



BYLAW 29

Roller Derby League Accountabilities and Requirements

Preface

The purpose of this By Law is to provide a policy in relation to roller derby leagues affiliated to Roller Derby Australia, as governed by Skate Australia. This policy is made pursuant to clause 30 of the SA Constitution. This Policy confirms that the SA Board has the responsibility to provide guidance in relation to requirements for affiliated roller derby leagues, however the SA Board may delegate some or all of the responsibility to the national Roller Derby Australia office. Individual leagues have the responsibility to uphold these requirements at all times as part of their membership agreement with Skate Australia.

1. Affiliation Requirements

In order for a league to affiliate with Skate Australia they must provide at minimum:

- Copy of the League Constitution
- Copy of the minutes of the first meeting or most recent meeting
- Certificate of League Incorporation
- League membership form signed and payment received
- Minimum of 10 Individual competitive members OR 15 fresh meat members OR a combination of both

A league can also develop their own policies and bylaws provided they do not contravene membership requirements to Skate Australia, or can adopt the Skate Australia policies and bylaws.

2. League Accountabilities and Requirements

Roller Derby Australia (RDA) aligned with Skate Australia (SA) is recognised as the National Sporting Organisation for Roller Derby in Australia by the Australian Sports Commission. RDA recognises the Women's Flat Track Derby Association (WFTDA) as an internationally recognised authority in the sport of roller derby, who set the standards for rules, safety and determines guidelines for national and international athletic competition of member leagues.

For insurance purposes Roller Derby Australia recognise the WFTDA rule set in Australia and acknowledges the minimum requirements for skaters training and competition to be the minimum requirements to ensure the league and skaters are covered at all times.

Leagues and Coaches must be aware that safety and adherence to these minimum requirements applies in the following situations:

- League training sessions
- Scrimmage
- Games

3. League Training Sessions

Organised training or practice sessions' are covered under the Skate Australia insurance policy that is provided as part of league membership. In order for insurance to be valid there needs to be linkage between the training/practice activities and improving skating performance. It is recommended that this be recorded in the coaches training program for their skaters. Provided this is documented, leagues do not need to obtain permission from Skate Australia each time they conduct training or alter the training schedule.

It is recommended that all Coaches be trained in First Aid or that a first aid qualified member be present at every league session. The first aid qualified member or coach will be the first point of call in the event of an accident. They will be responsible for waiting with the skater until further medical help arrives. A first aid kit must be accessible and it is the responsibility of the league to ensure this is stocked appropriately.

4. Scrimmage

Scrimmage is a full-contact, game like scenario training in which skaters can practice game day skills and teamwork in a safe environment. It is a high priority to ensure skater and official safety is of high priority and for scrimmage to be a safe and controlled learning environment. Skate Australia requires leagues to adhere to the WFTDA Referee staffing guidelines.

As stated by the WFTDA 2014 Rules set,

8.1.1 - Each game will have no fewer than three skating referees and no more than seven referees total. A full staff of seven referees is strongly encouraged.."

RDA also recognises that it is not always possible, however the WFTDA have also stated *"It is also strongly encouraged for at least one referee to be WFTDA Certified."*

Further description on Referee positions and role descriptions can be found in the WFTDA 2014 Rule set <http://wftda.com/rules/20140301/section/8.1>

During scrimmage it is not a requirement to have Non-Skating Officials (NSO'S), however it is an efficient and productive practice if NSO's can be utilised.

Only skaters who have passed their WFTDA minimum skills and have been cleared by the coach should participate in scrimmage.

Should the play be uncontrolled or too dangerous to continue, it is up to the Head Referee and Coach to end the scrimmage.

5. Games

As Public Liability is a part of the league membership, Roller Derby Australia encourages the hosting league for all games to complete a Risk Assessment form, found in Bylaw 11 to be kept on file by the hosting league. If this form is not complete the league must have systems or procedures to ensure duty of care is taken in regards to all participants and spectators.

It is required to that qualified first aid professionals be present at games as stated in the WFTDA 2014 Rules set,

9.2.1 - The hosting team must provide at least two licensed or certified medical professionals with expertise in emergency and urgent medical care. These medical professionals will supply the necessary equipment and supplies to handle such injuries or conditions as can be reasonably expected to occur at a roller derby game. The medical professionals will be present during the entire warm up and game.

9.2.2 - Captains are responsible for supplying medical personnel with their skaters' medical and/or emergency contact information as necessary.

It is the host leagues responsibility to ensure the skating surface and venue are safe for all skaters and that appropriate safety checks are carried out.

It is each leagues responsibility to ensure their skaters have passed the WFTDA minimum skills and are bout ready.

6. Protective Gear

A skater is required to wear all protective gear at all times whilst skates are on. Protective gear shall include, at a minimum: wrist guards, elbow pads, kneepads, mouth guards, and helmets. It is the responsibility of the skater to ensure their protective gear, skates and toe stops are secure prior to skating.

A full list of approved and non-approved equipment is provided in the WFTDA 2014 Rules set under section 9.1- Protective Gear.

9.1.1 - Protective gear must be worn while skating in a jam, including to and from the Penalty Box. Failure to wear required protective gear or removal of protective gear, such as a mouth guard, will result in a penalty (see [Section 5.13.25](#) and [Section 6.2.7](#)).

9.1.2 - Protective gear shall include, at a minimum: wrist guards, elbow pads, knee pads, mouth guards, and helmets.

9.1.2.1 - Wrist guards, elbow pads, knee pads, and helmets must have a hard protective shell or inserts.

9.1.2.2 - Skaters are strongly encouraged to secure or tape down loose Velcro on pads.

9.1.3 - Optional protective gear such as padded shorts, chin guards, knee or ankle support, shin guards, turtle shell bras, cups, tailbone protectors, non-form-fitting clear full-face shields, non-form-fitting clear half-face shields, and form-fitting face shields such as nose guards may be worn at the skaters' discretion as long as they do not impair or interfere with the safety or play of other skaters, support staff, or Officials.

9.1.3.1 - Chin guards, turtle shell bras, cups, tailbone protectors, shin guards, non-form-fitting clear full-face shields, non-form-fitting clear half-face shields, and form-fitting face shields such as nose guards may have a hard protective shell. No other optional protective gear may have hard protective shells.

9.1.3.2 - Cage-style face shields are not permitted.

9.1.3.3 - Non-form-fitting full- and half-face shields must be designed for use on the brand and type of helmet with which they are paired.

7. Insurance

If a league meets all the requirements set out by Skate Australia they will be covered for up to \$20M in Public Liability and \$10M Professional Indemnity for all league sessions, scrimmages and games as part of their league membership.