

# WFTDA RULES BETA TESTING PROGRAM

Re-examining Initiation – December 2015 - March 2016

## PROPOSED CHANGE

This proposed rule change examines our understanding of initiation in scenarios where a Skater commits an illegal block forcing another Skater to commit an illegal block.

## PROPOSED RULES REVISION

Content to be removed from the rules appears in red strikethrough text. Content to be added appears in blue text.

- 4.1.2 The Skater who initiates contact to an opponent is considered the initiator of a block. The initiator of a block is always responsible for the legality of their contact.
  - ~~4.1.2.1 All contact between opponents has an initiator.~~
  - 4.1.2.1 If a prior illegal block by an opponent causes a Skater to make unintentional and unavoidable contact to another or the same opponent, that Skater will not be considered the initiator and will not be penalized even if the accidental block is illegal.
  - 4.1.2.2 It is possible for both Skaters to be considered initiators.

## TEST EXECUTION

The above rule change will be executed in at least 4 game-quality scrimmages and/or games with at least 3 Referees and enough NSOs to complete required WFTDA StatsBook pages (pink tabs). These scrimmages or games can be conducted as intraleague or interleague games and can be played by women only, men only or coed.

Skaters should be encouraged to try to “break and bend” the proposed rules while playing within them (i.e., find an advantage that could be seen as unfair). Feel free to come up with additional scenarios that help illustrate concepts of how the changes could affect game play and strategy. Think of these as your starting points. Be sure to document all ideas during scrimmage to help you remember later.

**At the end of each beta testing scrimmage/game, please:**

1. Discuss with Skaters, Officials and audience members (if public) as soon as possible, preferably within one day of the scrimmage.
2. Have participating Skaters, Officials and audience members complete the survey within three days of the date of the beta testing scrimmage.
3. During the 2-4 month period you are testing the rules change, email [rulesbetatest@wftda.com](mailto:rulesbetatest@wftda.com) with pertinent discussions and thoughts occurring within your league. When you receive a response, please post it for your league so that we can create a dialogue about the proposed change and make any adjustments as needed.

## **PARTICIPATION CREDIT**

WFTDA member leagues participating as Official Rules Beta Test Leagues for this round of beta testing will receive WFTDA Membership participation credit for the period of one (1) year (December 2015-November 2016) if the following tasks are completed:

1. The league submits survey feedback and WFTDA StatsBooks for the minimum of 4 games/ scrimmages in the beta testing period.
2. The league is responsive to Rules Committee correspondence during the beta testing period.

Should a league fail to complete these tasks for the full beta testing period, WFTDA Games may rescind participation credit for the full year.

## **CONTACT US**

For questions/comments/concerns please contact:

Whacks Poetic, Rules Committee Chair  
[rulesbetatest@wftda.com](mailto:rulesbetatest@wftda.com)