

VARSITY DERBY LEAGUE

Executive Reviews of Dangerous and Unsportsperson-like Behaviours By-Law

Purpose

Varsity Derby League encourages all members to pursue the highest standard of sportpersonship, particularly when they are involved in public bouts and scrimmages. This By-Law provides a mechanism for Varsity Derby League to review skaters' conduct where they receive expulsion or misconduct penalties, or where they foul out of a bout. These penalties are awarded for serious and/or repeated breaches of the rules of the sport, and relate to incidents put other players and the reputation of Varsity Derby League and the sport in general at risk. The purpose of this By-Law is to encourage a safe, fair and tolerant style of roller derby by reviewing these actions and finding a way to avoid them in the future. It is not intended as a mechanism for punishing players nor for changing the decisions made by referees or other officials during the bout or scrimmage. It does not change the way in which penalties are assessed or applied by referees or other officials during a bout.

Definitions

Bout Event: Refers to any public bout or scrimmage, including open scrimmages, home bouts, league representative team bouts and tournament bouts in which Varsity Derby League Skaters are playing. It does not include practice scrimmages at training.

Skater: For the purpose of this By-Law, 'Skaters' includes Varsity Derby League members who are participating in a Bout Event as players, coaching and team support staff, and referees and match officials.

Expulsion, Fouled Out, Misconduct Major, Suspension: These terms have the same meaning as in the WFTDA Standardized Flat Track Roller Derby Rules (see sections 7.5 and 6.15 in particular).

Executive Review Panel (the Panel): The panel of Varsity Derby League members and invited guests that conducts an Executive Review (as per Clauses 2, 3 and 4).

Executive Review (Review): The meeting at which a Skater who has been Expelled, Fouled Out or received a Misconduct Major discusses the penalty with the Executive Review Panel (as per Clauses 5, 6 and 7).

By-Law

1. Following any Bout Event in which one or more Varsity Derby League Skaters have Fouled Out or received an Expulsion or a Misconduct Major penalty, the League President (or her alternative) will form an Executive Review Panel.
2. The Executive Review Panel will be Chaired by the President (or her alternative). At a minimum, it will consist of three members of the Executive, the Varsity Derby League Head Coach (or an alternative member of Training Committee), and the Varsity Derby League Head Referee (or an alternative member of the Officials Committee).
3. In addition, the Chair may, at her discretion, invite any of the following to join the Panel for either a specific Review or for all Reviews for the Bout Event:
 - a. Any other members of the Executive, Training Committee or the Officials Committee;
 - b. The Captains (and/or their alternatives) and team coaches from the Bout Event in question;
 - c. The Bout Event Head Referee or other Bout Event Officials, including Bout Event Officials from other Leagues.
4. Skaters who are subject to an Executive Review are not eligible to sit on the Panel for that Bout Event.

5. As soon as practicable but no sooner than 24 hours after the Bout Event, the Panel will arrange for Skaters who Fouled Out or received an Expulsion or a Misconduct Major penalty to appear before the Panel for an Executive Review.
6. Each Skater is to appear individually, and all Reviews are closed meetings. Until the Skater has appeared before her Review, she shall not participate in any Bout Events.
7. The Review will involve the following steps in this order.
 - a. The Panel will outline nature of the penalty/ies.
 - b. The Skater and Panel will discuss the actions that lead to the penalty/ies.
 - c. The Skater and Panel will discuss possible steps that could be taken to avoid similar offences in the future.
 - d. The Panel will retire to discuss and consider the matter in private. The Panel decide on what action, if any, is to be taken in accordance with Clause 9, below.
 - e. Once they have come to a decision, the Chair will inform the Skater and any other relevant parties of the outcome as soon as practical.
 - f. The Chair will also make the outcome public to all League members. This can include through public, written announcements or by tabling the decision at an Executive Committee meeting.
8. In considering the matter, the Panel will take into account matters including, but not limited to:
 - a. Advice from the Bout Event Head Referee or other match Officials;
 - b. Any available footage or records of the Bout Event; and
 - c. If the Skater has previously been Fouled Out or received an Expulsion or a Misconduct Major penalty at Bout Events.
9. As part of its private deliberations, the Panel will decide on actions to be taken in response to the incident. Actions can be proposed by any member of the Panel, and are decided by a simple majority of Panel member votes, as determined by the Chair. The Panel can decide on multiple actions from each review, and actions can include activities for League members or the League administration beyond those for the Skater at the Review. Actions may include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Providing the Skater and/or League members with a warning about the penalty;
 - b. Recommending that the Skater and/or other members of the League are provided with additional training on particular skating skills, plays or rules;
 - c. Recommending that the Executive Committee put in place additional safety measures during sanctioned events;
 - d. Banning the Skater from selection as Team Captain and/or as coach and support staff for a set number of future Bout Event; and / or
 - e. Suspending the Skater from participating in a set number of future Bout Events.
10. The Panel will not Suspend Skaters except where: the incident is deemed to be very serious; the Skater has received Expulsions, Foul Outs or Misconduct Majors in multiple Bout Events; and/or the Skater shows no remorse for her actions or the impact of the incident on others.
 - a. In line with the WDFTA Standardized Rules 7.5.2.3, a Skater will not be Suspended for an insubordination penalty.
 - b. In line with the WDFTA Standardized Rules 7.5.3, the Chair will seek the signatures of the team Captains and the Bout Event Head Referee to formally record a Skater's suspension immediately following the Review. Until the Suspension is signed by these parties, the Chair will not publically announce the Suspension, but the Varsity Derby League Executive and Training Committee will not endorse that Skater's participation in Bout Events.
11. The decision of the Panel is final and its recommendations are binding on the Skater and Varsity Derby League Committees.
12. The Chair, with the support of the Executive Committee, Training Committee and Officials Committee, is responsible for ensuring that the recommendations of the Panel are followed through.

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