as my CTPA Club Rating?**

You may continue to use these ratings as your CTPA Club Rating until your results, as reflected by your C&C 4-digit rating, indicates that reduction in your CTPA Club Rating is needed. (See above for descriptions of the process used for ratings changes). If such a change is needed, we will require re-certification as follows:

- IPTPA rating – annual re-rating: In other words, your IPTPA can be used to override a lower CTPA Club Rating, which is based on C&C rating for no more than one year.
- USAPA – at least two rated tournaments per year. In other words, your USAPA rating can be used to override a lower CTPA Club Rating that is based on C&C rating only so long as you've participated in at least 2 tournaments in the prior 12 months.

### **Does the C&C rating system account for gender and/or age?**

No. It is strictly gender and age neutral and performs its calculation based on results regardless of the gender or age of the opponents. It does factor in the prior rating of the 4 opponents to calculate the magnitude of the resulting 4-digit ratings changes.

**Conclusion** As we enter this new stage of growth and improvement for our club, there will be questions. **We encourage any of you as we go, who have questions on any of this, to ask questions.**  
**Gary Tipton Email: [gtipton@zbzoom.net](mailto:gtipton@zbzoom.net) will be principal contact for C&C questions.**

Finally, I think we all understand that no system for ratings is perfect, and there may be an adjustment period to allow for this new system to settle out. There need not be a stigma about playing in C&C events, play and have fun, the game results only serve to fulfill the 'Objective'. If you forgot what the 'Objective' is, please reread top of page 1. We ask each of you to try your best to stay positive, have an open mind, and exercise patience while we all become familiar with the process.

Sincerely, CTPA