

USA Roller Sports (USARS) Roller Derby Guide

This guide is intended to provide information on how to join USA Roller Sports, as well as the requirements for roller derby member clubs (junior, women's and men's). All USARS memberships and club charters are good for the current membership season only. The 2010 membership season will run from January 1 to December 31, 2010.

Included in this guide, are the steps for properly filling out and submitting the following forms:

1. Club Charter Registration and Verification of Officers
2. Individual Membership Registration
3. Aggressive Contest Sanction Application
4. Aggressive Contest Insurance Application

All forms are available on the USARS website, www.usarollersports.org (under the Resources tab). Be sure to read all forms thoroughly.

*All applications need to be filled out completely (signatures required) and legibly to ensure timely processing. Incomplete applications will not be processed.

USA Roller Sports is not an insurance company; we are the National Governing Body (NGB) of Roller Sports in the United States and are recognized by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) as such. We are required by the USOC to carry accident and liability insurance for our clubs, athletes, coaches and officials. USA Roller Sports purchases these policies from an insurance company via an insurance broker.

USARS insurance is predicated on the following:

1. Official practice at a USARS chartered facility or
2. A USARS sanctioned competition/event

*Events and practices which do not meet the aforementioned will **not** be covered under the USARS insurance policy.

RENEWING USARS

All club charters and USARS memberships must be renewed each USARS membership season. At the end of each membership season, the USARS National Office sends out renewal packets to all member clubs. The renewal packets include all the necessary paperwork for renewing club charters and individual USARS memberships. All individuals listed under a league for the preceding season will be included in the renewal packet, thus enabling each participant to simply verify their contact information and sign the form. Utilizing the renewal packet will expedite the renewal process for your league.

CLUB CHARTERS

The first step in applying for USARS is submitting a club charter application. Once your league finds a facility to practice in, you need to charter the facility. This first charter becomes your “main charter”. The club’s “main charter” becomes the Club ID that is used for memberships and renewals by the USARS National Office. All facilities that are regularly used by a league need to be chartered for insurance to be valid; a separate application and fee are required for each facility. Leagues can charter as many facilities as they would like. A new Club ID is issued for each club charter that is submitted, but the members are only listed under the “main charter”.

A minimum of two club officers and the facility owner/operator must sign off on the club charter application. Charters without these signatures will not be processed. The club officers also need to submit their membership applications with the “main charter”. Remember, all first-time members must include a form of birth verification (copy of driver’s license, birth certificate, passport, etc.) with the membership application. As a club officer, you are able to sign off on all future individual memberships, charters, sanctions, and insurance applications. Clubs with more than one chartered facility can use the same officers for each charter.

The club charter provides the league (and club officers on the charter) with general liability coverage under the USARS umbrella policy. If a member club in good standing is litigated against and coverage applies, the policy will provide defense and pay legal expense.

If you have a contract with the facility, be sure to include a signed copy of the contract with the club charter. When a contract is involved, USARS requires that the following paragraph be included:

“It is agreed and understood that USA Roller Sports (USARS) shall not be liable for any loss, injury or damage to persons or property arising from circumstances or conditions

connected with the facility which are not under USARS' control or which are not due to the negligence of USARS, or not directly related to USARS' use of the premises."

Contracts that fail to include this paragraph risk being denied USARS coverage and/or longer processing time.

Club charter fees for the 2010 membership season are \$80.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Individual memberships can be submitted **with** the club charter or **after** the club charter has been processed (not before). USARS excess accident/medical insurance becomes effective when the athlete signs and dates the individual membership application and remits full payment. The USARS National Office must receive the application and payment within 10 days of the dated application for insurance to remain valid. USARS members receive the following benefits:

1. Members may participate in USARS sanctioned events.
2. A subscription to the USA Roller Sports Magazine for the membership season.
3. Insurance coverage under USARS accident insurance policy.

Individual membership applications must be signed by a club officer (as listed on the charter) and the individual. A valid form of birth verification and payment must be included for all new member applications. Applications missing any of the aforementioned will be placed on hold.

The second page of the individual membership application summarizes the accident insurance coverage and USARS benefits. USARS insurance is valid only when USARS members are **ON SKATES** and participating in an official club practice at a USARS chartered facility or while competing in an official USARS sanctioned competition.

Non-USARS skaters may skate at a regularly scheduled practice at a chartered facility, but they are not eligible for USARS benefits. It is recommended that the league have these skaters sign a waiver indemnifying and holding harmless USARS, the league, and venue from any and all liability. These skaters must understand that they are solely responsible for the risks that they are taking by participating.

Individual membership applications can take up to 2 weeks to be processed. All members will receive their USARS membership cards via mail. All current members are also listed on the USARS website. For the most current listing of members (updated daily), please check the website: <http://www.usarollersports.org/pages/254>.

Roller derby membership fees for 2010 are \$40 per skater.

SANCTIONS

All bouts and events must be sanctioned by USARS for insurance to be valid. If the event is not an official practice at a USARS chartered facility, the host club must sanction the event through USARS. Sanction applications must be received 30 days prior to the event to avoid late fees (double per day) and ensure coverage. Women's, men's, and junior roller derby sanctions must be applied for separately.

An "official practice" does not need to be sanctioned. "Official practices" are regularly scheduled (i.e. same days and times- for the most part) practices at a USARS chartered facility where at least one club officer or coach is in attendance. Coaches and officers must be active USARS members. Other USARS league members may participate in another league's "official practice". Practices can include drills and scrimmaging.

Something that is advertised (on website, flyers, posters, etc.) is open to the public and is thus considered an "event". Events must be sanctioned through USARS for insurance to be valid.

If the bout/event is taking place in a non-chartered facility or outdoors, you need to submit the aggressive contest insurance application and applicable fees with the sanction application.

Single event cards (SECs) can be requested by the host league on the sanction application. The cards are only available for sanctioned events and are for skaters that have not yet purchased USARS and need event coverage. The single event card cost \$20 and provides the athlete with excess (secondary) accident/medical insurance for injuries occurring on skates within the defined venue only during said competition. All single event cards must be returned within 5-7 days of the completion of the event. Payment for used single event cards will be submitted at that time (after the event).

All sanction applications must be signed by an authorized club officer and the facility owner/operator. The enrollment roster must be submitted at least 7-10 days in advance for verification; sanctions will **not** be issued without the roster. Payment for sanction fees must be submitted with the application.

If there is a contract involved with the facility for the event, your club must include a signed copy of the contract with the sanction application. To ensure that USARS accepts the contract, include the following paragraph in the contract:

"It is agreed and understood that USA Roller Sports (USARS) shall not be liable for any loss, injury or damage to persons or property arising from circumstances or conditions connected with the facility which are not under USARS' control or which are not due to the negligence of USARS, or not directly related to USARS' use of the premises."

The sanction certificate must be displayed during the sanctioned event.

All USARS sanctioned events are listed on the USARS' website calendar. Page 4 of the sanction application provides a place to list contact information for your event. USARS will display this information on the website once the sanction is approved and processed.

Regular sanction fees for the 2010 season are as follows:

Men & Women= \$100/day

Junior= \$50/day

CERTIFICATES OF LIABILITY INSURANCE

Some facilities require that the event organizers (your league) provide a general liability policy for the facility/venue. If your facility requires this, you must submit the aggressive contest insurance application.

Liability insurance certificates in the amount of \$1,000,000 per occurrence with a \$5,000,000 general aggregate may be issued naming non-member venues/facilities and meet hosts/sponsors as additional named insured. All conditions for safety of participants must be observed, as noted on the last page of the sanction application. Liability insurance coverage requires that all participants must be USARS members in good standing or hold a single event card.

If your chartered facility(s) requires a certificate of insurance, you can purchase a "blanket certificate". A "blanket certificate" is good for the entire membership season.

There is usually a contract involved with facilities that require a certificate of insurance. A signed copy of the contract must be included with the insurance application. Insurance applications are not processed until the contract has been reviewed and approved. To speed up this process and ensure that USARS honors the language of the contract, have the facility include the following clause in the contract:

"It is agreed and understood that USA Roller Sports (USARS) shall not be liable for any loss, injury or damage to persons or property arising from circumstances or conditions connected with the facility which are not under USARS' control or which are not due to the negligence of USARS, or not directly related to USARS' use of the premises."

Contracts without this paragraph take longer to review, and risk being denied.

The certificate holder will be listed as what is listed on the specific location of practices/activities (facility name and complete address) line of the insurance application.

Please include the entire name and address of the facility on this line as it is to be listed on the insurance certificate. If you are unsure of what needs to be listed refer to the contract or check with the venue.

The completed insurance application must be submitted with the sanction application and a signed copy of the contract (if one exists). Applications received less than 30 days prior to the event may be denied coverage by the insurance company due to short notice.

Certificate of insurance fees for 2010 are as follows:

Single men or women's event at chartered or non-chartered facility= \$200/day

Single junior derby event at chartered or non-chartered facility= \$100/day

Blanket certificate for entire season at a men or women's chartered facility= \$300

Blanket certificate for entire season at a junior derby chartered facility= \$200

JUNIOR ROLLER DERBY

To be eligible to be a member of a USARS junior derby league, an individual must be 17 or younger at the beginning of the current membership season (January 1). Individuals that turn 18 over the course of the membership season may finish the season with their league.

For insurance purposes, junior skaters (minors) cannot be allowed to participate in contact drills or contact skating with adults as this would VOID COVERAGE. This would include participating in USARS sanctioned bouts for adults. However, minors can participate in skating drills that are NON-CONTACT.

The club officers on a junior league charter must be at least 18 years of age (per USARS rules); however, they are the only individuals of the age of majority allowed to be listed with the junior league.

Junior roller derby leagues can not share a charter with a USARS men or women's league. For insurance purposes, the facility must be chartered for junior derby. A junior league can utilize the same facility as a men or women's league, but they must hold their own club charter.

All junior roller derby events must be sanctioned (following the same protocol for adult derby events). If the event is being held as an exhibition or half-time scrimmage during an adult USARS sanctioned event there is no sanction fee; however, the sanction application must still

be submitted for processing. Regular sanction fees and rules apply to all junior derby events that are being held as a stand alone event or part of a double header.

MEN'S ROLLER DERBY

Men's roller derby leagues can not share a charter with a USARS junior or women's league. The men's league can utilize the same facility as a junior or women's league, but they must apply for and hold their own club charter.

For insurance to be valid, men's events must be sanctioned separately from any women's or junior derby events. To apply for a sanction, the aggressive contest sanction application must be submitted to the USARS national office. There is no charge for men's exhibitions or half-time scrimmages that are held during a USARS sanctioned women's or junior bout. Regular sanction fees and rules apply to all men's events that are being held as stand alone events or as full, regulation bouts.

FAQ

1. If a skater who doesn't have USARS practices with us, is our USARS insurance void?
 - No. The other skaters that are USARS members will still be insured. It is recommended that you have the skater without USARS sign a waiver indemnifying and holding your club and USARS harmless from any and all liability; the individual needs to understand that they are participating at their own risk.
2. How long do I have to file an accident report form?
 - Accident report forms must be in our office within 30 days of the accident. Insurance coverage can and will be denied if this deadline is not met. Upon receipt of the accident form and verification of membership, the injured party will be sent a packet of claim information. It is then the individual's responsibility to file the claim directly.
3. We are no longer practicing at our chartered facility. Can we transfer the charter to a new facility?
 - No, club charters are not transferable. If you leave one facility, you cannot move the charter over to another facility. You must submit a new charter application and fee for the new facility.
4. Are EMTs and other medical personnel covered under the USARS liability insurance?
 - No, they are not covered. These individuals should carry their own liability before being allowed to perform medical services at an event.
5. I lost my USARS card. How can I get another one?

- Replacement cards are available to purchase for \$10. If you need to purchase one, please call the National Office 402-483-7551.
6. I don't have USARS and I want to compete in an upcoming bout. Can I compete in the bout without purchasing a USARS membership card?
- Yes, a skater without USARS can purchase a single event card for a specific event (1-3 days in length). The cards must be requested by the host club when the event is sanctioned. At the event, the individual must fill out the one page form and pay \$20 for the excess accident/medical coverage for that specific event. The host league is then responsible for submitting the form and payment to the USARS National Office.

Please contact the USARS National Office if you have any questions.

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