



OFFICIAL PRE-BOU T PROTOCOL

Officials shall conduct equipment checks and verify that each skater's arm and jersey numbers match and conform to the WFTDA standards set forth in the current version of the rules set. Additional checks shall occur as mandated by the most recent version of the safety protocol. All equipment checks and number verification shall include both teams. Officials are instructed to check that skaters' gear is in place and that it conforms to the safety standards set forth in the WFTDA rules set. The gear check is meant to ensure that skaters are wearing the correct gear and that it has not been modified after manufacture (except where noted as acceptable in the current rules set). Skaters understand that this gear check is meant only to ensure that their gear adheres to the WFTDA requirements. Referees are indemnified from equipment malfunction during the course of play. Skates are not considered part of the safety equipment and are the sole responsibility of the skater to maintain.

OFFICIALS SHALL CHECK:

The helmet: Using both hands, move the helmet from side to side and front to back to ensure there is not too much play. The helmet should not easily move side to side and should not tip forward over the eyes or backwards to expose the skater's forehead. Check the chin strap. It should allow for normal motion of the mouth and not impede breathing but should also be tight enough to help keep the helmet from sliding off forwards or backwards or coming completely off during play. The straps should form a short V under the ear, not a long V under the neck.

The presence of a mouth guard: Ask the skater to show her mouth guard not in her mouth and then to place it in her mouth to ensure it fits reasonably. While trimming of the mouth guard is allowed, it must be in one piece.

Elbow pads: Using both hands, check the pads for the presence of hard shells or inserts. A light tug up or down should show whether or not the pads are secure around the arms. Check to make sure the elbow pads are in place over the elbows, not worn too high or low on the arms. Look for long straps which may become entangled with other skaters' pads. These may be secured with tape at the refs' discretion if they are deemed to pose a hazard. Partially cracked protective shells shall be taped over. Fully cracked shells shall not be allowed.

Wrist guards: Ask the skater to show you her wrist guards palms up. Check for the presence of hard plastic shells or inserts. Dependent on the type of wrist guard, these may also be on the top of the wrist, bottom or both sides of the wrist. Either is acceptable. Check that the hard plastic shells are secure and that the fabric holding them in is in good repair. Look for long straps which may become entangled with other skaters' pads. These may be secured with tape at the refs' discretion if they are deemed to pose a hazard. Cracked protective shells should not be allowed.

Knee pads: Using both hands, check the pads for the presence of hard shells or inserts. A light tug up or down should show whether or not the pads are secure around the knees. Look for long straps which may become entangled with other skaters' pads. These may be secured with tape at the refs' discretion if they are deemed to pose a hazard. Partially cracked protective shells shall be taped over. Fully cracked shells shall not be allowed.

Skater jersey numbers and arm numbers: Officials shall check skater's arm and jersey numbers prior to the bout. Arm and jersey numbers must match each other and must conform to the WFTDA standard numbering system.

Optional protective gear: Referees shall visually check for the presence of other protective gear and be certain it conforms with the rules set.

Any other apparel hazards: Referees should check skaters for any jewelry, belts, safety pins or other items which fall outside the regulation safety gear and may pose a hazard to other skaters. Skaters may be required to remove, modify or otherwise alter any unsafe item at the sole discretion of the head referee.

If any of the above conditions are not met or the skaters' gear is deemed unsafe, referees may request it be repaired or replaced in order for the skater to participate in the bout, at their sole discretion. As with all other matters, the decision of the head referee is final.

