



WHO ARE THE IE DERBY DIVAS?

The Inland Empire's Premiere Women's Flat Track Roller Derby League was formed in February 2006. This season, the IE Derby Divas proudly celebrated its 10th anniversary. The league is proudly run by skaters, for skaters.

The IE Derby Divas' roster is growing and getting stronger every day. Over 40 women have joined from all over the Inland Empire—from Ontario to Yucaipa—representing the San Bernardino and Riverside counties in local and out-of-state competitive women's flat track roller derby. There has been an incredible response from women interested in joining the Inland Empire's future Women's Flat Track Derby Association (www.wftda.com) rookie league.

The skating femme-fatales are committed to enduring grueling training to compete for the 2016 season. The Divas promise their audiences a high octane match with a shot of pin-up girl and a twist of feminism. The skaters themselves come from all walks of life. Ages range from 19-49 and body types and skating levels vary, but all share a passion for roller derby.

The league is organized into committees, including: events, merchandise, media, recruiting, sponsorship and fundraising. We do this in addition to our day jobs. It takes a lot of time and commitment. Do we get paid? Not even a dime. We even pay to play! All of our skaters and non-skaters that contribute to the IE Derby Divas are involved as part of community volunteer effort. Skaters must pay monthly dues to help with the operational costs of the roller rink for practice space and bout production. All profits generated from fundraisers, tickets, merchandise sales, sponsorships, and other sources are invested into the league. Running the show requires effort from the skaters and several dedicated volunteers working together to help put on bouts, public events, and other operations.

WHAT IS ROLLER DERBY?

It's not just girls on skates pushing each other over! Invented by Leo Seltzer in the 30's, roller derby has come a long way from its start. The very first roller derby "game" was skated with co-ed skate teams taking turns skating 57,000 laps—the approximate distance it would take to cross the US, coast to coast. The first transcontinental roller derby took more than a month to complete was staged at the Chicago Coliseum; sixteen of the twenty-five teams dropped out due to exhaustion or injuries; but nine teams actually finished the game.

Roller derby eventually took a more competitive turn as contact was introduced and because of that its popularity soared, reaching its height in the 50's. Massive crashes and collisions were the most exciting part of watching the game. A sportswriter encouraged Seltzer to tweak the game to heighten physical contact between the skaters and possibly exaggerate falling and hits. This was not Seltzer's desired path for roller derby, wanting to keep the sport legitimate, but then agreed to experiment; and ended up being a hit. Over time, the spectacle evolved into a sport involving two teams of five skaters, with a team scoring points when its members lapped members of the other team, which is the basic premise of roller derby to this day.

Roller derby is back and in full demand. The resurgence began in 2000 in Texas and since then has spread expeditiously throughout the country and is currently migrating overseas.

In 2004, the Women's Flat Track Derby Association (WFTDA) was formed to promote and foster the sport of women's flat track derby by facilitating the development of athletic ability, sportsmanship, and goodwill among member leagues. The governing philosophy is, "by the skaters, for the skaters." The IEDD has been founded on those same guiding principles and operates as a skater owned and operated organization. Today derby is totally grass-roots, DIY (do-it-yourself), women-centered and feistier than ever. Inspired by punk rock, feminism, and intense athleticism, these girls are out to revive the sport and it's catching on in Southern California, the US, and beyond!

HOW ROLLER DERBY IS PLAYED

QUICK & DIRTY DESCRIPTION:

A roller derby game is called a “bout” and is comprised of two 30 minute periods. Each period is made up of an unlimited number of jams which last up to two minutes. A jam consists of two teams, five players each: four blockers and one point-scoring player, called the jammer. Blockers from both teams skate together in a pack and are continuously lapped by the jammers. Jammers (denoted by a helmet cover with stars on the sides) are sprint skaters, and after their first lap through the pack they score points each time they pass an opponent. The blockers at the front of the pack are pivots and wear a striped helmet cover.

A BIT MORE DETAIL:

Four blockers from each team line up together between a designated "Pivot Line" and "Jammer Line" marked on the track, to form a pack. The skater wearing the stripe on her helmet is called the pivot. The pivot is commonly the pack leader and defensive play caller, similar to football's middle linebacker position.

Two jammers, one from each team and wearing a helmet cover with a star on each side, line up behind the Jammer Line. When the first whistle blows the pack and jammers may begin to engage each other. The blockers must remain in a tight pack and engage each other and the opposing jammer in an attempt to hinder the opposing jammer's progress through the pack while simultaneously helping their own jammer. The first jammer to pass through the pack without earning a penalty is designated the lead jammer. The lead jammer can strategically call off the jam before the two-minute time limit by placing her hands on her hips.

A point is scored by the jammer for each opposing blocker she passes after her initial pass through the pack. Skaters use their shoulders, torso, hips, and butt to block or hit other skaters. The use of hands, forearms, feet, or elbows is not allowed. Skaters cannot hit their opponents' backs or make contact above the neck or below the upper-thigh, and penalties are incurred for illegal actions. All players are subject to illegal gameplay penalties, which result in a 30-second trip to the penalty box.

FAQS

WHY DO YOU PLAY ON A FLAT TRACK AS OPPOSED TO THE BANKED TRACKS OF OLD?

To answer this we refer you to some of the points taken from the Women's Flat Track Derby Association website (www.wftda.org):

- It's economical. Purchasing a banked track requires large financial investors to buy the track and a space in which to house it. Flat track derby can be skated on a variety of surfaces both indoor and out, including wood, sport court, and smooth concrete. The accessibility of various flat track spaces allows leagues to remain independent and maintain their skater-owned and operated ethic.
- It's more athletic and physical. On a flat track skaters must use their own physical strength to gain speed and momentum, rather than the track assisting them.
- Fans can sit track-side and get right down on the level where all the action takes place! As Eight Track from the Texas Rollergirls says, "Why take out a rail, when you CAN take out the audience?"

WHAT HAPPENS AT A BOUT?

"Bout" is the term for a roller derby game, and they include more than your average sporting event. Live, local music is almost always included, and often there are performances from local entertainment groups of all varieties. Bouts are pure entertainment with witty announcers and very vocal fans.

ALRIGHT, LET'S GET THIS STRAIGHT. IS ROLLER DERBY A REAL SPORT OR IS IT FAKE LIKE PRO-WRESTLING?

Roller derby is a real sport, with real contact. Skaters train hard to learn how to make effective contact within the rules of the game (no elbowing, punching, tripping, etc.); our skaters give hard hits and take hard hits. We follow rules set forth by the WFTDA. There is no pre-determined outcome, and there are no staged antics and no fake hits.

WHAT'S WITH THE NAMES AND "OUT-THERE" UNIFORMS?

Roller derby has uniforms just like any sport, but we like to have fun with ours and create themes and images that reflect a sense of style, humor, and the tough, aggressive tone of the sport. Every skater in roller derby adopts a skate name. Some names are funny, some are tough, and a lot are plays on real names or terms.

WHERE DOES YOUR MONEY COME FROM?

The women of IEDD work very hard at fund-raising and securing sponsorships in order to help pay for practice space, merchandise, bouts and other operating costs. All skaters also pay dues every month.

HOW DOES ONE GET INVOLVED?

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming an IEDD skater, Please visit our website at www.iederbydivas.com and download a newbie packet. Fill out the packet and bring it to any of our practices that are held Monday and Wednesday nights from 8:30pm – 10:30pm at Cal Skate Grand Terrace, 22080 commerce way, grand terrace Ca 92313. New recruits are always welcome.

We are always looking for referees, statisticians, support staff, EMTs, etc. Refs and statisticians can be male or female, 18 years and up. They are committed volunteers who have the desire and time to memorize the intricate rules of the game, and to come to our weekly practices in order to learn the game and train with others. Refs and statisticians are hot commodities in the roller derby community and the good ones often get to travel regionally to assist other leagues and even take part in regional and national roller derby tournaments. We love our volunteers, but we need more, more, more. Contact us at beadival@iederbydivas.com.

We are also looking for local sponsors, media coverage, and anyone else who wants to help IEDD continue to take the IE by storm. Potential sponsors should contact sponsorship@iederbydivas.com. Media and press should contact media@iederbydivas.com.

HOW OFTEN DO YOU PRACTICE?

We currently practice two times per week. We practice Monday and Wednesday from 8:30pm – 10:30pm at Cal Skate in Grand Terrace.

ARE YOU INSURED?

Each skater must be insured by WFTDA (Women's Flat Track Derby Association). It is a requirement that skaters also have primary insurance. Each skater who is insured by WFTDA is covered during practices and bouts.