

WFTDA EXPULSION AND SUSPENSION POLICY

Updated December 2017

PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

This document outlines:

- In-game management of Skater foul-outs and expulsions
- Expulsion-Suspension Form completion and suspension recommendation process for gameplay incidents at all WFTDA-sanctioned games
- The GRP review and appeals process for suspensions recommended for gameplay incidents at all WFTDA-sanctioned games
- The process for recommending suspensions for off-track incidents at WFTDA-sanctioned events
- Games requirements for serving and recording served expulsions

For the purpose of this document, WFTDA-sanctioned games include WFTDA-sanctioned, Strength Factor Challenge, and mock sanctioned games played at single- or multi-game events or tournaments.

For all regulation or other games, code of conduct requirements and procedures for managing expulsions and suspensions should be communicated to teams in advance of the event and outlined in the game or event contract.

The WFTDA Games Review Panel (GRP) handles reviews and appeals of infractions that occur during gameplay. The WFTDA Compliance Panel handles reviews and appeals of all incidents involving WFTDA-member and WFTDA Apprentice leagues outside of WFTDA-sanctioned gameplay. For any questions, you may contact grievance@wftda.com.

GAME EXPULSION AND SUSPENSION REQUESTS

Expulsions and Foul Out Management

If a Skater fouls out of or is expelled from a game, they must leave the immediate area of gameplay (the team benches and/or any space within the track and safety lane boundaries). They are allowed to return to their locker room (or in the absence of a locker room, changing/staging area) to remove their gear and may remain in areas open to spectators. Further interference in the game is prohibited and should be considered highly unsporting. "Interference" is considered any participation in the game beyond that expected from a spectator.

Expulsion-Suspension Form Completion

If an expulsion occurs, after the game:

- The *Expulsion-Suspension Form* from the *WFTDA StatsBook* must be completed and signed by all required parties.
 - For information on how to complete the Expulsion-Suspension Form, please review the *WFTDA StatsBook Manual*.

- If an action or incident is considered to be severe, reckless, or egregious, a suspension may be recommended by any of the signatories with the option to recommend a suspension.
- The expulsion and any suspension request noted on the signed *Interleague Game Review Form (IGRF)*.
- Both forms must be returned to WFTDA Sanctioning by the deadlines listed in the *WFTDA Sanctioning Policy*.

Suspension Recommendations and Enforcement

If one of the signatories recommends a suspension, review of the request depends on where the game is being played and if the team has additional games to play in the event.

In addition, any of the individuals listed as signatories on the Expulsion-Suspension Form may request a review of an action that did not result in expulsion or of a reckless or egregious action, or of an incident that takes place at the end of a game when little or no penalty time can be served. In this case, the action may be reviewed in the same manner as an expulsion that resulted in a suspension recommendation.

During a WFTDA Playoffs or Championships game when the team has additional games to play:

If any party signing the Expulsion-Suspension Form recommends a suspension, all parties signing the form will meet to discuss the infraction and vote to determine whether the suspension recommendation is valid and a suspension should be served by the individual. The GTO will schedule the meeting and will act as moderator.

Each of the following people has one vote in the meeting:

- Team Captain of expelled Skater or, in the case where the Captain is the expelled Skater, the Designated Alternate
- Opposing team Captain
- CHR
- THR
- GTO

If the majority determines that a suspension is not warranted, the GTO must send the completed IGRF and *Expulsion-Suspension Forms* and a brief summary of the meeting, including vote results, to WFTDA Sanctioning. WFTDA Sanctioning will forward the information to the GRP for review and filing of the forms. No further action will be taken by WFTDA Sanctioning or the GRP.

Should any party wish to appeal the decision after the tournament, see the *“GRP Review and Appeals”* section of this document.

If the majority determines that a suspension is warranted, a one (1) game suspension may be enforced during the tournament. If a suspension recommendation is for more than one (1) game, only one (1) game will be served during the tournament and any additional game(s) will be subject to GRP review and enforced by the GRP outside of the tournament.

In the case of an infraction which the GTO believes is serious enough to warrant an immediate and harsher penalty (because it is excessively forceful or dangerous, or threatens the health, safety, or

well-being of another participant), the GTO will have the power to upgrade the suspension after communicating with the GRP.

The GTO must send the completed *IGRF* and Expulsion-Suspension Form and a brief summary of the meeting, including vote results and the reasoning behind the suspension decision, to WFTDA Sanctioning and the GRP for review.

See the “*Games Requirements for Suspensions*” section of this document for information on serving suspensions.

Should any party wish to appeal the decision after the tournament, see the “*GRP Review and Appeals*” section of this document.

During WFTDA Playoffs or Championships when the team has no additional games to play, or in any other WFTDA-sanctioned game:

If a suspension recommendation is made on the form, the responsible party should send the completed *IGRF* and *Expulsion-Suspension Form* to WFTDA Sanctioning and the GRP. No suspension meeting is needed. The GRP will review the incident per the process outlined in the *WFTDA Grievance Policy* to determine if the incident warrants a suspension and will manage the process moving forward.

GRP REVIEW AND APPEALS

The GRP will review all reports and supporting material provided by the GTO or responsible sanctioning party.

In the case of a suspension recommendation, or a multiple game suspension recommendation at a WFTDA Playoff or Championships tournament for which only one game was served, if the suspended individual chooses to appeal a suspension recommendation, they must submit a request in writing within two weeks of the game in which the suspension was recommended to have it reviewed.

If a suspension is not appealed within two weeks from the date of the game in which it occurred, it will be considered uncontested.

If a party feels that a suspension was issued in error or wishes to contest a non-suspension vote and appeal for a suspension, they would need to file a new grievance. The request and evidence should be sent to the GRP as per the *WFTDA Grievance Policy*.

For more information on submission requirements and the GRP and the review process, see the *WFTDA Grievance Policy*.

INCIDENTS OUTSIDE OF GAME PLAY

Off-the-track incidents that involve any Skater, Official, coach or other WFTDA member may be reviewable for suspension.

Off-track incidents may include (but are not limited to):

- Destruction of venue or event production property
- Illegal behavior at the tournament venue

- Behavior that damages the public image of the WFTDA
- Bullying, harassment or other code of conduct violations

At WFTDA Playoffs or Championships, the on-site Board of Director representative providing oversight is responsible for handling these incidents and collecting statements from involved parties. If there is a suspension recommendation for an infraction outside of gameplay, the Board of Director representative will moderate a suspension review meeting and vote (if necessary) between the two parties and responsible managers and/or oversight as deemed necessary.

At any other event, the host league event managers retain the right to review off-track incidents and to enforce the event's code of conduct via game suspension or expulsion from their event. It is recommended that WFTDA Compliance be notified of any enforced penalties against WFTDA members.

GAMES REQUIREMENTS FOR SUSPENSIONS

This section outlines the Games requirements for serving suspensions. Any individual required to serve a suspension must follow the instructions provided by WFTDA Grievance when the suspension is mandated.

Individual Responsibility

The individual suspended is responsible for serving the suspension. Failure to comply with issued suspensions may result in a more severe penalty.

A suspended individual may not participate in any way in a game during which their suspension is being served, including, but not limited to, bench coaching, officiating or other kinds of non-skating game participation.

Suspension Timing

Suspensions will be served during the next appropriate scheduled sanctioned game(s) per the suspension requirements listed above.

In a WFTDA Playoffs or Championships tournament, if a Skater suspension is decided after the team has submitted its next roster with the suspended Skater included, the team has up to 30 minutes following the conclusion of the meeting to identify a replacement from their approved charter.

Suspension Tracking

The team must contact the GRP prior to a game in which the suspension is being served to indicate the Skater is serving the suspension. After the game, this should be noted on the completed *IGRF*.

POLICY AMENDMENTS

December 1, 2017

Removed requirement for expelled Skaters to leave the game area. Added unsporting behavior penalty for expelled or fouled-out Skaters who interfere with game play.