

FIBA World Ranking Men, presented by Nike FAQ

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What exactly is the FIBA World Ranking Men, presented by Nike?

The FIBA World Ranking, presented by Nike is the official rating system that FIBA employs to rank national teams according to their performance in official FIBA competitions. Separate rankings apply to Men's, Women's and Youth national teams (Boys and Girls).

What is the purpose of the FIBA World Ranking Men, presented by Nike?

The FIBA World Ranking, presented by Nike tracks the competitive progress of national teams over time and compares their relative strength globally. It is also used to determine the draw seedings for FIBA competitions.

What are the main changes compared to the previous ranking system?

The FIBA World Ranking System has been in operation for more than 20 years and its previous comprehensive review took place in 2017, to align with the then newly introduced qualification format. The 2025 update maintains the core principles (always game-based) of the existing system, while placing greater emphasis on transparency and giving more weight on teams' most recent results.

From adaptive to cumulative:

Under the system that was in place since 2017, the winning and losing team in each game were awarded their share out of a total of 1,000 points, which then weighted onto each team's average rating.

That adaptive model has been replaced by a cumulative model, meaning teams add points to their current rating tally every time they play an official FIBA game.

Revised point-reduction period:

In the past, rating points declined over an eight-year period, with a reduction occurring every two years.

Under the new system, a standard 33 percent reduction will be applied to teams' rating points ahead of every major national team tournament (FIBA World Cup, Olympics, FIBA Continental Cups).

The ranking order of the teams will remain unchanged after each of these adjustments. This allows for more transparency in the update process, as the decrease in the weight of past results is now separated from the game-point updates.

Refined scoring system for tournaments:

Tournament progression rewards are now more detailed, offering more points to each team as it advances through each round.

How is the Ranking calculated?

Each team accumulates points by playing in official FIBA games. Points are added to the team's rating after each game, regardless of whether the team wins or loses, but wins are worth more points. Teams also earn points as they advance further in tournaments, with certain adjustments related to the region or the competition.

Both teams in a game receive base points, with the winning team earning additional bonus points according to various parameters (winning on the road; winning against a strong opponent; winning by a large margin). The exact calculation mechanism is described in the "How it works" document.

Which games count towards the Ranking?

All games played in official FIBA competitions.

How often is the Ranking updated?

The Ranking is updated and published after every major FIBA tournament and regularly after Qualifiers windows.

How is the relative strength of each FIBA Region calculated?

Regional strength is determined by examining intercontinental matchups and establishing the win rate of teams from each FIBA Region against the others: Africa, Americas, Asia/Oceania and Europe. Europe is the strongest region in this cycle according to the above, so its rate is set to 1. Other regions are adjusted according to their win rate. This parameter is recalibrated for every cycle.

Are these principles also applicable to the FIBA World Rankings Women and Youth?

FIBA will review the principles of the Women's and Youth rankings in 2026, with the aim of applying similar principles to the ones used in the new Men's Ranking.