



WFTDA Recommendations to Return to Roller Derby During a Pandemic - Audience Guidelines

Updated May 2022 - Version 3

Purpose of Document

These WFTDA Audience Guidelines work in tandem with the WFTDA Return to Roller Derby Ladder, WFTDA Infection Control Guidance for Leagues and the WFTDA Risk Management Guidelines.

Leagues must always align their practices with local government and health requirements for capacity and allowable audiences.

In some cases the WFTDA Audience Guidelines place additional requirements on venue setup to those listed in the [WFTDA Risk Management Guidelines](#). These are recommendations to adjust your track setup to better protect participants and audience members from infection spread..

Audience Size Recommendations

For leagues following the WFTDA Return Recommendations at Tiers Five or Six on the return-to-derby ladder, the WFTDA recommends starting your venue spacing at 25% normal capacity and filled with only friends, family, and other colleagues who are already part of your derby community. We recommend this approach because these community members are already likely in contact with the living and working spaces occupied by league members, and will be invested in helping your league succeed in hosting a safe event.

Utilizing your current community members can also help you work on the spacing, flow, and disinfection of your venue space so that when you reach Tier Six and are ready for outside fans, the process is well thought-out and manageable.

Venue Preparation

We recognize that not all venues for roller derby are alike; many of our members play in outdoor facilities, others play in indoor gyms and warehouses - larger spaces not built for sport. When determining if your league is ready to host an event, consider the safety aspects of your particular space as it pertains to spread of infection, including:

- Ventilation quality - How frequently is the air in your space recycled with fresh air?
- Capacity and Layout - How can you lay out the space for 25% capacity and to take advantage of ventilation? How can you keep your audience separated from your participants?
- Hygiene - Are your venue and facilities disinfected and can you provide adequate hand hygiene materials for participants and spectators as per the [WFTDA Infection Control Guidance for Leagues?](#)
- Crowding points - How much space do you have for checking in socially-distanced guests? Are locker rooms open and adequate for the number of people to be safe and socially distanced?
- Signage - Proper signage is needed to indicate areas allowed for audience interaction

Adjustments to Track Setup Requirements

Roller derby breath droplets pose a more significant risk to spectators during a pandemic, and during times of year where flu and virus infections are more easily spread. Our Audience Guidelines present suggested modifications to the Risk Management Guidelines and are aimed to keep spectators at a safer distance from airborne illnesses than is necessary for the standard roller derby safety zone requirements.

3.1. Spectators and Seating:

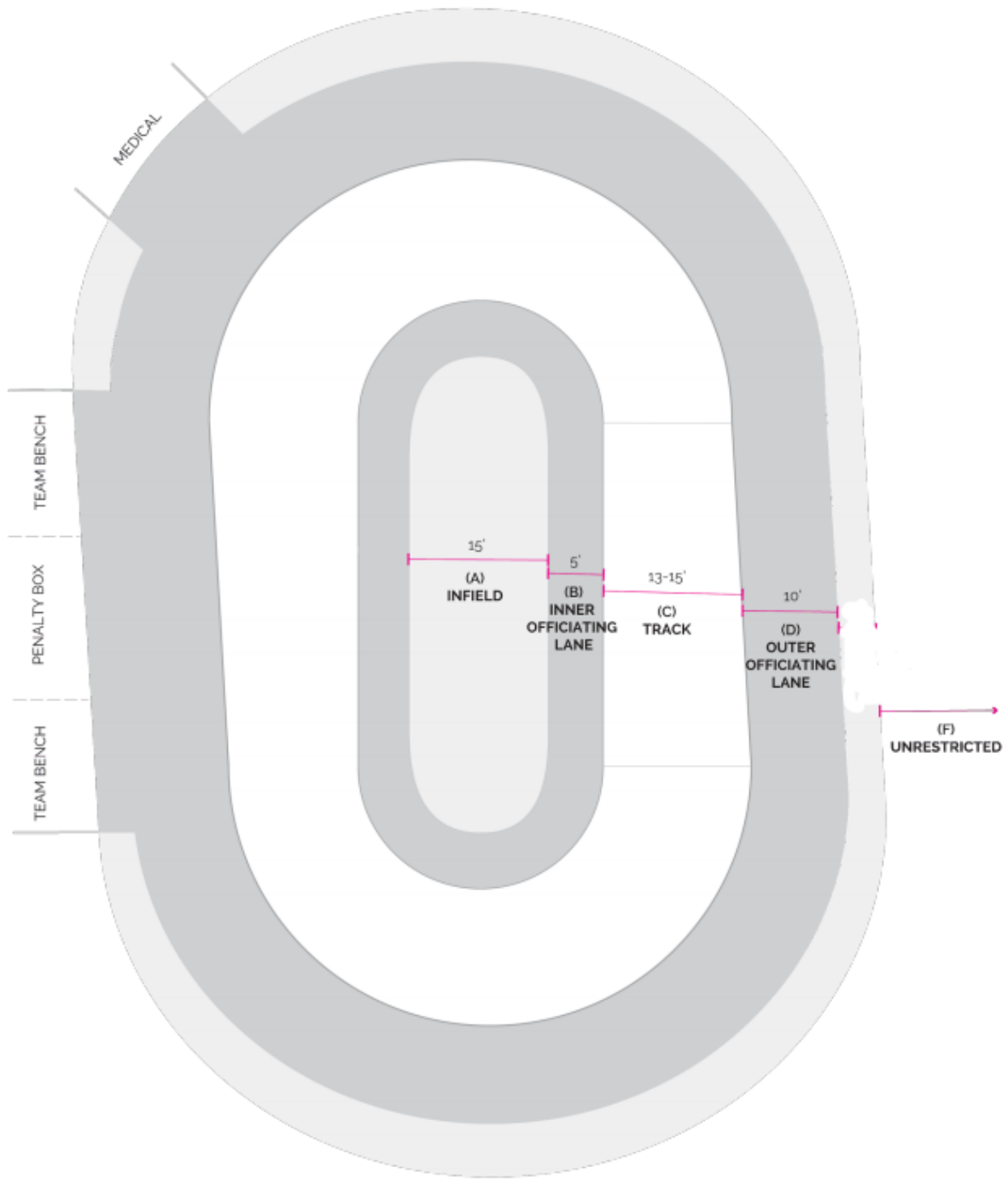
- Trackside floor seating should be suspended until further notice.
- Spectators should not sit within 15 feet (4.57 meters) of team benches.
- Any spectator seating in Zone F should now be demarcated at a distance of 10 feet (3.05 meters) from the Outer Officiating Lane (Zone D) line.
- Spectators of **all** ages should only be present in areas designated Zone F.

Additionally, spaces with Barriers should observe the following changes to **3.2 Barriers:**

- All doors or openings present in a BARRIER that lie within 10 feet (3.05 meters) of the OUTER TRACK LINE must be closed or blocked off during active skating and no audiences should be seated within 15 feet (4.57 meters) of openings that are used during gameplay.

See the *WFTDA Risk Management Guidelines* track zone diagram for reference.

Track Zone Diagram:



Best Practices for Managing Spectators At Your Event

Make sure your event staff have planned out the flow of spectators through the entire space--from entering your venue to utilization of washroom facilities.

Advance Reservations or Sales

If possible, the WFTDA recommends selling or reserving advance tickets online to help plan for seating requirements.

- You should limit the number of seats available online to allow for some in-person sales or overflow. For example, if your full venue capacity is 400 and 25% capacity is 100 people, you should sell only 80-90 seats online and then leave 10-20 for overflow in-person needs.
- Share a map of your venue so that spectators are informed in advance of where they can sit. See below for Seating Best Practices on how to set up spectator seating.
- Include information on your online sales portal that reminds spectators that they must refrain from attending if they are exhibiting symptoms of infection.
- Include instructions on who to contact should an audience member find out that they were exposed to infection prior to attending the event.
- Direct all participants and spectators to use this online registration system to gather the basic personal information required to reach people in the case of an exposure.

Entrance Procedures

- Taped or marked off 6-foot (1.83 meter) distances for socially-distanced waiting;
- Staff ticketing areas with minimal staff and customer contact points--one best practice should be digital ticketing or other procedures that do not involve cash handling;
- Contact tracing: Ensure that all participants and spectators have registered online for contact tracing prior to the event (online is recommended to avoid congregation at a sign up sheet and common use of pen and paper);
- Temperature Checks, if executed, should be done outside or just inside the facility doors in case higher than normal body temperatures require removal of spectator;
- Asking patrons to wear a mask covering their nose and mouth at all times;
- Hand sanitizer should be available at all entrances and exits.

Seating Best Practices

Once inside the space, be sure to have clearly marked signage regarding the flow of traffic; where spectators are supposed to wait or sit before the game begins. Having at least one staff member or volunteer to act as an usher will help facilitate this flow and discourage lingering in crowded areas.

When thinking about your seating layout, some roller derby terms are useful for thinking about positioning!

- **Pack it up:** Limit seating clusters to groups of 5 (“spectator pack”); if a group is larger than 5, they are still allowed to attend but must sit in groups of 5 or fewer;
- **Destroying the pack:** When laying out seating clusters, destroying the pack is good! Seat spectator packs no closer than 10 feet (3.05 meters) in any direction;

Try to seat spectators in and near well-ventilated areas; for example, if your venue has large doors or rolling garage doors, it is recommended that they remain open as long or as often as possible as the weather permits.

Spectator Regulations

In addition, we ask that spectators observe the following regulations in the seating spaces:

- Wear a mask that completely covers your nose and mouth, at all times when in the venue (this includes outdoor spaces and venues);
- Event staff and volunteers must seat spectators and spectators may not mingle or mill about inside the spectator area;
- No food or beverages inside the seating areas--this will encourage spectators to not remove masks. If you need to sell food or drink, designate separate, well-ventilated areas that also have specified, demarcated seating away from the main spectator area.
- Hand sanitizer is placed at the end of every row or section to encourage ongoing disinfection.

Best Practices for Staffing Your Event

Venue staffing is one of the most important roles your event can have, and it does not come without risk. These are members of your league or club who are going to be directly exposed to the public, and should ideally have reported a negative test if available in your area before the event.

Primarily, always ensure that you have identified organizational members who require more stringent protections or may be at higher risk for negative impacts of infection: If a member of your league lets you know they have health concerns that may increase their risk, do not ask them to staff an event. There are plenty of organizational jobs that require remote or virtual logistics, and we recommend emphasizing those jobs for higher risk members.

Staffing Logistics:

- Pre-Event Symptoms Check:
 - Conduct pre-event symptoms check the day before the event for all staff
 - Conduct on-site symptoms checks when staff checks in for event
- Staff Travel To and From Event:

- Encourage event staff to use transportation options that minimize close contact with the public or large amounts of people (as in, encourage carpooling with other staff who are symptom-free over using public transportation.)
- Mandatory Mask Usage:
 - All staff must have properly-worn masks at all times
 - Staff must have hand sanitizer available
 - Staff must conduct frequent hand washing or sanitizing.

Staffing Duties:

- Infection Safety Coordinator: Select a production or coordination staff member who is responsible for executing compliance at your event. Make sure attendees and participants know who this person is and how to contact them.
 - This person is responsible for:
 - Audience layout specifications
 - Disinfection practices
 - Signage and labeling of flow
 - Ventilation
 - Symptoms checking
- Minimize Public Interface:
 - Determine the minimum number of people required to run your event to reduce overall interaction.
 - Discourage event “extras” or optional interactions, such as in-venue mingling or interviews.

Best practices for staff who interface frequently with the public:

- Offer staggered breaks that allow staff time to breathe outdoors away from attendees.
- Ensure that ticketing staff has proper ventilation and maintains a voluntary contact tracing record for attendees.
- Collect email addresses or phone numbers as attendees prefer, to be used to update spectators if an issue arises post-event.
- Communication Around Infection Issues:
 - Determine in advance what to do around issues of infection-related safety or security, including:
 - Isolating a participant or staff member with symptoms.
 - Whether your medic is comfortable administering care to a participant with symptoms.
 - Calling medical services if a participant has a potential emergency and limiting interaction.
 - How to address participants that refuse guidelines.
 - Offering additional masks or hand sanitizer to anyone at the event in need.

Post-Event Preparedness Evaluation

Keeping our community as safe and healthy as possible should be a primary goal for every WFTDA member and league. Following each event, we recommend that your bout production team discuss logistics and operations, to determine if there are improvements you can make to the next event.

Evaluation Checklist: Include these in your safety review.

- Were there any issues or emergencies? If so, how were they resolved?
- Was the layout of the event successful or problematic? Can you make adjustments for next time?
- Encourage a 3-5 day waiting period after the event before resuming practice to ensure there are no symptoms being reported by league members or participants.
- Consider sending an email to participants and spectators 1-2 days post-event to remind them of how to contact your league for contact tracing should they find out that they were exposed prior to attending.