

## **August 5, 2021 email excerpt to all member leagues participating in Summer Invitational**

In light of the recent CDC updates on August 3rd, and in consultation with our Safety Department Chair, other youth sports organizations, and host site leagues around the country, the JRDA is announcing the following requirements for all locations at the 2021 JRDA Summer Invitational August 7th and 8th:

- social distancing of at least 3 feet for anyone not actively participating in a live game
- indoor masking for anyone not actively participating in a live game

(Active participants in a game are skaters, coaches, and officials. A live game includes warm ups, first and second halves of play, and halftime warm ups.)

Host site leagues may have additional, site-specific protocols that visiting leagues are expected to abide by. It is because of these protocols that we are able to hold these events, so we deeply appreciate everyone's cooperation and self-regulation.

Special thanks to the leadership of host site leagues, who have been proactive in working with the Safety Department to construct a safe path for our skaters. Thank you to Santa Cruz, Wasatch, No Coast, Kalamazoo and Columbia for their tireless efforts leading up to this weekend.

We are looking forward to seeing these junior players take the track!

On behalf of the JRDA Board of Directors and the JRDA Safety Department

## **July 29, 2021 email excerpt to all member leagues participating in Summer Invitational**

...We are keeping a close eye on the current viral load and will be determining soon if there needs to be any additional infection control strategies in place at our upcoming events.

At this time, there are no restrictions on travel placed on any of the teams planning to participate nor on any of the hosting locations. However, as recently as two weeks ago, Michigan required either proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test for indoor sports play without masks. With increasing cases throughout the country, there is the possibility that some local jurisdictions may enact similar restrictions. To ensure the ability for your team to participate fully should restrictions be reimposed, we would like to recommend a few measures.

1. If you are vaccinated, consider bringing a copy of your vaccination card or get a picture of it on your phone.
2. If you are not vaccinated, consider getting a COVID test within a week of travel.
3. Make sure you are packing enough masks in case mask requirements are imposed.

We will continue to analyze the risk and will communicate as soon as possible any changes in our recommendations for each event location.

JRDA Safety Department Chair

## **July 9, 2021 email excerpt to all member leagues participating in Summer Invitational**

We strongly encourage vaccinations for traveling skaters and their families. For those who cannot be vaccinated, we advise getting a rapid test the week before the event. Under no circumstances should anyone experiencing symptoms be participating, either as a skater or as a spectator.

## **April 30, 2021 email excerpt to all member leagues**

The JRDA Safety Department is conducting a new review of the current state of junior roller derby and the varied recoveries experienced in different parts of the country. Your insights will help your fellow member leagues chart their best paths moving forward.

Please fill out one survey per league:

Sanctioned play has been suspended for the remainder of the 2020-2021 season. Teams will not be penalized in any way for not playing sanctioned games this year. Rankings are suspended through at least the end of this season as well.

In the coming weeks, health and safety guidelines regarding youth sports and travel may allow teams practicing in different parts of the country to start playing interleague roller derby. JRDA members considering non-sanctioned play (scrimmages or games) should contact the JRDA Safety Department ([safety@juniorrollerderby.org](mailto:safety@juniorrollerderby.org)) at least three weeks ahead of time to discuss plans and geographically appropriate protocols.

## **April 28, 2021 email excerpt to all member leagues who indicated an interest in postseason play**

JRDA plans to host a series of interleague roller derby events in different parts of the country at the beginning of the competitive season next winter and spring.

The plan for this summer is to conduct a series of modest events, each with a few teams in different parts of the country. Teams would be scheduled for two games in a geographically appropriate location on a weekend in late July. If conditions allow, we may have a follow-up event in August, but we may not.

All health and safety guidelines regarding youth sports and travel, at both the federal and local levels, would be strictly enforced. Participating teams would need to demonstrate to JRDA that their skaters have been able to safely practice for several weeks before competing.

We are writing now to find out if your league is still interested in participating this summer, should conditions make the events possible. Please respond to this email no later than Friday, April 30th.

## **January 19, 2021 email excerpt to all member leagues**

### Return to Play Survey

We would like to sincerely thank everyone who participated in the Return to Play Survey. The responses have been instrumental in giving JRDA a sense of how different parts of the country are progressing.

If your league is experiencing reduced participation rates, this is completely normal and expected - most leagues are going through a similar slow period as we wait for things to return to normal. Participation rates among leagues who are meeting virtually or in-person are currently at about 30% of typical in-season numbers.

Just over 50% of survey respondents report that their leagues are practicing in some form, but of those the vast majority are practicing virtually, or via trail skates or socially distanced individual drills. Fewer than 15% are currently practicing with contact between athletes.

Leagues that are meeting in person have introduced several additional safety protocols. Over half are restricting their practices to athletes only (i.e., no parent spectators). 90% require masks for coaches and other volunteers, and 25% conduct athlete temperature checks on site. *If local authorities have decided that youth sports are allowable in your area,*

*please remember that you should still be taking sensible precautions to protect the health and safety of your athletes, families, and volunteers.*

Please contact Safety Department Chair Randal Foster at [safety@juniorrollerderby.org](mailto:safety@juniorrollerderby.org) if you have additional interest in the survey responses.

### Games, Rules and Safety Updates

The freeze on sanctioned gameplay will continue through at least March 15th, 2021. We will continue to monitor developments each week and will update member leagues as March 15th approaches with any changes.

Rankings have been suspended for at least the remainder of this season. No games played in 2020-2021 (including over the summer) will affect rankings in any way. We want leagues to make return to play decisions that best address their families' needs and the health guidance in their local areas without concern about how it may affect competitive standing.

### **November 21, 2020 email excerpt to all member leagues**

The JRDA Safety Department is conducting a review of the state of junior roller derby and how we have all been affected by COVID-19. Leagues in different parts of the country are experiencing the pandemic in very different ways, and we are hoping that your insights will help us chart the best possible path moving forward.

We are interested in all perspectives - athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, parents, community members. Please feel free to share this survey with anyone else from your league whose perspectives we should hear.

JRDA Safety Department Chair  
[safety@juniorrollerderby.org](mailto:safety@juniorrollerderby.org)

### **October 25, 2020 email excerpt to all member leagues**

These past few months have been very challenging for all of us in the junior roller derby community, but we are hoping as many leagues as possible will be able to return to play this season.

With rankings interrupted and leagues in different parts of the country returning to practice at different rates, we are rolling out a flexible plan to make postseason play accessible to as many leagues as possible.

For the 2020-2021 season, all Member Leagues at the National Level will be eligible for JRDA postseason / playoff events.

(The precise format of the postseason will depend on the number of leagues involved, so to reserve a spot leagues must have completed their registration and confirmed their interest in participating in a postseason no later than December 1st 2020.)

Remember that the Safety Department has published [Return to Play guidelines](#) and is available to consult with member leagues about any questions they may have.

Please reach out to the Membership Department and let us know how we can best support your league during this time. Feel free to send any questions, concerns or suggestions you may have to [membership@juniorrollerderby.org](mailto:membership@juniorrollerderby.org).

### **July 11, 2020 email excerpt to all member leagues**

Postseason 2019-2020 and Upcoming Season 2020-2021

JRDA will not be hosting postseason roller derby events in 2020. With junior roller derby continuing to endure an extended pause, a return to high-level postseason play in the next several weeks is not feasible. As we continue to navigate the growing complexities of this global pandemic, both as a sport and as a greater community, we maintain cautious hopes for a safe and healthy return to junior roller derby in the upcoming season.

A careful and responsible resumption of sport will look very different across the US in the weeks and months ahead; there are inequities inherent in the pandemic's uneven progression. The Board of Directors will continue working closely with the Safety Department, the Games Department, the Events Department, and others, to examine JRDA's approach to sanctioning, rankings, the postseason and more. Ensuring that all of our athletes have fair access to everything our sport and organization have to offer will be our top priority in the coming season.

## **June 10, 2020 email excerpt to all member leagues**

The JRDA Board of Directors continues to meet on a regular basis to monitor the evolving COVID-19 pandemic. As parts of the country carefully reopen, we are beginning to consider the safe and healthy return of junior roller derby. In collaboration with medical professionals and leadership of other youth sports organizations and roller derby organizations, the JRDA Safety Department has prepared Return to Play guidelines for leagues considering a return to the track.

<https://tinyurl.com/JRDAReturnToPlay>

As previously announced, JRDA World Cup has been postponed to August 2021 in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, with the same athletes that had already been selected for their respective countries' rosters. The subsequent JRDA World Cup will be held in 2023.

JRDA Championships will not be held in Kalamazoo, Michigan in July. The Board of Directors continues to assess the viability of alternative, smaller-scale event possibilities several months from now, in the fall. It is not known at this time if any of them will be feasible or what forms they could take, but it would not be "JRDA Championships" as we know it. As we collect data from around the country, we hope to have more information within a month.

To protect leagues not in a position to safely return to roller derby this summer or fall, no games played as any part of a 2020 JRDA postseason event would contribute towards rankings. Any games played would be completely invisible from a statistical standpoint.

If your league has perspectives or questions that you'd care to share, please email your thoughts to:

[covid-19@juniorrollerderby.org](mailto:covid-19@juniorrollerderby.org)

The JRDA COVID-19 communications / resources page is updated [here](#).

Your Regional Coordinators welcome your questions as well:

Northwest - CP Scott / Guilty MacKilty  
Southwest - Shana Kerr / Ima Hotmess  
Midwest - Andrea McKown / 5 ft Assassin  
Northeast - Amie Buzby / Blizzard  
Southeast - Sheryl Noll / Lucinda Knickers

## **May 1, 2020 email excerpt to all member leagues**

The Board of Directors has met regularly throughout the month of April to assess the evolving COVID-19 pandemic and the implications for our sport and community. Guided by the direction of governmental and public health authorities, and in consultation with medical professionals, leadership of other roller derby organizations and youth sports associations, and JRDA Regional Coordinators representing different localities each experiencing this pandemic in distinct ways, JRDA has made the following difficult decisions:

The freeze on JRDA sanctioned play is extended through the month of May (March 15 - May 31). No JRDA sanctioned games will be played during this pause. We strongly encourage leagues to support these efforts by refraining from playing non-sanctioned games or interleague scrimmages during this time as well. Leagues should follow local guidance regarding the feasibility of gradually and safely returning to practice in the weeks ahead.

JRDA Championships will not be held in Kalamazoo, Michigan the weekend of July 24-26. Because of the significant public health uncertainties that are likely to persist through the coming weeks, it will not be possible to proceed with JRDA Championships in July as originally envisioned. However, the Board of Directors is now actively exploring alternative dates, locations, and logistics for a replacement event to possibly be held sometime between the months of August - October. It is not known at this time if this will be feasible or what form that event could take, but we are working very hard to assess all options.

Please note, that to protect those leagues which are not in a position to safely return to roller derby this summer and fall, the Games Department has determined that no games played as any part of a 2020 JRDA postseason event will contribute towards rankings.

JRDA World Cup will be postponed to August 2021 in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, with the same athletes that had already been selected for their respective countries' rosters. The subsequent JRDA World Cup will be held in 2023.

We continue to monitor developments daily and will be issuing additional guidance in the coming weeks with regards to summer gameplay, rankings, and JRDA Championships.

If your league has perspectives or questions that you'd care to share, please email your thoughts to:

[covid-19@juniorrollerderby.org](mailto:covid-19@juniorrollerderby.org)

The JRDA COVID-19 communications / resources page is updated [here](#).

Your Regional Coordinators welcome your questions as well:

Northwest - CP Scott / Guilty MacKilty  
Southwest - Shana Kerr / Ima Hotmess  
Midwest - Andrea McKown / 5 ft Assassin  
Northeast - Amie Buzby / Blizzard  
Southeast - Sheryl Noll / Lucinda Knickers

## **April 1, 2020 email excerpt to all member leagues**

As we continue to adjust to the new normal of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board of Directors has met regularly to discuss the implications for our sport and has some new guidance:

The Board of Directors is extending the freeze on JRDA sanctioned play through the end of April (March 15 - April 30). We strongly encourage leagues to support these efforts by refraining from hosting practices or non-sanctioned games or scrimmages during this time as well.

We continue to monitor developments daily and are actively discussing prospects for May gameplay, and the subsequent viability of 2020 JRDA Championships (July in Michigan) and 2020 JRDA World Cup (August in Saskatchewan, Canada).

If your league has perspectives or questions that you'd care to share, please email your thoughts to:

[covid-19@juniorrollerderby.org](mailto:covid-19@juniorrollerderby.org)

The JRDA COVID-19 communications / resources page is updated [here](#).

Regional Coordinators resources:

Northwest - CP Scott / Guilty MacKilty

Southwest - Shana Kerr / Ima Hotmess

Midwest - Andrea McKown / 5 ft Assassin

Northeast - Amie Buzby / Blizzard

Southeast - Sheryl Noll / Lucinda Knickers

### **March 15, 2020 email excerpt to all member leagues**

In light of the latest guidance from government and health officials regarding COVID-19, the JRDA Board of Directors met throughout the weekend and has made the following determinations:

No JRDA sanctioned games will be played for at least one month (March 15 - April 15). A decision to extend this pause beyond April 15th will be made no later than April 5th, with regular reevaluations made thereafter.

Leagues are strongly discouraged from hosting practices or non-sanctioned games or scrimmages while this pause is in effect.

Scheduled sanctioned games that are canceled for these reasons will not be assessed forfeit penalties. Affected teams will receive sanctioning credit for canceled games as appropriate.

No new sanctioning requests will be approved until JRDA returns to play. When play resumes, the sanctioning window will be reduced from 30 days to 7 days.

It is still too early to make final determinations about the viability of 2020 JRDA Championships (July) and 2020 JRDA World Cup (August). We continue to monitor COVID-19 developments daily. If Championships cannot be held in July, they will not be rescheduled. If World Cup is not held in August, the event may be rescheduled (with the same team rosters) if circumstances allow.

Please continue to check the JRDA COVID-19 communications / resources page [here](#).

Please reach out if you have questions. Below are your Regional Coordinators::

Northwest - CP Scott / Guilty MacKilty

Southwest - Shana Kerr / Ima Hotmess

Midwest - Andrea McKown / 5 ft Assassin

Northeast - Amie Buzby / Blizzard

Southeast - Sheryl Noll / Lucinda Knickers

### **March 12, 2021 email excerpt to all member leagues**

As we continue to monitor the rapidly evolving status of COVID-19, the JRDA Board of Directors has additional guidance to offer our member leagues for managing the remainder of the season.

JRDA strongly urges our members to follow national and local government guidelines regarding managing the spread of the virus and preserving the health and safety of our communities. In affected areas, this may involve limiting the scope of gatherings and events, and possibly canceling practices and games. Please follow local guidance from health officials in your area. For the latest on risks, travel advisories, and more from the CDC, [click here](#).

Leagues will not be penalized for canceling games for travel or health concerns. Any scheduled games that are canceled for these reasons will not be treated as forfeits, and affected teams will get credit for sanctioned games played as appropriate. If rescheduling a game takes teams within the normal 30-day sanctioning window, the Games Department will waive the 30-day requirement. If you need to cancel or reschedule a game, email [games@juniorrollerderby.org](mailto:games@juniorrollerderby.org) as soon as possible.

JRDA's postseason events are still several months off (2020 JRDA Championships in Kalamazoo, Michigan July 24-26 and 2020 JRDA World Cup in Regina, Saskatchewan Canada August 15-16). While it is still too early to make final decisions on these events, we are monitoring COVID-19 developments very closely.

If JRDA determines that holding 2020 JRDA Championships July 24-26 is not viable given the circumstances, they will not be rescheduled.

If 2020 JRDA World Cup cannot be held August 15-16, efforts will be made to reschedule the event in Regina in the coming months. In that case, selected team rosters would remain the same.

Please continue to exercise good judgment and model healthy behaviors:

- 1) Wash your hands regularly with soap and water (for at least 20 seconds), especially before and after practices and games
- 2) Clean and disinfect your protective gear after use
- 3) If you are not feeling well, or are not 100% healthy, stay home to heal faster and prevent infecting league mates and opponents

We have added a COVID-19 communications / resources page to the JRDA site that we will update as things develop. [It can be found here.](#)

If you have questions please feel free to ask. Below are the contact addresses for your Regional Coordinators, who may know more about the advisories and guidance in effect in your area:

Northwest - CP Scott / Guilty MacKilty  
Southwest - Shana Kerr / Ima Hotmess  
Midwest - Andrea McKown / 5 ft Assassin  
Northeast - Amie Buzby / Blizzard  
Southeast - Sheryl Noll / Lucinda Knickers

## **March 5, 2020 email excerpt to all member leagues**

...we are hoping we can all work together to keep everyone healthy this season - especially in light of ongoing guidance from the CDC regarding COVID-19. Here are some suggestions to keep in mind:

1. Talk to your skaters about washing their hands with soap and water.  
Washing hands often is the single most effective step we can take to keep ourselves and everyone around us healthy. Encourage your skaters to wash their hands before and after practices and games. Review with them how to do it properly, and not just the younger set - high schoolers too. [The CDC suggests washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before rinsing.](#) Need a timer? Hum the "Happy Birthday" song twice from beginning to end.
2. Clean and disinfect your protective gear after practices and games.

Strap the Velcro down tightly. Pre-soak your pads for 15 minutes in a water / white vinegar solution, then wash with cold water on a gentle cycle. Don't use a machine dryer - unstrap the Velcro and hang the pads or let dry in the sun.

3. If your skaters are not 100% healthy, please keep them home.

For many of us this can be a gray area, or it feels like a judgment call. For the next few weeks, remove the gray. Keep them home. Your skaters will feel better more quickly. And it's an excellent way to treat teammates, coaches and opponents with consideration and kindness.

4. If you feel you should cancel or reschedule a game, contact the Games Department.

The Games Department is suspending the forfeit penalty for sanctioned games that are canceled because of health or travel concerns. Email [games@juniorrollerderby.org](mailto:games@juniorrollerderby.org) to discuss your specific situation and how to apply for a waiver.

5. Stay informed with trusted resources, and respect travel advisories.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention frequently updates the CDC website as more is learned; currently they advise a 14-day self-quarantine for those returning from high-risk countries or who are otherwise exposed. For the latest on risks, travel advisories and more, you can [click here](#).