

6.8: OUT OF BOUNDS BLOCKING



Image: WFTDA Rules, Appendix C: Hand Signals

Definition

'Out of bounds blocking' covers all blocking that happens or continues off the track. This includes a block initiated on the track where the initiator continues to block once off the track as well as blocks where contact is initiated by a skater who is re-entering the track but is not yet back in bounds.

What the rules say about Out of Bounds Blocking

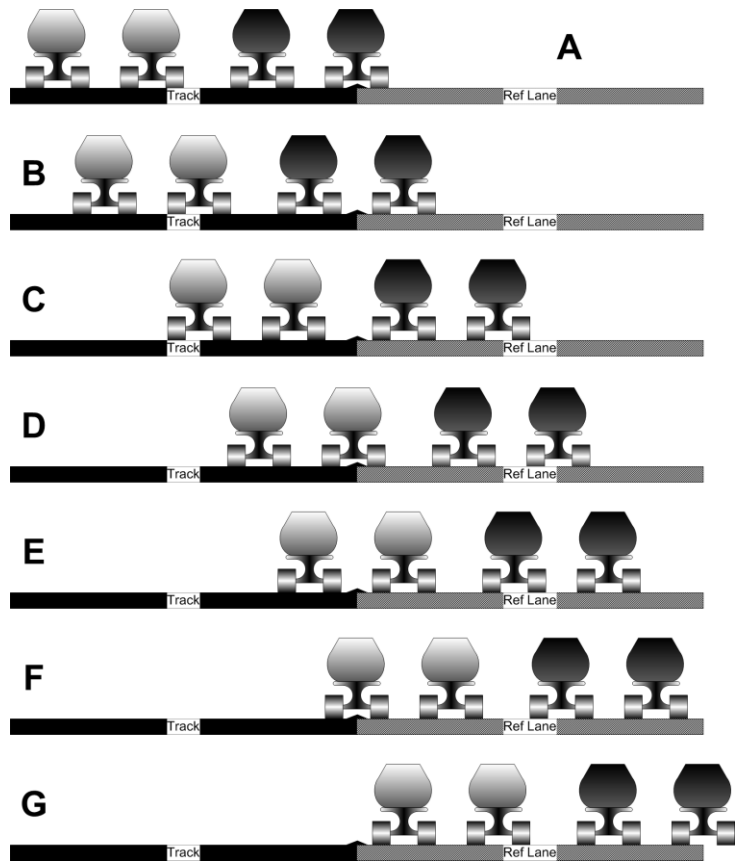
- 'The track and the boundary marker line are considered in bounds' – 2.1.7
- 'Skaters must be in bounds when initiating a block' – 6.8.1
- 'If a skater forces an opponent out of bounds while blocking, the initiating blocker must cease blocking before her own skates touch outside of the track boundary...' – 6.8.3
- 'An in bounds skater may actively block or hit a returning skater when any part of the returning skater's skate is touching any in bounds track territory...' – 6.8.6
- 'A skater who is straddling the line may not engage, block or assist...' – 6.8.7

Sample penalties

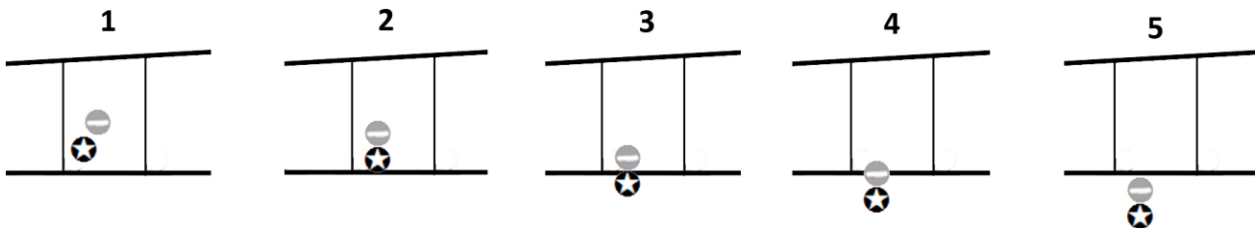
- No impact/no penalty: 'A skater who enters the track from out-of-bounds while down, without making contact to any opponents or forcing them to fall or lose relative position, is not blocking from out of bounds' – 6.8.13
- Minor penalty: 'Continuing a block after any part of the initiating blocker is touching the ground outside the track boundary' – 6.8.15
- Major penalty: 'Continuing a block which causes the receiving skater to fall where there is continued blocking contact past the point where any part of the initiating blocker is touching out of bounds' – 6.8.19

Exercises

In the image on the right, circle the stage when this contact become out of bounds blocking.



In the image below, circle the stage when this contact become out of bounds blocking.



Drills

- **Stationary.** Everyone finds a blocking partner and a line marked on the floor. Partners stand on either side of the line and select one to start as offensive and one as defensive. Blockers should be looking down at their feet and as soon as they block hard enough for part of their skate to go over the line they break the contact. Offensive and defensive swap so that person who was blocking is now being blocked. Repeat.
- **Moving.** Partners skate around the track with one skater in bounds and one out-of-bounds (on either inside or outside line) and with both watching their feet as well as the other skater. OOB skater will try to enter track. In bounds skater (initiator) does not engage when they are straddling but as soon as they are in bounds initiator attempts to block them back out, stopping as soon as the initiator's skates hit the boundary line. Swap, repeat.
- **Queen of the track – OOB.** All skaters on track. Skaters will be called off for either leaving the track or for OOB. Skaters may continue to play after falling as long as they remain in bounds.