



General Officiating... ×

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1. GAME LENGTH REQUIREMENTS FOR REGULATION

Posted 08-04-2023 02:33 AM

B

Bullseye

Hi All,

There's been some discussion locally around the minimum length of games for it to be counted as WFTDA / REG vs WFTDA / OTHER

I recall at some point a few years ago there was a communication that said 40 min games (as long as there was **no** other rule deviation) still counted as Regulation - but can't seem to find it. There's been some discussion recently around these games not counting as Regulation, and they should be listed as *WFTA / OTHER*.

One version of the OHD Manual (linked *from* the manual https://docs.google.com/document/d/1M7efc8znm5ZK7272_aWIXBU18Zci9bBYQfDgMXof-10/edit#heading=h.5f2p2hgfbivj) indicates that regulation must *Follow the ruleset* (see below)

3.2 Identify your Game Type

Game Type is the category into which a game falls. Your Officiating History Document is designed to differentiate several kinds of game type, which are valuable for people seeking to staff or evaluate you for games of that type.

A game can fall under multiple associations and game types. You should choose the combination that best suits your officiating career goals. Below are how to determine game type based on association.

| Association | WFTDA | JRDA | MRDA | All others |
|---|----------|---------|---------|------------|
| Played at a Championship Tournament | Champs | Champs | Champs | Champs |
| Played at a Playoff Tournament | Playoff | Playoff | Playoff | Playoff |
| Played at a Continental Cup | Cups | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Considered the "national championships" by a National Governing Body Or Play between two national teams If listed as WFTDA game, the game must follow the Rules of Flat Track Roller Derby, Officiating Procedures and Risk Management Guidelines | National | N/A | N/A | National |
| Confirmed by the association selected to have met all sanctioning requirements Note: a game that counts as Sanc for one association can count as Reg for another association | Sanc | Sanc | Sanc | N/A |
| Follows the Rules of Flat Track Roller Derby, Officiating Procedures, and Risk Management Guidelines as defined by the association selected (NOTE: JRDA defines Reg as "games played between two member leagues that fully follow flat track rules, but do not count towards post-season eligibility.") | Reg | Reg | Reg | Reg |
| Played more or less according to The Rules of Flat Track Roller Derby | Other | Other | Other | Other |

- If the game doesn't match any of these, then list the Association as Other. **Other Associations will be highlighted in yellow and these games will not be counted in the summary tab.** If



this classification is correct, no further action is needed. For example: short games of under 40 minutes duration do not fall under the WFTDA/MRDA/JRDA rules and so must be classified with the Association listed as Other. Such short games must be changed in your history document as far back as 15th May 2015 to be listed with an Association of "Other", to support Certification requirements.

But another version, (linked on the *WFTDA How to get Certified* page <https://resources.wftda.org/officiating/roller-derby-certification-program-for-officials/how-to-get-certified/>)

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vdByxOFpCL6Yky1a46Hiq5T4ikz3KUKkx5yHM8pzvXc/edit#heading=h.ihacoe8b1nyz>) indicates that as long as it's played *More or Less* to the rule then it could be considered Regulation

Game Type is the category into which a game falls. Your Officiating History is designed to differentiate several kinds of game type, which are valuable for people seeking to staff or evaluate you for games of that type.

In the grid below, the Game Type is on the left, with an X in a box representing a requirement for that game. If all of the X marks are fulfilled for a game, choose the game type closest to the top of the grid.

| | Played at a WFTDA, MRDA, or JRDA Championship Tournament | Played at a WFTDA, MRDA, or JRDA Playoff/Cup Tournament | Confirmed by the WFTDA, MRDA, or JRDA to have met all sanctioning requirements | Considered the "national championships" by a national body recognized as governing roller derby for that nation Or Play between two national teams | Follows the Rules of Flat Track Roller Derby, Officiating Procedures, and Risk Management Guidelines | Played more or less according to The Rules of Flat Track Roller Derby |
|------------|--|---|--|--|--|---|
| Champs | X | X | X | | X | X |
| Playoff | | X | X | | X | X |
| Sanctioned | | | X | | X | X |
| National | | | | X | X | X |
| Regulation | | | | | X | X |
| Other | | | | | | X |

If the game doesn't match any of these, then list the Association as Other. **Other games will be highlighted in yellow and will not be counted in the summary tab.**

- For example: short games of under 40 minutes duration do not fall under the WFTDA/MRDA/JRDA rules and so must be classified with the Association listed as Other. Such short games must be changed in your history document as far back as 15th May 2015 to be listed with an Association of "Other", to support Certification requirements.

Action Required: Games that fall properly classified in the National category are to be retroactively changed back to 1st July 2017. No other games need further modification.

Can we please get some confirmation on which document is correct (and thus have the link updated for the other one), and if 40 mins games count as Regulation (when there are no other changes) or are *Other*

Thanks!

#GeneralOfficiatingDiscussion

Bullseye

Kingston City Rollers Officials Coordinator

L1 Certified NSO

2. RE: GAME LENGTH REQUIREMENTS FOR REGULATION



Adam

Smasher

Posted 08-05-2023 01:18 AM

You're not crazy - Or else we both are. I am CERTAIN there was guidance, in writing, somewhere that said that a game played entirely according to the rules with no change other than 20 minute periods could be listed as regulation. I believe it was on the "instructions" page of one of the older game histories, but it may have been edited out by the document owner at some point.

As long as we're at it, could we get clear, unambiguous directions on how to assign the "Association" field on the new history? Prior versions of the game history had detailed instructions, but there's basically nothing to help answer that question now. It would be nice if all the officials for a game could, without needing to ask for help, determine what to list in that box, and ideally come to the SAME conclusion for a given game.

Adam Smasher (He/him)

3. RE: GAME LENGTH REQUIREMENTS FOR REGULATION

Posted 08-05-2023 04:41 AM



Glad I'm not the only one that remembers seeing it!

Bullseye

And agree - it would be good to have clear guidance on the Association!

Bullseye

Kingston City Rollers Officials Coordinator

L1 Certified NSO

4. RE: GAME LENGTH REQUIREMENTS FOR REGULATION

Posted 08-07-2023 02:07 PM



Reverend

Riot

The metadata page shows three acceptable "Association" entries; WFTDA, MRDA, and JRDA.

It would be nice to have RDCL added. And lots of other things which I'll save to have ignored when there's explicit calls for feedback.

Gotham Roller Derby

5. RE: GAME LENGTH REQUIREMENTS FOR REGULATION

Posted 08-07-2023 02:13 PM



Reverend

Riot

The second document you cite says that all boxes with an "X" must be met for it to count. So for Regulation it must be played "more or less according to the Rules..." *and* it must follow the Rules, Officiating Procedures, and RMG. So the real distinction they're drawing is do you follow the Rules, or the Rules plus those other documents?

There's certainly a valid question as to what percentage of a game needs to be played for it to

count, say, in the event it were to be cut short due to electrical or natural causes (like a hurricane). But I don't know that we've ever answered that, despite it literally happening a handful of times. And then, would we put that in the Rules, and make it the case for all three associations that E.G. 40:01 played of a game that is forced to end due to outside circumstances counts for all intents and purposes?

Gotham Roller Derby

6. RE: GAME LENGTH REQUIREMENTS FOR REGULATION

Posted 08-07-2023 02:24 PM



The definition of Regulation is given in the Sanctioning policy:

Danger
Muffin

<https://resources.wftda.org/competition/wftda-games-and-tournament-policies-old/sanctioning-policy/>

A **regulation game** is a game played according to *The Rules of Flat Track Roller Derby, the WFTDA*

Officiating Cues, Codes, and Signals, and the *WFTDA Officiating Procedures for The Rules of Flat Track Roller Derby* with no deviations. All leagues holding WFTDA Insurance or insurance policies with reciprocity with WFTDA Insurance must adhere to the *WFTDA Risk Management Guidelines*. These guidelines are recommended for all other play.

Note the term "with no deviations." This includes the length of the game. This definition has been in place since 2016, when Whacks Poetic (then the Rules Chair) moved all sorts of different policies out of the ruleset and into other documents. Prior to that, the definition of "Regulation" was even more restrictive as it required the teams playing to be from different WFTDA leagues.

But, what you and Smasher are probably thinking of, is whether a game counts as an "other" game. "Other" games have historically been understood to need to have periods at least 20 minutes long, or you haven't really played "a game" of Flat Track Roller Derby, for any governing body. So there's the "other" game type (which is more-or-less the rules) and the "other" association (which is, WHOSE rules and policies). This could be clearer, but both the OHD and Cert page have it correct and are not in conflict.

For example, in the Cert website, all six rows have the requirement of "must be played more or less according to the rules." This clearly indicates that having an X in a column is a requirement for the row.

So, "Regulation" has the requirement of "follows the rules and procedures and guidelines," as do champs, playoffs, etc. If a game does not follow the rules, procedures, and guidelines, it can not be marked as "Regulation." And if it is under 40 minutes long, it cannot even be marked as being a WFTDA, MRDA, or JRDA game.

Hope this helps -- if you have suggestions on how to make one or both documents clearer I am happy to update the cert site!

Note: I'm making this post as Chair of Certification. However, Certification does not "own" the Officiating History Document. Certification is only one "customer" of the Officiating History Document. Some people want to list everything they have ever done, and the OHD wants to help them do so. But that does not mean that the thing they did provides meaningful context to Certification, whose goal is to recognize proven performance in wftda's specific flavor of roller derby games. There's a lot of grey area and we encourage anybody who thinks they have a bulk of work that should count for something, but which doesn't fit into the definitions provided in our website or documents, to email us at certification@wftda.com and have the conversation.

Bay Area Derby: Head Referee & Officiating Committee

Manager

WFTDA: Certification Oversight (Chair)

Certified Official: Level 3 On and Off Skates

7. RE: GAME LENGTH REQUIREMENTS FOR REGULATION



Adam

Smasher

Posted 08-07-2023 05:27 PM

Muffin Said:

"But, what you and Smasher are probably thinking of, is whether a game counts as an "other" game. "Other" games have historically been understood to need to have periods at least 20 minutes long, or you haven't really played "a game" of Flat Track Roller Derby, for any governing body. So there's the "other" game type (which is more-or-less the rules) and the "other" association (which is, WHOSE rules and policies). This could be clearer, but both the OHD and Cert page have it correct and are not in conflict."

Yes, that sounds right. I'm CERTAIN it was in writing somewhere, even though I can't find it now.

And surprisingly (to me) that ties back into my comment about having an unambiguous rubric to assign "association" to games.

Adam Smasher (He/him)

Independent Official - Rules Application Member

L2 Ref / L3 NSO

8. RE: GAME LENGTH REQUIREMENTS FOR REGULATION

Posted 08-07-2023 05:47 PM



Danger

Muffin

I would definitely believe that someone somewhere had written down a falsehood about regulation games, especially in the days before its formalization in the Sanctioning Policy. However I do not believe that it was written down in "canon," meaning any authoritative source from Certification.

Right now I do not think that there is an unambiguous rubric to be written because people can write down the same game in multiple valid ways. Any regulation game could

be written down as WFTDA, or MRDA, for example. You could write down a Playoff as "Sanctioned" or "Regulation" or "Other." I don't know why you would, but it would not be a lie. I would absolutely agree (as a person, and also as Certification Chair) that formalizing that one MUST write down WFTDA as the association if it is valid to do so, and formalizing that one MUST write down the highest-ranking game type. I think that that would resolve the ambiguity right? (However, as noted, the OHD is not a Certification document.)

Bay Area Derby: Head Referee & Officiating
Committee Manager

WFTDA: Certification Oversight (Chair)

Certified Official: Level 3 On and Off Skates

9. RE: GAME LENGTH REQUIREMENTS FOR REGULATION



Posted 08-08-2023 01:08 PM

"Right now I do not think that there is an unambiguous rubric to be written because

Adam people can write down the same game in
Smasher multiple valid ways."

But that's undesirable. It would be better to have a hierarchy to establish a consistent way to classify all games, including those which potentially fit multiple categories. Cert isn't the only customer of the OHD (frankly, they may not even be the most important one) so the fact that Cert doesn't feel the need for a consistent classification doesn't mean that we don't need one.

Adam Smasher (He/him)
Independent Official - Rules Application
Member
L2 Ref / L3 NSO

10. RE: GAME LENGTH REQUIREMENTS FOR REGULATION

Posted 08-08-2023 09:28 AM

Muffin is correct about that timing. I made the



Bones

updated policy documents at that time and have tried to track changes at the bottom of each from that point forward so we could keep track of when things were altered. That "without deviations" part of the definition never changed.

I do want to consider the idea of altering the rules to allow for different competitions to hold regulation games (as defined in the Sanctioning Policy) and be able to adjust the length of the game. We are in a time when more flexibility is helpful to our leagues and competitions and many very high-level games (World Cup) have shorter games for the initial seeding rounds.

For example, FIFA's rules of the game: "A match lasts for two equal halves of 45 minutes, which may only be reduced if agreed between the referee and the two teams before the start of the match and in accordance with competition rules."

But I don't know what you all would think about that from an officiating and certification perspective, but from a facilitating as much derby as possible and providing opportunities for as many participants as possible perspective, it's in line with our organization's goals.

Karen Kauffman

WFTDA Senior Director of Global Programs

11. RE: GAME LENGTH REQUIREMENTS FOR REGULATION



Reverend

Riot

Posted 08-08-2023 04:05 PM

If the Rules allow for it to be shortened, I think the only question is "is it enough to say there was an actual competition?". So long as skaters agree that it is, and it can be considered Sanctioned or Regulation (as it would be otherwise), then I would personally feel like the pressure to perform and the need for quality officiating is the same, and it wouldn't change anything for me.

Gotham Roller Derby

12. RE: GAME LENGTH REQUIREMENTS FOR

REGULATION

Posted 08-08-2023 07:31 PM



Danger

Muffin

I'd like to be careful about the word "rules" -- to be sure we know when we are talking about "a policy for saying whether a game is Regulation" ("policy") vs the Rules of Flat Track Roller Derby (RFTRD). The RFTRD do not, can not, should not, and never have, defined what it means to be a "regulation" game...it's Regulation Policy that requires that you follow the RFTRD.

So -- if we are talking about changing the RFTRD to say that a game can be two 20-minute periods, and if Sanctioning will follow (so you could sanction those games), then we don't need to change the Regulation Policy, we just introduce more flexibility into our sport overall. Certification would be ok with this. I think this is what Riot was saying. But that was not the initial question in the thread.

If, instead, we are talking about changing the Regulation Policy to drop the requirement that the game follow the RFTRD by adding exceptions, or anything that would meaningfully draw new lines between Regulation or Sanctioned games, that would be harmful in my opinion. That's what the original post was about, and since Bones mentioned qualifying for World Cup rather than citing

WFTDA Regional Championships or Global Championships, I wanted to make this distinction clear.

Bay Area Derby: Head Referee & Officiating
Committee Manager
WFTDA: Certification Oversight (Chair)
Certified Official: Level 3 On and Off Skates

13. RE: GAME LENGTH REQUIREMENTS FOR REGULATION



Bones

Posted 08-09-2023 08:54 AM

Yes - this would be a change to the Rules of Flat Track Roller Derby and we would keep the definitions the same in the Sanctioning Policy. I can take this to a ROFTRD discussion.

Karen Kauffman

WFTDA Senior Director of Global Programs

karen@wftda.com

14. RE: GAME LENGTH REQUIREMENTS FOR REGULATION



**Reverend
Riot**

Posted 08-09-2023 11:10 AM

That's sort of what I was saying - my original comment was more specifically addressing games shortened artificially due to outside circumstances (as opposed to my response to Bones' question to if we were amenable to a game *intended* to be shorter than we're used to).

Gotham Roller Derby

15. RE: GAME LENGTH REQUIREMENTS FOR REGULATION

Posted 09-18-2023 12:01 PM



Wonder

Zebra

// Hope this helps -- if you have suggestions on how to make one or both documents clearer I am happy to update the cert site! //

Thanks for all this information. I have a concrete example that, having read all of the above, I would not know how to write down in a game history. Austrian champs are happening soon and the games will follow regulation for every aspect except that they will be 2x20' games. Should this be written down as WFTDA/National or Other/National?

Vienna Roller Derby

16. RE: GAME LENGTH REQUIREMENTS FOR REGULATION

Posted 09-18-2023 05:30 PM



This could be categorized as WFTDA/Other or as National/Champs, depending on the preference of the person with the history. It rolls up differently

Danger

in the different summary fields.

Muffin

Bay Area Derby: Head Referee & Officiating
Committee Manager

WFTDA: Certification Oversight (Chair)

Certified Official: Level 3 On and Off Skates

17. RE: GAME LENGTH REQUIREMENTS FOR REGULATION



Micro

Posted 09-19-2023 02:07 AM

Hello everyone,

What about a game played as a WFTDA/SANC would be, except that the track would be a bit smaller (e.g. due to venue restrictions).

Would it then be REG or OTHER ?

Micro (She/her)

Namur Roller Derby (BE) : Head of Officiating
Committee

18. RE: GAME LENGTH REQUIREMENTS FOR REGULATION

Posted 09-19-2023 12:51 PM



Danger

Muffin

SANC means that a governing body has confirmed that the game meets the sanctioning requirements. So if that is true it's a sanctioned game. So if you are saying, that an international governing body has sanctioned the game despite the track being wrong, I you would still call it SANC. If it was the WFTDA you'd do WFTDA/SANC regardless of other qualities. (But I really hope you did not sanction a game on a nonstandard track.)

However, I'm getting the feeling that that is not your question, and you're asking if a game can be considered Regulation if the track is wrong. It cannot. If anything is wrong it is not Regulation. That one is easy. When you say "except" you know it's not Regulation. :)

So it is clearly not SANC or REG. But is it even a WFTDA / OTHER game? This is discretion. If you aren't playing the game to the standards, what

ARE you playing? Is it really basically still a normal game like, maybe you shaved some time off the period clock? Then yes. Is it pretty far, as far as "less than 20 minutes per period"? Then no. Similar discretion would be applied to other rules that you bend. So you have to make the call about that one based on your experience on the track. We did not see the track so we can't help guess.

But when you were there was it just a totally normal game and you couldn't notice that the track was short? Then totally mark WFTDA/ OTHER. Or, was there a lot of extra skaters sliding out to the outside, and OPRs falling down b/c they try to corner too hard, because they trained to a different track, so the gameplay is different? Then probably not a WFTDA game.

Bay Area Derby: Head Referee & Officiating
Committee Manager

WFTDA: Certification Oversight (Chair)

Certified Official: Level 3 On and Off Skates

19. RE: GAME LENGTH REQUIREMENTS FOR REGULATION



Micro

Posted 09-19-2023 01:12 PM

Thank you, I was hesitating between REG and OTHER in case of nonstandard track.

(We did not sanctioned such games, be reassured ;-)

Micro (She/her)

Namur Roller Derby (BE) : Head of Officiating
Committee

Player & Skating Official
