

Gallatin Roller Girlz Referee Policies

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Gallatin Roller Girlz Mission Statement and Overview

Mission Statement

Our mission is to empower individuals through the sport of roller derby. Women 18+ are invited as league skaters, referees and non-skating officials. Men 18+ are given equal opportunity to participate in the league through both skating and non-skating officiating opportunities.

Overview

Formed in spring of 2011, Gallatin Roller Girlz is an Amateur Sports Organization that fosters national sports competition through the development of amateur athletes for national competition in roller derby. Through intensive training, competitive activities, and community involvement, the Gallatin Roller Girlz strive to embody specific core values, including hard work, motivation, perseverance, respect for cultural diversity, and continuous personal development. Our members are proud to be positive role models for young people by displaying a good sense of sportsmanship, personal integrity, and ethical conduct and look forward to continued growth regionally and nationally.

Gallatin Roller Girlz Referee Mission Statement

The officials of the Gallatin Roller Girlz strive at all times to provide a stabilizing influence over the games we officiate and the practices in which we participate. We strive to blend into the background but exert firm, impartial, and professional influence in order to keep play fair, enjoyable, and safe for all participants and spectators while upholding the rules and regulations of the Women's Flat Track Derby Association (WFTDA). We work diligently to improve our skills on the track and our knowledge of the rules of roller derby. We display a professional and courteous attitude to all skaters, coaches, support staff, non-skating officials, and spectators.

Requirements for Referee Eligibility

These requirements shall be necessary and sufficient to *train* to become a GRG referee. Meeting these requirements is not sufficient for membership in the Referee Committee or eligibility to officiate a game. Team skaters are welcome to train to be referees in addition to team skaters; they must meet the same eligibility requirements for committee membership and game participation as dedicated referees.

GRG Membership Packet

All GRG skaters, including referees, must sign the GRG Code of Conduct contained in the membership packet before they will be allowed to practice on skates. All referees must also provide the league with personal and medical information as laid out in the membership packet.

By signing the GRG membership packet, referees and potential referees agree to:

1. Encourage & compliment all participants on their efforts, promoting positivity and fostering an environment conducive to learning.
2. Be consistent, objective, and courteous in calling all infractions
3. Condemn unsporting behavior and promote respect for all participants

4. Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to events.
5. Ensure that YOUR behavior is consistent with the principles of good sporting behavior. Actions speak louder than words.
6. Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound officiating principles.

WFTDA Officials Code of Conduct and Confidentiality Clause

All potential referees agree to abide by the WFTDA Officials Code of Conduct (available online at <http://wftda.com/officiating/wftda-officiating-code-of-conduct.pdf>).

In addition, all referees agree that details about GRG coaching, practices, game strategy, or other team dynamics are strictly confidential and are not to be shared with anyone outside of the GRG organization. Failure to abide by this agreement could result in removal from the officiating staff.

WFTDA Insurance

WFTDA insurance is mandatory after two practices on skates and must be renewed annually. Sign up for WFTDA insurance at <https://wftda.com/insurance/purchase>. Any questions can be addressed at a GRG practice or via email to gallatinrollergirlzmembership@gmail.com. You will need to provide your insurance number to GRG. This number can also be looked up at any time using the WFTDA Insurance lookup at <http://wftda.com/insurance/verify-coverage>.

Attendance

Referee must maintain a minimum 25% active attendance (either on skates or actively assisting) rate in each four-week period in order to remain a GRG affiliated referee (see “Attendance” for additional information).

Dues

Referees are required to pay Dues and Fees (currently \$10 per month) within the first seven (7) days of the month in which they fall due. Persistent failure to pay in a timely fashion may result in membership being suspended or revoked.

Dues will be deposited into a restricted account and disbursed at the recommendation of the Referee Committee.

Ability

All skaters interested in becoming GRG referees must first participate in a Fresh Meat Camp and pass the Snowflake test (both skating and written portions). They are then eligible to become Snowflake Referees. See Training Committee documents and policies for further information.

GRG Referee Standards

The GRG referees adhere to the standards of the Women’s Flat Track Derby Association as published in the officiating and training documents available online at <http://wftda.com/officiating>.

Referee Committee

The Referee Committee makes decisions about referee development and organization. The committee writes and administers referee tests, plans and leads Rules Nights, helps train Fresh Meat, and helps officiate GRG games. The committee includes at least one rostered team skater and the Head NSO.

Membership

Voting membership in the Referee Committee is mandatory for and limited to all active, dues-paying Shadow Referees and Full Referees (see “Training” for definitions). Voting membership is also extended as a courtesy to one rostered team skater and the Head NSO (who are not required to participate in referee-specific committee duties). Snowflake Referees are strongly encouraged to attend and participate in Referee Committee meetings, which are held at the discretion of the Committee. The Referee Committee communicates primarily using the private Facebook group “GRG Referees Only.”

Committee Duties

- ❑ Coaching: Members of the Referee Committee are strongly encouraged to coach at least one referee practice per month. Leading practice will include directing drills and coordinating with the team coach to facilitate team practice. Members are also encouraged to sign up to co-coach Fresh Meat or Team Practices in tandem with a team skater, but not to the exclusion of leading referee practices.
- ❑ Fresh Meat Training: Members of the Referee Committee will assist in Fresh Meat Training Camps at the discretion of and in coordination with the Fresh Meat coaches.
- ❑ Games: Members of the Referee Committee may be eligible to officiate at GRG home and away games. See “Game Eligibility” for further details.
- ❑ Dues: The Referee Committee is responsible for deciding how to use funds collected through GRG Referee dues. Dues could be used to help supplement visiting referee gas money, help defray the cost of uniforms or training, or other expenditures that support the mission statement of the GRG referees.

Electing the Committee Head

The Committee Head (also referred to generally as the GRG Head Referee) shall be elected by a blind majority vote of active, rostered team skaters at the beginning of the winter hiatus. Only Full Referees are eligible to be elected as Committee Head. The hiatus period and beginning of the new year will be considered a transition period. The position will transfer to the newly elected Committee Head on February 1.

In the event that the elected committee head is unable to complete his or her duties or must leave before the end of his or her term, an emergency election will be held to replace him or her. The committee head so elected will complete the remainder of the original term.

Committee Head Duties

The GRG Committee Head is distinct from the Head Referee of any individual game and the position does not guarantee being chosen to be the Head Referee of any game (the Committee Head may not even be eligible to be Head Ref). Responsibilities of the Committee Head include:

- ❑ Calling, planning, and leading meetings of the Referee Committee.

- Keeping track of each referee and potential referee's training progression, attendance record, and other eligibility requirements.
- Coordinating officials for home games, including determining eligibility for GRG referees, soliciting and communicating with visiting referees, and coordinating with Head NSO and Head Referee.
- Coordinating GRG officials for away games, including determining eligibility for GRG referees and communicating and coordinating with Head Referee.
- Facilitating selection of Head Referees for home games (see "Game Eligibility" for further information).
- Planning and facilitating referee skills testing in tandem with the Training Committee (see "Skills Testing" for further information).
- Providing copies of and grading written portion of the referee skills test.
- Compiling and sharing scores of both the written and skating portions of referee skills test.
- Facilitating the election of the next Committee Head.

Any of these duties may be delegated to another member of the Referee Committee.

Training Levels

Referees at all levels participate in all technical, endurance, and non-contact drills during regular GRG practices on Monday and Thursday nights. Additionally, they provide support for scrimmages and mock jams held during regular practices. Members of the Referee Committee are responsible for directing training when the team is conducting contact-based drills (referees are encouraged to participate in contact drills if they are interested and comfortable).

Snowflake Referees

Snowflake Referees are defined as skaters who have indicated an interest in becoming GRG referees and have begun training, including participating with referees and scheduled practices. Snowflake Referees must have passed their Snowflake Skills test.

Snowflake Referees are welcome to become members of the GRG Referee Facebook group and participate in discussions and meetings of the Referee Committee, but they are not eligible to vote on Committee decisions. They must have a strong commitment to learning the rules of roller derby.

Snowflake Referees become eligible to graduate to Shadow Referee status when they have met the following criteria:

- Passed both the skating and written portions of the Referee Skills test at the 70% level for the written test and 80% level for the skating test.
- Worked as an NSO for at least two games in the past year, at least one of which is a GRG home game.

After meeting these criteria, Snowflake Referees graduate to Shadow Referee status when they have shadowed an experienced referee in at least one game, either at home or away, for any team.

Shadow Referees

Shadow Referees are voting members of the Referee Committee, with all of the requirements entailed therein (see “Referee Committee” section). Shadow Referees have passed both the skating and written portions of the Referee Skills test and have shadowed an experienced referee in at least one game, either at home or away, for any team.

Shadow Referees become eligible to graduate to Full Referee status when they have met the following criteria:

- Passed both the skating and written portions of the Referee Skills test at the 90% level for the written test and 80% level for the skating test. Additionally, referees *must* be able to complete ten (10) laps in less than one minute and fifty seconds (1:50).
- Shadowed an experienced referee in at least two games, one of which must be a GRG home game. If shadowing an away game, the referee must request feedback from the Head Referee and the referee they shadowed. This feedback should be sent to the Head of the Referee Committee.

After meeting these criteria, Shadow Referees graduate to Full Referee status after they have officiated in a formal scrimmage (either home or away, including GRG intraleague games).

Full Referees

Full Referees are voting members of the Referee Committee, with all of the requirements entailed therein (see “Referee Committee” section). Full Referees have passed both the skating and written portions of the Referee Skills test at the higher level and have shadowed an experienced referee in at least two games, one of which must be a GRG home game.

Full Referees are encouraged to request feedback from the Head Referee, particularly at away games or when the Head Referee is visiting (see Appendix B for feedback form).

To maintain Full Referee status, skaters must officiate at least three (3) games per year, at least two (2) of which must be GRG games.

Only Full Referees are eligible for the position of Committee Head or Head Referee for a specific game. To be eligible to be a Head Referee, Full Referees must officiate a minimum of ten games, at least five of which are GRG home games.

Outside Training

Referees at all levels are encouraged but not required to participate in outside training opportunities. Outside training opportunities will not be eligible for attendance credit.

Skills Testing

Written Test

The written test can be taken at any practice. The test-taker must provide the Committee Head with at least 48 hours advance notice. The test will consist of a set of written questions and a set of hand signals, to be administered by a member of the Committee who is not being tested. The written test must be approved by the training committee.

Test-takers must pass the written portion of the test with 80% correct to graduate from Snowflake to Shadow Referee status and 90% to graduate from Shadow to Full Referee status.

Skating Test

On-skates testing will be conducted at the discretion of the training committee in cooperation with the Referee Committee. Referees will be given advanced notice of testing nights, which will be conducted at least twice per year. The skating portion of the test is derived from the most current version WFTDA Referee Skating Skills Assessment.

Tests may not be taken in portions. The most current testing score stands as the official score. All referees will be judged by a panel of no fewer than three team assessors. The assessors must be team skaters at the Black Diamond skill level or at the referees at the full referee level, selected by the training committee.

Annual Testing

Referees must retake the written test at the beginning of every calendar year and pass with 80% (for Shadow Referees) or 90% (for Full Referees).

Game Eligibility

Uniforms

Referees participating in games must be attired in accordance with the WFTDA Officials Dress Code, available online at <http://wftda.com/officiating/wftda-officials-dress-code.pdf>.

Selecting a Head Referee for Home Games

The Head Referees for GRG home games shall be elected by a blind majority vote of active team skaters. Only active, dues-paying Full Referees who have officiated in at least ten (10) games (at least five of which are GRG home games) will be eligible to be elected as Head Referee. Visiting referees deemed eligible by the Ref Committee will also be included in the vote.

The Committee Head will solicit interest from experienced local referees and eligible Full Referees no less than two (2) months prior to the start of the GRG home season. Voting for Head Referees will occur no less than one (1) month prior to the first GRG home game.

Eligibility to Officiate Home Games

Referees and shadow referees for home games are selected solely at the discretion of the Head Referee. In order to be eligible for selection, referees must be active, dues-paying Full or Shadow Referees (respectively) and must make their interest and availability known to the Head Referee (or to the Committee Head if no Head Referee has been chosen yet) at least one (1) month in advance of the home game. Shadow Referees must make their interest in shadowing and availability known to the Head Referee at least one (1) month in advance of the home game.

Selected referees agree to maintain a minimum on-skates attendance rate of 50% for practices in the four-week period and 66% for practices in the two-week period prior to a home game. They also agree to be present and on skates for at least one (1) full practice (either Monday or Thursday) and are strongly encouraged to attend both team practices in the week prior to the game. Referees who fail to meet these obligations will not be eligible to officiate the next home game for which they otherwise would have been available.

Eligibility to Officiate Away Games

Referees and shadow referees for away games are selected solely at the discretion of the Head Referee. In order to be eligible for selection, referees must be active, dues-paying Full or Shadow Referees (respectively) and must make their interest and availability known when that information is solicited.

Selected referees agree to maintain a minimum 50% on-skates attendance rate for practices in the four-week period prior to an away game. They also agree to be present and on skates for at least one (1) full practice (either Monday or Thursday) and are strongly encouraged to attend both team practices in the week prior to the game. Referees who fail to meet these obligations will not be eligible to officiate the next home game for which they otherwise would have been available.

Eligibility to Officiate Non-GRG Games

Referees at all levels have the option to officiate a non-GRG game in any capacity (NSO, shadow, referee) at the sole discretion of that game's Head Referee. Referees must inform the Committee Head of their participation so that training credit can be awarded. No attendance credit will be given for non-GRG games.

Exceptions

Referees who are ineligible to officiate based on their attendance record may become eligible to officiate in cases where sufficient referees cannot be found by a majority vote of the Referee Committee.

Ineligible Referees

Referees who are ineligible or not chosen to officiate or shadow a GRG game are strongly encouraged to participate as non-skating officials (NSOs). Extra attendance credit will be granted for NSO participation, but not for other forms of service.

Home Game Responsibilities

Head Referee

The Head Referee is the ultimate authority in the game. The Head Referee will assign positions and duties to the other referees and non-skating officials (WFTDA Rules 9.1.2). The Head Referee is also responsible for setting the game-day timeline and coordinating the the League's Bout Executioner.

Other Referees

Referees who have been selected to officiate a home game are strongly encouraged to participate in setting up the venue. They are responsible for following the game-day timeline provided by the Head Referee.

Attendance

Each referee is responsible for recording his or her starting and ending attendance times at each practice. All start and end times must be rounded to the nearest half hour after participation began.

Attendance is calculated by averaging practices based on a 4-week rolling period, with the most recent practice replacing the least recent. Attendance credit will awarded in full for game-day participation as an NSO or as an official (but not for other volunteer positions) at the rate of eight (8) hours of attendance credit per game.

Only scheduled practices will count toward attendance, and partial attendance credit will be given at a rate proportional to the amount of active participation (includes on-skates practice or off-skates coaching or team assistance, but not off-skates observation). That is, a referee active for two hours of a three-hour practice will receive 66% credit for that practice. Off-skates observation will be credited at half.

Extra Credit

Extra credit in the form of additional hours of attendance credit is given when a referee attends a referee training session or skates at another team's practice. The referee must provide the Committee Head with signed documentation from the visited team to confirm participation. Credit will be assigned at the same rate as for a GRG practice or game (i.e., eight hours (8) for a full day of training and on an hour-by-hour basis for all other events).

Referees will not receive any attendance credit for officiating a non-GRG game (either on-skates as a referee or as an NSO). Non-GRG games will count toward graduation requirements for Shadow and Full Referee status (see "Training Levels" for additional information).

Extra credit will be sufficient to maintain the 33% attendance rate required to remain a GRG affiliated referee and the 50% attendance rates required in the four weeks prior to a home/away game. However, extra credit will NOT be sufficient to reach the 66% attendance requirement for practices in the two-week period prior to a home game.

Failure to Maintain Minimum Attendance

Referees who fail to maintain the 25% minimum attendance rate for more than 90 days (without filing a Leave of Absence or pregnancy exception) will lose their status and drop to next highest status. Referees will be required to retest (both written and skating skills) in order to regain their previous status.

Leave of Absence/Pregnancy

Leave of Absence Active Member (LOAAM)

A leave of absence can be taken any time a skater will not be able to meet minimum practice requirements for an extended period of time and would still like to be considered an "active member" (paying expected dues, following discussions on GRG Refs page, and attending one practice or outside event a month unless the leave of absence is due to travel).

Requirements for LOAAM include paying half dues or the first four months of leave to maintain their skating level. After four months, skaters will be required to pay dues in full (\$10) to maintain their prior skating status or continue to pay half dues and drop one level. After six

months skaters will be required to pay dues in full and will be required to retake both the written and skating portions of the ref test.

An active Leave of Absence may only be taken once every 18 months.

Failure to file a LOAAM Request

If a skater is absent without filing a LOAAM request or is not active (not paying or being on-skates at practices) for three months, the skater will be required to re-enter at fresh meat status. If a skater returns before the three months, he or she will be required to pay back dues to return to his or her previous level. If a skater does not meet these requirements he or she will re-enter by joining the next Fresh Meat Boot Camp.

Active Member Pregnancy/Severe Injury

Any referee who takes a leave of absence due to pregnancy or severe injury but may remain active by paying half dues and being involved in league events. Referees may remain active in this way for a maximum of 12 months. After 12 months, referees may file a LOAAM request if necessary.

On returning, referees must be reassessed in both the written and skating portions of the referee test and will be placed at the appropriate level after testing. Assessments can be taken upon request with two weeks' notice to both the Referee and Training Committees. Alternatively, Referees may choose to re-enter the league by joining the next Fresh Meat Boot Camp.

Transfers

Referees who have been actively involved with another team or league or who have been independent refs may join the GRG Referee Committee. They will be required to fulfill WFTDA and dues requirements after two practices. Referees are required to take the GRG Ref test after a minimum of four practices to be eligible to referee with GRG and will be placed at the appropriate level.