



# **WFTDA 2025-2026 Open Division Test**

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## **Program Requirements**

This document has been prepared to provide instructions for teams and officials for WFTDA Open Division test games. The policies and procedures are compiled from the [WFTDA Charter Roster Policy](#) and [WFTDA Sanctioning Policy](#). Game play and officiating requirements remain the same—we have made adjustments to some policies to reflect the different gender policy for the division and for the test program being run without rankings or charter overlap restrictions.

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## **Eligibility**

Any open gender team is eligible to participate in the WFTDA Open Division Test, regardless of league membership. All teams must meet the requirements of this document, including all insurance requirements, and are subject to the [WFTDA Code of Conduct](#).

There is no fee to participate in the test program.

## **Program Description**

The WFTDA is opening up the Open Division Test to any open gender team interested in participating and potentially registering in a WFTDA-organized open division of play. The goals of the test are to:

- Assess the interest of current WFTDA leagues in organizing teams to compete in an open gender division alongside the current main division.
- Assess the interest of non-WFTDA leagues in joining a WFTDA Open Division and their membership needs.
- Capture data on the number of games played in each region, scores, and game data to determine an appropriate rankings program and competitive structure for a WFTDA Open Division.

- Ensuring that any future Open Division aligns with WFTDA's values for equitable and inclusive play for participants of a marginalized gender.

## Test Period

The WFTDA Open Division Test will run from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

If WFTDA decides to start an official open gender division, the inaugural season of that division will run from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027, with subsequent seasons running in two-year increments, with Championships set on odd years.

## Eligible Games

Any open gender game may be sanctioned in this program, as long as it meets the requirements listed in this document and all sanctioning submissions are met (sanctioning application and charter submission, scores, IGRFs, and StatsBooks).

## Rankings

There will be no ranking system for this program; however, WFTDA Rankings may use the game data to set initial seeding for teams participating in the final WFTDA Open Division, should that be established.

WFTDA Rankings and Competitive Play may also use the game data to invite and establish seeding for Open Division teams participating in a WFTDA Open Division event in 2027.

## Registration

Teams interested in participating in the program will be asked to complete the [WFTDA Open Division Test Registration Form](#). This form collects basic demographic information on your team so that WFTDA may communicate with your team regarding the test, and gathers teams' agreement to abide by the requirements of the program, including the WFTDA Organizational Code of Conduct.

Once registered, a team is approved to participate in the program and sanction any number of games during the test period.

WFTDA will communicate with your designated team representative(s) about the program to gather information and interest in continuing after the test is completed.

# Insurance Requirements

All teams must meet the following insurance requirements for games played in the United States:

- WFTDA Insurance meets these requirements, but you may purchase from another carrier, as long as you can verify that it meets these requirements. **Insurance must include coverage for roller derby activities.** (Not all travel insurance will cover this.)
  - Leagues using USARS should follow the additional sanctioning requirement listed in the Game Sanctioning Instructions below.
- All skaters must have the same insurance as the league. (For example, if a league has WFTDA insurance, all skaters must be under that same policy.)
- Skating officials should have valid insurance and this should be checked by the host league to protect the official and the league from liability.
- For games played outside of the United States, both leagues should meet insurance requirements for the country in which the game is played. WFTDA will not verify liability insurance for these games.
  - Canadian leagues traveling to the United States to play must complete any travel certificate requirements.

## League/Team Liability Insurance Requirements

- Team/League liability insurance will be verified at registration and again at sanctioning approval. The insurance must be valid at the date of the game.
- Coverage must be for a minimum of US\$2,000,000 per occurrence. (Some venues may require a higher amount.)

## Individual Medical Insurance Requirements

- Personal accident coverage must be for a minimum of US\$10,000.
- Personal liability coverage must be for a minimum of US\$1 million.

# Game Sanctioning Instructions

All Open Division test games should be submitted using the [WFTDA 2025 Open Division Test Game Sanctioning Form](#).

1. The host league should make a copy of the form, complete the game information, including adding their charter for the game, sign the form, and then send the link to the visiting team.
2. The visiting team should review and approve the game information, include their charter roster for the form, and then sign the form.
3. Once both teams have signed and included their charter rosters, the host league should send the link to [opendivision@wftda.com](mailto:opendivision@wftda.com), including the visiting team in the email.
4. Sanctioning applications are due at least 30 days prior to the date of the game.
  - a. **If you have USARS insurance, you must sanction the game through USARS** and send WFTDA the sanctioning certificate when you receive it. Please send in the WFTDA sanctioning application by the deadline and we will approve the game once the USARS certificate is received.
5. If games are a part of a WFTDA-sanctioned tournament, please submit all WFTDA Open Division Test games separately using this submission process.
  - a. If games are a part of a sanctioned tournament in the Main Division, please submit that Main Division tournament application via the Main Division sanctioning process and do not include any Open Division games on that application.

## Charter Requirements

1. Charters are submitted with the game application and must be submitted with every game, even if you are reusing a charter.
2. Charters must include a minimum of seven skaters and a maximum of 20 skaters.
3. All skaters must be 18 years old or older to participate in any region.

4. Participants of any gender may participate in the WFTDA Open Division.
5. There are no limits to how many WFTDA Open or Main Division charters a skater may join for the purpose of the WFTDA 2025 Open Division Test program.
6. Skater insurance must be valid at the time of the game.

## Games Requirements

1. The game must be played according to the following policies with no deviations:
  - [\*The Rules of Flat Track Roller Derby\*](#)
  - [WFTDA Officiating Cues, Codes, and Signals](#)
  - [WFTDA Officiating Procedures for The Rules of Flat Track Roller Derby](#)
  - [WFTDA Risk Management Guidelines](#)
  - [WFTDA Expulsion and Suspension Policy](#)
  - All requirements listed in this document
2. The game roster must include no more than 15 skaters.
  - a. All skaters must be included in the approved charter for the game.
  - b. Game roster submission deadlines are per agreement between the teams or bout/tournament requirements.
3. In addition to meeting the staffing, scoring, timing, and penalty management requirements included in [\*The Rules of Flat Track Roller Derby\*](#), all games must meet the following officiating staffing requirements:
  - a. A minimum of three (3) and a maximum of seven (7) Skating officials must be staffed for the game. The Head Referee may not also be a Jammer Referee.
  - b. Enough Non-Skating officials (NSOs) to provide the WFTDA StatsBook data listed in the “StatsBook Submission” section below.

4. The track boundaries must be marked by a raised boundary at least  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (0.64 cm) and no more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch (1.27 cm) in height, and width of at least 1.5 inches (3.81 cm) and no greater than 3 inches (7.62 cm).
  - a. The track boundary must be consistent in height and width throughout the entire boundary and not present a safety hazard..
  - b. The track boundary must be highly visible to skaters and officials,
  - c. Teams may waive the rope requirement if there is a venue constraint. Please contact [opendivision@wftda.com](mailto:opendivision@wftda.com) to discuss.
5. Teams are allowed a minimum of two (2) staff in the bench area. Teams may have up to four (4) staff in the bench area, unless there are venue space restrictions. Teams must be notified of venue space restrictions that impact bench area staff in the game contract.
  - a. Support staff should be primarily stationed in the bench area.
  - b. Staff must be identified to the Head officials and opposing team Captain prior to the game and are subject to all requirements in [The Rules of Flat Track Roller Derby](#). Staff can be subject to Unsporting Conduct Penalties. Examples of this include, but are not limited to:
    - i. Too many bench staff in the bench area.
    - ii. Trackside coach behavior.
  - c. Any staff designated to communicate with officials must approach from the bench area.
6. Hosts may elect to create individual trackside “coach boxes” in the turns opposite the team benches, unless there are venue space restrictions. The boxes may be used by participating teams to station an individual during the game. This individual is in addition to the individuals stationed in the bench area.
  - a. If a team elects to station an individual in a coach box, they must be identified to the Head officials and opposing Team Captain prior to the game.

- b. Coach boxes are not part of the bench area; however, individuals are considered participants in the game, subject to all requirements in The Rules of Flat Track Roller Derby.
- c. Individuals stationed in coach boxes may not approach the officials.
- d. Expelled skaters may not be stationed in coach boxes.
- e. The host should determine and communicate assignments of teams at each box to teams and officials in advance of the game.
- f. Individuals stationed in the coach box may stand.

## Uniform Requirements

The following uniform requirements must be followed. Compliance during games is enforced by the Head Referee, Head NSO, or GTO (if applicable) with noncompliance reported to [opendivision@wftda.com](mailto:opendivision@wftda.com) so that we may address it.

1. Teams must wear uniforms with one clearly dominant identifiable color that is of high contrast to the color of their opponent.
2. Uniform numbers must be of high contrast to the uniform base color.
3. Teams must have a set of Pivot and Jammer helmet covers. The colors of the helmet covers must be of high contrast to each other, the same base color of each uniform color, and easily distinguished by officials and other skaters.
  - a. The Pivot's helmet cover must have a single, solid stripe a minimum of 2 inches (5.08 cm) wide running from front to back.
  - b. The Jammer's helmet cover must have two stars that are a minimum of 4 inches (10.16 cm) across, from point to point.
4. Teams must provide two wristbands corresponding to their chosen uniform color for use by officials in the game.
5. All skaters must include uniform numbers in the charter roster.
  - a. Charter roster numbers may not include letters or punctuation marks.

- b. No skater may have the same uniform number as another skater on their team's charter roster.
  - c. Charter roster numbers are limited to a maximum of four numerals.
6. In order for the skater to be eligible to play, the following requirements for the uniform number on their jersey must be met:
- a. The number on their uniform must match the number submitted on the approved charter roster.
  - b. The minimum height for jersey numbers is 6 inches (15.24 cm). All characters in the skater's charter roster number must be printed at the same size.
  - c. Any letters surrounding the number must be no taller than 2 inches (5.08 cm).
  - d. There may not be any punctuation within the number. Any punctuation surrounding the number must be no taller than 2 inches (5.08 cm).





7. Each skater participating in a game must visibly display their roster number on each sleeve or arm. Roster numbers must be of high contrast and easily legible.
  - a. Handwritten numbers on the arm are acceptable.
  - b. The minimum height for a skater's roster number on the arm/sleeve is 2 inches (5 cm). The maximum height for a skater's roster number on the arm/sleeve is 4 inches (10 cm).
8. If additional numbers are on the helmet (e.g., a brand name, model number, or tribute) they must be of a size, style, and position that is not confusing to officials.
9. Skaters are not required to display names on uniforms.

## StatsBook Submission

Please submit the completed [WFTDA StatsBook](#) (and copy the visiting team) **within two weeks of the game date to [opendivision@wftda.com](mailto:opendivision@wftda.com)**.

- a. The WFTDA StatsBook should be fully entered with the following sheets required by WFTDA.
  - i. IGRF; please see the [WFTDA StatsBook Manual](#) for instructions on how to mark non-skating skaters on the roster appropriately.
  - ii. Score.
  - iii. Penalties.
  - iv. Lineups.

If there are any conduct issues with the game, such as a suspension recommendation, please submit the expulsion form and explain in the submission email. WFTDA will follow up with the appropriate parties to determine a solution.

## Cancellations, Forfeits and Postponements

If a game is not played for any reason, please contact [opendivision@wftda.com](mailto:opendivision@wftda.com). WFTDA will not enforce the WFTDA Cancellation and Forfeit Policy for the 2025 WFTDA Open Division test program.

# Code of Conduct

No transgender and/or nonbinary athletes should be pushed out of the Main Division and into Open Division or vice versa. See examples of such situations in the [WFTDA Open Division Gender Policy Clarifications document](#) (this is a working document and will be updated as needed to provide any needed guidance).

If there are any concerns about a team or individual not acting under the [WFTDA Organizational Code of Conduct](#), please reach out to [opendivision@wftda.com](mailto:opendivision@wftda.com) to discuss. Issues may be forwarded to the WFTDA Grievance Committee and managed under that process, if appropriate.

Teams or individuals found to not be acting under the WFTDA Organizational Code of Conduct may be asked to leave the test program.