



October 7, 2015

Dear President Aracu,

Thank you again for making the time to meet with us in Rome this past February. It was beneficial to discuss how the Women's Flat Track Derby Association (WFTDA) and the Fédération Internationale de Roller Sports (FIRS) may be able to collaborate, and to hear more about FIRS' desire to assume the governance and management of roller derby. In the months since, we have also become aware of communication between FIRS-affiliated national federations and our membership globally. The Board of Directors and I have reviewed your proposal with the WFTDA's membership, and we are writing to respond to your inquiry, and advise you of our position on FIRS and its federations with regard to roller derby.

The WFTDA is glad to see FIRS taking note of roller derby as a global sport, and acknowledging that roller derby has created incredible growth in roller skating participation globally. We know that our skaters support the same facilities, and have the same needs, as other roller skating disciplines. In the WFTDA, athlete and league autonomy is very important, and the WFTDA allows our membership to become involved with as many competitive pathways and organizations as they wish, including FIRS and its national federations. In some countries, the federation has offered the roller derby community of that nation support, such as facilities, travel funding or representation in their national bodies. Assuming they receive such support without yielding their independence or submitting to their governance, we encourage local leagues to work with the FIRS federation in their nation. We are eager to work with FIRS and other supportive partnering organizations to support roller derby's continued growth.

However, the WFTDA will not recognize FIRS as the international governing body of roller derby, nor will we cede the authority to govern and direct the future of roller derby to FIRS. The leagues and skaters that participate in the sport globally — including women's and men's roller derby, adult and junior derby — universally acknowledge the WFTDA as the dominant governing body for the sport. Since 2005, the WFTDA has published the rules and standards that govern the sport and has developed the credibility and expertise necessary to manage the sport, its rules and standards, and its competitions. The WFTDA will continue to create and maintain the rules, safety standards, officiating standards and — most importantly — a membership community. Additionally, the WFTDA will continue to serve as an independent, democratically managed, governing body for the sport.

We are aware that FIRS is organizing the event "The FIRS World Championship - Roller Games 2017" and wishes to feature roller derby. We support our member athletes and teams in pursuing competitive opportunities both within and outside of the WFTDA. We would like to see our sport presented well, and are aware that many competitors will be discouraged from participating if the event is not played under the WFTDA Rules of Flat Track Roller Derby. The WFTDA is willing to discuss offering technical assistance to FIRS for its Roller Games 2017, which may include licensed use of our Rules or other resources. If FIRS is interested in licensing our rules or other resources, or seeks technical assistance of this type, please let me know and we can discuss the details.

It has been our pleasure to speak with you and FIRS over recent months, and we are delighted to see that FIRS has taken a supportive interest in the modern roller derby movement as it flourishes and grows



worldwide. We look forward to working with FIRS and its federations on projects and issues that affect both our organizations.

Sincerely,
Juliana Gonzales, Executive Director
Amanda Hull, President
Amy Spears, Vice President
Michele K. Donnelly, Secretary
Heather Watson, Treasurer
Anna Krajcik, Ex Officio