



# New Referee Information

## New Hampshire Roller Derby

### So, you want to be a referee?

*Men and women 21 and older can be referees for New Hampshire Roller Derby. They are a part of the league and are an essential part of the game.*

#### How do you play Roller Derby?

There are two teams of five players skating laps on an asymmetrical oval track. Each team has one scoring member called a jammer, three blockers, and one pivot on the track at one time. The blockers and Pivots form a skating pack. The pack starts skating at the first whistle, and then the jammers (who start behind the pack) start skating at the second whistle. The jammers then have to skate through the pack. The first one through the pack is called the lead jammer. Lead jammer is a strategic status that allows them to call of the jam early. Both jammers continue to sprint around the pack a second time and get through the pack again. On their second and future trips, they get a point for every opponent they pass. The blockers and pivot try to stop the other team's jammer from passing and help their team's jammer get through. The Jam goes on for 2 minutes or until the Lead Jammer calls it off.

#### What do I need to do as a referee?

There are many refs on the floor at a time. Two refs keep track of the jammers, several will be watching for penalties in the pack, one will be keeping score, a couple will be tracking who's going to the penalty box, one will be a penalty box time keeper and more. There is a lot going on on the track and you will be in the thick of it.

#### Do I need to know how to skate?

No. To start off, we do not require any previous skating experience, although if you have any, it is quite helpful. We will teach you how to skate, but there are also many off-skates positions that are needed, just in case you prefer shoes without wheels on them.

#### What if I get hurt?

Although it is unlikely, referees, like players, can get hurt. Players occasionally fly off the track and may take you out. This is why protective gear is required for all on-skates positions. We also train, stretch and practice falling to help reduce injuries and their severity. Primary insurance and secondary health insurance is required. This is not debatable. The primary insurance is that which most hold through their personal life and the secondary insurance is obtained through WFTDA (not needed for those off skates) We will give you all the info to acquire this insurance This will help cover any injuries you may sustain during practice if your primary insurance won't cover it. We require insurance to skate with the NHRD because we care about you.

## **How much of my time will it take up?**

Weekly practice is important if you are going to learn the skills required to be a referee. In addition, referees are welcome to participate in all fundraisers, and events.

When we are holding regular practices or benefits, we will give you advanced notice of when they are. This team is DIY and relies on its members to form and support the league. Your fellow referees will also rely on you to be involved in order to keep track of the game. You will miss out on important skills if you don't attend practices. We encourage people to spend any time with the league as they can, finding sponsors, working on promoting, getting press coverage, making documentaries... whatever! This league is ours; we built it from the ground up... so we determine what it is!

## **What equipment do I need?**

You will need a whistle, and a stopwatch. In addition, every on-skates referee will be required to wear a helmet, wrist guards, elbow pads, kneepads, and a pair of quad roller skates.

## **Open skate nights:**

Open skate night is highly recommended. NHRD attends these open skates the first Sunday of every month at Adult Skate Night at Roller Kingdom in Tyngsboro, MA from 7pm-9pm. This is a great way to meet us, get information and free skate. Admission is \$7. Rental skates and gear is available.

## **Purchasing gear:**

We have a sponsorship with Bruised Boutique and Eastern Boarder in Nashua, who will sell you protective equipment at a discounted price, as well as discounts on skates from several online retailers. Talk to your Local NHRD skater for more discounts! We will help you get into the right kind of skate for roller derby.

## **Ok I'm ready! What else do I need to know?**

We will teach you the rules of the game and how to enforce them. Information can also be found here:

A list of the rules: <http://www.wftda.com>

Referee Yahoo Groups: <http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/rollerderbyreferees/>

Our website [www.nhrollerderby.com](http://www.nhrollerderby.com) any other additional information:

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