



**MEDIA GUIDE**

**2019 SEASON**

**Hello, media partner!** Thank you for your interest in our St. Louis-based roller derby franchise that is **GateKeepers Roller Derby (GKRD)**. We are excited that you want to cover a fun, high-octane sport that has been a fixture of the local athletic and social scene since 2009 and currently competes at upper-echelon levels internationally.

This press kit provides historical information about the league as well as our current team complexions.



Members of the media (*reporters, bloggers, videographers, photographers, etc.*) always receive **complimentary admission** to our events in order to research and cover our sport. Please contact us prior to our events/practices in order to coordinate logistics of recording/capturing footage.

Although same-day requests on game nights are allowed, it is recommended to make your request as early as possible so that we can have you on our will-call list and make the process for check-in easy.

Primary home games for GKRD during the 2019 local season will be held on select Friday evenings at the **St. Louis Skatium** located in South City St. Louis (*120 East Catalan*). Members of the media can arrive early on game nights in order to record pre-game interviews with the skaters.



Additional interleague (**travel team**) games will be competed at **Midwest Sport Hockey**, located at Queeny Park in Ballwin, Missouri (*570 Wiedman Road*). Media accessibility will be determined when the contests are held.

**Check Page 6 for the 2019 GKRD local and travel schedule.**

**Photography/Videography by the media is allowed at all GKR games** and access is open in all playing areas during a game outside of the track. Check with us early and we'll make sure to get you the best locations and angles for the best images. Still photographers are also allowed "inside the track" for additional angles with prior arrangement.

For those media partners seeking game images for stories but cannot supply their own photographer at an event, GKR has a photographer that regularly attends all local contests that can provide complimentary, high-resolution pictures for your coverage.

We'll be more than happy to assist you with your company's needs. GKR has **game previews** and **recaps** written by staff personnel that are promoted on their official website, [gatekeepersrollerderby.com](http://gatekeepersrollerderby.com). We'll be more to supply you with these previews/recaps for free usage.

Non-event practices/scrimmages are also open to the media with prior arrangement. GKR practices numerous times during the week on select evenings at the **St. Louis Skatium**. Please contact us in advance as to practice times and skater availability times.

Skaters are available for interviews at any time, either in a pre-arranged, pre-event set-up or a post-game setting following a competition. They are also available to travel to your location for interviews, either in a studio set-up or for a remote location.



**Thank you for your interest in roller derby in St. Louis!**

**GateKeepers Roller Derby (GKRD)** is St. Louis' first and only Men's Roller Derby Association (**MRDA**) certified flat-track roller derby league.

Founded in 2009, GKRD is currently the most decorated franchise globally as a seven-time MRDA medalist and as the current, defending four-time MRDA International Champion.

GKRD fields two travel teams that compete nationally and internationally against other MRDA-affiliated Leagues: the **St. Louis GateKeepers** and the **B-Keepers**.

There are approximately 45 skaters that play within the League's complexion. Another five to eight "newbies" wait being placed within teams at a yearly draft.

The **St. Louis GateKeepers** primary travel team has competed in MRDA-sanctioned post-season tournaments since 2011 and have won four consecutive international titles (2015-2018) as well as two silver medals and one bronze in prior play, making the League the most-decorated in MRDA history.



Individuals from the League have competed at the Men's Roller Derby World Cup for Team Men's USA, which won gold medals in 2014, 2016 and 2018.

Locally, GKRD traditionally fielded a trio of home-based teams that have competed in a seven-event campaign. GKRD held their 2015 League Championships at Chaifetz Arena in St. Louis City on June 13, 2015 in front of 1,200 spectators, their highest attendance to date. Local intraleague games continue to take place today.

The make-up of the league would be considered "club play" as each participant pays on their own to compete. Average gear (helmets, skates, mouth guards, etc.) reaches high-triple digits. Like other forms of contact sports, skaters are required to wear protective gear and must have insurance in order to play.

The League hosted the **MRDA International Championships** in 2012 and 2015 and will host the **Men's Roller Derby World Cup** in July 2020.

Because of their community involvement and for their commitment to locally expand the internationally-recognized sport, former St. Louis Mayor Francis G. Slay proclaimed September 14, 2014 as "**St. Louis GateKeepers Day**" in the City of St. Louis.



## ABOUT THE TYPE OF ROLLER DERBY GKRD PLAYS

Unlike the banked-track version that was synonymous with this sport historically, the current incarnation of roller derby played by **GateKeepers Roller Derby** is played on a “**flat-track**” and is considered a contact sport.

Although the long history of roller derby contained elements of staging and pre-determined outcomes, the current product that GKRd displays is not “fixed.”

However, each athlete adopts a “**nom de skate**” that can show traces to pop culture references or to residency and occupation.

Each game consists of two 30-minute periods that contains individual jams that can last up to two-minutes apiece. Two teams of five (consisting of one jammer, three blockers and one pivot, if no one has committed a penalty) try to score as many points as possible within a jam. At the conclusion of the second period, the team with the most points wins.

Compared to other traditional sports that has scoring that is recorded in minimal digits, roller derby is an extremely high-scoring game as both teams can collectively score more than 300 points in one contest.

## HELPFUL LANGUAGE FOR REPORTERS IN STORY CONSTRUCTION

In coverage of our Leagues, it is recommended when constructing copy to be aware of the following areas:

Our League participates on quad-roller skates, so there should be no reference to in-line skates (rollerblades) in copy.

When identifying individuals, the most-common descriptor is “**skater.**” For better clarification, use the athlete’s position (jammer/blocker/pivot) alongside team name. “Four-wheeled warriors” and other fun descriptors for our athletes are also acceptable. After all, we are fun leagues!

GateKeepers Roller Derby competes in a sports market that also contains teams that are affiliated with the **Women’s Flat Track Derby Association (WFTDA)**. It is preferred **not to compare/contrast St. Louis-based Leagues physically**. For example, when describing the play of GateKeepers Roller Derby, please don’t use terms such as “they hit harder than the women” or “they are faster than their female counterparts.” Our League does not play sanctioned games against WFTDA Leagues. Comparison/contrast should be held to our team’s respective game-time opponent (“The GateKeepers played stronger defense than the visiting Bridgetown Menace, resulting in their 205-156 victory.”)

**Again, we appreciate your coverage!**

## 2019 GATEKEEPERS ROLLER DERBY SCHEDULE

### LOCAL THEMED EVENTS

**FRI 1/25/19    MARVEL VS. DC**

**FRI 2/15/19    SLAMMERS VS. THE WORLD**

**FRI 3/8/19    STREET FIGHTER VS. MORTAL COMBAT**

**FRI 4/12/19    80's vs. 90's**

CONTESTS TO BE HELD AT **ST. LOUIS SKATIUM** (*120 East Catalan – St. Louis, MO*)

### LOCAL TRAVEL TEAM SPECIAL EVENTS

**FRI-SUN 5/10-12/19    SIBLING RIVALRY INVITATIONAL**

Opponents: TBD

**SAT 9/14/19    SUPER DERBY BROS.**

CONTESTS TO BE HELD AT **MIDWEST SPORT HOCKEY** (*570 Wiedman Rd – Ballwin, MO*)

### TRAVEL TEAM ROAD EVENTS

**FRI-SUN 5/31-6/2/19    MIDWEST BREWHAHA INVITATIONAL**

Held in Milwaukee, WI    Opponents: TBD

**FRI-SUN 6/21-23    ECDX INVITATIONAL**

Held in Philadelphia, PA    Opponents: TBD

**ALL GAMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE & ADDITIONAL GAMES MAY BE ADDED AS SEASON PROGRESSES**

**POST-SEASON TOURNAMENT PLAY TBD**

## **MEDIA RESOURCES & CONTACT INFO**

**Official Website:** [www.gatekeepersrollerderby.com](http://www.gatekeepersrollerderby.com)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/GateKeepersRollerDerby/](http://www.facebook.com/GateKeepersRollerDerby/)

**Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/stlgatekeepers](http://www.twitter.com/stlgatekeepers)

**Instagram:** [www.instagram.com/stlgatekeepers/](http://www.instagram.com/stlgatekeepers/)

**Media Inquiries:** [publicity@stlgatekeepers.com](mailto:publicity@stlgatekeepers.com)

**Men's Roller Derby Association (MRDA):** [www.mrda.org](http://www.mrda.org)

**Current International Rankings:** [www.mrda.org/resources/current-rankings/](http://www.mrda.org/resources/current-rankings/) (GKRD Currently #1)

## **PAST GATEKEEPERS LOCAL "TURF WARS" CHAMPIONS**

- 2018** Creve Coroners
- 2017** Central West Friends
- 2016** Raiders of Forest Park
- 2015** South Grand Slammers (GKRD Rebranded All Local Teams Following Season's Conclusion)
- 2014** South Grand Slammers
- 2013** Riverfront Crimes
- 2012** Dogtown Rockets
- 2011** South Grand Slammers

## **PAST GATEKEEPERS ALL-STARS MRDA INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS**

- 2018:** Record 12-0. MRDA International Champions
- 2017:** Record 11-0. MRDA International Champions
- 2016:** Record 12-0. MRDA International Champions
- 2015:** Record 14-1. MRDA International Champions
- 2014:** Record 12-1. Silver Medal, MRDA Championships
- 2013:** Record 11-2. Bronze Medal, MRDA Championships
- 2012:** Record 9-2. Silver Medal, MRDA Championships

***Heading into their 2019 campaign, the GateKeepers All –Star Team currently possesses an undefeated streak of 44 MRDA-sanctioned games, dating back to 2015.***