



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## RATING BOARD

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This invention relates to a rating or ranking board for use in squash, tennis, golf and other clubs where it is desired to display the relative ranking of members in the particular sport. It is usual in clubs to rank the better players and permit them, as their skill increases, to change their ranking in accordance with what is generally termed "ladder" challenge matches under which any rated player may challenge any one of the three players whose names appear immediately ahead of his own and have his ranking changed accordingly if he succeeds in defeating any one of said three players.

The improved construction is designed to provide an attractive and compact ranking board with provision therein for displaying prominently the names of all of the members who are entitled to a ranking, in the relative order of their skill and yet facilitate the change in such ranking without disturbing the name-pieces of any other players except the one to be changed.

A further object of the invention is to provide a ranking board of the character referred to in which the name-piece for the player who is to be demoted automatically changes its position to the desired place at the time the name-piece of the player to be promoted is shifted.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a ranking board wherein the shifting of name-pieces pursuant to changes under "ladder" challenge matches is particularly facilitated.

A further object is to incorporate in a single ranking board which is of compact construction provision for the ranking of different sets of players, as for instance, men, women, men's doubles and women's doubles or the like.

These and other objects will appear particularly hereinafter as the description proceeds, reference now being had to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a view in elevation of the improved ranking board showing the name-pieces in their relative position, provision being made for the ranking of several sets of players.

Figure 2 is a view in vertical section through the board shown in Figure 1 and taken on the plane indicated by the line 2—2 of Figure 1 and looking in the direction of the arrows.

Figure 3 is a fragmentary view in horizontal section taken on the plane indicated by the line 3—3 of Figure 1 and looking in the direction of the arrows.

Figure 4 is a view in perspective of one of the improved name-pieces.

The ranking board, as a whole, comprises a body section formed somewhat like a tray or display compartment indicated generally at *a*, the front of which may be closed conveniently by a door *b* having a glass front *b'* through which the name-pieces within the tray may be observed. The door *b* may be engaged hingedly or slidingly with the tray but as illustrated in the drawings it has been found most convenient to provide horizontal ways *a'* in the top and bottom frame pieces of the tray *a* in which the door *b* may be supported with tongues *b<sup>2</sup>* engaging the ways *a'* whereby the door can be slid laterally in either direction to expose any of the name-pieces within, without necessitating the complete removal of the door.

Within the compartment are provided means for the support of as many columns of name-pieces as may be required for the particular club depending on the number of players to be ranked and the different sets of players to be ranked. In the illustrated embodiment provision has been made by the first column of name-pieces for the ranking of twenty-five (25) players in men's singles, twenty-five (25) players in women's singles in the second column, and twelve (12) teams in men's doubles and twelve teams in women's doubles in the third column. It will be clear as the description proceeds that the number of such columns and the number of name-pieces in each column or any subdivision thereof may be changed to meet different requirements.

Beginning at the left as viewed in Figure 1 the tray has the edge of the frame member *b<sup>3</sup>* exposed to view through the glass *b'* and along this edge may be indicated numbers

running from 1 to 25 from top to bottom. Spaced from this edge  $b^3$  a suitable distance is a vertically extending rib  $b^5$  which is secured to the frame members of the tray and is of such thickness and so spaced from the back-board  $b^4$  of the tray as to receive thereunder all of the name-pieces  $c$  one being shown clearly in Figure 4. The name of the player to be ranked is applied directly to the face of one of these name-pieces by printing or pasting a cardboard bearing the name thereon or in any other convenient manner or the name-piece while satisfying the physical requirements to be pointed out later might, nevertheless, be otherwise of such special construction as to facilitate the application of the name there or therein.

The name-pieces in the column are slid in from right to left under the retaining strip  $b^5$  and rest on top of one another in regular order as appears in Figure 1. Each of the name-pieces has a comfortable sliding fit between the strip  $b^5$  and the back-board  $b^4$  so that when the name-piece is in position it will be held against lateral displacement with respect to the tray while being movable endwise for withdrawal and disengagement from the strip  $b^5$ .

One of the important features of the invention resides in the form of the name-piece  $c$ . It will be observed that one end is reversely tapered terminating in a fairly narrow edge  $c'$  while its butt end is rounded as indicated at  $c^2$ . When the name-pieces are inserted so as to form a vertical bank resting on one another, the tapered ends of adjacent pieces present extended V-openings. When one of the name-pieces, say that opposite the rating number 20, is to be placed higher in the bank, as when the player whose name it bears becomes entitled to a better rating, that one piece can be slid out endwise from the bank without disturbing any of the other pieces. As soon as it is wholly removed the entire bank of pieces above it, that is the pieces numbered from 1 to 19 will drop by gravity onto the name-piece at place number 21. If, now, the player whose name is on the piece withdrawn is to be ranked number 15 the rounded butt end of his name-piece is pressed into the V-opening presented by the two name-pieces occupying places numbers 15 and 16 and the piece is forced in moving towards the left as viewed in Figure 1. Its introduction between the two pieces is greatly facilitated by presenting the curved butt end into the V-shaped opening. Thereupon, all of the pieces occupying positions extending down to number 15 are forced upwardly one space to admit the particular name-piece into space number 15 which the player's name is to occupy.

For the next column of rated players under women's singles a vertical rib  $d$  is inserted in the tray on which may be placed the

numerals 1 to 25. Another retaining rib  $e$  is secured within the tray spaced at proper distance from the rib  $d$  and arranged to receive any pieces thereunder as described in connection with the rib  $b^5$ . The rib  $d$ , of course, must be a sufficient distance from the rib  $b^5$  to permit a name-piece to be slid to the right as viewed in Figure 1 far enough to be disengaged from the rib  $b^5$ .

The third column in Figure 1 is similar to the other two columns and similarly constructed except that a horizontal rib  $f$  carrying a legend "Women's doubles" is inserted in the vertical bank, this legend being carried for convenience on one of the name-pieces. Such a rib might be permanently secured in place thus providing two banks of removable name-pieces in a single vertical column or, as illustrated, it may be withdrawn and inserted like the other name-pieces. This gives a considerable measure of flexibility since any of the columns can thus be shortened and additional legends introduced in any of the columns. The presence of such a name-piece does not change the method of operation since if any of the name-pieces below it are shifted it is immaterial since when the shifting is completed the name-piece bearing the legend and all pieces above it are restored to their same relative positions.

For convenience, each of the members  $b^4$ ,  $d$ , etc. on which the numerals are displayed constitute a stop for the name-pieces adjacent thereto so that when such name-pieces are inserted under their respective retaining ribs  $b^5$ ,  $e$  etc. the butt ends of the pieces will bear against such stops thereby insuring the vertical alignments of the pieces in the particular bank.

Changes in details of construction can be made without departing from the invention so long as the general organization of parts is retained to serve the same purpose.

What I claim is:

A rating board for the purpose described having a vertical stop with numerals displayed thereon, rigid name pieces of substantial thickness mounted on the board in a vertical bank, said name pieces comprising separate units adapted to rest on and be supported by one another, respectively, and adapted to engage said stop at their butt ends, and fixed means permanently overlying the name pieces adjacent their free ends to hold them against lateral displacement while permitting their endwise movement for withdrawal, the butt ends of said name pieces being curved and the free ends reversely tapered.

This specification signed this 22nd day of April, A. D. 1930.

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