

WNSL Spring 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

Sign-Ups, Cost and Division Questions

When Can We Register? Registration is open now through February 14th.

How do I register and pay online? Go to www.wnsl.or and click on the sport that you would like to register for. Once on a sport-specific page, log into your WNSL account (see the Log In Button on the right side of the screen). Once logged into your account, click "Register Now" to select the sport you would like to register your child for. If you do not have a WNSL account click the "Register" button on the right side 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 from the flag football page that you can mail in with a check. There is a \$10 paper registration fee.

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? Refunds are only given with a Doctor's excuse that a child cannot play due to injury (less a \$35 administration fee). Registrations may be transferred to another sport up until the Coach Meeting or uniforms are ordered, whichever comes first. After uniforms are ordered or the coach meeting has occurred, there is no transfer of fees available.

What are the age divisions?

We have 10* Divisions:

Pre-K/K

1st Grade

2nd Grade

3rd Grade

4th Grade

5th Grade

6th Grade

7th/8th Grades

9th/10th Grade

11th/12th Grade

*Some divisions may be combined if need be because of numbers of players and teams.

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 playdown.

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-February. Parents of free agents may be called upon to help coach or procure a coach if the free agents do not have a coach.

Can a player play on two teams? A player cannot play on two teams in the same grade. A player may, however, pay two registration fees and play up for his second team. Example: A third grader may play on both a third grade and a fourth grade team.

Can girls play? Yes. The FFL league is Co-Ed.

How much does it cost? Pre-K – K Divisions - \$160 1st Grade– 12th Grade Divisions- \$180

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

How do you form teams? The WNSL is open to fill 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 a participant will be placed on the team that 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 preformed 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.

Coach-Related Questions

Who Coaches the Teams in the WNSL? The WNSL Flag Football League 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 February to finalize all rosters. After that meeting a coach will be in touch with you.

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 does the WNSL Offer? 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 on March 22. Games are played every Saturday and Sunday throughout the day with the season ending in late May before Memorial Day Weekend.

Does the league provide photos for teams and individuals? Each team is given a time slot on photo day during the season to get their photos taken. The photographer has various packages available.

Where Are the Games Played? All games are played at the Warner Park Complex (Vaughn Road and Old Hickory Blvd.) Teams will have the option to play games at an alternate location on Steeplechase weekend in Mid-May.

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 as well as a notice sent out via social media (Facebook, X, etc) and an email sent to all participants (time permitting).

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.

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.

What equipment does my player need? Players are required to have a mouthpiece and shorts with NO POCKETS. 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.

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 the records of the teams during the season.

Sponsorships and Financial Assistance

What if I am interested in sponsoring a team or the league? Please contact scott@wnsl.net about all sponsor questions.

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.

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. 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. 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. We provide player medallions upon request from the coach.

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. Providing 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.