

osu!Gatari ranking criteria

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Abstract

This paper is a extensive explanation of osu!Gatari ranking criteria - the newest addition to CIS (russian) private server which is meant to establish a standard preserving the quality and consistency of maps which are ranked on gatari. Alongside the maps ranked on the official server the rules express the conditions on which a normally unranked map could be directly ranked by BAT (skipping any kind of conventional modding or bubbling process). The explanation for the BAT role and prerequisites to apply are also given. This paper however only concerns the osu!standard mode.

1 Introduction

1.1 Gatari

Gatari is a private server created on a basis of ripple source, owned by belarussian ex-cheats developer xxdstem and active Russian witchhunter and author of this paper firedigger. Main motivations for the server were a protest against osu!support misdoings (banning legit players and not banning cheaters) and a need of Russian-speaking osu!environment. The server website is `osu.gatari.pw` and a more extensive introduction post (including how to join) can be found at https://vk.com/wall-139469474_3475

1.2 Motivation

Since the first private servers one of the advantages they had has been an ability to take an advantage of a leaderboard of maps which are unranked on official. Some of those maps are high-quality but the creator just didn't put the effort into ranking it, some are not really high-quality but loved by many and fun to play etc. Loved category on the official server has introduced a similar kind of mechanic there but is fundamentally slow in bring new gameplay experience to the players.

While it might be appealing to rank nearly all the possible maps, it is important to avoid ranking most graveyard material since it will focus the players' efforts more on the maps which actually deserve it. The rules were created based on many use cases during the previous inconsistent ranking process.

In order to rank as many interesting and fun maps and possible but to stay consistent and make sure not to break the pp or other systems an official precise set of rules called "the Ranking criteria" had to be created as a first attempt of all private servers. People who are granted the power to (un)rank maps based on that set of rules form the Beatmap Appreciation Team (as on the official server). For more complex hierarchy BAT team is divided into 2 tiers and each tier is formed out of specific osu!community member categories.

2 Maps classification and ranking rules

Normally, all the submitted maps can be divided into 3 categories by their ranked status: Ranked, Unranked, Loved. In this section the as precise and objective as possible but inherently vague rules for putting a map into each of the categories is described. Productive and consistent understating of the rules requires extensive mapping/playing knowledge and experience but for an average reader they provide an idea on the general direction of ranking process on gatari.

2.1 Ranked

This category describes maps which deserve players' attention and thus should have a leaderboard and grant pp.

1. Maps which are ranked on bancho
2. Graveyard high-quality mapping ¹
3. Maps of minimal acceptable quality featuring cool music which does not have a better alternative yet
4. Maps of average quality featuring music which may have already been mapped however provide an alternate gameplay experience to the player through a different target difficulty, structure, patterns or rhythm. *This rule however should not discourage the BATs from ranking more than one mapset of the same song, the main requirement is acceptable quality and not copy-pasted mapping*

Training maps also fall into the last category however they should be loved instead, refer to 2.3

2.2 Unranked

This category explicitly describes maps which certainly should be discouraged from conventional playing and thus should have a leaderboard at all even if they seem to pass by the rules for other categories.

1. Memes = maps of unexcellent quality for ugliest audio recording possible. This includes but is not limited to: dumb covers, meme songs by underground (literally) composers like "Poshel nahuy", or other forced shit like AK-47. *If a map is really well mapped though, then even unconventional music could be considered for rank*
2. Absurd high star maps which lose the aim of expressing the music or providing gameplay experience and become more of a testing of editor bounds. Usually are a shitpiece by a fantasising mapper.
3. Map with unplayable mechanics which break the gameplay. An example would something dumb such as 2 notes at the same time. Exceptions can be made for Aspire-like maps or maps which introduce the game-breaking mechanic in a playable and recognizable manner (Example: proper 2B maps).

¹High-quality mapping is a term that can be used mostly by experienced mappers. Of course there is a part of subjectivity in that but generally most advanced mappers can recognize the ideas and structure of the map and come to a consensus on the quality of the map. One of the possible more formal definitions could be - a map which is ready for the official server ranking process

2.3 Loved

This category describes maps which are rankable according to the criteria however lack some sort of creativity, musical expression or abuse the pp system and thus can have a leaderboard but will grant no pp to the player.

This rules are restrictions for ranked category. A map can only get loved if it would be ranked without these rules

1. Practice difficulties = maps which exploit a narrow set of patterns or uses them without any attention to the music, which look more like a map for training the patterns rather than experience the music
2. Maps which have much higher difficulty than the music suggests and look more like a map for top players to test out their skills (example: rustbell's maps)
3. High star maps = maps of lower than average quality and unadapted difficulty for any reasonable player audience. Examples: 10* Galaxy collapse. *It's worth noticing that some maps despite being too hard nomod, could be played with HT (Mazzerin) or RX(Fool moon night high diffs) and can be ranked instead. The quality should affect the final decision in such edge cases*
4. Broken pp maps which exploit the weaknesses of pp formula implementation for creating absurdly boosted pp. Example: stacked notes stream bug
5. Speed map packs such as Freedom dive 200(240) bpm, regular maps for DT in 1.3x and other speed multipliers.
6. Farm maps featuring songs which already have a farmy mapset ranked for the same song due to not providing an alternative experience rather than just pp material

2.4 Additional clarifications

If a mapset has several difficulties with same mapping but different stats (usually AR10 and other AR diffs), not more than one of the difficulties can be ranked, others should be loved instead. The most appropriate AR is considered based on the mapping/playing experience of the BAT member. If one of the difficulties has a unique name while others have AR specification in the name it means that the mapper suggests that particular difficulty to be the preferred one. Otherwise, star rating and bpm should determine the most appropriate AR. For example, 230+ bpm AR10 maps can be AR10 while 210 7 star might rather be AR9.5 even though each case is individual. Generally a lower AR is preferred. The most appropriate bpm is obviously the original bpm of the track, and if not present in the mapset - the closest one. The most appropriate CS is usually between 3 and 5 depending on the idea and difficulty of the map. If it's a 8+ star map, CS3 should be preferred, CS5 for easier maps and something close to 4 for general cases.

All above-mentioned rules apply to map difficulties individually. If a mapset has a single high-quality difficult and the rest is shit, the better diff can still be ranked. Regardless, BAT has the right to stop searching for a higher ranked status after observing several unrankable diffs. Example: if in a mapset with 5 difficulties there are 3 which can only be Loved, a BAT can love the whole set based on that (same way for unranked). This is done to reduce potentially unnecessary BAT work and keep the ranking status somewhat consistent through the mapsets. However, this rule does not apply to difficulties that are being Loved due to the rule about same map and different stats because that is intuitive. The map should have a reasonable part of the song mapped. It shouldn't drop suddenly making the map look unfinished, it could be a tv-size put on a long mp3 though. It is recommended that all the difficulties would be consistent in length. Otherwise, a BAT can prefer to rank the longest (or the most appropriately mapped one) or all the appropriately covered.

3 BAT role

3.1 Introduction

Any Gatari player with positive IQ could become a BAT. BATs have the right to rank any map that follows the ranking criteria and oppose (and modify) the current rank status of other maps. They are also encouraged (and expected) to review the rank requests and promote the maps that stand up to the quality standard. There are 2 BAT tiers: **BAT-professors** and **BAT-docent**.

The main difference between the tiers is that BAT-docents in order to keep their privileges are expected to demonstrate a minimal activity rate each month and can not rank their own maps themselves (they can ask another BAT-docent to do that though). BAT-professors can also be demoted due to total inactivity but that would happen only in a really long period of time.

After a long history of dedicated BATing a BAT-docent can be promoted to BAT-professor. The minimal level of activity is specified in terms of reviewed rank requests during a certain time period.

A BAT-docent is expected to process: not less than 5 requests per week/30 per month, and not less than 1 ranked map per month. These rules are not strict though because theoretically the number of requests could be low.

Regardless of the tier, active BATs which serve the gatari community are going to be rewarded with free druzhban during their employment. This is decided individually by the server administration.

3.2 BAT-professor

Eligible to apply for BAT-professor are the following gatari community member categories:

1. Universally acclaimed top player (for example with pp for top 100 bancho, however decided on case-by-case basis) with high intelligence, respect to gatari rules, refined mapping taste and minimal(non-zero) mapping knowledge.
2. Universally acclaimed mapper (recognizable in the international community) with respect to gatari rules
3. Experienced mapper with high intelligence, respect to gatari rules and evidence of their expertise, such as: a recommendation from an existing BAT-professor (or an admin), 1 ranked map on bancho (or 3 guest difficulties), at least 1 forum mod which proves the ability to evaluate the quality and other properties of the map.

BAT-professors are allowed to freely rank their own maps if they follow the ranking criteria.

3.3 BAT-docent

Eligible to apply for BAT-docent are the following gatari community member categories:

1. Mapper with higher than average mapping skills, at least 3 mapsets ranked on gatari, recommendation from BAT-docent (or higher)
2. A good player with at least average understanding of mapping and higher than average understanding of various concepts of the game (at least 6k pp), proved by real experience such as maps (at least partially mapped) and elite scores, and refined mapping taste.

3.4 Sanctions

For breaking the rank criteria and improper behaviour a BAT could be demoted to lower tier or kicked from the team. After the kick one has to wait for a month and then appeal in order to be able to apply for the BAT role again.

3.5 Team sizes and hierarchy

The desired number of BAT of both tiers on gatari is strictly limited and this will obviously affect the BAT applications acceptance rate. There is also a possibility that applications could be closed due to overpopulation of the team. However, with the growth of the server the sizes of the teams are expected to grow as well and the hierarchy could become

more complex and refined too.

The current hierarchy ladder in case of BAT conflicts is as follows, for the highest to lowest:

1. xxdstem
2. Other gatari staff
3. Universally acclaimed mapper BAT-professor
4. Experienced mapper BAT-professor
5. Player BAT-professor
6. Mapper BAT-docent
7. Player BAT-docent

Each member of the hierarchy is allowed to ask a higher ranked community member to support their point of view.

3.6 How to apply

Applications are accepted to gatari vk group messages. In case one doesn't have a vk or doesn't speak russian - they are allowed to apply to Firedigger directly with any convenient method. It is recommended to prepare all the necessary evidence in advance. The admin will review the application, discuss with other staff member and tell their decision, maybe there will be follow-up questions.