

## Ranking Committee Report

November 27, 2011

I would like to begin by thanking all those members who served on the committee. It was pleasing to see the sharing of ideas and respect shown by all on the committee. The progress made by the committee was truly a collective effort in which all perspectives were considered and the resulting motions were an amalgamation of these perspectives. The results should be of benefit to all our membership.

In the beginning our committee had two primary concerns, a review of our current stratification practices and an updating of the criteria used for rank advancement above Life Master. In March we reported to you on stratification. Everyone on the committee felt this was an area that needed change but when evaluating the various options it was felt that we had no clear alternative. Alternate methods had their positives and negatives and the concern became that change for the sake of change would more than likely simply exchange one problem for a new one. Our resulting decision was to leave the current stratifying system in place. This is an area that definitely needs to be revisited by future ranking committees.

Our second focus area was the updating of ranks higher than Life Master. After looking at the various approaches ranging from status quo to one of making the standards a high water mark our committee came up with a middle ground that should be fair to all players. Our recommended changes involve the adding of colored point requirements to all ranks. These requirements are relatively low for the lower ranks and progress to a higher standard for the higher ranks. Our hope is two fold. First we hope to make the ranks more meaningful and secondly we hope that this will reward tournament play at all levels.

In meeting two other rank issues were dealt with. Online players have long complained of the inequality issue where online points count fully for stratification but can only be counted for 1/3 of a rank advancement. This is a complaint we agreed had merit and we are recommending that this restriction on online points be removed. The second issue was that accomplished Nationally rated players can not obtain the higher ranks due to a failure to fulfill silver point requirements. Ranks are a way of recognising the achievements of our players. We felt these players needed to be recognised and by providing an alternate, even more stringent, standard we could accomplish this.

Our committee has presented three motions for your consideration. We hope you will view our motions favorably.

Respectively submitted:

Claire Jones