

# WNSL Flag Football League (FFL) Frequently Asked Questions

If you have a question, start here. If you still cannot find your answer on this page, e-mail [scott@wnsl.net](mailto:scott@wnsl.net)

## Sign-Ups, Cost and Division Questions

**When can we register?** Registration is open through Early-July. See [www.wnsl.org](http://www.wnsl.org) for specific dates.

**How do I register and pay online?** Go to [www.wnsl.org](http://www.wnsl.org) and click on one of the sports you would like to register for. Once on a sport-specific page, log into your WNSL account (see the Login button on the right side of the screen). Once logged into your account, click "Programs Available" next to the name of the Child you would like to register. If you do not have a WNSL account, click the "Register" button on the right of the screen to register/create an account. You will then "Add Participants" to your account and select which sport(s) you would like to register them for.

**What if I do not want to register online?** You can download a paper registration form on the Flag Football page at [www.wnsl.org](http://www.wnsl.org). You may mail it in with a check but there will be a \$10 paper registration fee as indicated on the application.

**What if I forget to register?** After the initial registration deadline the price to register increases and is only available on a case by case basis. Players will be added to existing teams or new teams created if the need arises.

**Do you give refunds if my child decides not to participate?** The WNSL Refund Policy is: *I understand and agree that no refunds will be provided for this season unless there is a medical reason. This includes free agent players that are assigned to a team that may not have a coach. In lieu of a refund the registration fee may be moved to another sport up to the date of the coach meeting. After the coach meeting the transfer of fees to another sport is not available and there are no refunds allowed. Please ensure you are ready to play the sport you are registering for in the WNSL and are committed to playing for we do not offer refunds for joining the incorrect league or for conflicting players' activities.*

**What are the age divisions?** We have 12 divisions. Depending on final registration numbers, some divisions may be combined:

Pre-Kindergarten (Pre K)

Kindergarten

1A - 1st Grade

2A -- 2nd Grade

3A -- 3rd Grade

4A -- 4th Grade

5A -- 5th Grade

6A -- 6th grade

7A -- 7th Grade

8A -- 8th Grade

Lower High School (9th & 10th Grades)

Upper High School (11th & 12th Grades)

**Why did the divisions change from being based on age to being based on grade?** Due to the amount of requests for players to be transferred in order to play with classmates, the WNSL decided to base the divisions on grade level instead of age. However, the WNSL holds the right to move a team up a division, if two or more of its players are much older than the average age of the players in the division.

**Are players allowed to play up or play down?** Players are allowed to play up a division. However, players must have approval from Scott Tygard (scott@wnsl.net) in order to play down.

**If my player is not on a preformed team, how and when will I know which team he/she is on?**

Individuals not on a team (Free Agents) will be contacted by their coach following the Coaches' Meeting in Late July.

**Can a player play on two teams?** A player may play on two teams with the approval of the league director. The player must pay two registration fees. **No player may play on multiple teams in the end of season tournament regardless of division.**

**Can girls play?** Yes, the WNSL Flag Football League is CoEd.

**How much does it cost?** WNSL Fall Flag Football is \$195 per player.

**What is included in the registration fees?** Minimum 7 regular season games, end of season tournament, customized jersey, referees, insurance, newsletter, website, excellent fields, all equipment such as pylons, flags, and sportsmanship trophies for some teams.

**How do you form teams?** The WNSL is open to full teams, partial teams and free agents. All players are welcome to request a coach on their registration, however, this is just a request -- there is no guarantee that the participant will be placed on the team they request. We try our best to accommodate requests, however, coaches with pre-formed or partially formed teams submit rosters with the players they intend on playing on their team. We go by this roster first. Players not on a pre-formed team are free agents and we work to place them on a team with classmates/players from their area or create an entire team from free agents.

**How many players are on a team?** Pre-K & K play 5 on 5. A minimum of 8 players will constitute a full team in the preK and K divisions. All other divisions play 7 on 7. A minimum of 10 players will constitute a full team in the 1st - High School divisions. Teams without the minimum number of players are not a "full team" and free agents may be allocated to fill the team. This is to minimize the number of forfeits and borrowing/adding players during the season.

## **Coach-Related Questions**

**Who coaches the teams in the FFL?** The WNSL relies on volunteers to coach. Some teams bring coaches with them and often parents coach. If you are interested in coaching or being an assistant you may indicate this on the "Volunteer" portion of the registration site.

**How are coaches certified?** Coaches are screened at the Coaches' Meeting and sign a "Code of Conduct" as well as complete a background check.

**How does a parent notify the league that he or she would like to coach or be a team parent?** During the online registration process there is a "Volunteer" page. Click on the volunteer position you would like (Coach, Assistant Coach or Team Parent) and fill out the requested information. You will then be assigned to your child's team once the registration process is closed.

**Once I register, how long will it be before I hear from a coach?** The coaches' meeting is held in Late July to finalize all rosters. After that meeting a coach will be in touch with you.

**What if there are not enough coaches signed up?** The WNSL does its best to never turn away a player. If there are not enough coaches initially volunteered, the league will create new teams called "Free Agent Teams" and ask parents from that team to volunteer to coach.

**How do you come up with team names?** The coaches determine team names. Team names can be NFL teams, generic names (such as Road Runners) or school names (with permission from school).

## **Weather, Fields, Opening Day, and FFL Basics**

**What type of flag football league does the WNSL offer?** The WNSL feels all youth sports should be recreational in nature yet also competitive. The sports program is not a babysitting service but it is a league that does not encourage a win-at-all-cost attitude. Sportsmanship, camaraderie, fun and learning the game are the most important aspects of our flag football league. The WNSL feels that the casual recreational player as well as the more serious competitive player will both be accommodated. In short, the WNSL wants players of all different levels to have fun, excel and feel good about what they are doing.

**How long does the season last?** The flag football season kicks off in mid-August (See the site for details). Games are played every Saturday and Sunday throughout the day with the season ending in Mid October with Music City Flag Bowl.

**Does the league provide photos for teams and individuals?** A team photo day will be scheduled at some point early in the season. The exact date of the team photo day will be announced at the Coach Meeting. Each team is given a time slot on that day to get their photos taken. The photographer will email out photo proofs and package options after photo day.

**Where are the games played?** All games are played at the Warner Park Complex (Vaughn Road and Old Hickory Blvd.)

**What happens in case of inclement weather? Are games rescheduled? How will a parent/coach know if games are canceled?** Due to Metro Parks policy, games cannot be played when there is standing water on the fields. This is to protect the fields as well as protecting the players from injury. Games may be rescheduled for weekdays. If games are canceled there will be a notice on the homepage of [www.wnsl.org](http://www.wnsl.org), our Social Media pages, and an email will be sent out.

**When and how often do teams practice?** Teams usually practice once per week, however, practice frequency and location is determined by each coach. Official WNSL practice begins after the Coaches' Meeting.

**What equipment does my player need?** Players are required to have a mouthpiece and shorts with **NO POCKETS**. Shorts with pockets are not allowed. **Pockets \*MAYNOT\* be taped.** Female players are required to wear shorts - skirts/skorts will not be allowed. Cleats for youth football (Plastic spikes) are recommended but tennis shoes are OK.

**Does WNSL provide referees for games?** Yes. Trained referees are provided for every game played.

**Are there different rules for different divisions?** Yes, review the rules on the Flag Football page of [www.wnsl.org](http://www.wnsl.org).

**Does WNSL post standings?** No, the WNSL does not provide standings for we do not want to promote over the top competitiveness and focus on the "Love of the Game" instead. If a tournament is held at the end of the season we will post scores for these games.

**Is there a Postseason Tournament?** Yes. Since there are no regular season standings, the tournament matchups are created through a random draw at the end of the season. Multiple divisions are formed and champions of each division have the opportunity to attend the Music City Bowl.

## Sponsorships and Financial Assistance

**Why is each team asked to have a \$250 Team Sponsor?** Team Sponsors help cover the cost of scholarships, field maintenance and keep registration fees as low as possible.

**What does the \$250 fee include?** The team sponsor logo will be placed on the sleeve of the team's jerseys. Sponsors are also welcome to set up a booth/table at the Opening Day to pass out promotional items. In addition, they will have their logo in the Flag Football times newsletter distributed to all Fall Sports participants.

**What if I am interested in sponsoring a team or the league?** Please let your participant's coach know and then contact [carly@wnsl.net](mailto:carly@wnsl.net).

**Are there any opportunities for corporate sponsorships (other than the team sponsorships)?** Yes. The WNSL offers corporate sponsorships for each individual sport, as well as the overall league. We also offer corporate sponsorships of our preseason and postseason basketball tournaments. You can see all opportunities under the sponsorship link at [www.wnsl.org](http://www.wnsl.org).

**Does the WNSL provide financial assistance or scholarships?** Yes. If you are in need of a full or partial scholarship, fill out and submit the financial assistance information at [www.wnsl.org](http://www.wnsl.org). Someone will be in touch in regards to the amount of financial assistance available for your participant.

## Miscellaneous Questions

**Are end of season trophies presented to the league champions/runners up?** The Flag Football League does not award Championship and Runner-Up trophies to teams during the regular season. We like to keep the focus on purely the Love of the Game. We do give out "Love of the Game" sportsmanship trophies to teams that exemplify good sportsmanship throughout the season. Medallions are given out to players if requested by the head coach. During the Music City Flag Bowl End of Season Tournament, 1st and 2nd place medallions are awarded.

**What is the difference between WNSL and other flag football leagues?** The West Nashville Sports League is a top-notch youth sports organization that emphasizes all players valuing the pure love-of-the-game over a winning-at-all-costs attitude. We work hard to keep everyone heavily involved in the community by promoting and being involved in local organizations, colleges and events, a partnership with the Music City Bowl and more. Providing fun Opening Day kickoff events, the best field conditions possible, certified referees, excellent communication to all participants, parents and coaches and an informative and user friendly website, the WNSL goes above and beyond to create a memorable and positive experience for all involved.