

Ranking Committee

Denver meeting

November 24, 2015

This year the Ranking committee was given two charges. The first was to investigate shortcomings in the current masterpoint system which uses a cumulative approach for rating players. Other systems which used a current performance based approach to rating were examined. While these systems held some inherent advantages they also contained disadvantages. Our conclusion was that no matter what system is employed for player rating there will always be both pluses and minuses. Our decision was that even though the current method may be flawed the potential for doing more harm than good suggested it was best to maintain our current masterpoint rating system.

Our second charge was to evaluate the current player ranks with an eye to improvements. We conducted a player survey which indicated while higher level players appeared to be satisfied the majority of players, who were mainly in the under the 2500 MP range, felt the ranges between the lower ranks were too large. After discussion our committee came forward with three suggested changes to our current ranks. For players that had joined the League since January 1, 2010 the rank of Bronze Lifemaster was raised from 500 to 750 MPs. When Lifemaster requirements were raised from 300 to 500 MPs this had not been done. The effect of this was that for these players Bronze Lifemaster had become a meaningless rank. This correction was intended to restore that rank as a meaningful attainment. We also decided there should be an additional rank added between Silver LM at 1000 MPs and Gold LM at 2500 MPs and to add an additional rank between Gold LM at 2500 MPs and Diamond LM at 5000 MPs. To this end we have proposed Ruby LM at 1500 MPs and Sapphire LM at 3500 MPs.

One additional area also received discussion in our committee. Current regulations require the rank of Grand Lifemaster to include a number of black points in addition to the winning of a national title. There are a small percentage of top players who, although they have very distinguished national achievements, are not recognized due to their lack of club participation. This concern, although considered to be legitimate, was deemed to be outside our committee's purvey. Our committee is suggesting that this should be looked into more thoroughly by future committees.

Respectfully submitted by Claire Jones.

Ranking Committee Chair