



Women's Flat Track Derby Association signs and renews letters of collaboration with National Governing Bodies.

New collaboration with United Kingdom Roller Derby Association (UKRDA) and renewed collaboration with Roller Derby Deutschland (RDD) and Roller Derby Finland (RDF).

Austin, Texas. August 15, 2019: The Women's Flat Track Derby Association (WFTDA) and United Kingdom Roller Derby Association (UKRDA) have signed a letter of collaboration to join the letters signed in 2018 with Roller Derby Deutschland (RDD) and Roller Derby Finland (RDF). The letters of collaboration recognize the work of these National Governing Bodies (NGBs) to develop and promote the sport of flat track roller derby in their nations through activities such as advocacy, support for their member leagues for facility access and funding, legal and policy development, insurance, national competitive opportunities and selection and approval of the national team.

The WFTDA offers rules and games regulation for roller derby leagues worldwide and provides competitive pathways, tournaments and rankings to its global members; while the NGBs provide activities and support for roller derby in their nations, regardless of WFTDA affiliation.

The WFTDA pledges support to all leagues in these nations through this collaboration to:

- facilitate development and strengthen competitive pathways for roller derby teams and athletes worldwide;
- train, support, and certify roller derby Officials and support staff around the globe;
- increase international recognition of roller derby as a revolutionary, democratic, inclusive, athletic, and independently managed sport, in alignment with WFTDA values;
- respect and acknowledge the work of both the NGB and WFTDA at the local, state, national, and international levels, to help advance the sport of roller derby.

"The WFTDA is committed to working with our partner NGBs to create a coherent system of sports governance and membership, and to promote our shared values of democratic, athlete-focused, and inclusive programs and pathways for flat-track roller derby athletes around the world," said Karen Kuhn, WFTDA Senior Director of Programs. "Through collaboration with these partners, and developing formal relationships and infrastructure for NGBs around the world, the WFTDA hopes to share the good work happening both on the international and local level, and to ensure the success and longevity of both the WFTDA and local roller derby."

"As part of the UKRDA's role in promoting and supporting the development of roller derby in the United Kingdom, we have been keen to develop our relationship with the WFTDA and other NGBs, building formal relationships, sports governance understanding and structures," said Helen Northmore (dorkmistress), Director of External Engagement, UKRDA. "We believe that closer collaboration with the WFTDA will help the UKRDA better support our members to develop into strong, athletic leagues."

The WFTDA is committed to supporting national partners through collaboration and communication infrastructure, both between the WFTDA and NGBs, and among our partner NGBs. Work is also being done to collaborate on WFTDA's initiatives in areas such as competitive pathways, membership structures and code of conduct support and systems. The WFTDA is dedicated to creating plans for NGB collaboration and support, and continually assessing the regional development needs of the sport.

About the WFTDA:

The Women's Flat Track Derby Association (WFTDA) is the international governing body of flat track roller derby representing more than 460 member leagues on six continents. The mission of the WFTDA is to govern and promote the sport of flat track roller derby and revolutionize the role of women in sports through the collective voice of its member leagues around the world. The WFTDA sets the international standards for rankings, rules, and competition each year and provides guidance and resources to the sport of flat track derby.

About the UKRDA:

The United Kingdom Roller Derby Association (UKRDA) exists to lobby for and promote the sport of roller derby in the UK. We aim to help drive the growth, expertise and recognition of the sport, whilst supporting and encouraging our members to develop and grow individually into strong, athletic leagues.

<https://ukrda.org.uk/about/>

About RDD:

Mission: Regelung und Organisation des DRIV Spielbetriebs Roller Derby in Deutschland, erstellung und Pflege der Sportordnung Roller Derby, betreuung und Nominierung des Nationalteams, Ausbildung/Zertifizierung von TrainerInnen und SchiedsrichterInnen.

About RDF:

Kotimaisen roller derbyn kattojärjestö Roller Derby Finland ry. perustettiin syyskuussa 2012 edistämään derbyä valtakunnallisella ja kansainvälisellä tasolla. Vuoden 2015 alusta RDF toimii Suomen Luisteluliiton roller derby -valiokuntana. URL: <http://www.rollerderbyfinland.com/yhdistys/roller-derby-finland-ry/>