

# ? PLEASE EXPLAIN...

Ranking	Player	Country	Points Average	Total Points	No of Events	2002 / 2003 Points Lost	2004 Points Gained
1	(1) Tiger Woods	USA	12.64	505.67	40	-365.83	+ 288.42
2	(2) Vijay Singh	Fij	11.82	685.83	58	-318.15	+ 447.28
3	(3) Ernie Els	Saf	11.27	574.98	51	-293.14	+ 422.28
4	(15) Phil Mickelson	USA	8.91	418.86	47	-185.05	+ 408.67
5	(4) Davis Love-III	USA	7.5	356.62	46	-210.70	+ 198.55
6	(7) Retief Goosen	SA	7.5	356.62	52	-205.42	+ 247.58
						-179.26	+ 111.11

## How does the world ranking work?

The official World Ranking is endorsed by the six professional tours – the US PGA Tour, European PGA Tour, Japan Golf Tour, Southern Africa PGA, Asian Tour and the PGA Tour of Australasia – that make up the International Federation of PGA Tours. The Canadian, Nationwide and Challenge Tours are also taken into account and points are awarded according to the players' finishing positions.

The points awarded relate to the strength of field based on quantity, and ranking, of top-100 world-ranked players and top-30 home Tour players in the event.

However, the four major championships and the US Players Championship are rated separately to reflect the higher standing of these events. In addition, the Volvo PGA Championship in Europe, and the Australian, Japan and South African Open Championships are allocated higher minimum points levels to reflect their status.

For example, the winners of the Masters, US Open, British Open and US PGA championships are awarded 50 points. Second gets 30 points, 20 for 3rd, 15 for 4th down to 0.75 of a point for a player completing the final round.

The winner of the US Players title is awarded 40 points with points being awarded down to 0.60 of a point for 60th place and ties, while the European Volvo PGA championship has a minimum 32 points for the winner and points down to 56th place.

Minimum points levels for the winners of official Tour events have been set at three points (Asian, Canadian, Nationwide and Challenge Tours); six points (Southern Africa events); eight points (Australasia and Japan) and 12 points for European and US tournaments. In addition, the Australian, Japanese and South African Open championships have a minimum of 16 points for the winner.

Of course, these are minimum points and will change if the field for a tournament is particularly strong.

World Ranking points for each player are accumulated over a two-year "rolling" period, with the points awarded in the most recent 13-week period doubled (column 5). Ranking points then decline (column 4) in eight equal quarter-year intervals – 1.75 after 13 weeks, 1.50 after 26 weeks, 1.25 after 39 weeks, 1.00 after one year, 0.75 after 65 weeks, 0.50 after 78 weeks, 0.25 after 91 weeks and eliminated altogether after 2 years.

Each player is then ranked according to his average points per tournament (column 1), which is determined by dividing his total number of points (column 2), by the tournaments he has played over that two-year period (column 3). Players who have not played 40 events over the two-year period have the minimum divisor of 40 tournaments applied to the calculation of their average points figure.

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