

At WKND, we are committed to making skateboarding more inclusive and safer for everyone. This commitment entails holding fellow skaters accountable for their behavior, listening to survivors of sexual violence, and speaking out against skateboarding's consistent tolerance for abuse. We also believe in transparency, and would like to share some details about the events of the last few months and our plans for the future.

On July 1, we found out that team rider Johan Stuckey had lied to sexual partners about having an STI. After extensive discussions with the survivors, it became clear that he had a long-standing pattern of sexual assault, coercion, manipulation, and lying about knowingly passing STIs. This behavior had gone undetected by the people at WKND, and once we realized there was a pattern of abuse we took action. Historically, toxicity in skateboarding has been overlooked, and we ourselves have perpetuated it. It was a painful decision to remove Johan from the team, but we are committed to holding ourselves and the people around us accountable.

We did not cut Johan from our lives, but instead removed the platform that WKND provided him. To care for a friend requires difficult conversations and actions. By holding our friends responsible, we not only aid their personal growth, but also set the tone for a culture in which coercion and sexual misconduct are not tolerated.

We chose to redistribute his remaining 2020 paychecks in the form of donations to rotating organizations, support groups, and communities who are dedicated to aiding victims of sexual violence and other forms of abuse. Next, we began developing our plans for educational and community-led accountability.

To that end, we are introducing our online resource page to create space for skateboarders to contextualize sexual violence within systems of oppression, heal from trauma, and collectively transform our skate communities. Documents that we will curate include resources for survivors, educational materials about sexually transmitted diseases, guides to community-led accountability, resources for therapy, entry-level introductions for anyone new to this conversation, and beyond. This webpage will be a living document and we invite our community to contribute. Please reach out if you are interested in sharing a resource.

WKND is also working with a group of women and queer skaters to author an open letter addressing rape culture and abuse, and inviting all skaters to be a part of positively transforming our communities. We will host the document on our website, and we hope that other brands will sign on as well to signify their commitment to this work.

We want to end by thanking the women who have come forward, not only for sharing their stories of abuse but also for being willing to support us in taking meaningful action. We look forward to hearing more feedback from our peers and supporters, and to playing our part in creating a safer, more vibrant skate culture.

*From everyone at WKND skateboards,*

*Thank ya*

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