



# Adult 8's Flag Football Rules & Information

This league is governed by [USA FLAG](#) except for the following:

## Match Format

- Playing time shall be 40 minutes, divided into two halves of 20 minutes each. The intermission between the halves shall be five minutes. When overtime is used, there will be a three-minute intermission.
- The game shall be played between two teams of eight players each. Six players are required to avoid a forfeit.
- The field shall be 80 yards from goal line to goal line with two endzones of 10 yards each. The field shall be divided into 4 zones of 20 yards each with a 3 yard hash and a 10 yard hash.

## Check-In/Identification

- **ALL** players who enter the game must check-in with the scorekeeper before the game.
- Scorekeepers will check-in players according to the roster. Players are required to show an official valid ID such as: Driver's license, ID card, student ID, or work ID. These are all acceptable as long as the ID has the player's name and picture on it. Social media profiles will not be accepted.
- After an ID has been reviewed by the Scorekeeper, the player is required to sign the roster/waiver. A player must only sign in for the first game they play in that season, but an ID is still required for every game to check-in before playing. Players who fail to show proper ID **WILL NOT** be allowed to play.
- Players who arrive late will be allowed to play, however, they must enter the game on a dead ball. Late players must still check-in with the scorekeeper before playing.

## Rosters

- Official rosters must be turned in prior to the first game of the first match of the new season.
- Each team is limited to a maximum of 20 players on their roster. If a team has already reached this limit but needs to add another player, they must first remove a player from the roster before adding a new one.
- All roster additions or removals must be made in writing on the roster sheet. Changes may only be made by the team captain or acting captain at the scorer's table.
- Roster additions will NOT be allowed after your 5<sup>th</sup> game played. To be eligible for playoffs, players must play in at least 1 regular season game. If you need to add players after the lock date, you must contact the League Coordinator by 2PM on gameday.
- Player Eligibility: Each team is responsible for the eligibility of their team members. In all divisions, the players must be 18 years of age.

## Team Content

- A team can play with a minimum of 6 players. To field a team, at least 5 players from the roster must be present. If a team is short on players, they may bring their own subs or recruit from within the same or a lower division to avoid forfeiting. A 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> player can be added, but to bring in more than 8 total players, approval from the opposing team captain is required. If the captain is not available, a majority vote from the opposing team will be needed. This decision cannot be revoked/changed once the game has started. If a team has fewer than 6 players, they will forfeit the game.
  - If you need to pull from another team to help field a team, those players pulled will **NOT** sign the roster. This prevents confusion for playoff roster eligibility. Players cannot be listed on multiple rosters.
  - If you bring a sub from outside of the league, they should sign the roster as long as they are not on another team's roster already.
  - If roster players show up late to play on their team that has a sub, the sub will not be able to play for the rest of the game unless approved by the opposing teams captain or a majority vote from the opposing team if the captain is not present.
- We encourage captains that know they will need to pick up players, to check out the free agent list [here](#). You can contact your League Coordinator to assist with this.
- If you know you will be unable to make a game, we also encourage you to contact us so we can inform your opponent.

## Forfeits

- The scheduled game time is forfeit time. Teams will have 10 minutes after start time to field an eligible team of the minimum needed (6). If the minimum number is not met after 10 minutes from start time, the game will be forfeited as officials cannot hold up a game waiting for a player.
- The official has the right to start the game clock 5 minutes after scheduled game time if there are players present, but not ready to play.
- Any team forfeiting 2 scheduled games may not be eligible for playoffs. After forfeiting 2 scheduled games, the League Coordinator/Athletics Office will have the right to drop the team from the league. Being dropped from the league will endanger your opportunity to participate in any future leagues. If you do have to forfeit, the League Coordinator/Athletics Office must be notified as soon as possible.

## Playoffs

- League championships will be decided by a playoff format at the end of the season. All teams will make the playoffs unless you forfeited 2 or more games during the season.
  - The amount of teams that will make playoffs can change and will be up to the League Coordinator. This can be decided at any time during the season and will mostly occur when there are scheduling conflicts.
- Your playoff team will consist of only players on your roster. You will **NOT** be able to pick up players that aren't on your current roster to field a team for playoffs.

- Seeding will be determined by
  - 1) Overall record. If there is a tie, the higher seed will go to the team that had the least amount of forfeits. If you end up with the same record as someone and you beat them heat-to-head, you automatically lose the tie breaker because of your forfeit.
  - 2) Head-to-head
  - 3) Point differential
  - 4) Coin toss
- Winner of the playoffs will receive a championship award.

## Protest

- In all questions about rules and disagreements, only the captain or acting captain can approach the official to inquire about the rules interpretation.
- Disagreements with the interpretation of the rules must be brought to the attention of the referee prior to the next play following the play in which the disagreement occurred. If the explanation of the captain (or acting captain) is satisfactory, the referee shall record all data relative to the protest on the score sheet.
- If needed, a decision can be made by the League Coordinator.
- There will be no protest on judgment calls.

## Facility Rules and Information

- Teams/players/viewers etc. are to be two yards off the sideline between the 20 yard lines.
- Please be sure to pick up any trash you may have left behind.
- In the event of severe weather, game cancellation decisions will be made at least 1 hour prior to the scheduled start time.

## Ball/Uniform/Flags

- The referee shall be the sole judge of any ball offered for play and may change the ball during play at his/her discretion. During the game, each team must use a legal ball of their choice when in possession.
- Players of opposing teams must wear contrasting-colored jerseys.
- Jerseys must be either:
  - Long enough so they remain tucked in the pants/shorts during the entire game OR
  - Short enough so there is a minimum of 4" from the bottom of the jersey to the players waistline. The referee will use a closed fist to measure this gap.
- Each player must wear pants or shorts without a belt, belt loops, pockets, or exposed drawstrings.
- Each player will provide their own flag belt. Capital City Athletics will have flag belts available, but they must be returned after the game. Each player must wear the Flag-a-tag Sonic Flag Football belt or the mushroom flag belt at the waistline with two flags attached, one flag on each side of the hips. Flag length must be 14-18 inches long from where the flag connects to end of flag, and the flag must be 2 inches in width as well.
- Each player must wear close-toed shoes. Cleats with exposed metal are never allowed.