

Master thesis
BA. H. C. Kleiboer
Supervisor: Gys-Walt van Egdom, PhD
Master Vertalen, Universiteit Utrecht
06/08/2019

Hen is de jammer en *zij* zijn de pack:
Translating the official rules for flat track roller derby in a gender-neutral way

Abstract:

Roller derby is a full-contact sport that originated in America but is increasingly popular in the Netherlands, though the rules have not been officially translated to Dutch. This study aims to translate the official rules of flat track roller derby to Dutch, while retaining the Women's Flat Track Derby Association's gender policy, which calls for gender-neutral language. In order to do this, strategies for gender-neutral and ungendered language are devised for Dutch, the most important of which is the use of gender-neutral pronouns in the third person singular. The pronouns 'hen' and 'hun' are used in accordance with the results of a survey carried out by Transgender Netwerk Nederland. While the singular use of these pronouns is not yet officially recognized by the Dutch Language Union, their use in these rules might further TNN's push for their acceptance in Dutch.

Introduction

Flat track roller derby is a full-contact sport that has been gaining popularity worldwide since its revival in 2001. The official rules of the sport, as governed by the Women's Flat Track Derby Association (WFTDA), have been translated to Chinese, German, French and Spanish, but not yet into Dutch. In order to increase the sport's popularity in the Netherlands and to make it more accessible to Dutch skaters, I feel like a Dutch translation is in order.

The diversity within the roller derby community and the WFTDA's official gender policy makes gender an interesting topic to consider for translation. The language used in the official rules is gender-neutral, even though the rules are officiated by the *Women's Flat Track Derby Association*. The WFTDA employs several tactics to make sure the language it uses is gender-neutral. One of these strategies is the use of the English pronouns 'they' and 'them' in their function as a gender-neutral pronoun for the third person singular. This provides an interesting challenge for translation, as Dutch currently does not have an official gender-neutral pronoun for the third person singular. Therefore, I want to look into the possibilities Dutch provides for gender-neutral language, asking the question *"To what extent can the Women's Flat Track Derby Association's official gender policy be retained in a translation of the official flat track roller derby rules from English to Dutch?"*.

To formulate an answer to this question, I will be looking at the way the WFTDA applies its gender policy to the official rules of flat track roller derby and at what strategies they use to keep the language gender-neutral. I will then look at strategies that can be used in Dutch to keep language gender-neutral and see how I can apply these strategies to translation. I will then translate part of the WFTDA rules and apply the formulated strategies to my translation, in order to keep the language of my Dutch translation gender-neutral and to adhere to the WFTDA's official gender policy.

Roller derby is a fast-paced full contact sport in which two teams battle to see which team can score the most points in two 30-minute periods. Both teams have four blockers and one jammer on the track. The jammer is the only person that can score points, which they do by skating around the track in a counter-clockwise direction and passing the blockers of the opposing team. The blockers will try to block the opposing team's jammer and let their own jammer through the opposing blockers by checking and hitting other players down or out of bounds. A more detailed explanation of the rules will follow in chapter 1.

In 2004, the Women's Flat Track Derby Association was created in the United States, named as such because roller derby started out as an all-female sport and to distinguish it from roller derby played on a banked (sloped) track, which is how it was to be played before its revival. Non-female participation has also been steadily increasing since 2004 (Geneva Murray 18), leading to the founding of the Men's Roller Derby Association in 2007. In chapter 2 I will pay special attention to gender in roller derby and how the WFTDA's gender policy influences the official rules, thereby also influencing translation strategy.

Chapter 3 will focus on the gender-neutral language used in the WFTDA rules and on strategies that can be used to make language gender-neutral, such as using gender-neutral pronouns, both in English and in Dutch.

I will explore the topic of gender and gender-neutrality in translation studies in chapter 4 and I will look at Swedish as an example of a language that successfully introduced a new gender-neutral pronoun.

In this thesis I will translate the first four chapters of the official rules of flat track roller derby, as governed by the WFTDA. I will be paying special attention to the challenge of translating

the gender-neutral pronouns the WFTDA uses and to the translation of roller derby terms to Dutch, in order to create a Dutch version of the rules that adheres to the WFTDA gender policy and is comprehensible and clear to both experienced roller derby players that know the English rules and Dutch people that do not know the rules yet. I will provide further insight in my decision to translate these chapters in chapter 5.

Contents

1. Flat track roller derby.....	3
2. Gender in roller derby.....	4
3. Gender in the WFTDA rules	5
3.1 Advised strategies for gender-neutral language.....	5
3.2 Strategies for gender-neutral language in the WFTDA rules for roller derby	10
4. Gender in language and translation.....	11
4.1 Gender in translation studies.....	12
4.2 Gender-neutral versus ungendered language	13
4.3 Strategies for gender-neutral language: pronouns	14
4.4 ‘Hen’: successfully integrated gender-neutral pronouns in Sweden.....	16
5. Translating the roller derby rules according to the WFTDA gender policy.....	18
5.1 Analyzing The Rules of Flat Track Roller Derby	18
5.2 Translating The Rules of Flat Track Roller Derby	19
6. Translation and notes	20
7. Reflection	40
Bibliography	42

1. Flat track roller derby

Roller derby is a sport played on quad skates; skates with two wheels in the front and two in the back. Games, often called ‘bouts,’ are played by two teams of 15 players. A game consists of two 30-minute periods, which are broken up in smaller time period called ‘jams.’ Jams last a maximum of two minutes, but are often shorter as they can be called off by one of the players at a time that is beneficial for their team.

At the start of each jam, both teams field a total of five players on the track: four blockers and one jammer. The jammers can be recognized by the stars on their helmets.

The blockers for both teams need to stay together and need to form a group consisting of players from both teams. Skaters may not be further than 10 feet (3.05 meters) apart from the nearest skater that is a part of this group. This group is called the pack. When a blocker is not close enough to the pack, they are not allowed to engage with players from the opposing team.

When the jam starts, as signaled by a whistle, both jammers will skate towards, and attempt to make their way through, the pack. The first jammer to get through the pack is awarded Lead Jammer status. When the jammers are through the pack, they will skate around the track until they have reached the pack again. At this point, they will begin scoring points by passing blockers of the

opposing team. Each blocker of the opposing team passed earns the jammer one point. When the jammer gets through the pack again, they will have scored four points for their team and can skate around the track again to start another scoring pass.

Getting through the pack first on the first pass and becoming Lead Jammer earns a jammer the privilege of calling off the jam early. They may do this when the other jammer is in position to score more points than them in the jam, for example. The Lead Jammer can signal to a referee to call off the jam, at which point it ends. When the Lead Jammer loses their Lead status, for example because they get a penalty, the jam runs for the full two minutes. The two 30-minute periods that are played in a game will consist of as many jams as can fit in this time and therefore depends on how long the jams last (The Parliament of Pain; WFTDA The Rules).

2. Gender in roller derby

Since its revival, roller derby has been linked to (third-wave) feminism and progressive ideas of women's participation in sports (Chananie-Hill, Waldron & Umsted; Geneva Murray; Pavlidis & Connor). Much research has been done on feminism in roller derby and on the diverse and open-minded community surrounding it. Often, however, this research still operates on the concept of binary gender, focussing only on women and men in the community and ignoring the existence of people that do not fall within this gender binary (Chananie-Hill et al., Geneva Murray).

Gender has been a much-contested topic throughout the history of roller derby. While the revived sport started as all-female, non-female participation has been ever growing (Geneva Murray 18). This change is also reflected in the WFTDA's official gender policy. The Women's Flat Track Derby Association was created in 2004, shortly after the revival of the sport, and governs the official rules and documentation. As of 2015, the WFTDA's gender policy still included a biological distinction of male and female sex, requiring an athlete's hormones to be 'within the medically acceptable range for a female,' making no distinction between gender and sex (Pavlidis and Connor 1354). The current gender policy, however, is as follows:

"The Women's Flat Track Derby Association (WFTDA) is committed to inclusive and anti-discrimination practices in relation to all transgender women, intersex women, and gender expansive participants, and aims to ensure that all skaters, volunteers, and employees' rights are respected and protected.

(...)

The WFTDA recognizes that identifying as transgender, intersex, and/or gender expansive is not in any way related to an individual's eligibility for participating as a volunteer or employee. An individual who identifies as a trans woman, intersex woman, and/or gender expansive may skate with a WFTDA charter team if women's flat track roller derby is the version and composition of roller derby with which they most closely identify."

(Women's flat track derby association statement about gender)

This inclusive gender policy is reflected in the official WFTDA rules for flat-track roller derby. In these rules, skaters are always referred to with the pronoun ‘they,’ even when the referent is singular (The Rules of Flat Track Roller Derby).

The WFTDA started out as an association for all-female roller derby and as such, the rules used to refer to skaters as ‘her.’ This is reflected in the rules up to 2010, as can be gathered from the archive of change summaries for the WFTDA rules. While a change summary for 2010 still shows the use of ‘she’ and ‘her’ as pronouns (Change summary for WFTDA rules May 26, 2010), the next change summary, for January 2013, shows the use of gender-neutral ‘they’ and ‘them’ as pronouns (Change summary for WFTDA rules January 1, 2013). This change is not mentioned in the change summary, however. So even though the WFTDA gender policy still used cissexist language and definition in 2015, the rules reflected a gender-neutral policy as early as 2013. The change from ‘her’ to ‘their’ and ‘she’ to ‘they’ reflects a conscious choice made by the WFTDA. The association has deliberately reworded their rules to be more gender-neutral and apply to more people than just women.

A translation, then, should follow this policy of gender-neutral wording and use of gender-neutral pronouns. In the following chapters, I will take a more in-depth look at the use of ‘they’ and ‘them’ as gender-neutral, singular pronouns in English and at possible equivalents that can be used in the Dutch translation.

3. Gender in the WFTDA rules

In this chapter, I will investigate in what ways the official WFTDA gender policy as described in chapter 2 is implemented in the official rules for flat track roller derby. To do that, I will first need to examine the possibilities the English language provides for gender-neutrality. This I will do by consulting language guides for gender-neutral language, published by organisations and companies to advise the people writing for them on how to use gender-neutral language.

3.1 Advised strategies for gender-neutral language

To translate a text from English to Dutch using gender-neutral language, it is important to first understand the strategies for gender-neutrality that can be used in the source language. In this chapter, I will look into guidelines and other language prescriptions for the English language and describe the way language users are encouraged to speak and write in a gender-neutral way.

There are several ways to make language more inclusive by making it gender-neutral. The subject of gender-neutrality in language seems to grow in importance, as evidenced by the increasing number of organisations that have adopted guidelines for gender-neutral language, like the European Parliament or the United Nations.

In this chapter I will examine at the strategies for gender-neutral language laid out in different guidelines and investigate in what way these strategies are used in the roller derby rules. In doing so, I will have an overview of the strategies for gender-neutral language used by the WFTDA. I can then formulate strategies for Dutch in chapter 4, so I can more adequately translate the gender-neutral language.

In writing the roller derby rules, the WFTDA follows their own gender policy (see chapter 2). This might not necessarily overlap with the strategies laid out in the guidelines described in this

chapter, but as the WFTDA gender policy does not include language guidelines, I will use these other guidelines to get an overview of available strategies. For each strategy formulated based on said guidelines, I will look within the WFTDA rules to see if, and how, it is applied there.

In order to get an idea of the different strategies that are used in the English language, I studied four different language guides. I looked at the guidelines used by the United Nations and those used by the European parliament, to get an overview of the strategies advised for internationally oriented organisations that often have writing in several languages, and I looked at guidelines by two American universities: a handout written by the official writing center of the University of North Carolina and a blog article on inclusive language posted to the website of Harvard University. This selection of guidelines gives me both an American and an international perspective and is made up of both official guidelines and unofficial tips. Furthermore, it consists of web pages that all can be found on the first page of results when one enters 'gender-neutral language' in an online search engine (August 2019). This means that people that are searching for strategies to write in a gender-neutral way but that do not belong to any of the aforementioned institutions, will most likely end up on one of these pages and might follow these guidelines as well.

3.1.1 Gender-neutral language in the European Parliament

The European Parliament first published guidelines for gender-neutral language in 2008 and then published an updated version in 2018. According to the document, the European Parliament was one of the first international organisations to adopt multilingual guidelines for gender-neutral language use (*Gender-neutral language in the European Parliament 2*). Of the guides under review, this is the only one that is intended for multilingual use. In this paragraph I will take a closer look at the strategies recommended for translation and the specific guidelines for English.

The guidelines for gender-neutral language in the European Parliament are aimed at making sure the language used in documents and communication is gender-neutral and non-sexist. While the guidelines are aimed at all official languages spoken in the European Parliament, they are written in English and use the English language for strategies and examples. There is no Dutch version of these guidelines. The document implores translators to look at the language the source text author uses and if they use gender specific language or gender-neutral language, to treat that as a conscious choice and translate accordingly.

In these guidelines, three types of languages are distinguished: natural gender languages, grammatical gender languages and genderless languages.

English is a natural gender language, meaning nouns are gender-neutral and gender is mostly specified through pronouns. The main strategy the European Parliament recommends for natural gender language is naturalisation, meaning gender-specific terms should be replaced by more gender-neutral terms. These guidelines mention gender-specific terms used to reference people of all genders, like 'chairman' or 'policeman' and recommend they be replaced with gender-neutral terms like 'chairperson' and 'police officer'. They also recommend using inclusive language, with which they mean replacing generic 'he' with 'he or she' (*Gender-neutral language in the European Parliament 5*).

The case of Dutch is slightly more complicated, as traditionally it is a grammatical gender language, like most Germanic languages. This means nouns, as well as pronouns, have a grammatical gender. However, while Dutch has traditionally had masculine, feminine, and neuter nouns, the distinction between masculine and feminine nouns have all but disappeared in The Netherlands (Renkema 302), masculine pronouns often being used for both grammatical genders. A distinction is

still made between gendered nouns (using the article 'de') and neuter nouns (using the article 'het'), however.

Based on the above, it can be gathered that the guidelines for gender-neutral language in the European Parliament do not take in account the existence of people who do not conform to the gender binary and would use other pronouns than 'he' or 'she.' The document also uses 'sex' and 'gender' interchangeably and uses cissexist phrasing like 'both genders' at several points, showing that these guidelines were not written with gender non-conforming people in mind. Nevertheless, they maintain that generic 'he' is sexist and that combined forms such as 's/he' or 'him/her' should be avoided as they reduce the readability of a text (*Gender-neutral language in the European Parliament 7*).

In their specific guidelines for English, they propose a few strategies to avoid gendered language, mostly focussed on pronouns. The proposed strategies are:

- using plural forms, so the pronoun 'they' can be used;
- using the imperative, so no pronoun is needed;
- omitting the pronoun altogether, wherever possible;
- or using the passive, so no pronoun has to be used (*Gender-neutral language in the European Parliament 10*).

The use of gender-neutral 'they' is mentioned as well and is considered acceptable, but the guidelines also say that 'he or she' is acceptable when the above-mentioned strategies are unavailable.

Another strategy mentioned is the use of gender-neutral job titles. To aid English-speakers in this, a list of recommended names for professions and functions is included as an appendix.

3.1.2 Guidelines for gender-inclusive language in English by the United Nations

The United Nations guidelines have been produced in all of the six official languages of the UN (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish). They are meant to 'help United Nations staff use gender-inclusive language (...) whether it is oral or written, formal or informal, or addressed to an internal or external audience' and is in line with Sustainable Development Goal 5: Gender Equality (*Guidelines for Gender-inclusive language in English*). The different guidelines for the different languages are adjusted based on the inherent features of the language and on the linguistic context in which the language is used. For the purposes of this thesis, the English version is the only one that would be useful, but it is interesting to note that while the European Parliament guidelines are aimed at providing strategies that can be used in English as well as translated to other languages (*Gender-neutral language in the European Parliament 2*), these guidelines are not.

The Guidelines for gender-inclusive language in English by the United Nations mention the difference between 'grammatical gender' and 'gender as a social construct,' a difference that is applicable to Dutch as well as to English. However, although Dutch nouns all have a grammatical gender (Renkema 298-299) most English nouns do not, with the exception of nouns that have specific masculine and feminine versions, such as waiter/waitress (*Guidelines for gender-inclusive language in English*).

The strategies for gender-neutral language the United Nations suggest are divided in three categories, titled Use non-discriminatory language, Make gender visible when it is relevant for communication, and Do not make gender visible when it is not relevant for communication.

The strategies mentioned for the use of non-discriminatory language are to use forms of address and pronouns that are consistent with the gender identity of the person you are referring to or addressing and if in doubt, to ask them what pronouns and form of address they prefer. The guidelines add a note for authors who write texts that are going to be translated to languages that mark gender differently than English. These authors are advised to mention the gender of the subject the text is about if that does not become clear from the text, so the translator knows which strategies to use in their translation. There are also several tips for avoiding sexist language and reinforcing gender stereotypes, but as these are not relevant in gender-neutral language, they will not be explored further here.

The strategies advised for making gender visible when it is relevant for communication are to use two words instead of referring to a generic masculine or feminine. This category is heavily rooted in the idea of gender as a binary and advises to use 'he or she' as pronouns when the gender or the referent is not known or not relevant. It also advises to use two nouns when that could make a sentence 'more inclusive (...) when popular beliefs or preconceptions may obscure the presence or action of either gender.' The following example is used:

- (1) Boys and girls should attend the first cooking class with their parents.

This example is interesting, as it can be presumed the writers of these guidelines assumed the alternative is only using 'girls' as the subject, following the preconception that cooking is a task or hobby for girls, but using 'children' as the subject would have been fully gender-neutral and inclusive, also including children that do not fit within the labels 'boys' or 'girls,' and arguably easier on the reader, as these guidelines mention using double forms can be distracting to the reader (Guidelines for gender-inclusive language in English). Another interesting part of this example sentence is the use of the gender-neutral word 'parents,' instead of 'mothers and fathers,' as one would assume to be preferred based on the choice to use 'boys and girls' as the subject. Why the writers have chosen to use a double form for the children but not for the parents is unclear.

The final category of strategies advised in these guidelines is not making gender visible when it is not relevant for communication. This category encompasses using gender-neutral words for words that are deemed less inclusive. It is advised, for example, to use 'humankind' instead of 'mankind' or 'artificial' instead of 'man-made.' They also mention the use of the plural pronoun 'they,' even with a singular referent, like in the following example:

- (2) Before submitting your document, send it to the focal point for **their** review; **they** will return it to you with comments.

However, this strategy is only recommended for informal writing and is discouraged for formal communication. For formal communication, they advise to make the antecedent plural as well. Other strategies to avoid gendered language are the use of pronouns like 'one,' as seen in example (3a) and (3b) or 'who' as a relative pronoun, as seen in (4a) and (4b):

- (3a) A staff member in Antarctica earns less than **he** would in New York.
 (3b) A staff member in Antarctica earns less than **one** in New York.
 (4a) If a complainant is not satisfied with the board's decision, **he** can ask for a rehearing.
 (4b) A complainant **who** is not satisfied with the board's decision can ask for a rehearing.

Finally, the Guidelines for gender-inclusive language in English advise to avoid the problem altogether by either omitting the gendered word (see (5a) and (5b)) or using the passive voice to omit the gendered construction entirely (see (6a) and (6b)):

(5a) A person must reside continuously in the Territory for 20 years before **he** may apply for permanent residence.

(5b) A person must reside continuously in the Territory for 20 years before applying for permanent residence.

(6a) The author of a communication must have direct and reliable evidence of the situation **he** is describing.

(6b) The author of a communication must have direct and reliable evidence of the situation being described.

3.1.3 Gender-Inclusive Language by the University of North Carolina

University of North Carolina's published a handout on gender-neutral language in the 'tips and tools' section of their writing centre. This handout is written for students that struggle with using gendered language in their writing but do not know enough about gender-inclusive language to avoid gendered references. This handout states that there is not and may never be a set of guidelines that is universally agreed upon, but that in its absence using the strategies mentioned to 'mix and match' will be sufficient.

The first strategy mentioned is, again, to avoid gendered nouns like those ending in -man, and to use, for example, 'flight attendant' instead of 'steward/stewardess' or 'the average person' instead of 'the common man.' The handout also mentions several strategies to avoid sexism, like using 'Ms.' to address women instead of 'Miss' or 'Mrs.,' defining their status by their relationship with a man, or mentioning a person's gender when they do a job or fulfil a role that is typically not expected of someone with their gender identity, for example saying 'the male nurse' instead of 'the nurse.'

For pronouns, the handout mentions the strategy of using double forms like 'he or she,' but mentions that this approach risks calling attention to gender when it is not relevant and excludes people who do not use either pronoun (*Gender-Inclusive Language*). However, the next strategy mentioned advocates switching between 'he' and 'she' in different paragraphs and does not mention how this excludes people that do not use these pronouns at all.

The only strategy for pronoun usage mentioned that is truly inclusive is the use of 'they' as a singular pronoun or making subjects plural and using 'they' as a plural pronoun. However, the handout mentions that there are people who are strongly opposed to the singular use of 'they,' while others argue it should be officially adopted into English as a standard singular pronoun. Readers are advised to keep their audience in mind when deciding on whether or not to use this strategy.

University of North Carolina finally mentions some strategies to use when you do not know someone's gender (for example, if their identity is unknown, if their gender does not fit within the binary, or if you cannot infer their gender from their name) and do not want to use singular 'they.' These are only fit for referring to a specific individual however, and not for referring to people in general, like in a rules text. For this thesis these final strategies will therefore be disregarded.

3.1.4 Inclusive Language in Four Easy Steps by Harvard University

The blog article Inclusive Language in Four Easy Steps was published on the Harvard Extension School website, aimed at professionals that have already finished their higher education and want to continue developing professional skills. This means the article is aimed at people that have already entered the American workforce and are no longer students.

Mackenzie Kassab has written four steps to help professionals adopt a new, gender-inclusive way to communicate. The first of these steps is to address and alter any assumptions you are making that might alienate people. The second step is to be careful with pronoun usage. Kassab advises to use singular 'they' unless you are completely certain your audience identifies as either male or female. The third step is to consider the words you are using and to, in Kassab's words, 'ditch ableist language.' This step is mainly aimed at changing language that stereotypes mental health conditions and physical disabilities which, while important, does not fit within the scope of this research, so it will be disregarded for now. The final step is to ignore criticism. Kassab points out that many people resist the use of singular 'they' and do not feel the need to change their language to be more inclusive. She advises that a direct response to criticism may be appropriate, in order to explain the importance of inclusive language, but that otherwise criticism may be ignored.

3.2 Strategies for gender-neutral language in the WFTDA rules for roller derby

Based on the information from the guidelines discussed in 3.1, it seems the available strategies for gender-neutral language in English can be divided into three categories:

- Using gender-neutral pronouns, such as singular they, both as a personal and an impersonal pronoun (*Gender-neutral language in the European Parliament 10; Guidelines for gender-inclusive language in English; Gender-Inclusive Language; Kassab*), the impersonal pronoun one or the relative pronoun who (*Guidelines for gender-inclusive language in English*). The use of a dual form like he/she will be disregarded for this thesis, as it is not gender-neutral.
- Avoiding the need to use gendered or marked gender-neutral language by rewriting a sentence, for example by making the subject plural (*Gender-neutral language in the European Parliament 10; Guidelines for gender-inclusive language in English; Gender-Inclusive Language*), by using the passive voice (*Gender-neutral language in the European Parliament 10; Guidelines for gender-inclusive language in English*), or by omitting the pronoun (*Gender-neutral language in the European Parliament 10; Guidelines for gender-inclusive language in English*) altogether so the need for gendered language can be avoided.
- Replacing gendered words with gender-neutral words, both in the case of words that make use of generic -man and words that have a male and female form (*Gender-neutral language in the European Parliament 10; Guidelines for gender-inclusive language in English; Gender-Inclusive Language; Kassab*).

Of these strategies, the one that the WFTDA uses most in the roller derby rules is the strategy of using gender-neutral pronouns, in most cases the singular third person 'they,' though relative 'who' and impersonal 'one' are also used. This gender-neutral use of 'they,' 'them' and 'their' is seen on pages 1, 3, 4, 5, and 7-15 of the first four chapters of the roller derby rules; nearly every page, with pages 2, 6 and 16 being the only exceptions, while gendered pronouns in the third

person singular ('he,' 'she,' 'her,' 'his,' 'him') are not used. I will more closely examine this gender-neutral use of the singular pronoun in chapter 4.3 and I will look into the best way to translate this strategy in this same chapter. Relative 'who' is used on pages 2, 5 and 7-16, while impersonal 'one' is used twice on page 9 and 10. However, unlike in the case of the singular 'they' and 'them' as personal pronouns, it is impossible to know whether these pronouns were used with the express purpose of making a sentence gender-neutral or for other reasons.

The use of the second strategy, avoiding gender by restructuring sentences to be plural or in the passive voice, is unfortunately difficult to find. Of course, there are sentences that make use of a plural subject, with plural pronouns, like here:

- (1) Skaters who are injured during play may return to play as long as they are no longer apparently injured or bleeding (*The Rules of Flat Track Roller Derby 2*).

In example (1), the plural pronoun 'they' is used, which is gender-neutral because plural pronouns are not gendered in English. However, it is impossible to say whether this was the writers' intention when choosing to use plural forms in subject positions when the singular form would work as well. The same goes for the use of a passive voice, as seen in (2). However, even though the use of this strategy cannot easily be ascertained, it might still be useful for the Dutch translation. I will explore this possibility further in 4.2.

- (2) Roster numbers must be clearly displayed on a Skater's back and upper arm areas (*The Rules of Flat Track Roller Derby 2*).

The use of third strategy is as difficult to find as the second. While the terms used to describe roller derby players or officials, like 'skater,' 'jammer,' or 'referee,' are exclusively gender-neutral, this cannot be called a conscious strategy for gender-neutral language; as English does not have gendered versions of these terms. However, Dutch does, in some cases have gendered terms that might be considered for the translation. The English term 'captain,' as first used on page 3, could be translated with the Dutch 'aanvoerder,' a word that also exist in a feminine form ('aanvoerdster'). So even though these terms are not part of the gender-neutral language strategy used by the writers of the source text, a translator should keep them in mind when translating to Dutch.

4. Gender in language and translation

For the purposes of my translation, I will take a closer look at the topic of gender in translation studies. Then, I will look into the strategies for gender-neutral language that English allows and that are used by the WFTDA. I will then describe the available strategies for gender-neutral language in Dutch and look into which strategies are useful for translating the official roller derby rules. I will also briefly look at Swedish, a language that has recently adopted a new, gender-neutral, pronoun for the third person singular.

4.1 Gender in translation studies

The subject of gender as a cultural concept became a subject for consideration in translation studies in the 1980s, as a result of feminist studies and works in the 1960s and 1970s (Von Flotow). However, it was only in the 1990s that the term 'gender' acquired broader meaning than just a distinction between 'male' and 'female'.

The relationship between gender and language has been researched extensively, leading to the knowledge that gendered stereotypes are closely related to language use (Bäck, Lindqvist & Gustafsson Sendén, *Hen can do it!* 71-72) and that in languages with grammatical gendered nouns, the grammatical gender of a noun influences associations people have with the concept (Boroditsky & Schmidt, 4-5).

After the knowledge of gender expanded to include non-binary genders and ideas of gender as a performance, the approach of gender in translation studies expanded as well. Now, gender as a subject is part of research on translation in several ways, according to Luise Von Flotow. In her article *Gender in translation*, she considers each of these ways and elaborates on the way these play into translation studies.

First, there is the focus on gender as a socio-political category when analysing the history of translation and translation phenomena on the macro-level. Then, there is the role gender plays in political, literary or aesthetic engagement in micro-analyses of translated texts. Lastly, Von Flotow considers the theoretical questions the subject of gender in translation has raised and that can be applied to or derived from translation in praxis.

In macro-analyses of translation, gender plays an interesting part. The inclusion of gender in these analyses has shown that women and gender minorities have often been excluded or presented negatively in the literature of many different cultures throughout history. According to Von Flotow, bible translations have, for example, increasingly reinforced sexist ideas of women as the root of evil and God as male, though the ancient bible texts do not explicitly state as such. Including gender in analyses of historical texts and historical translation has helped to make previously invisible or forgotten non-male writers and translators visible and has addressed the way Western translators often impose 'imperialist' attitudes on gender onto texts from other cultures with different ideas on sex and gender.

Focusing on gender in micro-analyses of translations has been very interesting in uncovering the way female writers like Sappho and Simone de Beauvoir have historically been censored and misrepresented by later translators. Newer research and insights in translation studies that has included gender in these aspects has helped to represent these writers' original ideas more faithfully and to reveal the way queer identity is established and negotiated in language and within different communities (Von Flotow). This area of translation studies has given gender a place in micro-analyses of texts to translate, ideally getting translators to analyse the way gender is performed in the source text and the way this performance of gender can be faithfully translated to the target text.

Lastly, Von Flotow pays attention to the questions that are raised following the inclusion of gender in translation studies. These questions include concerns about how important the (gender) identity of the translator is or should be in relation to the source text and the (gender) identity of the original author and in what way culture and society influence the concept of gender both in the source text and in the target text. The other questions Von Flotow raises, while interesting, have

little bearing on this thesis and translation of the WFTDA rules, so they will not be investigated further.

There has also been research on the question of gender when translating between languages that mark gender in different ways. Ina Schabert, for example, has looked into the way English novels in which the gender of the protagonist is undetermined and the only pronouns associated with them are 'I' and 'me' are translated into French, a language in which the gender of the speaker is marked on adjectives or past participles (74). This language difference causes problems for gender-neutral translation the other way around too, as the French possessive pronoun takes on the gender of the thing possessed, while the English possessive pronoun needs the gender of the person possessing the thing. However, these translation troubles will not be a problem for the translation of the WFTDA rules from English to Dutch, as Dutch and English both mark personal gender through pronouns.

4.2 Gender-neutral versus ungendered language

As we have seen in paragraph 3.2, the main strategy visibly employed in the roller derby rules is the use of singular 'they.' The other strategies mentioned are more covert strategies. They might have been used in order to structure sentences without gender, but their intention is impossible to ascertain without consulting the original author about their intentions. This has to do with the visibility of gender-neutral personal pronouns as a strategy for gender-neutral language compared to other strategies. While other strategies might be employed to avoid unnecessarily gendering an utterance, the use of a gender-neutral pronoun is the only one that does not avoid marking any gender, but rather explicitly marks the utterance as gender-neutral.

The use of gender-neutral pronouns is an overt strategy to achieve gender-neutrality in language, whereas other strategies like omission, pluralization and use of passive voice are more covert strategies. When using a gender-neutral pronoun in the third person singular, a sentence is visibly made gender-neutral instead of gendered either masculine or feminine. By using the other strategies mentioned, on the other hand, merely makes the need for marking gender disappear. It can be said, then, that the use of gender-neutral pronouns can make an utterance *gender-neutral*, while the use of strategies like omission, pluralization and use of passive voice can make an utterance *ungendered* (not to be confused with the term *genderless*, which is used to categorize languages that do not have a way to mark gender).

Both strategies for gender-neutral language and strategies for ungendered language are used here to achieve the same goal: to adhere to the WFTDA gender policy and to make the rules more inclusive for not only skaters that identify as female, but for skaters that identify otherwise as well. The use of overt strategies for gender-neutral language is an important part of this, especially because the rules are still governed by the *Women's Flat Track Roller Derby Association*, and covert strategies alone might not be enough to bring to a reader's attention that these rules do not just refer to women anymore. With the use of ungendered language alone, the absence of gender in the WFTDA rules might still be coincidence, but when overtly gender-neutral language is used, it marks a conscious choice from the WFTDA to write them in a gender-neutral way. This is also reflected by the fact that in most of the guidelines discussed in paragraph 3.1, the reader is warned that using gender-neutral 'they' might yield criticism (*Guidelines for gender-inclusive language in English; Gender-Inclusive Language; Kassab*) yet no criticism is expected when using pluralization or the passive voice as a strategy to avoid marking gender.

4.3 Strategies for gender-neutral language: pronouns

Of the strategies mentioned above, the covert strategies for ungendered language do not pose extraordinary challenges for a translator from English to Dutch beyond the ones already present in translation between these languages. These strategies, being pluralization, passive voice, omitting pronouns and replacing gendered words with gender-neutral ones, all have equivalent language structures in Dutch and a translator merely has to make sure they do not mark gender by using any strategy at their disposal. A sentence structured with a passive voice does not have to be translated in the passive voice, of course, but does in this case have to be ungendered, however the translator sees fit.

Translating the overt strategies for gender-neutral language presents another challenge. The overt strategy employed in the source text is the use of gender-neutral pronouns, which Dutch currently does not have. A translator can, of course, choose to translate gender-neutral strategies by using ungendered strategies. The target text would then still adhere to the WFTDA gender policy, but it would only do so passively, losing the sense of agency the source text has in making an inclusive space for identities outside of the gender binary. If the translator wants to maintain this agency, they need to use an overt strategy for gender-neutral language in the target text as well.

In this paragraph I will take a closer look at the pronouns ‘they’ and ‘them’ in their function as a singular pronoun for the third person and at Dutch: ‘hen’ and ‘hun’ as a possible gender-neutral pronoun for the Dutch third person singular and as a possible overt strategy for gender-neutral language in the translation of the WFTDA rules.

4.3.1 English: ‘they’ and ‘them’ as singular, gender-neutral pronouns

‘They’ is often used in English as a singular pronoun, as a substitute for ‘he’ or ‘she,’ as these pronouns usually only refer to men or women, and therefore fall short when the referent does not fit within this gender binary or when the gender of the referent is unknown. Ann Bodine demonstrates the use of gender-neutral ‘they’ and the different functions a gender-neutral pronouns might have in three example sentences (131):

- (1) Anyone can do it if they try hard enough.
- (2) Who dropped their ticket?
- (3) Either Mary or John should bring a schedule with them.

In the first sentence, ‘they’ refers to a singular person out of a group of people with multiple gender identities; there is no specific individual referent with a gender identity with associated pronouns, ‘anyone’ can refer to any singular individual with any gender identity and associated pronouns. ‘They,’ in this case, is used as an impersonal, neutral pronoun as gender is irrelevant in this utterance. In the second sentence, there is a specific individual referent, the person who dropped a ticket. This individual has a gender identity and preferred pronouns, but as the speaker does not know who the individual is, they cannot know what their identity is and thus what the appropriate pronouns are. ‘Their,’ in this case, is used as a personal pronoun to fill in for an unknown pronoun, that might become clear later on as it is discovered who it is that dropped their ticket. In the third sentence, ‘them’ refers to either Mary or John. Bodine calls this an example of ‘mixed-sex’ use of the gender-neutral pronoun, so for the purposes of this example it can be assumed that Mary identifies as female and John identifies as male. In this case, ‘they’ can be seen as a combination of the pronouns Mary and John would use. If the sentence would refer to either of the two, it would

say ‘Mary should bring a schedule with her’ or ‘John should bring a schedule with him.’ Because Mary and John do not use the same pronouns, the gender-neutral pronoun is used when these sentences are combined.

The singular use of ‘they’ as a gender-neutral pronoun had been relatively widespread in the English language before the 19th century, going as far back as at least the 1400s, with prescriptive noise against the singular use of this pronoun starting around the 1700s (Bjorkman 1). In the 19th century, however, ‘they’ was marked as only plural, and ‘he’ was used as the generic pronoun for third person singular use (Bodine 131-133). This use of ‘he’ as a generic pronoun even extended so far that children were told not to use ‘he or she’ in situations where the gender of the referent is unknown, but to use ‘he,’ because it was supposed men were grammatically more important than women (Roberts 355, in Bodine 139).

Although ‘they’ and ‘them’ had been used less and less in their singular meaning since the 19th century, there has been much research done on the topic (Bodine, Bjorkman, Balhorn, LaScotte). Despite the fact that some of these researchers (Balhorn, Bodine) still look at gender as a binary, the research generally suggests that a gender-neutral pronoun serves to avoid assumptions about the referent’s gender, as studies have shown that the use of a general ‘he’ is not interpreted as gender-neutral (Bjorkman 3, Balhorn 84, LaScotte 62) and is associated with a male antecedent.

However, the popularity of ‘they’ as a gender-neutral, singular pronoun is on the rise again, especially in LGBTQ+ communities. In 2015, it was even pronounced word of the year by the American Dialect Society (Bennett). There have been several other propositions and pushes for different pronouns to be used in queer communities by people that identify as non-binary, like ‘ze’ and ‘zir,’ ‘e’ and ‘em,’ ‘ze’ and ‘hir’ and many others, but none of them have gained as much traction as the singular use of ‘they’ and ‘them’ has (Bjorkman 2). This might have to do with the fact that ‘they’ and ‘them’ were already part of the English language, meaning that it is easier for language users to accept them (Bjorkman 2). As pronouns are function words, they belong to a closed class of words, meaning that the amount of words in this category is limited and the addition of new words to the class is very uncommon (Van der Sijs 31). It is therefore easier for language users to accept that the meaning of an existing word in a closed class has changed than to accept a completely new word entering the class.

4.3.2 Dutch: ‘hen’ and ‘hun’ as singular gender-neutral pronouns

The Dutch foundation for transgender emancipation, Transgender Netwerk Nederland (TNN), maintains a living document with guidelines on appropriate language use and imagery for the media when dealing with transgender or gender expansive individuals. This document is edited whenever new insights or practices within the queer community arise, to always reflect the most appropriate way to use gendered and gender-neutral language and imagery.

I have decided to follow TNN’s guidelines for gender-neutral language in my translation, as these are supported by het Culturele Ontspannings Centrum Nederland (COC), the largest national organisation for the LGBTQ+ community in The Netherlands. COC does not have their own guidelines, but refers to the publication made by TNN on their website.

Because the Dutch language lacks an official gender-neutral pronoun, TNN organized a survey in 2016 to choose one. First, they researched within their following what good options would be, then they set up a survey which they spread nation-wide. The survey gave voters three options: ‘die,’ ‘die’ and ‘diens,’ based on the Dutch demonstrative pronouns; ‘dee/dij,’ ‘dem’ and ‘dijr,’ currently non-existing pronouns that would be newly formed in this function if chosen; and

‘hen/die,’ ‘hen’ and ‘hun,’ based on the plural pronouns for the third person and possibly based on the English example of singular ‘they’ (Peters).

This survey resulted in the pronouns ‘hen/die’ and ‘hun’ to be promoted as gender-neutral pronouns for the third person singular; ‘hen’ for the personal pronoun in both the nominative and the accusative case, and ‘hun’ for the possessive pronoun. ‘Die’ can be used in addition to ‘hen’ for the nominative and accusative case (*Zo maak je na toiletten ook taal genderneutraal*).

The adoption of ‘hen’ and ‘hun’ as gender-neutral pronouns in Dutch would be similar to the English ‘they’ and ‘them’; an extension of the existing pronouns for the third person plural to a singular, gender-neutral meaning. This would then also have a higher chance of being accepted into the language, as Bjorkman said about the English ‘they’ and ‘them’ (2), as the words already exist and this means there would not be additional words, like ‘dee/dij,’ ‘dem’ and ‘djir,’ introduced to a closed word class, which is difficult for language users (Van der Sijs 31).

TNN now wants to introduce this existing pronoun with its extended meaning into the Dutch language. They published information on how to use the pronouns chosen through the survey in their guide for the media on how to use gender-neutral language (6).

As mentioned in section 4.3.1, Bodine (131) uses three example sentences of the use of gender-neutral they in English:

- (1a) Anyone can do it if they try hard enough
- (2a) Who dropped their ticket?
- (3a) Either Mary or John should bring a schedule with them

Using the Dutch gender-neutral pronouns as promoted by TNN, these sentences would be translated as follows:

- (1b) Iedereen kan het, als hen het maar hard genoeg probeert
- (2b) Wie heeft hun ticket laten vallen?
- (3b) Mary of John moet een rooster met zich meenemen wanneer hen komt.

I have added the clause ‘wanneer hen komt’ (*when they arrive*) to (3b), as the translation of the English sentence would not require only the reflexive ‘zich,’ which is not gendered in Dutch. Of course, these translations are very literal and are not the best or most beautiful way to translate Bodine’s examples. I have translated them this way to showcase how singular, gender-neutral ‘hen’ and ‘hun’ can be used as translations of singular, gender-neutral ‘they’ and ‘them.’ These example sentences show the way these gender-neutral pronouns would be used, either when the gender of the referred is irrelevant (1b), unknown (2b), or undecided (3b).

In my translation of the WFTDA roller derby rules, I will use ‘hen’ and ‘hun’ as gender-neutral pronouns for the third person singular whenever the text calls for it, combined with other strategies for gender-neutral language, like omission, pluralization and use of passive voice.

4.4 ‘Hen’: successfully integrated gender-neutral pronouns in Sweden

Swedish is an example of a language that introduced a new gender-neutral pronoun. *Hen* was added to the Swedish pronouns for the third person singular, next to *hon* (‘she’) and *han* (‘he’). This is the first case of a gender-neutral pronoun existing parallel with two gendered pronouns and

being officially added to a language, making the language situation in Sweden very interesting to study (Gustafsson Sendén, Bäck & Lindqvist, *Introducing a gender-neutral pronoun in a natural gender language: the influence of time on attitudes and behavior*), especially as its adoption has been relatively successful. I will therefore look at the example of Swedish 'hen' as a best-case scenario and an example of the success that might be reached with the adoption of a similar gender-neutral pronoun in Dutch.

The reception of this new pronoun and the way attitudes towards it have evolved over time was researched by Gustafsson Sendén et al in a study spanning several years. They researched the general population's attitude towards and use of the gender-neutral pronoun in the years from 2012 to 2015 (*Introducing a gender-neutral pronoun in a natural gender language: the influence of time on attitudes and behavior*).

The pronoun was first introduced in Sweden in 2012, when a children's book was written with a main character that used *hen* instead of one of the two traditional pronoun options. Originally, this was cause for much controversy and even caused the Language Council of Sweden to recommend that the gender-neutral pronoun should not be used (Gustafsson Sendén et al, *Introducing a gender-neutral pronoun in a natural gender language: the influence of time on attitudes and behavior*). Over time, however, attitudes have shifted and in 2015 the gender-neutral pronoun *hen* was added to the Swedish language, to complement the traditional *hon* and *han*.

Gustafsson Sendén et al conclude that the introduction to new words that challenge the binary gender system will always be met with hostility and controversy in the beginning, but will see more positive reactions after just a few years (*Introducing a gender-neutral pronoun in a natural gender language: the influence of time on attitudes and behavior*). According to their study, pronouns are often processed automatically, (Chung and Pennebaker; in Gustafsson Sendén et al, *Introducing a gender-neutral pronoun in a natural gender language: the influence of time on attitudes and behavior*) meaning that as long as the gender-neutral pronoun is used in media and in other places where the average language user will encounter it, it will work its way into the language on its own. According to Blaugergs (in Gustafsson Sendén et al, *Introducing a gender-neutral pronoun in a natural gender language: the influence of time on attitudes and behavior*), it will even evoke more resistance when associated with feminism, at least from people who do not identify as feminists. According to Cialdini and Goldstein (in Gustafsson Sendén et al, *Introducing a gender-neutral pronoun in a natural gender language: the influence of time on attitudes and behavior*), use of the Swedish gender-neutral pronoun in trendy entertainment magazines contributed more than debates by feminists and linguists about the importance of gender-neutral representation.

In another article, Gustafsson Sendén, Bäck and Lindqvist state that the reason *hen* has gained traction, while new gender-neutral pronouns that people have tried to introduce in English, like *ze* and *hir* have not, is because *ze* and *hir* were only used within the LGBTQ+ community, while *hen* has seen use outside of the community as well (*Hen can do it!*). This sentiment is echoed in Blaugerg's *An Analysis of Classic Arguments against Changing Sexist Language* (139), in which she discusses different arguments that are used by people opposed to making language more inclusive.

This would imply that the reception of and attitude towards the new gender-neutral use of the Dutch pronouns 'hen' and 'hun' might be positively impacted by the use of this pronoun in the official rules of flat track roller derby, these rules being an instructional text on the topic of a specific sport and not directly related to feminism. Using this strategy might therefore contribute in a meaningful way to the introduction and acceptance of the pronoun in the Dutch language and of

gender-neutral language in general in a way that other strategies, like omission, pluralization and use of passive voice might not.

5. Translating the roller derby rules according to the WFTDA gender policy

In this chapter I will briefly analyze the part of the WFTDA rules that I am translating. I will then discuss how I can adhere to the WFTDA gender policy in my translation.

5.1 Analyzing The Rules of Flat Track Roller Derby

The Rules of Flat Track Roller Derby, being a ruleset, is a referential text, according to the four basic text functions Nord distinguishes (*Defining translation functions* 48). My goal in translating it is to increase the popularity of roller derby in The Netherlands by making the official rules accessible to more people and getting more people aware of and interested in the sport in this way. The translated rules would then fulfill the same referential function in the target culture, making this translation an instrumental, equifunctional translation (Nord *Defining translation functions* 49).

My focus in this translation will lie on making sure the target text conforms to the WFTDA gender policy, like the source text does. This means that the target text should use exclusively gender-neutral language, in order to make gender non-conforming skaters feel as welcome in roller derby as gender-conforming skaters do. The strategies for gender-neutral language used in the source text are explored in chapter 3.2. Other than that, I will attempt to match the tone and explanatory character of the source text, as the target text should fulfill the same function in the target language as the source text does in the source language.

According to Nord (*Tekstanalyse en de moeilijkheidsgraad van een vertaling* 148-149), all elements used in a source text to realize one text function can be seen as one 'functional unit.' This means that the translator does not necessarily need to find an equivalent strategy for each individual strategy in English, but rather needs to construct a similar 'functional unit' for the target language that has a corpus of strategies to utilize in translating. This means the translator is not obliged to conform to the source text on form, frequency and distribution of these strategies, but rather can focus on getting across the function in the target text. In the case of *The Rules of Flat Track Roller Derby*, the strategies mentioned in chapter 3.2 are all part of the functional unit of gender-neutral or ungendered language. While these were posited as two separate categories in paragraph 4.2, they fulfil the same function in the source text, namely that of adhering to the WFTDA gender policy. They can therefore be said to belong to the same functional unit.

This means that in order to maintain this functional unit in the target text, the strategies for gender-neutral language used in the source text do not need to be translated with equivalent strategies in the target text: when the pronouns 'they' or 'them' are used in English, the sentence they are used in does not have to be translated with a construction in which the Dutch pronouns 'hen' and 'hun' can be used; if another strategy for gender-neutral -or even ungendered- language in Dutch fits better and would make the translation sound more natural, that is the one that should be used.

This means that all strategies used to adhere to the gender policy in English can be seen as a single language pair specific translation problem (Nord *Tekstanalyse en de moeilijkheidsgraad van*

een vertaling 147), as all strategies form one functional unit that does not have a clear equivalent in Dutch. I will deal with this problem employing several strategies, one of which is adopting a new use of the Dutch plural pronouns 'hen' and 'hun' that is advocated by TNN, the Dutch foundation for transgender emancipation, but has not been officially introduced in the Dutch language.

5.2 Translating The Rules of Flat Track Roller Derby

Because the total ruleset of flat track roller derby is quite long and consists of a total of almost 28,000 words, a translation of the full ruleset would not fit in the scope of this thesis. I will therefore limit my translation to the first four chapters of the rules. These chapters number a total of 5334 words, which is enough to give an adequate sample of what a translated version of the rules would look like. The decision to translate the first four chapters is partially motivated by the desire for readers who do not know roller derby to be able to understand the subject matter, and partially because the way these chapters handle gender-neutral language seems interesting.

5.1.1 Summary

This first part of the rules consists of a short description of the game, a useful starting point for anyone reading the flat track roller derby rules for the first time. Though it is short (scarcely more than 400 words long), several of the above-mentioned strategies for gender-neutral (or ungendered) language can be found. In the short description of the rules, people are always referred to with plural forms, like 'skaters,' 'blockers' or 'jammers,' making the sentences these appear in ungendered. The only time when a singular noun is used to refer to a person, as seen in example sentence (1), the second part of the sentence is structured with a passive voice, again negating the need for gender markings.

- (1) Play that is unsafe or illegal may result in a Skater being assessed a penalty, which is served by sitting in the Penalty Box for 30 seconds of Jam time. (The Rules of Flat Track Roller Derby 1)

This short explanation is followed by an example of how a common jam in the game might go. In this example, skaters are referred to with singular nouns in several sentences, like in example sentence (2). In these sentences, a gender-neutral pronoun is then used to refer to these skaters.

- (2) One Jammer exits the Pack and is declared Lead Jammer, earning the right to end the Jam when they decide. (The Rules of Flat Track Roller Derby 1)

5.1.2 Chapter 1: Game Parameters & Safety

This first chapter establishes some of the basic parameters for a roller derby game, such as the requirement that skaters wear suitable protection, as well as the conditions for participating in and winning a game. Interestingly, this chapter features no instance of singular 'they' being used to refer to individuals, instead using other strategies to keep the language ungendered. This makes the first chapter an interesting one to translate, as the language is ungendered rather than gender-neutral.

5.1.3 Chapter 2: Gameplay

Chapter 2 is useful to include because it describes the basic rules of the game. This chapter is longer than the other two I will be translating, and as such deploys multiple strategies for gender-neutral and ungendered language use. This gives me the opportunity to deal with these strategies

and devise my own strategies to adequately translate the gender-neutral and ungendered use of language to Dutch.

5.1.4 Chapter 3: Scoring

This chapter, though relatively short (783 words), is especially interesting for translation with a focus on gender-neutral pronouns. This is because the chapter is focused on the jammers, the only people in a roller derby game who can score points. Because of this, the rules outlined in this chapter are all focused on either ‘the jammers’ as the subject, or on ‘the jammer’ or ‘a jammer,’ clearly showing how context can clarify the difference between singular ‘they/them’ and plural ‘they/them.’

5.1.5 Chapter 4: Penalties; paragraph 4.1 Contact Penalties

Due to the constraints on the length of the translation, I will only be able to translate up to and including paragraph 4.1 of the roller derby rules. This paragraph deals with contact penalties, the way a skater might get penalized if they hit another player in an unsafe way. Like chapter 3, this chapter is focused on singular players, namely the ones who block or are blocked in the event of a contact penalty. The strategies used in this chapter are both for gender-neutral (‘they/them’ pronouns) and for ungendered (passive voice, plural subjects) language use, presenting an interesting blend to deal with in translation.

6. Translation and notes

The translation of the first four chapters of the official flat track roller derby rules will follow in this chapter. The source text can be found in the appendices.

Spelregels roller derby¹

Samenvatting

Een rollerderbywedstrijd wordt gespeeld op een vlakke, ovale baan. De wedstrijd is opgedeeld in twee helften van 30 minuten. Deze helften zijn opgedeeld in perioden die ‘jams’ worden genoemd en die maximaal twee minuten duren. Tussen twee jams is een tijd van 30 seconden.

Beide teams zetten tijdens een jam maximaal vijf skaters² in. Vier van deze skaters worden ‘blockers’ genoemd (de blockers heten samen de ‘pack’) en één skater wordt de ‘jammer’ genoemd. De jammer draagt een helmbedekking met een ster erop.

¹ Flat track roller derby is named as such to distinguish it from banked track roller derby, a variation of the sport played on a banked track. The original show-sport roller derby has evolved from was played on a banked track as well, which is why for the modern variation a distinction needed to be made in the name. However, flat track roller derby is currently much more widely known and spread; the WFTDA represents more than 450 leagues on 6 continents, while the association for banked track roller derby, RDCL, represents 8 leagues, all based in the United States. For the Dutch rules, this distinction between flat track and banked track therefore does not have to be made.

² In English, ‘skaters’ is a gender-neutral term that does not have a gendered form. In Dutch, the feminine form ‘skatester’ exists, though it is not often used. I have chosen here to use the masculine form ‘skater’ as an ungendered form, as advised in the guidelines for gender-neutral language I consulted (*Gender-neutral*

De twee jammers beginnen iedere jam achter de pack en kunnen elke ronde een punt halen voor iedere blocker van het andere team die ze lappen. Omdat ze achter de pack beginnen, moeten ze de pack eerst passeren en vervolgens de baan rond skaten voordat ze punten kunnen halen door blockers van de tegenstander in te halen.

Roller derby is een full-contact sport; skaters mogen echter niet hun hoofd, ellebogen, onderarmen, handen, knieën, onderbenen of voeten gebruiken om contact te maken met tegenstanders. Skaters mogen geen contact maken met het hoofd, de rug, knieën, onderbenen of voeten van de tegenstander.

Als een skater acties uitvoert die onveilig of verboden zijn, krijgt hen³ mogelijk een straf. Deze zit de skater uit door in het strafgebied te zitten gedurende 30 seconden jantijd.

Het team dat aan het einde van de wedstrijd de meeste punten heeft, wint.

Een typische jam kan als volgt gaan:

1. De blockers gaan achter de pivotlijn en voor de jammerlijn staan.
2. Jammers gaan achter de jammerlijn staan.
3. Wanneer het fluitsignaal om de jam te starten klinkt, skaten de blockers naar voren en strijden ze om de beste positie te verkrijgen. De jammers skaten naar voren en proberen door de pack heen te komen. Iedere blocker probeert te voorkomen dat de jammer van het andere team ze passeert en tegelijkertijd te zorgen dat hun⁴ eigen jammer kan passeren.
4. Een van de jammers verlaat de pack en wordt uitgeroepen tot hoofdjammer, waarmee hen⁵ het recht krijgt om de jam te beëindigen wanneer hen⁶ dat wil. Deze jammer skatet zo snel mogelijk over de baan om in positie te komen om punten te scoren.
5. Dezelfde jammer begint zich voor de tweede keer een weg te banen door de pack, en de jammer van het andere team verlaat voor de eerste keer de pack.⁷

language in the European Parliament 10; Guidelines for gender-inclusive language in English; Gender-Inclusive Language; Kassab).

³ Here, a gender-neutral element is introduced in the target text that was not present in the source text. In the source text, the passive voice is used, keeping the sentence ungendered. However, as the referent 'skater' is later in the source text gendered as gender-neutral, there would be no problem in introducing this element here, avoiding the passive voice.

⁴ 'Hun' is used here as gender-neutral possessive pronoun, with the singular referent 'blocker.' This mirrors the source text, in which the gender-neutral pronoun 'their' is used with the singular referent 'blocker.'

⁵ I have used the gender-neutral pronoun 'hen' here, though in the source text this phrase was ungendered ('earning the right to end the jam'). However, the rest of the sentence in the source text is explicitly gendered as gender-neutral ('to end the jam when they decide'). This means that in using a strategy for gender-neutral language instead of one for ungendered language, the target text does deviate in gender expression from the source text at this point.

⁶ I have used the gender-neutral pronoun 'hen' here, as a translation of the English gender-neutral pronoun 'they.' This reflects the explicit gender-neutral language in the source text.

⁷ In the source text, both jammers mentioned are marked with gender-neutral language ('The same jammer begins to work their way through the pack' and 'the opposing jammer makes their way out of the pack'). I have not translated these with an equivalent strategy for gender-neutral language and have instead used ungendered language, because the sentence structure used in the target text would not be suitable for added gender-neutral pronouns. Additionally, because the previous sentence already marks the jammers as gender-neutral, this sentence is grammatically ungendered, but can still be read as gender-neutral.

6. Zodra de jammer die de pack als tweede verlaten heeft de baan rond is en in positie is om punten te scoren, beëindigt de eerste jammer de jam.
7. De eerste jammer heeft een aantal punten gescoord (maximaal vier) en heeft ervoor gezorgd dat hun⁸ tegenstander geen punten kon scoren. Tegelijkertijd heeft de andere jammer ervoor gezorgd dat de eerste jammer niet meer punten kon scoren tijdens volgende rondes door in positie te komen om zelf punten te scoren.⁹

1. Wedstrijdcriteria en veiligheid

1.1. Tijdsindeling

Een wedstrijd bestaat uit 60 minuten speeltijd, verdeeld in twee helften van 30 minuten met een rustperiode ertussen. De helften zijn onderverdeeld in **jams**, de basiseenheid van een wedstrijd roller derby.

Een jam duurt maximaal twee minuten. Jams kunnen na minder dan twee minuten al worden afgebroken als onderdeel van de wedstrijd, zoals hieronder beschreven. Iedere jam begint met een kort fluitsignaal en eindigt na een reeks van vier korte fluitsignalen. Er moeten ten minste 30 seconden verstrijken tussen twee jams. Er mogen niet meer dan 30 seconden verstrijken, tenzij er een time-out plaatsvindt.

Een helft begint vanaf het fluitsignaal waarmee de eerste jam van die helft wordt gestart. De tijdwaarneming staat niet stil in de tijd tussen twee jams, tenzij er een time-out plaatsvindt. Als de tijd in de tijdwaarneming voorbij is voordat de volgende jam is begonnen, is de helft meteen afgelopen; anders is de helft afgelopen zodra de laatste jam van die helft voorbij is. Als aan het einde van een wedstrijd een jam wordt afgebroken door officials (zie **Paragraaf 5.2**) of als er een fout gemaakt is door officials die mogelijk van invloed is op de uitslag van de wedstrijd (wie de winnaar/verliezer is), en er minder dan 30 seconden in de tijdwaarneming over zijn (of als de tijd in de tijdwaarneming al voorbij is), kan de hoofdscheidsrechter besluiten een extra jam uit te voeren. Deze jam is van dezelfde soort (verlengingsjam of reguliere jam; zie **Paragraaf 1.5.1**) als de afgebroken jam en hoort bij dezelfde helft.

⁸ In the source text, a gender-neutral pronoun is used here. I have translated this sentence by using an equivalent gender-neutral pronoun, thereby keeping the neutral gendering of this sentence.

⁹ In this sentence, the gender-neutral language of the source text is translated with ungendered language, as the gender-neutral pronoun 'they' is omitted in the translation. But, as this pronoun referred to one of the jammers, who is already marked gender-neutral in point 4, this sentence can still be read as gender-neutral.

1.2. Teams¹⁰

Een team bestaat uit skaters die allemaal te herkennen moeten zijn aan een uniek rugnummer. Ieder team moet een teamshirt met dezelfde basiskleur hebben, en het contrast tussen de uniformkleuren van de twee teams die spelen moet groot zijn. De rugnummers moeten duidelijk zichtbaar zijn op de rug en bovenarmen van een skater. Beide teams moeten helmbedekkingen hebben die duidelijk aangeven wie de jammer en pivot zijn. De helmbedekkingen voor de jammers en pivots van de beide teams moeten gemakkelijk van elkaar te onderscheiden zijn.

Skaters dienen tijdens het spelen rolschaatsen en bescherming te dragen. Skeelers zijn niet toegestaan. Bescherming mag tijdens het spelen niet worden verwijderd. Bescherming mag de veiligheid of de bewegingsvrijheid van andere skaters, ondersteunend personeel of officials niet in gevaar brengen of belemmeren.

Skaters die tijdens de wedstrijd geblesseerd raken, mogen weer deelnemen aan de wedstrijd wanneer ze niet meer zichtbaar geblesseerd zijn of bloeden. Als de verwonding van een skater het verloop van de wedstrijd verandert (bijvoorbeeld omdat een jam afgebroken wordt, de klok stilgezet wordt, of een vervanger naar het strafgebied gaat), mag de skater de drie opvolgende jams niet meedoen (indien van toepassing wordt dit meegenomen naar de volgende helft). Als het in een helft meer dan eens voorkomt dat de verwonding van een skater het verloop van de wedstrijd beïnvloedt, mag deze skater de rest van de helft niet meespelen als skater. Wanneer een team vijf of minder skaters heeft die in staat zijn aan de wedstrijd deel te nemen of weigert skaters aan te wijzen om de baan op te gaan en de wedstrijd te vervolgen, **kan** de hoofdscheidsrechter verklaren dat het team de wedstrijd heeft opgegeven.

1.3. Time-outs

Teams en officials mogen de tijdwaarneming stilzetten door een time-out aan te vragen. Time-outs mogen alleen tussen jams in aangevraagd worden, maar officials mogen een jam afbreken om een official-time-out aan te vragen. Het begin van een time-out wordt aangekondigd met vier korte fluitsignalen, het eind van een time-out wordt aangekondigd met een lang aanhoudend fluitsignaal. De volgende jam begint daarna zo snel mogelijk, mits er nog tijd over is in de helft. Er mogen niet meer dan 30 seconden verstrijken voordat de volgende jam begint. De tijdwaarneming loopt weer verder wanneer het jam-startsignaal klinkt. Er zijn drie soorten time-outs.

¹⁰ In the source text, this section is entirely ungendered, though it does deal with individual skaters and the rules they must follow. This is opposed to section 1.1; which is ungendered as well, but deals with timing of the game and the structure of the jams instead of with people. As such, it cannot be gendered. Section 1.2 uses pluralization and passive voice instead to keep the language ungendered. In the target text, I have followed this strategy and have only used ungendered language, instead of gender-neutral language.

1.3.1 Teamtime-outs

Beide teams mogen tijdens de wedstrijd drie time-outs aanvragen. Time-outs kunnen alleen worden aangevraagd door de aanvoerder¹¹ of de aangewezen plaatsvervanger van het team. Aanvoerders of aangewezen plaatsvervangers met een penalty kunnen geen teamtime-out aanvragen. Teamtime-outs duren 60 seconden.

1.3.2 Official-beoordelingen

Beide teams beginnen een helft met één official-beoordeling die ze tijdens die helft kunnen inzetten. Een official-beoordeling kan formeel aangevraagd worden door de aanvoerder of aangewezen plaatsvervanger van een team, opdat de officials een keuze die ze gemaakt hebben, heroverwogen. De enige besluiten van officials die heroverwogen kunnen worden met een official-beoordeling zijn besluiten die tijdens de voorgaande jam of tijdens de opstarttijd voorafgaand aan de voorgaande jam genomen zijn. De hoofdscheidsrechter onderzoekt de beoordeling met andere officials en gebruikt de verzamelde informatie om een besluit te nemen over de te beoordelen situatie en de bijbehorende keuzes. De hoofdscheidsrechter deelt vervolgens hun¹² bevindingen en alle wijzigingen die hieruit voortvloeien mee aan de vertegenwoordigers¹³ van beide teams. Dit besluit is definitief en onherroepelijk.

Als de hoofdscheidsrechter vaststelt dat er door de officials een fout is gemaakt in de situatie in kwestie, behoudt het team het recht om later in dezelfde helft een extra beoordeling aan te vragen. De herziening kan slechts eenmaal per helft op deze manier worden behouden.

Een team kan er ook voor kiezen de official-beoordeling als teamtime-out te gebruiken. In dit geval wordt het recht op beoordeling niet behouden. Aanvoerders of aangewezen plaatsvervangers met een penalty kunnen geen official-beoordeling aanvragen.

Ongebruikte of behouden official-beoordelingen mogen niet worden meegenomen naar de volgende helft.

1.3.3 Officialtime-outs

Officials mogen een time-out aanvragen om ervoor te zorgen dat de wedstrijd soepel en correct verloopt. Indien de voorgaande jam afgebroken is en er nog minder dan 30 seconden over zijn in de helft, heeft een aangevraagde officialtime-out niet als gevolg dat er nog een jam plaatsvindt, hoewel dit bij een teamtime-out of een official-beoordeling wel zou gebeuren. In plaats daarvan moeten de officials bepalen of er een reden is om nog een jam plaats te laten vinden in die helft of niet. Als de officials bepalen dat er geen reden is om nog een jam plaats te laten vinden, moeten beide teams de

¹¹ In Dutch, 'aanvoerder' also has a feminine form ('aanvoerdster') but I have opted for gender-neutral 'aanvoerder,' following the guidelines for gender-neutral language used in this thesis (*Gender-neutral language in the European Parliament 10; Guidelines for gender-inclusive language in English; Gender-Inclusive Language; Kassab*).

¹² 'Hun' is used here as the gender-neutral possessive pronoun for the third person singular, referring to 'De hoofdscheidsrechter.' This follows the gender-neutral language strategy employed in the source text, where a gender-neutral possessive pronoun for the third person singular is used as well.

¹³ In Dutch, 'vertegenwoordiger' also has a feminine form ('vertegenwoordigster') but I have opted for gender-neutral 'vertegenwoordiger,' following the guidelines for gender-neutral language used in this thesis (*Gender-neutral language in the European Parliament 10; Guidelines for gender-inclusive language in English; Gender-Inclusive Language; Kassab*).

kans krijgen om een teamtime-out of een official-beoordeling aan te vragen (indien ze dat recht nog hebben). Indien ze dit afslaan, is de helft afgelopen.

1.4. Wedstrijdinformatie

Essentiële wedstrijd informatie dient goed zichtbaar weergegeven worden voor teams, officials en toeschouwers. De weergegeven essentiële wedstrijd informatie wordt als officieel beschouwd en moet minimaal de volgende gegevens bevatten:

- Tijdwaarneming voor de helft
- Tijdwaarneming voor de jam
- De officiële stand

Fouten in de tijdwaarneming of stand moeten zo snel mogelijk worden gecorrigeerd. Indien een fout gedurende langere tijd aanhoudt, dient deze alleen te worden gecorrigeerd als de correctie zelf minimale gevolgen heeft voor de wedstrijd.

1.5. Winnen

Het team dat aan het einde van de wedstrijd de meeste punten heeft, wint.

1.5.1 Verlenging

Als de wedstrijd eindigt met een gelijk aantal punten, wordt de tweede helft verlengd met ten minste één extra jam. Deze verlengingsjam is hetzelfde als iedere andere jam, met twee uitzonderingen:

- Er wordt geen hoofdjammer uitgeroepen
- Beide jammers kunnen tijdens hun eerste ronde door de pack al punten halen (beide jammers zijn tijdens de eerste keer dat ze de blockers van het andere team passeren zonder regels te overtreden al in positie om ze te lappen)¹⁴

Er worden jams toegevoegd op deze manier totdat de stand na afloop van een jam niet meer gelijk is.

2. Het spel

2.1. De baan

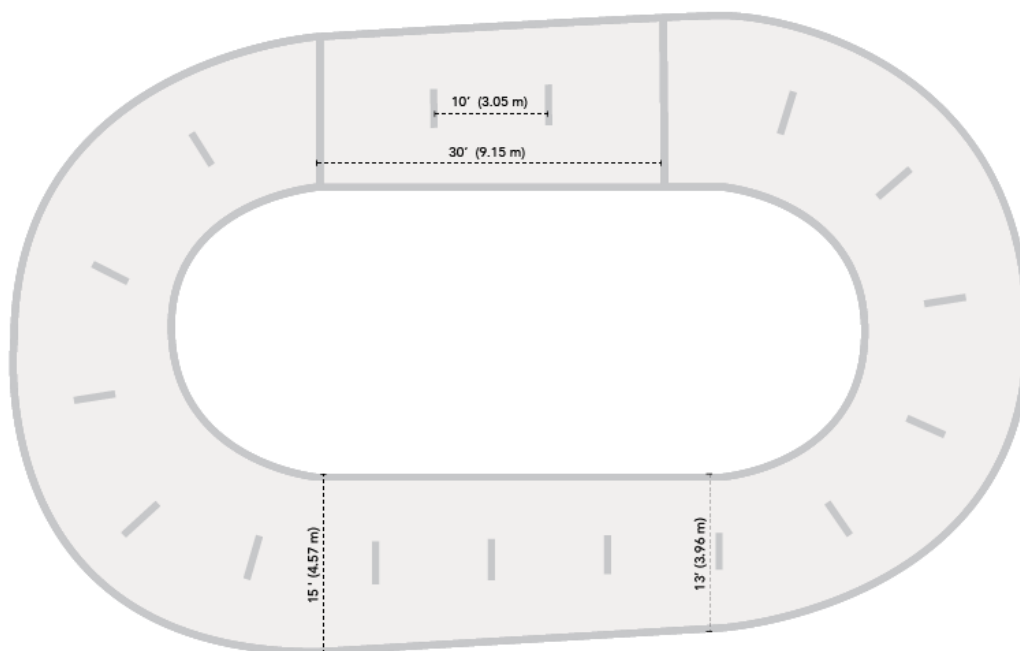
De baan moet voldoen aan de standaardafmetingen zoals vastgesteld in de baanspecificaties van de WFTDA. De baan moet vlak en schoon zijn en moet geschikt zijn voor skaten. De baan moet

¹⁴ Though this sentence is written in gender-neutral language in the source text, the language in the target text is ungendered. This is because the sentence in parentheses has a singular subject in English ('each jammer'), while the translation 'beide jammers' is plural. This means that a strategy of pluralization is used, for ungendered language, even though the goal is not necessarily to mark this sentence as ungendered. However, the jammers are the subject of this sentence, and they are already marked as gender-neutral earlier in these rules, so this sentence is not fully ungendered.

worden aangeduid met een scheidslijn die duidelijk contrasteert met de vloer. De scheidslijn telt als onderdeel van de baan (op de scheidslijn is 'in') en moet rondom de baan overal even breed zijn.

De scheidslijn, de pivotlijn en de jammerlijn mogen van elk patroon of elke kleur zijn, maar moeten de grenzen van de baan duidelijk aangeven.

Er moeten gebieden afgebakend worden in de buurt van de baan voor beide teams (de teambankgebieden) en voor het strafgebied. De scheidslijnen van deze gebieden moeten ook sterk contrasteren en zijn onderdeel van het betreffende gebied. De scheidslijnen van het strafgebied zijn bijvoorbeeld onderdeel van het strafgebied. Alleen skaters die een straf uitzitten mogen het strafgebied betreden¹⁵.



Afb. 2.1 De baan (baanlay-out en -ontwerp © Electra Blu/Amy Sherman, Texas Rollergirls, hier met toestemming gebruikt)

2.2. Posities

Een team moet voor iedere jam één jammer en maximaal vier blockers inzetten. Een van deze blockers mag worden ingezet als pivotblocker. Skaters die niet volledig op de baan staan wanneer het fluitsignaal om de jam te starten klinkt, mogen niet meedoen aan de jam en tellen dus niet mee voor de opstelling. Skaters die straffen uitzitten (in, of op weg naar, het strafgebied) tellen wel mee voor deze opstelling. Teams moeten ten minste één blocker inzetten die geen straf aan het uitzitten

¹⁵ While section 2.1 is ungendered in its entirety, this sentence is the only one that is about people and where a gender marking could reasonably be expected. In the source text, this sentence is ungendered because of the plural form of the subject, although skaters are marked gender-neutral elsewhere in the rules. I have used this same strategy in the target text.

is. Skaters mogen tijdens een jam niet van positie veranderen, behalve wanneer de ster doorgegeven wordt (zie hieronder).

Op het moment dat de jam begint, moeten beide jammers zich achter of op de jammerlijn bevinden. Alle blockers moeten zich achter de pivotlijn en voor de jammerlijn bevinden en alle blockers die niet de pivot zijn, mogen de pivotlijn niet aanraken. Als een van de pivots de pivotlijn aanraakt wanneer de jam start, moeten alle blockers die geen pivot zijn zich achter de heupen van die pivot begeven.

Een skater die zich volledig op de baan bevindt, maar gedeeltelijk gepositioneerd is op een manier die niet toegestaan is, (bijvoorbeeld een jammer die de baan voorbij de jammerlijn aanraakt) moet voorrang geven aan alle andere skaters in hun¹⁶ directe omgeving. Alle skaters die volledig gepositioneerd zijn op een manier die niet toegestaan is, krijgen meteen een straf. Blockers die voorrang moeten geven, worden niet meegeteld voor het bepalen van de pack totdat ze de voorrang gegeven hebben. Jammers die voorrang moeten geven, kunnen geen blockers passeren totdat ze de voorrang gegeven hebben.

2.2.1 Jammers

De jammer is de skater die zichtbaar in het bezit is van de jammerhelmbedekking (ook wel: de ster) aan het begin van de jam. Als een skater een straf uitzit als de jammer van hun team, mag geen van hun teamgenoten¹⁷ de jam beginnen in het bezit van de ster of achter de jammerlijn¹⁸. Als er geen skater is die een straf uitzit als jammer en geen skater is met een zichtbare ster, dan heeft het team geen jammer ingezet voor de volgende jam en wordt het hiervoor gestraft. De jammer moet de jam op of achter de jammerlijn beginnen, tenzij hen¹⁹ een straf uitzit. Jammers mogen stilstaan of uitrollen, maar mogen niet actief versnellen in de speelrichting (tegen de klok in) op het moment dat het fluitsignaal om de jam te starten klinkt.

De ster mag alleen worden gedragen door de jammer op hun helm, of door de jammer of pivot van hetzelfde team in hun hand²⁰. Andere skaters mogen de ster niet verplaatsen en de jammer en pivot mogen de ster niet verbergen (bijvoorbeeld in een zak of in kleding).

¹⁶ This pronoun is gender-neutral, as it refers to the singular subject 'een skater.' In the source text, the subject of this sentence is plural and the pronoun, also plural, is ungendered, but in the target text this would cause incongruency with the singular example in parentheses. For this reason, I used a singular subject, forgoing the strategy of pluralization for ungendered language and instead using the strategy of gender-neutral pronouns for gender-neutral language.

¹⁷ 'Teamgenoten' is the plural of 'teamgenoot,' which has a feminine form 'teamgenote' with a separate plural, 'teamgenotes.' I have opted for the neutral form instead of the feminine form, following the guidelines for gender-neutral language used in this thesis (*Gender-neutral language in the European Parliament 10; Guidelines for gender-inclusive language in English; Gender-Inclusive Language; Kassab*).

¹⁸ In this sentence, I have used the strategy for gender-neutral language of using a gender-neutral pronoun twice, though in the source text this same strategy is only used once in this sentence. Both pronouns have the same referent, but the second one is omitted in the source text. As this referent is already marked gender-neutral by the use of the first pronoun, I have chosen not to use the strategy for ungendered language of omission for the second.

¹⁹ This is a gender-neutral use of the personal pronoun, third person singular, in subject position. In the source text, a gender-neutral personal pronoun in third person singular is used as well, similarly in a subject position.

²⁰ In this sentence, the gender-neutral, singular function of the possessive pronoun in third person is used twice. In the source text, the same strategy for gender-neutral language is used.

De jammer is de enige skater die punten kan behalen voor hun²¹ team (zie Hoofdstuk 3).

Jammers mogen bovendien het blockgebied verlaten en hierbuiten blijven.

2.2.2 Hoofdjammer

De hoofdjammer is de eerste jammer die de voorste blocker op een legale positie in het blockgebied inhaalt en op dat moment alle blockers al heeft ingehaald, met uitzondering van de blockers die zich voorbij het blockgebied bevinden (zie Paragraaf 2.5). Als een jammer hoofdjammer wordt, wordt dit aangegeven met twee korte fluitsignalen. Als een jammer tijdens een jam een straf krijgt, het **blockgebied** verlaat zonder hoofdjammer te worden, hun helmbedekking afneemt, of als hun helmbedekking afgenomen wordt door een teamgenoot, kan die jammer gedurende die jam geen hoofdjammer meer worden²². Als beide jammers tegelijkertijd in aanmerking komen om hoofdjammer te worden (bijvoorbeeld als de voorste blocker buitenspel staat), wordt de jammer die op dat moment vooraan staat uitgeroepen tot hoofdjammer. Alleen skaters die de jam beginnen als jammers kunnen hoofdjammer worden (dus een pivot die de ster krijgt, kan niet de hoofdjammer worden).

Als de hoofdjammer een straf krijgt, de ster opzettelijk afneemt, of als een teamgenoot de ster opzettelijk van hen afneemt, verliest hen de status van hoofdjammer²³.

De hoofdjammer is de enige skater die de jam mag afbreken voordat de volle twee minuten zijn verstreken. De hoofdjammer kan de jam afbreken door herhaaldelijk hun handen op hun heupen te plaatsen²⁴.

2.2.3 Pivotblocker²⁵

De pivot is een blocker en is te herkennen als de skater die de pivothelmbedekking heeft (ook wel: de streep) op het moment dat het startsignaal van de jam klinkt. De pivot, die de streep zichtbaar draagt, heeft een aantal extra mogelijkheden die andere blockers niet hebben.

- De pivot kan de jammer van hun team worden (zie **Paragraaf 2.2.4**).
- De pivot mag de ster bewegen (oppakken, verplaatsen, etc.), zelfs als hen niet de jammer is, bijvoorbeeld om hem op te rapen en terug te geven aan de jammer.
- De pivot mag de pivotlijn aanraken op het moment dat de jam start.

²¹ See note 19: the possessive pronoun is used as a gender-neutral pronoun, just like it is in the source text.

²² In the source text, a gender-neutral pronoun was used three times, referring every time to the jammer. Because the sentence is structured differently in the target text, a gender-neutral pronoun was only used twice, still referring to the jammer. Because all instances of the gender-neutral pronoun in the source text refer to this jammer and the target text still refers to this jammer with a gender-neutral pronoun, no gender-neutrality was lost in the translation.

²³ In this sentence, the jammer is referred to twice with gender-neutral pronouns. In the source text, the jammer is also referred to twice with gender-neutral pronouns, although the pronouns are in different positions. Still, because the referent is the same, no gender-neutral meaning is lost.

²⁴ The source text and the target text use the same strategy for gender-neutral language in this sentence; in the target text a gender-neutral and singular form of the possessive pronoun in the third person is used twice. In the source text, gender-neutral possessive pronouns of the same function are used.

²⁵ In section 2.2.1, the pivot is referred to with a gender-neutral pronoun and thus is gendered for the first time in this rules text, as gender-neutral. This section refers to the pivot directly and in doing so, always refers to them with gender-neutral pronouns in the source text. In the target text, I have used this same strategy for gender-neutral language.

Als de pivot de streep niet zichtbaar draagt, wordt hen behandeld als alle andere blockers.

2.2.4 De ster doorgeven

De jammer van een team mag hun positie overdragen aan de pivot van hun team door de ster succesvol en volgens de regels door te geven. Om de ster volgens de regels door te geven, moet de jammer de ster aan de pivot van hun team geven terwijl beide skaters staan, op de baan zijn, en zich in het blockgebied bevinden en mogen geen van beide skaters op weg zijn naar of op de wachtlijst staan voor het strafgebied. Zodra de jammer de ster loslaat in de hand van de pivot, wordt de positie van jammer overgedragen naar de pivot. De nieuwe jammer neemt ook het aantal punten dat behaald is, het aantal keren dat de pack gepasseerd is en het aantal skaters dat ingehaald is over van de vorige jammer. De vorige jammer wordt een blocker die geen pivot is²⁶.

Als de ster niet volgens de regels wordt doorgegeven, behouden beide skaters hun positie. Dit kan voorkomen als:

- De ster doorgegeven wordt aan een andere skater dan de²⁷ pivot van het juiste team
- De ster doorgegeven wordt aan de pivot terwijl een van de twee skaters niet staat, niet op de baan staat, buitenspel staat of onderweg is naar het strafgebied.
- De ster doorgegeven wordt aan de pivot terwijl de pivot op de wachtlijst staat voor het strafgebied (ook als hen²⁸ nog niet onderweg is)
- De ster doorgegeven wordt aan een pivot die de streep niet draagt

Als de pivot de ster krijgt maar deze niet volgens de regels doorgegeven wordt, of als de pivot op een ander manier aan de ster komt (bijvoorbeeld door hem van de grond op te rapen), krijgt hen een waarschuwing dat hen niet de jammer is. In dat geval mag de pivot de ster niet op hun eigen helm plaatsen, maar hen mag de ster wel vasthouden, laten vallen of teruggeven aan de jammer. Alleen de jammer of de pivot mogen de ster oppakken of verplaatsen²⁹.

Wanneer het doorgeven (of oppakken) van de ster op een manier die niet toegestaan is van invloed is op het spel, wordt de skater die het initiatief neemt gestraft.

²⁶ In this first paragraph of this section, the source text refers to the jammer with gender-neutral pronouns several times. This is the only referent that is gendered in this paragraph. In the target text, I have followed this approach and have only gendered the jammer, through gender-neutral pronouns. The rest of the language used is ungendered in both the source text and the target text.

²⁷ In the source text, a gender-neutral possessive pronoun is used, referring to the jammer and making the sentence gender-neutral. However, in the preceding sentence, the passive voice is used, leaving the jammer out of this sentence, making the referral odd. I have therefore opted for an explication of the pivot, though the sentence loses its gender-neutral element in doing so.

²⁸ In the source text, the subject is repeated here and 'the pivot' is used in this position. To avoid repeating the words 'de pivot' three times, a gender-neutral pronoun is used here, introducing a gender-neutral element into a sentence that was ungendered in the source text. As the pivot has previously been gendered as gender-neutral, this should not pose a problem.

²⁹ In this paragraph, the pivot is referred to several times, always with gender-neutral pronouns, in the source text. In the target text, I have used this same strategy of gender-neutral language and referred to the pivot with gender-neutral 'hen' and 'hun.'

2.2.5 Blockers

Alle andere skaters zijn blockers. Blockers die geen pivot zijn, mogen geen helmbedekking dragen en mogen geen markeringen op hun helm hebben die aangezien kunnen worden voor de streep of de ster.

2.3. Blockgebied en pack

De grootste groep van skaters die bij elkaar in de buurt, staand en op de baan zijn, bestaande uit skaters van beide teams, wordt de pack genoemd. Als er niet één groep van blockers is die aan deze eisen voldoet, is er geen pack, ook niet als er meerdere groepen van dezelfde grootte zijn. Bij elkaar in de buurt wordt gedefinieerd als niet meer dan 3,05 meter (10 feet)³⁰, gemeten vanaf de heupen, voor of achter de dichtstbijzijnde skater in de pack. Wanneer een skater een straf krijgt, geldt hen³¹ niet meer als op de baan voor het bepalen van de pack en het bepalen van relatieve posities.

Het behouden van een pack is de verantwoordelijkheid van alle blockers en het is niet toegestaan om de pack bewust uit elkaar te laten vallen. Als de pack tegen de klok in beweegt of tijdens een jam stilstaat, is het niet toegestaan om met de klok mee te skaten en zo de pack te vernietigen. Alle blockers van beide teams moeten actie ondernemen om een pack te herstellen. Skaters in de achterste groep moeten dan tegen de klok in bewegen. Skaters in de voorste groep moeten dan uitrollen, remmen of volledig tot stilstand komen. Als onmiddellijk ondernomen acties niet voldoende zijn om de pack te herstellen, moet er extra inspanningen geleverd worden. Als een blocker in de achterste groep zit, moet hen versnellen (totdat hen sprint) richting de voorste groep totdat een pack hersteld is (uitrollen, langzaam skaten of skaten in een richting die niet volledig tegen de klok in is, is niet voldoende), maar hen mag afremmen om onveilig contact te vermijden wanneer de pack bijna gehegroepeerd is. Als een blocker in de voorste groep zit, moet hen actief remmen totdat hen³² volledig stilstaat (uitrollen is niet voldoende), maar hen is niet verplicht om met de klok mee te skaten.

Blocks tegen of door blockers die invloed hebben op het spel terwijl er geen pack is, moeten onmiddellijk worden bestraft.³³

³⁰ Usually, I would choose to use the measurements in meters and omit the measurements in feet. However, the measurements often used in roller derby and mentioned in these rules (10 feet and 20 feet) are integers and easy to remember, while the measurement in meters (3.05 meters and 6.10 meters) are fractionals, making them harder to remember. In game and training situations, the measurements in feet will often be used, even in Dutch. I have therefore left both measurements in the target text, but placed the meters in the primary position and the feet between brackets, while in the source text this is the other way around.

³¹ In the source text, this is the first time the referent 'skater' is explicitly marked gender-neutral through the use of pronouns. However, in the target text this referent is already marked gender-neutral in the first chapter, 'Samenvatting' (see note 3).

³² Gender neutral use of the personal pronoun, third person singular, in subject position. In the source text, a gender-neutral personal pronoun in third person singular is used as well.

³³ In this paragraph, the referent 'blocker' is referred to several times with gender-neutral pronouns, both in the source text and in the target text. This referent is first marked as gender-neutral in the first introductory chapter (see note 4).

Het blockgebied is het gebied waar blockers mogen blocken of geblockt mogen worden. Het blockgebied strekt zich 6,10 meter (20 feet)³⁴ uit voor en achter respectievelijk de voorste en achterste skaters in de pack. Een blocker buiten het blockgebied is buitenspel en kan niet blocken of geblockt worden. Blockers buiten het blockgebied krijgen een waarschuwing en krijgen een straf als ze niet meteen proberen terug te keren naar het blockgebied. Blockers die zich voor het blockgebied bevinden, hoeven alleen met de klok mee te skaten om terug te keren naar het blockgebied als het pack stilstaat of met de klok mee beweegt. Skaters die geblockt worden als ze buitenspel zijn, wat niet toegestaan is, mogen tegenblocken op een manier die wel toegestaan is.

Om de pack en het blockgebied te bepalen worden de kortste afstanden tussen de heupen van skaters gebruikt, gemeten parallel aan de binnenste scheidlijn van de baan.

2.4. Blocks en assists

Met 'blocken' wordt bedoeld ieder fysiek contact met een tegenstander en iedere beweging of positionering van het lichaam tijdens een jam om de snelheid of beweging van die tegenstander te belemmeren, ongeacht of er contact wordt gemaakt of niet. Tegenblocken is iedere beweging die gemaakt wordt door de ontvangende skater in de richting van een aankomende block. Tegenblocken is blocken. Acties die voldoen aan de bovenstaande beschrijving worden beschouwd als blocken, ook als ze per ongeluk worden uitgevoerd. Als er contact gemaakt wordt met een teamgenoot, wordt dit niet gezien als blocken, ook niet als het de initiatiefnemer of de teamgenoot benadeelt.

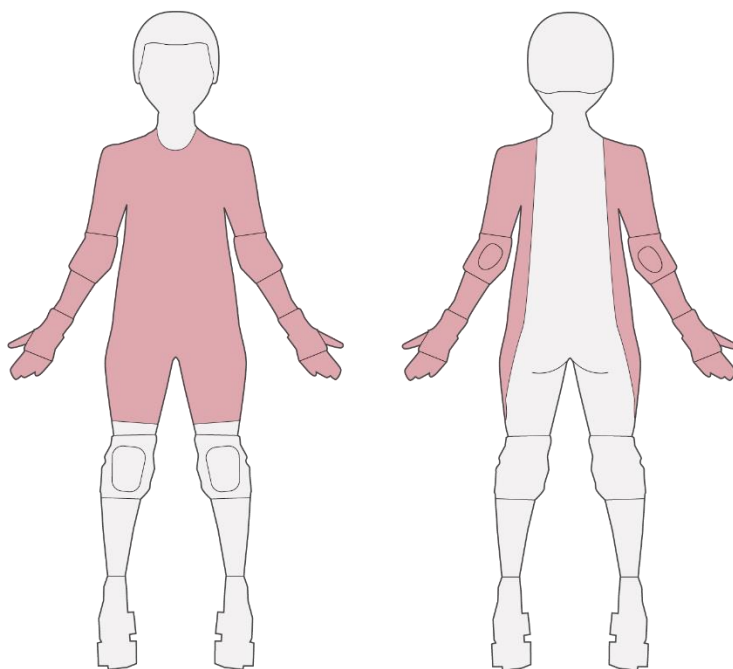
Al het contact tussen tegenstanders heeft een initiatiefnemer, maar het is mogelijk dat twee of meer skaters tegelijkertijd het initiatief nemen om elkaar te blocken.

Skaters mogen geen blocks of assists uitvoeren als ze buiten de baan of buitenspel zijn, niet staan, stilstaan of met de klok mee bewegen. Skaters mogen ook niet het initiatief nemen om een tegenstander die niet staat, die buitenspel is of die volledig buiten de baan staat te blocken. Skaters mogen echter wel het initiatief nemen om een block (of assist) uit te voeren tegen (of te geven aan) iemand die gedeeltelijk buiten de baan is, stilstaat of in een richting beweegt (ook met de klok mee). Skaters mogen geen assist geven aan een teamgenoten die buitenspel of buiten de baan is; maar ze mogen een gevallen teamgenoot wel overeind helpen.

2.4.1 Doelzones

Een block mag alleen uitgevoerd worden tegen de borst, de voor- en zijkanten van de romp, de armen, de handen, de heupen en de voor- en zijkanten van de benen boven het midden van de dij van de tegenstander.

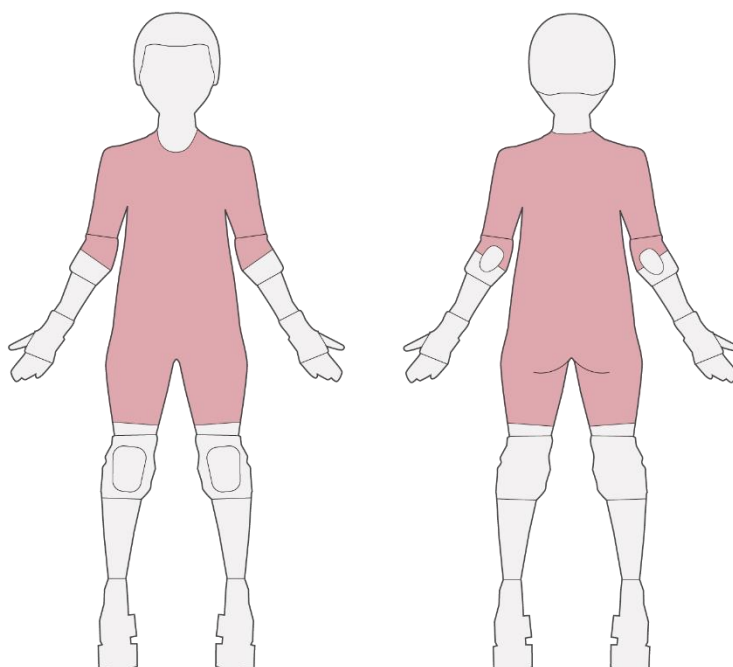
³⁴ See note 30 on why both measurements are represented in the target text.



Afb. 2.2 Toegestane doelzones

2.4.2 Blockzones

Een block mag alleen uitgevoerd worden met de romp, de armen boven de elleboog en de benen boven het midden van de dij van de initiatiefnemer.



Afb. 2.3 Toegestane blockzones

2.5. Inhalen

Skaters kunnen een andere skaters inhalen door ze tegen de klok in te passeren.

Een andere skater passeren betekent in dit geval dat het massamiddelpunt van de ene skater (zoals afgebakend door hun³⁵ heupen) verplaatst wordt van achter het massamiddelpunt van een andere skater naar voor dit punt.

Voor jammers telt een ingehaalde skater alleen als ‘verdiend’ als de jammer de skater passeert terwijl hen de ster zichtbaar op hun helm draagt³⁶. Alle verdiende inhaalacties tellen als ingehaalde skaters. Inhaalacties worden alleen ‘verdiend’ als:

- De jammer staande en in de baan is tijdens de inhaalactie, of
- Een andere skater naar een positie achter de jammer (die in de baan is) skatet, en hun³⁷ eigen positie zo opgeeft

Zodra een jammer een blocker van de tegenstander inhaalt, verdient hen³⁸ ook een inhaalactie ten opzichte van de blockers die ‘niet op de baan’ zijn, wat betekent dat ze om wat voor reden dan ook op dat moment niet deel uitmaken van het spel, of die voordat de jammer hun puntenronde afmaakt, stoppen deel uit te maken van het spel. Hieronder vallen ook skaters die:

- in het strafgebied zitten of hier naartoe gestuurd worden
- de baan verlaten vanwege een verwonding
- de baan tijdelijk verlaten om hun uitrusting of skates te herstellen
- van begin af aan al geen deel uitmaakten van de jam (omdat hun³⁹ team niet genoeg skaters heeft ingezet)
- terugkeren naar het spel achter de jammer

³⁵ Gender neutral use of the possessive pronoun, third person singular. In the source text, a gender-neutral third person singular possessive pronoun is used as well. The referent of this pronoun is the ‘skater,’ who is already marked gender-neutral in the introductory chapter.

³⁶ The jammer is referred to with gender-neutral pronouns in this sentence, both in the source text and in the target text, though in the source text only one gender-neutral pronoun is present, whereas in the source text there are two. This is because the subject is repeated in the source text, but replaced with a pronoun in the target text. However, as the jammer has been marked gender-neutral earlier in this rules text, this presents no new or added meaning.

³⁷ Gender neutral use of the possessive pronoun, third person singular. In the source text, a gender-neutral third person singular possessive pronoun is used as well. This refers to ‘skater,’ a subject that has been marked as gender-neutral earlier in the rules.

³⁸ Gender neutral use of the personal pronoun, third person singular, in subject position. In the source text, a gender-neutral personal pronoun in third person singular is used as well. This refers to ‘jammer,’ a subject that has been marked as gender-neutral earlier in the rules.

³⁹ This is an instance where the pronoun ‘hun’ is ungendered rather than gender-neutral, because the referent is plural and gender is not marked on plural pronouns in Dutch. In the source text, however, there is a singular and gender-neutral pronoun in this position, because the referent in that case is singular. This pronoun refers to ‘skaters’ or ‘skater,’ a referent that has been marked gender-neutral earlier in the rules. The loss of gender in the pluralization of this sentence therefore does not result in a loss of gender-neutral language in the text as a whole.

Een skater die iemand inhaalt terwijl hen los van de grond is, wordt geteld als ‘op de baan’ zolang hen op de baan is wanneer hen de grond verlaat en als het eerste contact dat hen met de grond maakt bij de landing ook op de baan is. Een skater die iemand inhaalt terwijl hen los van de grond is, wordt geteld als ‘staande’ als de skater staande is terwijl hen de grond verlaat en als het eerste contact dat hen met de grond maakt met de landing met hun skate op de baan is.⁴⁰

3. Punten

3.1. Punten verdienen

Jammers verdienen iedere keer als ze een blocker van de tegenstander lappen een punt. Een jammer lapt een blocker als hen die tegenstander twee keer op rij passeert (zonder dat die tegenstander de jammer passeert), maar verdient alleen een punt als de inhaalactie verdiend is (zie **Paragraaf 2.5**). Als een tegenstander gelapt is maar er geen punt verdiend is (omdat de inhaalactie niet verdiend was), mag de jammer die tegenstander voor laten gaan om hen⁴¹ vervolgens opnieuw te passeren en kan hen daarmee de inhaalactie verdienen om een punt te scoren.⁴²

Er kunnen alleen punten verdiend worden door blockers in te halen. Van alle blockers wordt aangenomen dat ze zich in dezelfde ronde bevinden, ook van voormalige jammers die de ster hebben doorgegeven.

3.2. Puntenrondes

Punten worden gegroepeerd op basis van rondes door de pack. Een ronde door de **pack** is afgelopen en de volgende begint zodra de jammer het **blockgebied** aan de voorkant verlaat (of, als er geen pack is, wanneer de jammer meer dan 6,10 meter voorbij de voorste skater van het voormalige pack, die op de baan staat, is). Zodra een jammer hun ronde door de pack voltooid heeft, kan hun score voor die ronde niet meer gewijzigd worden door terug te keren om tegenstanders die die ronde geen punten hebben opgeleverd opnieuw te passeren⁴³.

⁴⁰ In this paragraph, the referent ‘skater’ is referred to with gender-neutral pronouns multiple times, just like it is in the target text. One instance of the gender-neutral pronoun is added relative to the corresponding paragraph in the source text, as the English word ‘airborne’ is translated with ‘terwijl hen los van de grond is.’ However, as ‘skater’ is in the source text as well as the target text marked gender-neutral elsewhere in this paragraph and earlier in the rules, this extra pronoun does not result in added meaning.

⁴¹ In the source text, this is the first occurrence in which gender has been marked on the referent ‘opponent,’ marked gender-neutral as well. In the target text, this strategy is followed and a gender-neutral pronoun is used here as well.

⁴² In this paragraph, the jammer is referred to with gender-neutral pronouns in the source text. As they are marked gender-neutral earlier in the rules, this presents no new information. Nevertheless, in the target text, this same strategy for gender-neutral language is used.

⁴³ In the source text, this sentence is ungendered and no pronouns are used. In the target text, however, pronouns were needed to structure the sentence in a clear and logical way. In line with the overall translation goal, gender-neutral pronouns were used. As the referent ‘jammer’ was already marked as gender-neutral earlier in the rules, and in the following paragraph as well, this does not add additional gender information where there were none in the source text.

Wanneer een jammer het blockgebied weer binnenkomt vanaf de **voorkant**, keert hen terug naar hun vorige ronde, totdat hen het blockgebied weer aan de voorkant verlaat. Een jammer kan echter niet meer dan één ronde achterblijven. Als een jammer het blockgebied aan de voorkant verlaat, keert hen terug naar hun meest recente ronde. Als een jammer terugvalt naar vóór hun eerste ronde door de pack tellen gepasseerde blockers niet voor punten of inhaalacties totdat hen terugkeert naar hun eerste ronde door de pack.⁴⁴

Wanneer een jam eindigt, wordt de ronde waar de jammers op dat moment mee bezig zijn gezien als ‘afgerond’ door het beëindigen van de jam.

3.3. Punten vermijden

Tegenstanders kunnen alleen voorkomen dat er punten verdiend worden door ze in te halen door de jammer voor te blijven, of door te zorgen dat de inhaalactie geen punt oplevert als ze ingehaald worden. Als een jammer een ronde door de pack voltooit, maar niet de kans krijgt om een punt te verdienen door een tegenstander in te halen, wordt bepaald dat de jammer die tegenstander een punt verdiend heeft door die tegenstander in te halen. Dit omvat, maar is niet beperkt tot:

- Tegenstanders die zich voor het blockgebied bevinden wanneer de jammer hun ronde door de pack voltooit door het blockgebied aan de voorkant te verlaten
- Tegenstanders die zich voor het blockgebied bevinden wanneer de jam eindigt terwijl de jammer bezig is met een puntenronde en zich voor de achterste packblocker bevindt
- Alle **Niet-op-de-baanpunten** (zie **Paragraaf 2.5**) die de jammer niet kan verdienen omdat hen hun ronde door de pack voltooit maar **geen enkele** blocker van de tegenstander in kan halen (waardoor hen de punten zou krijgen voor het inhalen van de tegenstanders die niet op de baan zijn)
- Tegenstanders die achter de pack buitenspel zijn op het moment dat een jammer uit het strafgebied komt en de baan opnieuw op gaat voor die blocker

Wanneer een jammer zichzelf de kans ontnemt om punten te verdienen, bijvoorbeeld door een straf te krijgen of door de ster af te nemen, kan hen de niet-op-de-baanpunten die hen zou verdienen terwijl hen niet in staat is punten te verdienen pas verdienen wanneer hen weer punten kan verdienen. Als een jammer niet in staat is punten te verdienen als gevolg van een actie van een tegenstander, bijvoorbeeld als de jammer dankzij een block de baan verlaat, blijft de jammer niet-op-de-baanpunten verdienen zoals gewoonlijk.⁴⁵

⁴⁴ In this paragraph, as mentioned in note 43, the jammer is referred to with gender-neutral pronouns several times, both in the source text and in the target text. As the jammer was already marked as gender-neutral earlier in the rules, this is not new information.

⁴⁵ In section 3.3, the jammer is referred to multiple times as a singular referent. In the source text, this is always done by using gender-neutral pronouns, as a strategy for gender-neutral language. I have employed the same strategy in the target text, using multiple gender-neutral pronouns.

3.4. Jammers met straf

Wanneer een jammer een straf krijgt, wordt hen geacht niet langer op de baan te zijn (ook als hen fysiek nog op de baan is). Een jammer met een straf kan dan ook geen inhaalacties ten opzichte van tegenstanders meer verdienen totdat die jammer hun straf heeft uitgezeten. Zodra een jammer het strafgebied mag verlaten, keert hen terug naar dezelfde ronde door de pack en heeft hen punten verdiend door (en/of kan hen punten verdienen door) dezelfde blockers in te halen.⁴⁶

3.5. Fouten in puntentelling en puntvermelding

De officiële stand is de stand die vermeld wordt en zichtbaar is voor teams, officials en toeschouwers. Als een punt foutief toegekend (of geweigerd) wordt, of als een jammerscheidsrechter een score incorrect heeft doorgegeven, kan die score niet later gecorrigeerd worden dan aan het eind van de jam na de jam waarin de fout zich heeft voorgedaan. Als er minder dan twee minuten in de helft over zijn, moeten correcties in de puntentelling doorgevoerd worden voor de start (in plaats van aan het eind) van de jam na de jam waarin de fout is opgetreden.

Punten die correct toegekend (of geweigerd) zijn op basis van de informatie die op dat moment beschikbaar is, mogen niet later worden afgetrokken (of toegekend). Als een jammer bijvoorbeeld het blockgebied verlaat en vier punten toegekend krijgt, heeft hen die punten verdiend, ook als na een herziening blijkt dat hen twee rondes eerder een overtreding begaan heeft (en die punten dus niet had kunnen verdienen)⁴⁷.

Zie **Foutief toegekende punten** en **Foutief geweigerde punten**

4. Straffen

Als een skater een regel overtreedt of een andere overtreding begaat, kan hen⁴⁸ een straf opgelegd krijgen als afstraffing, handicap of verlies van voordeel. Straffen worden opgelegd aan zowel een skater als aan de positie die die skater op dat moment bekleedt.

Officials signaleren en handhaven straffen en waarschuwingen wanneer ze tijdens een wedstrijd voorkomen. Er mogen geen straffen opgelegd worden voor acties die weinig tot geen invloed hebben op het spel of de skaters.

⁴⁶ Like in section 3.3, in this section the jammer is referred to multiple times, always as a singular referent. Here, I have also followed the strategy employed in the source text and used gender-neutral pronouns, even in the final sentence of this section, which is ungendered in the source text.

⁴⁷ In this sentence, the jammer is referred to with gender-neutral pronouns in the source text. I have followed this strategy in the target text.

⁴⁸ In the source text, this sentence is ungendered as a pronoun is omitted in the second half. As the referent 'skater' has already been marked as gender-neutral earlier in the rules, I was able to use a strategy for gender-neutral language instead of one for ungendered language in the source text, to structure the sentence in a way that would be clearer in the target text.

De volgende soorten straffen worden uitgebreid besproken in de onderstaande paragrafen en in het casebook dat bij de spelregels van roller derby hoort. Deze paragrafen bevatten specifieke voorbeelden die expliciet gevolgd moeten worden.

Niet toegestane handelingen die niet duidelijk in een van de onderstaande categorieën vallen, moeten worden bestraft met behulp van deze beschrijvingen en voorbeelden als richtlijnen.

Als een overtreding van een skater ervoor zorgt dat een tegenstander onvermijdelijk ook een overtreding begaat, krijgt de tegenstander geen straf opgelegd voor de onvermijdelijke overtreding. De eerste skater dient bestraft te worden indien de eerste overtreding significant invloed heeft op de wedstrijd.

4.1. Contactstraffen

Wanneer een contactovertreding ertoe leidt dat een skater een tegenstander inhaalt, of dat een teamgenoot de tegenstander inhaalt, wordt dit altijd beschouwd als een overtreding die voldoende invloed heeft op de wedstrijd.

Het doorgeven van een ster mag alleen volgens de regels geblokt worden. Skaters die een overtreding begaan om het doorgeven van een ster te voorkomen, moeten worden bestraft.

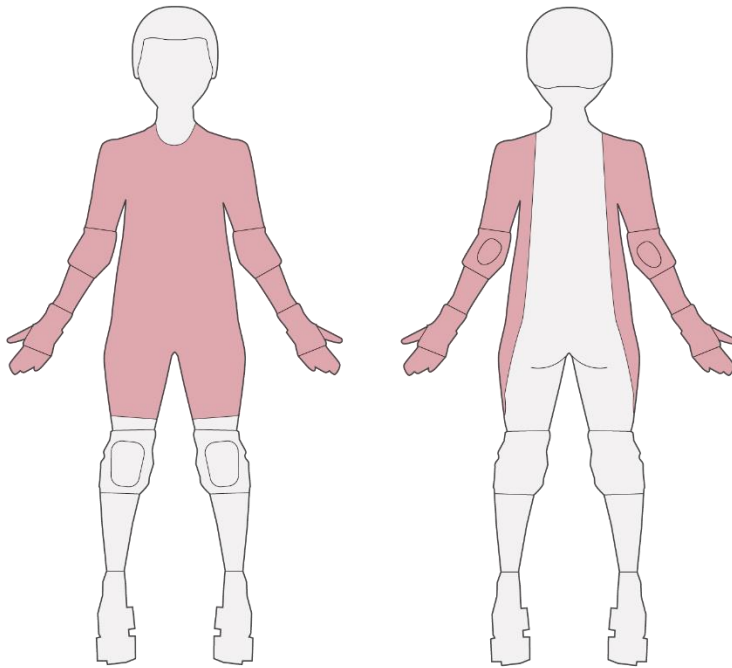
4.1.1 Blocks tegen een niet-toegestane doelzone

Contact maken met een niet-toegestane doelzone moet bestraft worden op basis van de impact die het heeft op het doelwit (zie **Paragraaf 2.4.1**).

Niet-toegestane doelzones zijn onder andere:

- De achterkant van het lichaam, inclusief de achterkant van de billen en de achterkant van de bovenbenen
- Hoofd, tot aan het sleutelbeen
- Onder het midden van het bovenbeen

Vermijdbaar krachtig contact met de rug of elk krachtig contact met het hoofd of de nek moet worden bestraft uit veiligheidsoverwegingen, ongeacht de invloed die het heeft op de wedstrijd. Wanneer een skater plotseling een niet-toegestane doelzone naar een tegenstander keert, waardoor die tegenstander geen redelijke kans krijgt om niet-toegestaan contact te vermijden, wordt dit gezien als contact dat door die skater met die doelzone geïnitieerd wordt.



Afb. 4.1 Toegestane doelzones

4.1.2 Blocks met een niet-toegestane blockzone

Contact maken met een niet-toegestane blockzone moet bestraft worden op basis van de impact die het heeft op het doelwit (zie **Paragraaf 2.4.2**).

Het gebruik van een niet-toegestane blockzone om contact te maken heeft bovendien voldoende invloed op de wedstrijd om bestraft te worden als het contact een tegenstander aanzienlijk uit balans brengt of hun koers of snelheid aanzienlijk beïnvloedt (bijvoorbeeld door hen aanzienlijk tegen te houden)⁴⁹.

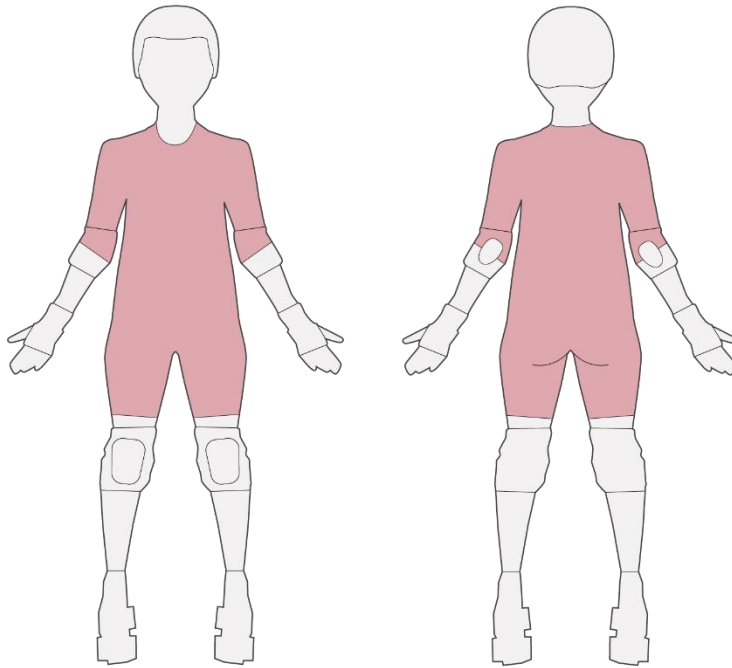
Niet-toegestane blockzones zijn onder andere:

- Hoofd, tot aan het sleutelbeen
- Onderarm, van de punt van de elleboog tot aan de vingertoppen
- Benen, van onder het midden van het bovenbeen tot de wielen van de skate

Elk krachtig contact dat wordt geïnitieerd met het hoofd of de nek, bewust gebruik van het hoofd of de nek om te blocken, bewust of krachtig stoten met ellebogen of stoten met de knieën moet uit veiligheidsoverwegingen worden bestraft, ongeacht de invloed die het heeft op de wedstrijd.

Onderarmen worden beschouwd als een toegestane blockzone wanneer de skater die het initiatief neemt om te blocken ze strak tegen het lichaam houdt.

⁴⁹ In this sentence, the referent 'opponent' (source text) or 'tegenstander' (target text) is referred to with a gender-neutral pronoun. As these referents have been marked gender-neutral earlier in the rules, this is not new information.



Afb. 4.2 Toegestane blockzones

4.1.3 Overig niet-toegestaan contact

Het is tijdens een jam toegestaan om een blok te initiëren wanneer een skater tegen de klok in beweegt, zich in het blokgebied bevindt, staat en op de baan is, als hier toegestane contactzones voor gebruikt worden. Ander contact kan gevaarlijk zijn, omdat het onverwacht is.

Skaters kunnen daarom ook geen blocks initiëren als ze zelf niet staan of in de baan zijn, buitenspel zijn, los van de grond zijn, stilstaan of met de klok mee bewegen. Skaters mogen ook niet het initiatief nemen om tegenstanders die niet staan, die volledig buiten de baan staan of die buitenspel staan te blocken. Skaters mogen wel het initiatief nemen om een tegenstander te blocken die gedeeltelijk buiten de baan is, stilstaat of met de klok mee beweegt.

Initiatief nemen voor een assist moet onderhevig zijn aan dezelfde normen als initiatief nemen voor blocken. Een gevallen teamgenoot overeind helpen is hierop een uitzondering.

4.1.4 Multiplayerblocks

Skaters mogen geen muur vormen door arm in arm te staan, een teamgenoot vast te pakken of op een andere manier een ondoordringbare verbinding te vormen. Als een tegenstander tussen twee skaters in probeert te komen en hier niet in slaagt vanwege deze niet-toegestane verbinding, dienen de skaters een straf te krijgen.

7. Reflection

In this translation of the official roller derby rules as governed by the WFTDA, I have tried to retain the WFTDA gender policy in Dutch, using strategies for gender-neutral language and for ungendered language. The most important strategy for my translation was the use of the unofficial gender-neutral pronoun in third person singular: ‘hen’ and ‘hun,’ as promoted by TNN (*Na toiletten ook taal genderneutraal*). I have employed this pronoun as an overt strategy for gender-neutral language, in addition to using covert strategies for ungendered language, in order to answer the question “*To what extent can the Women’s Flat Track Derby Association’s official gender policy be retained in a translation of the official flat track roller derby rules from English to Dutch?*” I now feel confident in answering that the official gender policy of the Women’s Flat Track Derby Association can fully be retained when the rules are translated to Dutch.

The gender-neutral use of Dutch pronouns ‘hen’ and ‘hun’ can be seen in the following examples:

- (1) Iedere blocker probeert tegelijkertijd (...) te zorgen dat hun eigen jammer kan passeren. (Summary)
- (2) Als een jammer bijvoorbeeld het blockgebied verlaat en vier punten toegekend krijgt, heeft hen die punten verdiend (...). (3.5)

In example (1), ‘hun’ is used as a possessive pronoun in the third person singular, while in (2), ‘hen’ is used as a personal pronoun in the subject position, third person singular.

A potential issue with the use of the gender-neutral pronouns ‘hen’ and ‘hun’ is the fact that they have not yet been officially accepted by the Dutch Language Union (Nederlandse Taalunie), the organisation that governs the Dutch language. It would also have been possible to translate the roller derby rules while adhering to the WFTDA gender policy without this strategy, but as there is no official gender-neutral pronoun accepted by the Dutch Language Union, the strategy for gender-neutral language of using a gender-neutral pronoun could not have been used. Instead, the translator would have to rely mainly on strategies for ungendered language. This would render the translation produced not as overtly gender-neutral as the one in this thesis, but it would still comply with the WFTDA gender policy. Using these pronouns that are not yet officially accepted by the Dutch Language Union is a deliberate choice by the translator because, as discussed in paragraph 4.4, the introduction of a new, gender-neutral, use of pronouns might be best stimulated by using the gender-neutral pronouns in a context removed from activism. Using this strategy here might therefore not only function as a strategy to use when translating gender-neutral language from a source language that uses gender-neutral pronouns, but might also further the cause of TNN and other organisation and individuals that seek to introduce gender-neutral pronouns in the Dutch language.

This cause is gaining increasing in importance in the Netherlands, as non-binary people are gaining more recognition. Recently, the second Dutch passport with a gender-neutral X instead of an M (male) or V (female) was awarded to a non-binary citizen, for the first time based solely on their gender identity (Tweede volwassene krijgt X in paspoort). According to the COC, approximately four percent of Dutch people do not identify as either male or female, meaning that more than half a million people are not represented with the pronouns ‘hij’ and ‘zij’.

Follow-up research would be needed to be able to ascertain whether or not this use of gender-neutral pronoun outside of a context of activism will have the desired positive effect on the introduction of these pronouns on the Dutch language, as mentioned in paragraph 4.4.

Bibliography

- Bäck, Emma A., Lindqvist, Anna, and Gustafsson Sendén, Marie. "Introducing a gender-neutral pronoun in a natural gender language: the influence of time on attitudes and behavior." *Frontiers in Psychology* 6 (2015): 893.
- Bäck, Emma A., Lindqvist, Anna, and Gustafsson Sendén, Marie. "Hen can do it!: Effects of using a gender-neutral pronoun in recruitment." (2015): 71-90.
- Balhorn, Mark. "The Rise of Epicene They." *Journal of English Linguistics*, vol. 32, no. 2, June 2004, pp. 79–104., doi:10.1177/0075424204265824.
- Bennett, Jessica. "She? Ze? They? What's In a Gender Pronoun." *The New York Times*, 30 Jan. 2016, www.nytimes.com/2016/01/31/fashion/pronoun-confusion-sexual-fluidity.html?_r=0.
- Bjorkman, Bronwyn M. "Singular They and the Syntactic Representation of Gender in English." *Glossa: a Journal of General Linguistics*, 2017, pp. 1–13, doi.org/10.5334/gjgl.374.
- Blaumberg, Maija S. "An Analysis of Classic Arguments against Changing Sexist Language." *Women's Studies Int. Quart.*, vol. 3, 1980, pp. 135-147, doi:10.1016/S0148-0685(80)92071-0
- Bodine, Ann. "Androcentrism in Prescriptive Grammar: Singular 'They', Sex-Indefinite 'He', and 'He or She.'" *Language in Society*, vol. 4, no. 02, Aug. 1975, pp. 129–146, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/4166805>.
- Boroditsky, Lera and Schmidt, Lauren A. "Sex, Syntax and Semantics." *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*, vol. 22, 2000, pp. 1-6, <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/0jt9w8zf>
- Chananie-Hill, Ruth A., Waldron, Jennifer J., Umsted, Natalie K. "Third-Wave Agenda: Women's Flat-Track Roller Derby." *Women in Sport and Physical Activity Journal*, vol. 21, no. 01, 2012, pp. 33-49.
- "Change summary for WFTDA rules May 26, 2010" *WFTDA.org*, accessed 08 May 2019, <https://wftda.org/rules/change-summary/rules-2010-05-26>
- "Change summary for WFTDA rules January 1, 2013" *WFTDA.org*, accessed 08 May 2019, <https://wftda.org/rules/change-summary/rules-2013-01-01>
- "Tweede volwassene krijgt X in paspoort." 2019, COC Nederland, accessed 06 Aug 2019, <https://www.coc.nl/homepage/tweede-volwassene-krijgt-x-in-paspoort>.
- "Gender-Inclusive Communication." *United Nations*, United Nations, www.un.org/en/gender-inclusive-language/guidelines.shtml.

- “Gender-Inclusive Language.” *The Writing Center*, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/gender-inclusive-language/ .
- “Gender-neutral language in the European Parliament.” European Parliament, 2018, http://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/151780/GNL_Guidelines_EN.pdf
- Geneva Murray, Megan. *The Unladylike Ladies of Roller Derby?: How Spectators, Players and Derby Wives Do and Redo Gender and Heteronormativity in All-Female Roller Derby*. 2012. The University of New York, PhD dissertation.
- Kassab, Mackenzie. “Inclusive Language in Four Easy Steps.” *Harvard Extension School | Professional Development*, Harvard University, 16 Jan. 2019, www.extension.harvard.edu/professional-development/blog/inclusive-language-four-easy-steps.
- LaScotte, Darren K. “Singular *They*: An Empirical Study of Generic Pronoun Use.” *American Speech*, vol. 91, no. 1, Feb. 2016, pp. 62–80., doi:10.1215/00031283-3509469.
- Nord, Christiane. "Defining translation functions. The translation brief as a guideline for the trainee translation." *Ilha do Desterro A Journal of English Language, Literatures in English and Cultural Studies* 33 (1997): 039-054.
- Nord, Christiane. "Tekstanalyse en de moeilijkheidsgraad van een vertaling." *Denken over vertalen* (2010): 145-152.
- Pavlidis, Adele & Connor, James. “Men in a ‘women only’ sport? Contesting gender relations and sex integration in roller derby.” *Sport in Society*, vol. 19, no. 08-09, 06 Aug 2016, pp. 1349-1362, <https://doi.org/10.1080/17430437.2015.1067781>
- Peters, Lisa. “Geen Man of Vrouw? Dan Ben Je Voortaan Een ‘Hen.’” *De Correspondent*, 16 June 2016, www.decorrespondent.nl/4748/geen-man-of-vrouw-dan-ben-je-voortaan-een-hen/1050864703020-d399a42e.
- Renkema, Jan. *Schrijfwijzer*. 5th ed., ser. 2, Boom, 2013.
- Schubert, Ina. “Translation Trouble: Gender Indeterminacy in English Novels and Their French Versions.” *Translation and Literature*, Feb. 2010, pp. 72–92, doi.org/10.3366/E0968136109000776.
- “The Rules of Flat Track Roller Derby” *WFTDA The Rules*, accessed 07 May 2019, <https://rules.wftda.com/singlehtml/index.html>
- Van der Sijs, Nicoline. *Leenwoordenboek: De Invloed Van Andere Talen Op Het Nederlands*. Sdu Uitgevers, Den Haag, 1996.
- Von Flotow, Luise. “Gender in Translation.” *Handbook of Translation Studies*, vol. 1, 2010, pp. 129–133., doi:10.1075/hts.1.gen1.

“WFTDA History”. *WFTDA.org*, accessed 30 April 2019, <https://wftda.org/history>

“What is roller derby?” *The Parliament of Pain, Roller Derby in The Hague*, The Parliament of Pain, accessed 07 May 2019, <https://www.parliamentofpain.nl/what-is-roller-derby>

“Women’s flat track derby association statement about gender”. *Resources.WTFDA.org*, accessed 07 May 2019, <https://resources.wftda.org/womens-flat-track-derby-association-statement-about-gender/>

“Zo Maak Je Na Toiletten Ook Taal Genderneutraal.” *Transgender Netwerk Nederland*, 10 June 2016, www.transgendernetwerk.nl/non-binair-voornaamwoord-uitslag/.

Appendix: source text

The Rules of Flat Track Roller Derby

Summary

The game of Flat Track Roller Derby is played on a flat, oval track. Play is broken up into two 30-minute periods, and within those periods, into units of play called “Jams,” which last up to two minutes. There are 30 seconds between each Jam.

During a Jam, each team fields up to five Skaters. Four of these Skaters are called “Blockers” (together, the Blockers are called the “Pack”), and one is called a “Jammer.” The Jammer wears a helmet cover with a star on it.

The two Jammers start each Jam behind the Pack, and score a point for every opposing Blocker they lap, each lap. Because they start behind the Pack, they must get through the Pack, then all the way around the track to be eligible to score points on opposing Blockers.

Roller derby is a full-contact sport; however, Skaters cannot use their heads, elbows, forearms, hands, knees, lower legs, or feet to make contact to opponents. Skaters cannot make contact to opponents’ heads, backs, knees, lower legs, or feet.

Play that is unsafe or illegal may result in a Skater being assessed a penalty, which is served by sitting in the Penalty Box for 30 seconds of Jam time.

The team with the most points at the end of the game wins.

A common Jam might go like this:

8. Blockers line up behind the Pivot Line and in front of the Jammer Line.
9. Jammers line up behind the Jammer Line.
10. At the Jam-Starting Whistle, the Blockers skate forward and compete for superior position. The Jammers skate forward and try to get through the Pack. Each Blocker simultaneously tries to prevent the opposing Jammer from getting past, and to help their own Jammer get through.
11. One Jammer exits the Pack and is declared Lead Jammer, earning the right to end the Jam when they decide. This Jammer races around the track to get into scoring position.
12. The same Jammer begins to work their way through the Pack for the second time, and the opposing Jammer makes their way out of the Pack for the first time.
13. As the second Jammer to escape the Pack comes around into scoring position, the first Jammer calls off the Jam.
14. The first Jammer has scored points (up to four), and held their opponent at zero points. Meanwhile, the opposing Jammer (by getting into scoring position) held the first Jammer at only those points, as they could have scored more points on subsequent passes.

1. Game Parameters & Safety

1.1. Timing

A game lasts for 60 minutes of play, divided into two 30-minute periods with a halftime between them. Periods are broken into **Jams**, which are the basic unit of play for roller derby.

A Jam can last up to two minutes. Jams may be called off prior to two minutes as part of gameplay, as described below. Each Jam starts with a single short whistle blast, and finishes at the end of a series of four short whistle blasts. At least 30 seconds must elapse between Jams. More than 30 seconds may not elapse unless a timeout is called.

A period starts on the Jam-Starting Whistle of the first Jam for that period. The period clock does not stop between Jams unless a timeout is called. If the period clock reaches zero before the next Jam has started, the period ends at that moment; otherwise, the period ends at the conclusion of the final Jam for the period.

If a Jam is called off due to officiating discretion (see [Section 5.2](#)) or there is an officiating error that potentially impacted the outcome (as in winner/loser) of the game, and there are less than 30 seconds remaining on the period clock at the end of the game (including when the period clock has expired), an additional Jam may be run at the discretion of the Head Referee. This additional Jam will have the same form (Overtime or not; see [Section 1.5.1](#)) as the Jam that ended and be part of the same period.

1.2. Teams

A team is comprised of Skaters, who must be uniquely identified by a roster number. Each team must have a jersey of the same base color, such that uniform colors of the two teams playing are of high contrast. Roster numbers must be clearly displayed on a Skater's back and upper arm areas. Each team must have helmet covers to clearly indicate who their Jammer and Pivot are. The Jammer and Pivot helmet covers for the two teams must be easy to differentiate.

Skaters must wear quad-style roller skates and protective gear during play. Inline skates are not permitted. Protective gear may not be removed during play. Protective gear may not impair or interfere with the safety or play of other Skaters, support staff, or Officials.

Skaters who are injured during play may return to play as long as they are no longer apparently injured or bleeding. A Skater whose injury alters the flow of the game (examples include a Jam being called off, a period clock stoppage, or a substitute being seated in the Penalty Box) may not participate during the following three Jams (extending into the following period if necessary). A Skater whose injury alters the flow of the game more than once in a period may not participate as a Skater for the rest of that period. The Head Referee **may** also declare that a team has forfeited the game if that team has five or fewer Skaters eligible to participate, or refuses to field Skaters on the track to continue play.

1.3. Timeouts

Teams and Officials may stop the period clock by calling a timeout. Timeouts may only be called between Jams, though Officials may end a Jam in order to call an Official Timeout. The beginning of a timeout is marked by four short whistle blasts, and the end of a timeout is marked by a long rolling whistle, after which the next Jam begins as soon as possible if there is time remaining on the period clock. At most, 30 seconds may pass before the next Jam begins. The period clock starts again at the Jam-Starting Whistle.

There are three types of timeouts.

1.3.1. Team Timeouts

Each team has three timeouts that they can take during the game. Team Timeouts may be requested only by the team's Captain or Designated Alternate. Penalized Captains or Designated Alternates cannot request a Team Timeout. Team Timeouts last for 60 seconds.

1.3.2. Official Reviews

Each team begins the period with one Official Review which they may use during that period. An Official Review is a formal request made by a team's Captain or Designated Alternate for Officials to review a specific officiating decision. The only officiating decisions that can be the subject of an Official Review are those made during the prior Jam, or during the lineup time preceding the prior Jam. The Head Referee investigates the review with other Officials, and uses the information gathered to render a decision on the item under review, as well as related decisions. The Head Referee then announces their findings and any changes that result from the review to both teams' representatives. This decision is final and not reviewable.

If the Head Referee determines that an officiating error was made in relation to the situation under review, the team will retain the privilege to call an additional review later in the same period. The review can be retained in this manner only once per period.

A team may also elect to use their Official Review as a Team Timeout. In this case, the review will not be retained. Penalized Captains or Designated Alternates cannot request an Official Review. Official Reviews (whether unused or retained) are not carried forward to the subsequent period.

1.3.3. Official Timeouts

Officials may take a timeout in order to ensure that the game is running smoothly and correctly. If the prior Jam ended with less than 30 seconds on the period clock, the fact that the Officials called a timeout will not necessarily result in another Jam occurring in the same manner that a Team Timeout or Official Review would. Instead, the Officials must determine whether or not there is reason to hold another Jam for that period. If the Officials determine that there is no reason to hold another Jam, both teams must be given a chance to call a Team Timeout or Official Review (if they have any remaining). If they decline, the period will end.

1.4. Game Information

Critical game information must be displayed in a manner that is highly visible to Teams, Officials, and spectators. This displayed critical game information is considered official, and must include, at a minimum:

- The period clock
- The Jam clock
- The Official Score

Errors in timing or score should be updated as quickly as possible. If an error persists for an extended period of time, it should be corrected only if the correction itself would have minimal impact on the game.

1.5. Winning

The team with the most points at the end of the game wins.

1.5.1. Overtime

If the game ends with the score tied, the second period will be extended by at least one additional Jam. This Overtime Jam is like any other Jam, with two exceptions:

- No Lead Jammer is declared
- Both Jammers begin scoring on their first trip through the Pack (each Jammer is in position to lap the opposing Blockers on their first earned pass of those Blockers)

More Jams will be added in this manner until a Jam ends with the score no longer tied.

2. Gameplay

2.1. The Track

The track must conform to the standardized dimensions of the WFTDA Track Specifications. The track must be flat, clean, and suitable for roller skating. The track must be marked by a boundary that stands in high contrast to the floor. The boundary counts as part of the track (the boundary is “in bounds”) and may not vary in width around the track.

The track boundary, the Pivot Line, and the Jammer Line may be of any pattern or color so long as they clearly mark the edge of the track.

Near the track, an area must be marked out for each team (the Team Bench Area) and for the Penalty Box. The boundary in these cases must also be high contrast and counts as part of the relevant area. For example, the boundary for the Penalty Box counts as part of the Penalty Box. Only Skaters who are actively serving a penalty may enter the Penalty Box Area.

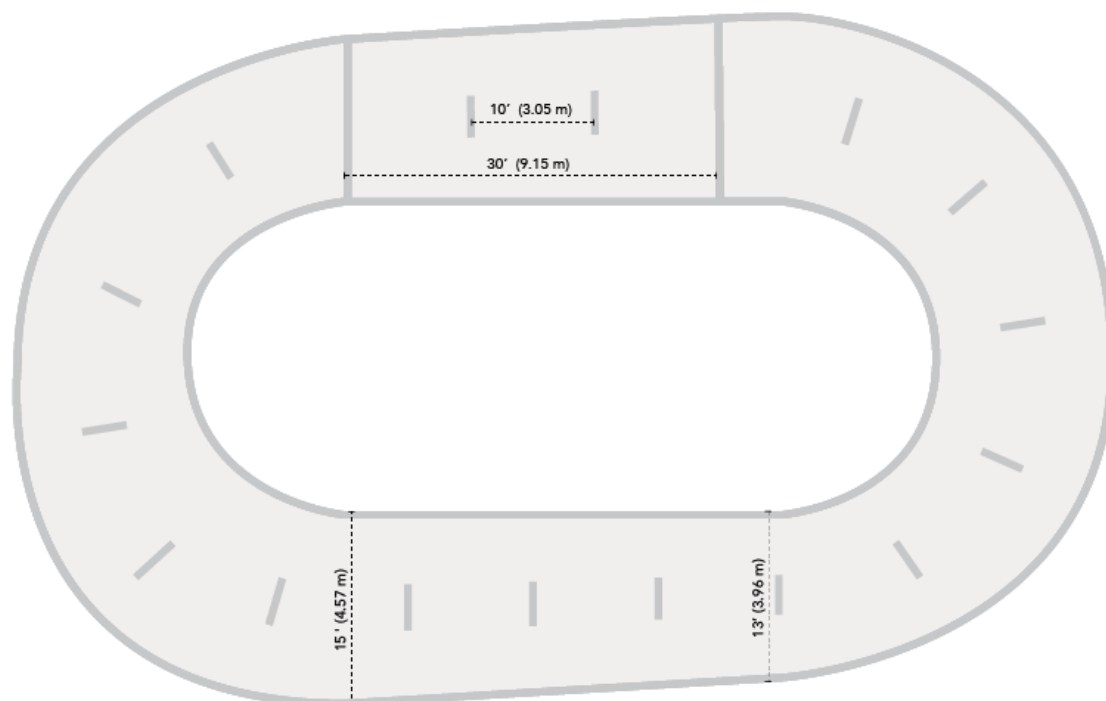


Fig. 2.1 The Track (Track Layout and Design © 2002 Electra Blu/Amy Sherman, Texas Rollergirls, used here with permission)

2.2. Positions

For each Jam, a team must field one Jammer, and at most four Blockers. One of these Blockers may be designated as the Pivot Blocker. Any Skaters who are not completely on the track at the Jam-Starting Whistle may not participate in the Jam, and thus do not count toward these limits. Skaters serving penalties (in, or on their way to, the Penalty Box) are counted toward these limits. Teams must field at least one Blocker who is not serving a penalty. Skaters may not change positions during a Jam, except in the case of a Star Pass (see below).

When a Jam begins, the Jammers must be touching on or behind the Jammer Line. All Blockers must be behind the Pivot Line, ahead of the Jammer Line, and all Non-Pivot Blockers must not be touching the Pivot Line. If either Pivot is positioned touching the Pivot Line at the Jam's start, all Non-Pivot Blockers must be behind that Pivot's hips.

Any Skaters who are completely on the track, but partially illegally positioned (for example, a Jammer who is touching past the Jammer Line) are required to yield their position to all other Skaters in the immediate vicinity. Any Skaters who are wholly illegally positioned are immediately penalized. Blockers who are required to yield are not considered for Pack definition until they have done so. Jammers who are required to yield cannot earn passes until they have done so.

2.2.1. Jammers

The Jammer is denoted as the Skater in visible possession of the Jammer helmet cover (a.k.a. the Star) at the beginning of the Jam. If a Skater is serving a penalty as their team's Jammer, no teammate may begin the Jam in possession of the Star or behind the Jammer Line. If there is neither a Skater serving a penalty as the Jammer nor a Skater with a visible Star, then the team has failed to field a Jammer for the upcoming Jam and will be penalized accordingly. Unless they are serving a penalty, the Jammer must start the Jam on or behind the Jammer Line. Jammers may be stopped or coasting, but may not be actively gaining speed in the counterclockwise direction at the Jam-Starting Whistle.

The Star may only be carried by the Jammer wearing it on their helmet, or by that team's Jammer or Pivot holding it in their grasp. Other Skaters may not control the Star, and the Jammer and Pivot may not hide the Star (examples include putting it in a pocket or hiding it in a uniform).

The Jammer is the only Skater who can score points for their team (see [Section 3](#)).

Jammers may also legally exit and remain outside of the Engagement Zone.

2.2.2. Lead Jammer

The Lead Jammer is the first Jammer who establishes a superior position to the foremost in-play Blocker, having already earned a pass on all Blockers excluding those ahead of the Engagement Zone (see [Section 2.5](#)). When one Jammer is determined to be the Lead Jammer, this is indicated by two short whistle blasts. A Jammer becomes ineligible to earn Lead during a Jam if they commit a penalty during that Jam, exit the front of the [Engagement Zone](#) without having earned Lead, remove their helmet cover, or have their helmet cover removed by a teammate. If both Jammers qualify for Lead at the same moment (for example, the foremost Blocker goes out of play), the foremost Jammer at that moment will be declared Lead. Only Skaters who begin the Jam as Jammers may become Lead (so a Pivot who receives the Star cannot become Lead).

The Lead Jammer will lose their Lead Jammer status if they commit a penalty, intentionally remove the Star once it is on, or have the Star intentionally removed from their head by a teammate.

The Lead Jammer is the only Skater who may call off a Jam before the full two minutes elapse. The Lead Jammer calls off the Jam by repeatedly placing their hands on their hips.

2.2.3. Pivot Blocker

The Pivot is a Blocker, and is denoted as the Skater in possession of the Pivot helmet cover (a.k.a. the Stripe) at the Jam-Starting Whistle. The Pivot wearing the Stripe with the stripe showing has several additional abilities that other Blockers do not.

- The Pivot may become their team's Jammer (see [Section 2.2.4](#)).
- The Pivot may control the Star (pick it up, move it, etc.) even if they are not the Jammer; for example, to recover it and return it to the Jammer.
- The Pivot may begin a Jam while touching the Pivot Line.

When not wearing the Stripe with the stripe showing, the Pivot is treated as any other Blocker.

2.2.4. Passing the Star

A team's Jammer may transfer their position to their team's Pivot by successfully completing a legal Star Pass. A legal Star Pass requires the Jammer to hand the Star to their team's Pivot while both Skaters are upright, in bounds, and in play; and while neither Skater is en route to, or in queue for, the Penalty Box. Upon releasing the Star into the Pivot's grasp, the position of Jammer is transferred to the Pivot. The new Jammer takes over for the previous Jammer in terms of points scored, trips through the Pack, and Skaters passed. The previous Jammer becomes a Non-Pivot Blocker.

If the Star is passed illegally, both Skaters retain their existing positions. This includes:

- Releasing the Star into the grasp of a Skater other than their Pivot
- Releasing the Star into the Pivot's grasp while either of the two Skaters is down, out of bounds, out of play, or en route to the Penalty Box
- Releasing the Star into the Pivot's grasp while the Pivot is in queue for the Penalty Box (even if the Pivot is not yet en route)
- Releasing the Star into the grasp of a Pivot who is not wearing the Stripe

If the Pivot comes into control of the Star through an unsuccessful Star Pass or any other means (for example, by picking up a Star that has fallen to the ground), they will be warned that they are not the Jammer. Accordingly, the Pivot may not put the Star on their own helmet, but they may hold the Star in their hand, drop it, or return it to the Jammer. Only the Jammer or Pivot may recover or control the Star.

The initiator of an illegal Star Pass (or Star recovery) that impacts the game should be penalized.

2.2.5. Blockers

All other Skaters are considered Blockers. Non-Pivot Blockers may not wear helmet covers or have any markings on their helmets that could be confused for the Stripe or the Star.

2.3. Engagement Zone & Pack

The Pack is the largest group of in bounds and upright Blockers in proximity and containing members from both teams. If no single group of Blockers meets this definition, there is no Pack, even if there are multiple groups of the same size. Proximity is defined as not more than 10 ft (3.05m), as measured from the hips, in front of or behind the nearest Pack Skater. When a Skater is penalized, they are considered to no longer be on the track for the purposes of Pack definition and relative position determinations.

It is the responsibility of all Blockers to maintain a Pack, and intentionally destroying the Pack is illegal. When the Pack is moving counterclockwise or stopped during a Jam, clockwise skating which destroys the Pack is illegal. All Blockers from both teams must act to reform a Pack. For Skaters in the rear group, this includes stepping or skating in the counterclockwise direction. For Skaters in the front group, this includes coasting, braking, or coming to a complete stop. If an immediate action is not sufficient to reform the Pack, additional effort is required. If a Blocker is in the rear group, they

must accelerate (until sprinting) toward the front group until a Pack is reformed (coasting, stepping slowly, or stepping in an only somewhat-counterclockwise direction are insufficient), but they may slow in order to avoid unsafe contact when the Pack reformation is imminent. If a Blocker is in the front group, they must actively brake until they come to a complete stop (coasting is insufficient), but they are not required to skate clockwise.

Blocks on or by Blockers which have impact while there is no Pack should be immediately penalized.

The Engagement Zone is the area in which it is legal for Blockers to engage or be engaged. The Engagement Zone extends forward and backward 20 ft (6.10m) from the foremost and rearmost Pack Skaters, respectively. Any Blocker outside of the Engagement Zone is out of play and cannot engage or be engaged. Blockers who are outside of the Engagement Zone will be warned, and will be penalized if they do not immediately attempt to return to the Engagement Zone. Blockers ahead of the Engagement Zone are only compelled to skate clockwise to return to the Engagement Zone if the Pack is stopped or moving clockwise. Skaters who are illegally blocked while out of play may legally counter-block.

Distances for determining the Pack and the Engagement Zone are measured as the shortest distance, parallel to the inside track boundary, between Skaters' hips.

2.4. Blocks and Assists

“Blocking” refers to any physical contact made to an opponent, and to any movement or placement of one’s body to impede said opponent’s speed or movement, during a Jam, whether or not contact is made. Counter-blocking is any movement towards an oncoming block by the receiving Skater. Counter-blocking is blocking. Actions that meet the above description are considered blocking, even if accidental. Contact made to teammates is not considered blocking even if it is a disadvantage to the initiator or teammate.

All contact between opponents has an initiator, though it is possible for two or more Skaters to mutually initiate blocks against one another.

Skaters may not block or assist while out of bounds, out of play, down, stopped, or moving clockwise. Skaters also may not initiate a block on an opponent who is down, out of play, or fully out of bounds. Skaters may, however, initiate a block (or assist) on someone who is straddling, stopped, or moving in any direction (even clockwise). Skaters may not assist a teammate who is out of play or fully out of bounds; however, they may assist a downed teammate to return them to an upright position.

2.4.1. Target Zones

It is only legal to initiate a block to an opponent’s chest, front and sides of the torso, arms, hands, hips, and the front and sides of the legs above mid-thigh.

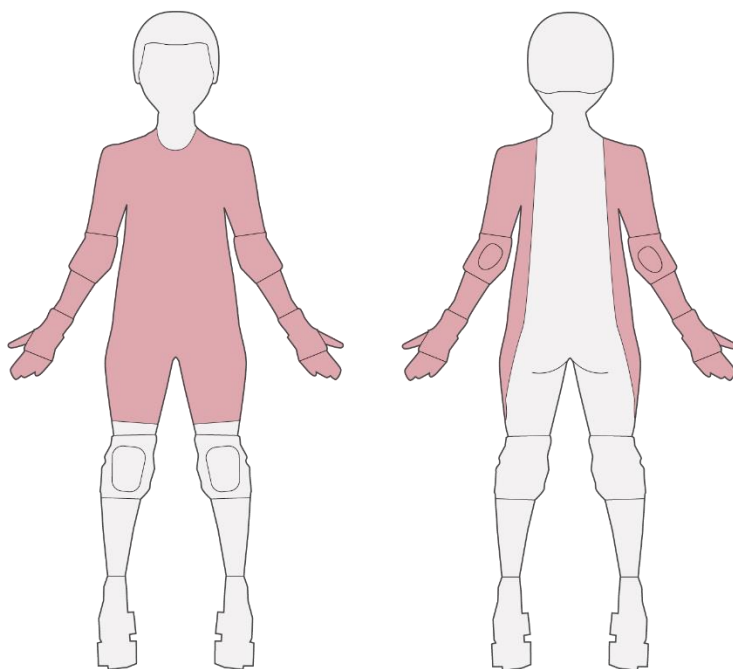


Fig. 2.2 Legal Target Zones

2.4.2. Blocking Zones

It is only legal to initiate a block using one's torso, arms above the elbow, and legs above mid-thigh.

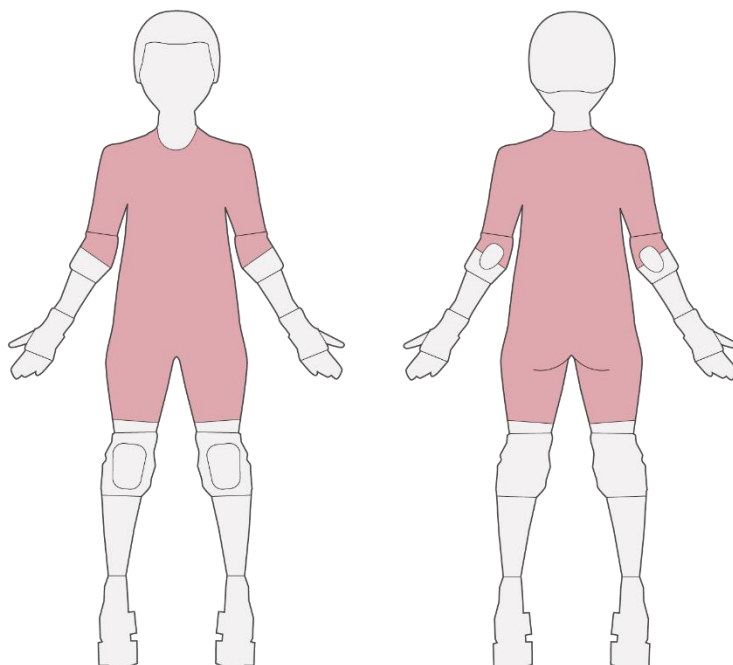


Fig. 2.3 Legal Blocking Zones

2.5. Passing

Skaters gain superior position on other Skaters by passing them in the counterclockwise direction.

Passing another Skater refers to moving such that one Skater's center of mass (as demarcated by their hips) moves from behind another Skater's center of mass to ahead of it.

Jammers only "earn" a pass if the pass occurs while the Jammer is wearing the Star on their helmet with the stars showing. All earned passes count as passes. Passes are only "earned" if:

- The Jammer is upright and in-bounds during the pass, or
- Another Skater skates behind the in-bounds Jammer, giving up their position

As soon as a Jammer earns a pass on an opposing Blocker, they also earn a pass on any opponents who are "not on the track"—meaning that they are not part of active gameplay for some reason—and who cease to be part of active gameplay prior to the completion of the Jammer's scoring trip. This includes a Skater who:

- Is sent to or serving time in the Penalty Box
- Leaves the track due to injury
- Leaves the track temporarily to fix equipment or skates
- Was not part of the Jam in the first place (because their team did not field the maximum number of Skaters)
- Returns to active gameplay behind the Jammer

A Skater who passes someone while airborne is considered to be "in bounds" if they are in bounds when they leave the ground and the first contact they make upon landing is in bounds. A Skater who passes someone while airborne is considered to be "upright" if the Skater is upright when they leave the ground, and if the first contact they make upon landing is with their skate to the track.

3. Scoring

3.1. Earning Points

Jammers score one point every time they lap an opposing Blocker. A Jammer laps a Blocker if they pass that opponent twice in a row (without that opponent having passed that Jammer), but score a point only if the lapping pass is earned (see [Section 2.5](#)). If an opponent is lapped but a point is not scored (because the lapping pass was not earned), the Jammer may yield position to that opponent and re-pass them, earning a pass, to score on that opponent.

Only Blockers can be scored upon. All Blockers are considered to be on the same trip, including former Jammers who have passed the Star.

3.2. Scoring Trips

Points are grouped by trips through the Pack. One trip through the **Pack** ends, and the next begins, when the Jammer exits the front of the **Engagement Zone** (or, if no Pack can be defined, when the Jammer is more than 20 ft ahead of the foremost in-bounds member of the previous Pack). Upon completion of a trip through the Pack, the Jammer's score for that trip can no longer be altered by dropping back to re-pass any opponents the Jammer did not score upon on that trip.

If a Jammer enters the Engagement Zone from the **front**, they return to their previous trip until they exit the Engagement Zone from the front again. A Jammer cannot, however, fall behind by more than one trip. Whenever a Jammer exits the Engagement Zone from the front, they return to their latest trip. If a Jammer falls behind their initial trip through the Pack, passes on Blockers do not count toward scoring or lapping until they return to their initial trip through the Pack.

When a Jam ends, whatever trip the Jammers are on is considered to have been "completed" by the Jam ending.

3.3. Scoring Avoidance

Opponents can only avoid being scored upon by remaining ahead of the Jammer, or by ensuring that when they are passed, the pass is not earned. If a Jammer completes a trip through the Pack without the opportunity to earn a pass on an opponent, the Jammer is said to have earned a pass on that opponent. This includes but is not limited to:

- Opponents who are ahead of the Engagement Zone when the Jammer completes their trip through the Pack, via the Jam ending or the Jammer exiting the front of the Engagement Zone
- Any **Not-On-the-Track Point** (see **Section 2.5**) that the Jammer cannot earn because they complete their trip through the Pack without the opportunity to earn a pass on **any** opposing Blocker (which would earn them a pass on the off-the-track opponents)
- Opponents who are out of play behind the Pack, if a Jammer reenters the track from the Penalty Box in front of that Blocker

If a Jammer renders themselves unable to score points—for example, by committing a penalty or by removing the Star—any not-on-the-track points they would have earned while unable to score are earned once they become able to score again. If an opponent's action renders the Jammer unable to score—for example, a Jammer who is blocked out of bounds—the Jammer continues to score Not-On-the-Track points as usual.

3.4. Penalized Jammers

When a Jammer is penalized, they are considered to no longer be on the track (even if they are physically still on the track). Accordingly, a penalized Jammer cannot earn passes on any further opponents until that Jammer completes their penalty. Upon release from the Penalty Box, a Jammer returns to the same trip through the Pack, having scored on (and/or being in position to score on) the same Blockers.

3.5. Errors in Scoring & Score Reporting

The Official Score is that which is reported and visible to teams, Officials, and spectators. If a point is awarded (or denied) in error, or if a Jammer Referee has reported a score incorrectly, the score may be corrected no later than the end of the Jam after the one in which the error occurred. If there are fewer than 2 minutes in the game remaining on the period clock, score corrections must be made before the start (rather than the end) of the Jam after which the error occurred.

However, points awarded (or denied) correctly, given the information available at the time, may not be taken away (or awarded) later. For example, a Jammer who exits the Engagement Zone and is awarded four points has earned those points, even if upon review they were found to have committed a penalty two trips prior (and thus would not have been able to earn those points).

See [Points Awarded in Error](#) and [Points Denied in Error](#)

4. Penalties

When a Skater commits a rule infraction or a foul, a penalty may be assessed as a punishment, handicap, or loss of advantage. Penalties are applied to both a Skater and the position that Skater is currently playing.

Officials signal and enforce penalties and warnings as they occur during a game. Penalties should not be assessed for actions that have little to no impact on the game or the Skaters.

The following types of penalties are addressed in detail in the sections listed below and in the Rules of Flat Track Roller Derby Casebook. These sections hold specific examples that are to be followed explicitly.

Illegal actions that do not fall cleanly into one of the categories below should be penalized using these descriptions and examples as guidelines.

If one Skater's illegal action causes an opponent to unavoidably commit another illegal action, the opponent will not receive a penalty for the unavoidable illegal action. The initial Skater should be penalized if the initial illegal action has sufficient impact on the game.

4.1. Contact Penalties

Gaining position on an opponent, or causing an opponent to lose position to another teammate, due to illegal contact is always considered to have sufficient impact on the game.

Star Passes can only be blocked by legal means. Skaters who prevent a Star Pass using illegal contact should be penalized.

4.1.1. Impact to an Illegal Target Zone

Making contact to an Illegal Target Zone should be penalized based on the impact it has on the target (see [Section 2.4.1](#)).

Illegal Target Zones include:

- Back of the body, including the back of the buttocks and the back of the thighs
- Head, down to the collarbone
- Below mid-thigh

For safety reasons, avoidable forceful contact to the back, or any forceful contact to the head or neck should be penalized regardless of impact.

A Skater suddenly presenting an Illegal Target Zone to an opponent, giving that opponent no reasonable opportunity to avoid illegal contact, is considered to be initiating with that target zone.

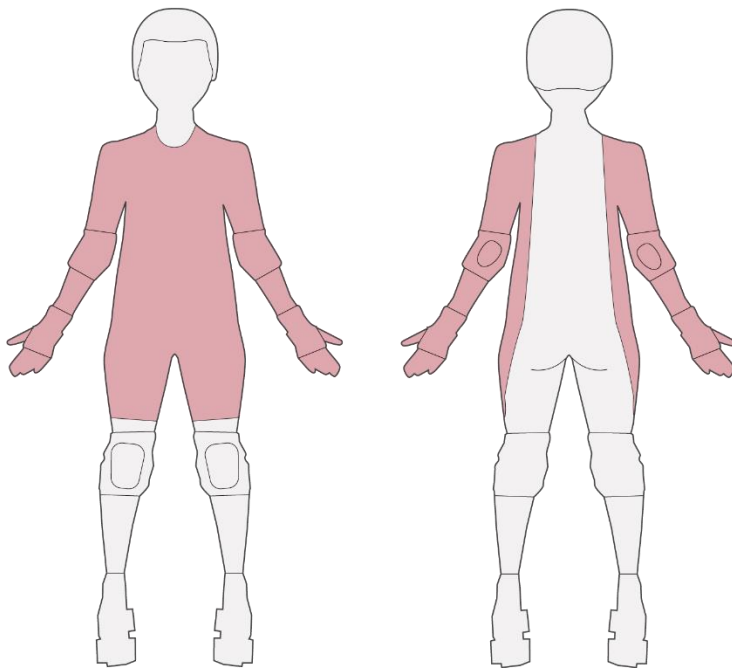


Fig. 4.1 Legal Target Zones

4.1.2. Impact with an Illegal Blocking Zone

Making contact with an Illegal Blocking Zone should be penalized based on the impact it has on the target (see [Section 2.4.2](#)).

Using an Illegal Blocking Zone also has sufficient impact to warrant a penalty if the contact puts an opponent significantly off balance, or significantly alters their trajectory or speed (for example, significantly holding them back).

Illegal Blocking Zones include:

- Head, down to the collarbone
- Forearm, from the point of the elbow to the fingertips
- Legs, from below mid-thigh to the wheels of the skate

For safety reasons, any forceful contact initiated with the head or neck, intentional use of the head or neck to positionally block, or intentional and forceful jabbing with elbows or strikes with knees should be penalized regardless of impact.

Forearms are considered a Legal Blocking Zone when they are held close against the initiator's torso.

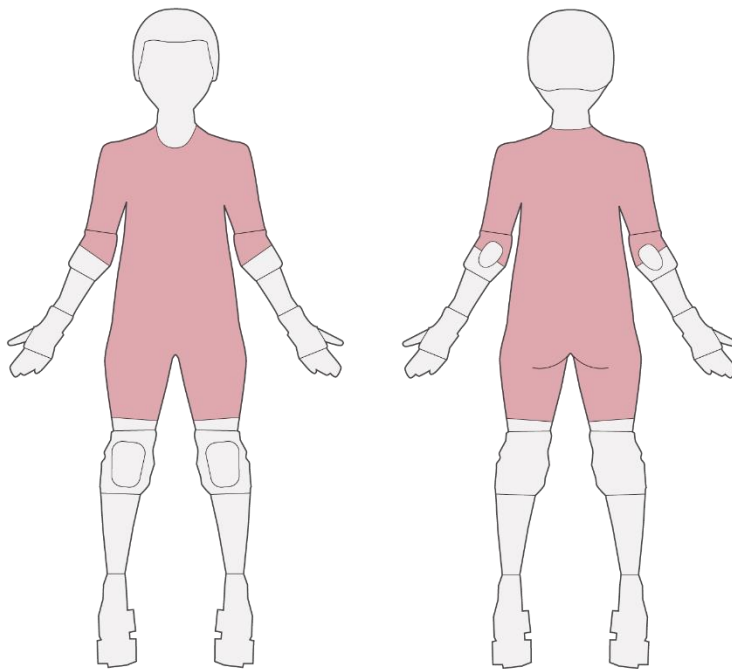


Fig. 4.2 Legal Blocking Zones

4.1.3. Other Illegal Contact

Initiating a block is legal when a Skater is moving counterclockwise, in play, upright, and in bounds during a Jam using Legal Contact Zones. Other contact may be dangerous because it is unexpected.

Accordingly, Skaters cannot initiate a block while down, out of bounds, out of play, airborne, stopped, or skating clockwise. Skaters also cannot initiate a block on opponents who are down, fully out of bounds, or out of play. Skaters may initiate a block on an opponent who is straddling the track boundary, stopped, or skating clockwise.

Initiation of assists should be held to the same metrics as that of blocking, with the exception of assisting a downed teammate to return to an upright position.

4.1.4. Multiplayer Blocks

Skaters may not form a wall by linking with or grasping a teammate, or otherwise forming an impenetrable connection. This action warrants a penalty if an opponent attempts to get between them and fails to do so due to the illegal formation