

# WHY WFTDA?

Photo by Jules Doyle

The Women's Flat Track Derby Association (WFTDA) is the international governing body for the sport of women's flat track roller derby and a membership organization for leagues to collaborate and network. The WFTDA sets standards for rules, seasons, and safety, and determines guidelines for the international athletic competitions of member leagues.

I don't play this sport, I am this sport. And so is every other member of the WFTDA.  
— Grace Kilby

- WFTDA leagues benefit from an organized, **international** support network. The WFTDA provides a platform for leagues to share resources.
- The WFTDA enables international competition and organization without forcing leagues to lose their individual principles, providing structure with flexibility.
- Member leagues and their individual skaters ARE the WFTDA. By being a part of a member league, each skater has:
  - A say in the future of the sport. Operating under the "by the skaters, for the skaters" principle, member league representatives guide the WFTDA's direction.
  - A way to help design and define the rules. Anyone can play by WFTDA rules, but member leagues decide what those rules will be.
- Education, through the Apprentice Program, Officiating Clinics, officials Certification and more!
- Opportunities for tournament play. The WFTDA has upped the competition with seven tournaments in 2013. Members have the chance to help host and participate in these tournaments.
- Participation in international rankings. Comprehensive team rankings and statistics from every WFTDA-sanctioned bout are maintained within the WFTDA archives.
- Strength in numbers. As an association of nearly 200 member leagues and growing, the WFTDA offers sponsors and media access to a network of organized international leagues.
- Safeguarding the future of roller derby. WFTDA policies ensure that member leagues can protect the image and quality of the sport.

**WFTDA's mission is to promote and foster the sport of women's flat track roller derby by facilitating the development of athletic ability, sportswomanship, and goodwill among member leagues.**

