

# How to Protect Your League from Itself: A Discussion on Ethical Issues”

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# 6 Ethical Dilemmas Facing Roller Derby Leagues

1. Tainted Money
2. Privacy
3. Appearance of Impropriety
4. Stewardship
5. Honesty
6. Conflicts of Interest



# 1. Tainted Money

- Always consider where the money is coming from and whether there would be a conflict because of your mission.



## 2. Privacy

- Only keep the information that is necessary for your members, sponsors, partners, and donors
- Never get more than you need or use it for anything other than what you told donors you'd use it for



### 3. Appearance of Impropriety

- Just because it's not unlawful doesn't mean it's right. Be aware of certain situations that might be perceived the wrong way.



## 4. Stewardship

- Members, sponsors, partners, and donors want to know that you're using their funds for what you said you'd use them for
- Don't promise donors one thing and then turn around and use the funds for something else



## 5. Honesty and Transparency

- Responsibility to accurately portray the needs addressed by the work of the organisation and its overall impact
- Responsibility to accurately assess and analyze the organisational spending patterns.





## 6. Conflicts of Interest

- To maintain public trust and fiduciary obligations, organisations need detailed, unambiguous conflict of interest policies, including requirements that employees and board members disclose all financial interest in companies that may engage in transactions with the organization.



# To avoid ethical dilemmas...

- Have clearly articulated missions and value statements
- Be true to them
- Avoid situations with gifts that would force your organisation to compromise these values
- Develop a formal code of conduct



# To promote ethical decision-making

- Ensure effective codes of conduct and compliance programs
- Promote effective financial management
- Institutionalize an ethical culture



# Scenario 1:

- A skate company sponsors one athlete on your all-star team. The company also provides sponsorship money to your local derby organization. You receive an email from the skate company with a complaint about the sponsored athlete, suggesting your league's sponsorship may be at risk if the complaint isn't resolved to their liking. How do you respond?



## Scenario 2:

- Your derby organization has a President and Treasurer, each with different access to your bank accounts and accounting records. In addition, the captain of your all-star team has occasional access to the organization's bank debit/credit card for booking hotel rooms. Your derby organization does not have any financial policies or procedures documented. What needs to change?



## Scenario 3:

- Your league depends heavily on volunteers for many tasks and projects. One volunteer, an attorney, has performed services previously in a volunteer capacity. This time you receive a bill for the services. When you ask, the attorney says, "Oh, I can't afford to not bill for my time anymore. It's the economy, you know." How would you handle this bill?



# Open Floor Q & A

