



# FLAG

## RULE BOOK

Tournament Guidelines/Regulations





# Tournament Guidelines/Regulations

## 2022 Overview

2022 will feature 16 total tournaments feeding into the NFL FLAG CHAMPIONSHIPS AT PRO BOWL. (13 Regionals and three (3) Super Regionals).

NFL FLAG Tournaments are for athletes who participate in an NFL FLAG league ONLY and will kickoff at the NFL DRAFT, April 30-May 1. Tournaments will consist of NFL FLAG Super Regionals and NFL FLAG Regionals. Super Regionals will have OPEN Borders for any official NFL FLAG League across the country to participate. NFL FLAG League Guidelines apply. The first Super Regional of 2022 will be in the spring at the NFL DRAFT (Las Vegas), followed by a summer Super Regional (Atlanta) in July and a fall Super Regional (New Orleans) in October. NFL FLAG Regionals will take place across the country throughout the year. All NFL FLAG Regionals will be for Official NFL FLAG Leagues and adhere to the regional border restrictions.

\*\*NFL FLAG will no longer have Open Tournaments, Sanctioned Tournaments or Flag Bowl.

NFL FLAG National Rankings: NFL FLAG will implement a Ranking System for teams competing in the NFL FLAG Tournament circuit. Teams will qualify for NFL FLAG National Ranking points by participating in NFL FLAG Championship Tournament Series. Team Rankings will be posted weekly on the NFL FLAG website and social media. Team Rankings are used for fun and if a team for whatever reason backs out of the event.



## I. Format

1. January 1st of the current calendar year is the date used to determine eligibility for age divisions.
2. Teams and player rosters must be **CONFIRMED** the Monday prior to each tournament.
3. Only one head coach and one assistant coach are allowed on the sidelines during games. All team photographers, managers, position coaches, team moms, fans, etc., must remain a minimum of 10 yards off the field in a designated Spectator Viewing Area. This will be strictly enforced.
4. Teams must be standing near the end zone of the field for their games and be ready to play 10 minutes before the scheduled game time.
5. NFL FLAG reserves the right to cancel or change the location of a Tournament. If a tournament is changed or canceled, RCX will not reimburse any team, players, or spectators for any expenses incurred including but not limited to airfare, ground transportation, lodging, and food. Teams may request a refund of the tournament registration fee.
6. All decisions made by NFL FLAG are final.

## II. Coach and Spectator Conduct/Responsibilities

1. Coaches, family members, parents, and spectators are required to observe the contest from designated areas.
2. Coaches are permitted to coach on the sideline at all Tournaments.
3. Coaches must agree to sign a coaches code of conduct and strictly adhere to our guidelines for coach conduct and attitude: <https://indd.adobe.com/view/e97b937a-3339-4de8-b0b7-49ce13476940>
  - a. If a coach displays any type of negativity toward his or her players, coaches or staff, the coach will be removed from the field immediately and unable to coach for the remainder of the tournament. This will be explained in greater detail at the coaches meeting prior to the tournament. Coaches are responsible for their players and any spectators associated with their team.
4. All family members, parents and spectators will observe play from the designated areas. Participants, coaches, parents and family members must conduct themselves appropriately during tournaments.
5. Inappropriate, rude or confrontational behavior by any coach, team or parent(s) may lead to a team's disqualification from a tournament at the sole discretion of NFL FLAG.
6. Misconduct by any individual may lead to removal from the premises at the sole discretion of NFL FLAG. Officials, at their discretion, may enforce unsportsmanlike penalties on the TEAM/Coach for such behavior. Two (2) unsportsmanlike penalties on any Coach or player is disqualification from that game.
7. Filming and photography is permitted in the spectator area only

## III. Tournament Check-In and Registration

1. Participation requirements and registration guidelines are provided to each head coach prior to the tournament by RCX Sports.
2. An NFL FLAG Tournament medical release form, signed by a parent or legal guardian, must be submitted by the participant. Participants will not be eligible to play without a medical release form submitted at registration.
3. All players are required to submit two forms\* of identification and a current photo.  
\*Acceptable forms of identification are the following:  
Birth Certificate, Passport, Report Card, Official State ID, Medical records, School ID.
- 4. No roster substitutions will be allowed after the final roster is submitted.**
- 5. NFL FLAG reserves the right to disqualify players and/or teams if individuals do not meet the Tournament Requirements set forth in the current calendar year.**
6. To register as an official NFL FLAG participant, go to [www.my.nflflag.com/register](http://www.my.nflflag.com/register). Make sure to select the league you play in. If you do not see your league contact your league organizer.
7. The tournament will be held rain or shine.

## IV. Rosters

1. Home teams wear dark color jerseys. Visiting teams wear light color jerseys.
2. Team Rosters must consist of at least 5 players with a maximum of 10 players.
  - a. Teams may play with no more than 5 players and no less than 4 players on the field.
  - b. Teams will be granted a 5-minute grace period if they do not have at least 4 eligible players at the start of the game, to allow for the required players to report to the field.
  - c. In the event of an injury, a team with insufficient substitute players may play with 4 players on the field but no fewer than 4.
3. All roster challenges will be addressed, by the Tournament Director, either prior or post game play.
  - a. If a roster is ruled illegal, the team at fault will forfeit the game, awarding the other team a 28-0 victory
  - b. If a roster is proven legal, the game will resume as scheduled or the score of the game will be recorded.

## V. Pool Play

1. Teams will play a minimum of three games in pool play.
2. Teams must start a game with a minimum of five players. In the event of an injury, a team with insufficient substitute players may play with four players on the field but no fewer than four.

### Divisional Tie Breakers

1. Two teams tied for one place.
  - a. Head-to-head competition
  - b. Total points allowed during tournament play
  - c. Total points scored during tournament play
  - d. Coin toss
2. Three or more teams tied for one place.
  - a. Total points allowed during tournament play
  - b. Total points scored during tournament play
  - c. Coin toss if two teams are still tied. Drawing if three teams are still tied.

### Playoffs and Championship

1. Playoff and championship games will be scheduled after pool play results are received and confirmed.
2. Playoff rounds are single elimination.
3. Divisional playoff seeds are determined by:
  - a. Overall record
  - b. Points allowed
  - c. Points scored
  - d. Coin toss

# SUPER REGIONAL & REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS

## 2022 Super Regional Tournaments

April 30th	Las Vegas Raiders Regional	spring
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- Open Region Borders
- Played NFL DRAFT weekend

July 15-16th	Atlanta Falcons Regional	summer
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- Open Region Borders
- Played in Birmingham, Ala. in conjunction with World Games

October 29-30th	New Orleans Saints Regional	fall
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- Open Region Borders

## 2022 Regional Tournaments

June 11th	Tampa Bay Buccaneers Regional	spring
June 18-19th	New York Jets Regional	spring
June 25th	Green Bay Packers Regional	spring
June 25th	Denver Broncos Regional	spring
July 9th	Detroit Lions Regional	spring
July 17th	Baltimore Ravens Regional	spring

TBD	Los Angeles Rams Regional	fall
TBD	New England Patriots Regional	fall
TBD	Cleveland Browns Regional	fall
TBD	Washington Commanders Regional	fall
TBD	Philadelphia Eagles Regional	fall
TBD	Houston Texans Regional	fall
TBD	Arizona Cardinals Regional	fall

## 2022 Tournament Age Divisions

2022 NFL FLAG Approved Age Divisions at NFL FLAG National Championships at Pro Bowl

8u	Birth year 2013 or younger
8u REC	Birth year 2013 or younger
10u Girls	Birth year 2011 or younger
10u	Birth year 2011 or younger
10u REC	Birth year 2011 or younger

12u Girls	Birth year 2009 or younger
12u	Birth year 2009 or younger
12u REC	Birth year 2009 or younger
14u Girls	Birth year 2007 or younger
14u	Birth year 2007 or younger
17u Girls	Birth year 2004 or younger

# 2022 General Guidelines

1. The only way to qualify for NFL FLAG Championships at Pro Bowl is by winning a Regional or Super Regional Tournament.
2. All NFL FLAG Tournaments are Stay-to-Play for teams who reside 90 miles from event location.
3. Qualified teams will receive a Full Bid entry to NFL FLAG Championships at Pro Bowl.
4. NFL FLAG National Rankings will be used to fill spots for the NFL FLAG Championships if qualified teams decide not to redeem their Full Bid entry.
5. NFL FLAG Tournament Rulebook will be used.
6. All players MUST be registered in and participate in the same NFL FLAG League/Organization in 2022 to be eligible to participate in a NFL FLAG tournament.
7. Once a team qualifies, the entire roster and Head Coach is **FINAL**. Edits may not be made to the rosters for the NFL FLAG Championships at Pro Bowl.
8. A coach can only be rostered as “Head Coach” for one team in a tournament but can be rostered as an “Assistant Coach” for infinite teams in separate age divisions in the same tournament.
9. Qualified teams are not permitted to change age divisions for the NFL FLAG Championships at Pro Bowl.
10. Players may only be on one roster. They cannot play in two NFL FLAG Regional Divisions.
11. Qualified players are ineligible to attend any other Regional Tournament in any division.
12. Once qualified, the Head Coach is ineligible to coach in the SAME division at any other Regional Tournament.
13. ONLY participants from an ACTIVE\* NFL FLAG League are permitted to compete in Regional and Super Regional Tournaments.  
\*An Active League has placed a qualifying order for their League within the last 12 months. Contact [info@nflflag.com](mailto:info@nflflag.com) for questions around an NFL FLAG League’s active status.
14. NFL FLAG Regional teams will be provided with NFL FLAG jerseys, flags and footballs, for each event, unless otherwise noted.
15. REC Divisions - Boys & Girls Clubs, YMCA’s, JCC’s, PAL Programs, Park and Recreational Programs through the Parks System or NFL FLAG Leagues must use same exact team roster from their league games.
16. Rosters will be a MAX of 10 players.

## 2022 Regional Tournament Borders

1. Teams are only eligible to qualify in their Region, unless competing in a Super Regional.
2. Teams may attend more than one Regional Tournament within their Region to qualify.



## 2022 Age/Coach Verification

1. Participants must be age verified through the National Sports ID Platform (NSID) prior to the event. On site age verification will not take place under any circumstances.
2. All coaches must pass a background check by Players Health (PH) to be eligible to coach.



## 2022 Tournament Format

1. All teams will be put into a Pool Play Format.
2. Every team is guaranteed a minimum of three (3) pool play games.
3. The TOP 50% teams from Pool Play in each division will advance to a single elimination playoff bracket.
4. All teams will be reseeded according to the following criteria for bracket play:
  - a. Least Games Lost
  - b. Most Games Won
  - c. Head-to-Head Record (Two teams only)
  - d. Points Against
  - e. Points For
  - f. Coin Toss

## 2022 Tournament Registration

1. NFL FLAG Regional Tournaments registration opens eight weeks prior to the date of the event.
  - a. \$350 Team Registration Fee (Early) - First three weeks of registration.
  - b. \$450 Team Registration Fee (Late) - Last three weeks of registration.
  - c. Registration will close two weeks prior to the event.

