

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN OF TEXAS
SHERMAN DIVISION**

USA FLAG, LLC

Plaintiff,

v.

USA FOOTBALL, INC.

Defendant.

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CIVIL ACTION _____

PLAINTIFF USA FLAG, LLC’S ORIGINAL COMPLAINT

Plaintiff USA Flag, LLC (“USA Flag”) files this Original Complaint against Defendant USA Football, Inc (“USAFB”). In support, USA Flag respectfully alleges the following:

I. PARTIES

1. Plaintiff USA Flag is a Texas limited liability company with its principal place of business at 209 Trailwood Drive, Allen, Texas 75002. USA Flag is located in Collin County, which is within the Sherman Division of this judicial district.

2. Defendant USAFB is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation organized under the laws of Virginia, with its headquarters at 45 N. Pennsylvania Street, Suite 800, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.

II. JURISDICTION & VENUE

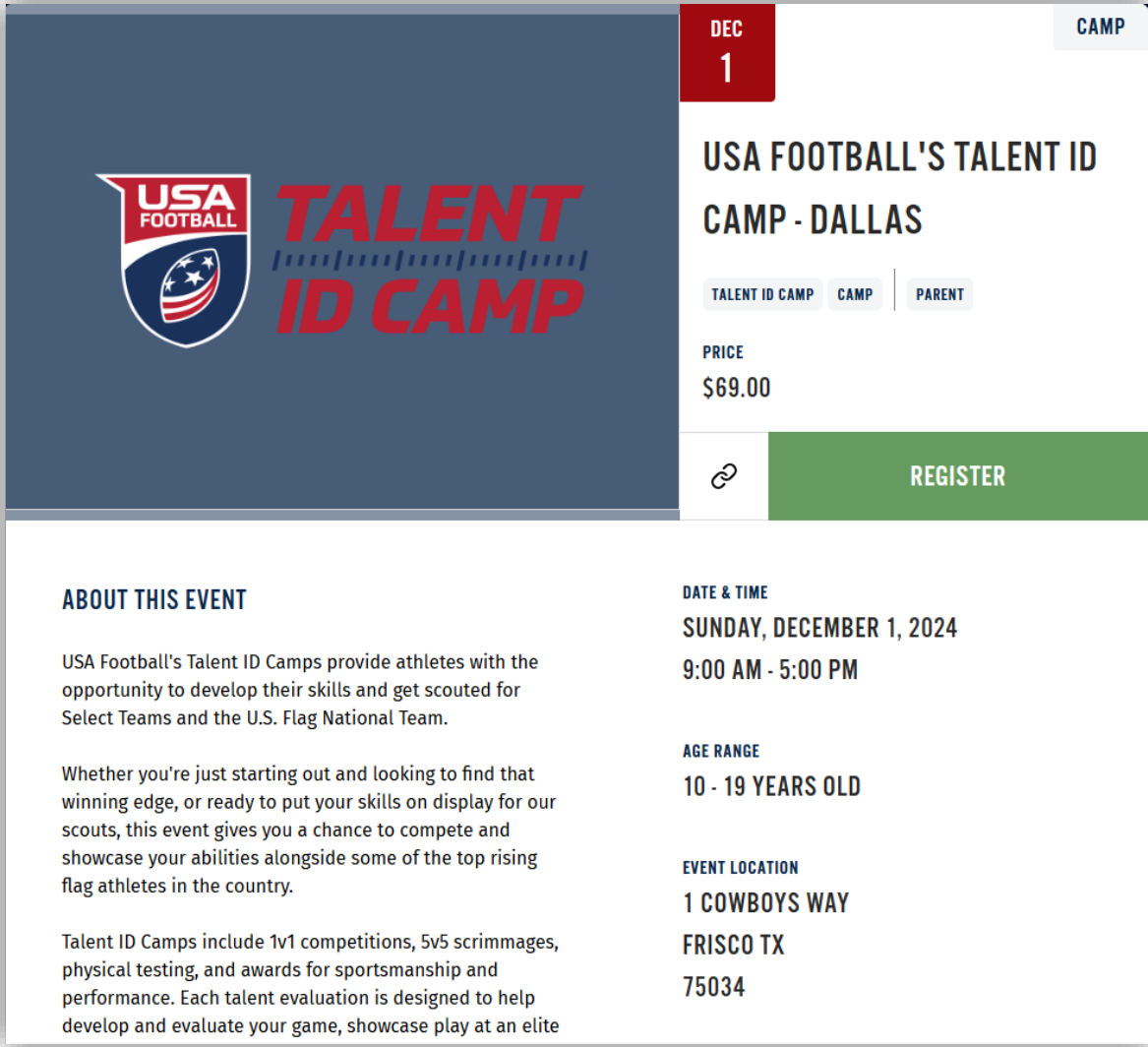
3. This case involves claims for infringement of a registered and common law trademark, false designation of origin, and unfair competition. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of the claims stated herein pursuant to 28 U.S.C.

§§ 1121(a), 1331, 1338(a), 1338(b), and 1367.

4. This Court has personal jurisdiction over USAFB inasmuch as USA Football has intentionally promoted and sponsored flag football events that have taken place, or that will take place, within this judicial district, and has also solicited individuals and entities who are located in this judicial district for participation in such events. On information and belief, such events will be conducted in accordance with some or all of the rules that USAFB refers as “USA FlagTM” rules. See Exhibits 1-4, attached hereto.

5. In addition, on information and belief, USAFB sponsors or sanctions flag (?) football leagues in Argyle, Texas (Denton County), Trophy Club, Texas (at 2775 Bobcat Blvd., Trophy Club, Texas 76262, which is Byron Nelson HS, in Denton County), and in Frisco, Texas (Collin County). USAFB’s website, which identifies these leagues also references and links to USAFB’s “Football Development Model” webpage, which also uses “USA FlagTM” in multiple places. See Exhibits 1 - 4, attached hereto.

6. Venue is proper in the Eastern District of Texas pursuant to 28. U.S.C. § 1391 because a number of the acts or omissions giving rise to or related to the claims set forth herein occurred within the Eastern District of Texas. USAFB solicits and conducts business related to the subject matter of this action within the Eastern District of Texas and is thus subject to personal jurisdiction within the Eastern District of Texas. For example, USAFB has member organizations located in Collin County, Texas and has promoted and scheduled an upcoming flag football talent identification camp located at The Star in Frisco, Texas scheduled for December 1, 2024.



The image shows a digital event page for "USA Football's Talent ID Camp - Dallas". The header features the USA Football logo and the event title "USA FOOTBALL'S TALENT ID CAMP - DALLAS". A date indicator shows "DEC 1" and a category tag says "CAMP". Below the title are tabs for "TALENT ID CAMP", "CAMP", and "PARENT". The price is listed as "\$69.00". A green "REGISTER" button is prominent, accompanied by a link icon. The main content area is divided into two columns: "ABOUT THIS EVENT" and "DATE & TIME".

USA FOOTBALL'S TALENT ID CAMP - DALLAS

DEC 1 CAMP

TALENT ID CAMP | CAMP | PARENT

PRICE \$69.00

REGISTER

ABOUT THIS EVENT

USA Football's Talent ID Camps provide athletes with the opportunity to develop their skills and get scouted for Select Teams and the U.S. Flag National Team.

Whether you're just starting out and looking to find that winning edge, or ready to put your skills on display for our scouts, this event gives you a chance to compete and showcase your abilities alongside some of the top rising flag athletes in the country.

Talent ID Camps include 1v1 competitions, 5v5 scrimmages, physical testing, and awards for sportsmanship and performance. Each talent evaluation is designed to help develop and evaluate your game, showcase play at an elite

DATE & TIME
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2024
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

AGE RANGE
10 - 19 YEARS OLD

EVENT LOCATION
1 COWBOYS WAY
FRISCO TX
75034

See Exhibit 5.

III. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

THE PARTIES

USA Flag

7. USA Flag is a prominent flag football organization based in Allen, Texas, dedicated to advancing the sport of flag football in the United States. USA Flag operates some of the largest flag football tournaments globally and is recognized as a leading brand and provider within the sport. While not directly responsible for selecting the members of the national flag football teams for the U.S. Olympic team, USA Flag nevertheless plays a pivotal role in the ultimate selection and support of national teams by providing elite flag football players a venue in which to compete, tournaments in which to participate, and also by coaching them. Thus, USA Flag plays an important role in contributing to the development and recognition of flag football on both national and international stages.

8. USA Flag hosts a variety of flag football tournaments and camps catering to different age groups and skill levels. These events range from regional qualifiers to national and world championships, offering teams opportunities to compete at various skill levels. USA Flag also provides sanctioning services for flag football events, ensuring they meet established standards and contribute to the sport's growth. Sanctioned events are recognized and integrated into the broader competitive framework of flag football. USA Flag also places a strong emphasis on youth participation by organizing tournaments specifically designed for young athletes. These events aim to develop skills, promote sportsmanship, and foster a love for the game among younger players.

USA Football

9. USAFB is a non-profit organization headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana. USAFB provides resources and training for coaches, players, and parents to promote safe and effective football practices. USAFB offers certification courses for tackle and flag football coaches, focusing on health, safety, and effective coaching techniques.

10. USAFB organizes trials and events for athletes aspiring to join U.S. National Teams in both tackle and, more recently, flag football disciplines. Trials provide a platform for players to demonstrate their skills and potentially represent the country in international competitions. USAFB's notable event is "The One Flag Championship," which is an invite-only tournament featuring top teams from across the nation. *See Exhibit 12.*

11. As alleged above, USAFB also sponsors or sanctions several flag football associations in Denton and Collin Counties that incorporate elements of USAFB's Football Development Model. Notably, USAFB's website references "USA Flag" on its Football Development Model webpages as well as on its flag football Rules booklets on its website. *See Exhibit 4.*

12. USAFB has organized a flag football Talent ID Camp in Frisco, Texas, in collaboration with the Dallas Cowboys. This camp is scheduled to take place on December 1, 2024. *See USAFB Instagram Posts dated October 21 & 30, 2024, at Exhibits 6 & 7; Exhibit 5.* This camp provides athletes aged 11-18 an opportunity to showcase their skills and potentially earn invitations to USA Football's 2025 U.S. National Team Trials or selection for USA Football's Select Teams.

13. Participation in USAFB Talent ID Camps requires players and coaches to be enrolled members of USAFB through USAFB's online membership portal. Membership provides individuals access to the full range of resources and materials provided by the organization. Members are granted access to official USAFB rulebooks and playbooks that guide gameplay, strategies, and adherence to safety protocols. Upon information and belief, these rulebooks are the same as shown in Exhibits 8, 9, 10 and 11 attached hereto, which utilize the "USA Flag" mark. USAFB also provides practice plans and guidelines that align with their Football Development Model (FDM). The USAFB's FDM webpage is attached hereto as Exhibits 4 & 13. Members also gain access to USAFB's webinars, training videos, and digital libraries designed to improve skills, game understanding, and coaching strategies.

USA Flag's "USA Flag" Trademark

14. USA Flag is the "owner of the "USA Flag" trademark, registered with the United States Patent and Trademark Office on the Supplemental Register as Registration No. 7,290,036, with a registration date of January 23, 2024, in International Class 41 for: arranging and conducting of sports events; arranging and conducting youth sports programs in the field of flag football; and sport camp services. *See Exhibit 16.*

15. USA Flag also owns common law rights in the "USA Flag" mark based on its consistent and ongoing usage of the mark in connection with flag football tournaments, events, camps, clothing, and other goods and services.

16. USA Flag's first use of its trademark in commerce dates back to October 28, 2019, and has been in consistent use ever since by USA Flag (or its affiliated

company FFWCT, LLC) demonstrating continuous and exclusive use in connection with its services.

17. USA Flag's "USA Flag" trademark registration is attached hereto as Exhibit 16 and incorporated herein by reference.

18. USA Flag has developed significant goodwill and recognition in the "USA Flag" trademark, both registered and at common law, amongst players, coaches, sponsors, and other partners in the flag football industry. USA Flag promotes its products and services through various channels, including the internet and social media, thereby building a recognizable brand identity under the "USA Flag" trademark.

19. The USA Flag trademark, both registered and at common law has established a strong secondary meaning in the flag football community throughout the United States by virtue of its extensive activities and significant social media presence. The organization boasts over 156,000 followers on Instagram with widespread recognition and engagement among flag football enthusiasts.

20. USA Flag organizes and operates official qualifying Open, National, and World Championship flag football tournaments across the United States. These events are managed by USA Flag's dedicated staff and offer participants USA Flag ranking points. Winners receive paid entries to USA Flag's Nationals or Worlds, underscoring the tournaments' prestige and significance in the industry.

21. USA Flag also hosts flag football tournaments globally. All official USA Flag regional and State Championship events are conducted by top flag football league and tournament organizers nationwide. These events contribute to USA Flag's ranking

system and serve as feeders into its National and World Championship tournaments.

22. A notable example is the annual Flag Football World Championships, the upcoming iteration of the event scheduled for January 15-19, 2025, in Tampa Bay, Florida. This premier event is expected to attract over 1,200 flag football teams, 10,000 athletes, and a total attendance of 25,000 people. The tournament will be broadcast on CBS Sports Network and available online via the CBS Sports app, reflecting its prominence in the sports community. *See* USA Flag Press Release at Exhibit 14.

23. Through these initiatives and activities, USA Flag has cultivated a strong distinctive identity and reputation within the flag football sector, reinforcing its “USA Flag” mark, both registered and at common law, having strong secondary meaning and goodwill in the flag football industry and among stakeholders and the relevant consuming public.

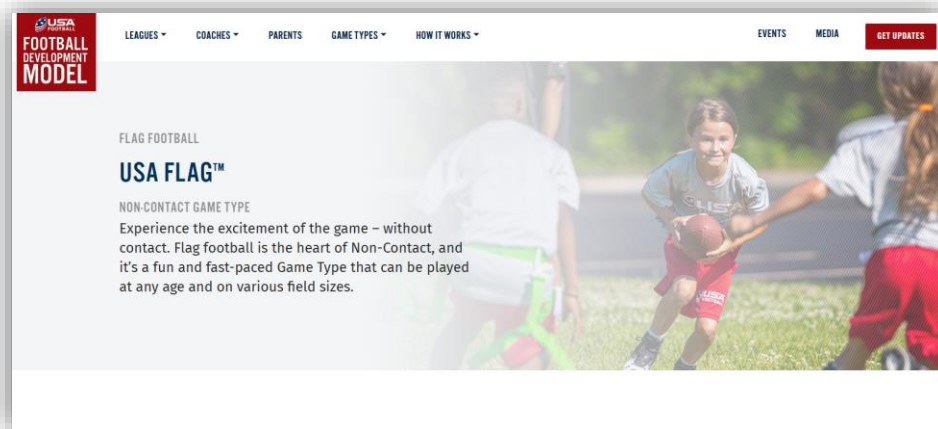
Trademark Infringement by USAFB

24. In 2024, with full, actual knowledge of USA Flag’s trademark registration and trademark rights, and entirely without authorization, USAFB brazenly began using “USA Flag” as a trademark within the past few months, including branding materials with “USA Flag” prominently in commerce, including on its official website, training and promotional materials, and in their rulebooks. One explicit example is shown in the USAFB’s 2024 “The One Flag Championship” Rulebook:



See Exhibit 9.

25. USAFB also prominently displays the “USA Flag” with a trademark (™) designation on its website, misleading consumers regarding its association with USA Flag’s brand. A clear and blatant example of this is shown on USAFB’s FDM webpage below:



See Exhibit 4, <https://fdm.usafootball.com/game-types/non-contact>, dated November 15, 2024.

26. Other examples of USAFB's willful trademark infringement may be seen in Exhibits 4, 8-11, 13 & 19, attached hereto.

27. USAFB's infringement is particularly egregious and willful inasmuch as it filed its own trademark application for "USA Flag" and its application has been refused registration based on USA Flag's existing registration. *See* Exhibits 17-19, File History for USAFB Application (split into three parts because of length).

28. Additionally, USAFB has admitted infringement by submitting under penalty of perjury a specimen of use of the "USA Flag" trademark to the United States Patent and Trademark Office and claiming a date of first use of "[a]t least as early as 08/05/2024" in connection with the mark. *See* Response to Office Action, beginning at page 86 of Exhibit 19.

29. Further, USAFB actively engages individuals and organizations in Texas and around the country to enroll in its programs by offering various fee-based services and materials to organizations, coaches, and players. Through enrollment with USAFB, members are provided guides, operations and promotional resources, rulebooks, playbooks, and templates, along with other credentials and recognition by USAFB. Examples of materials and resources provided to members are shown below:

RESOURCES AVAILABLE		
THROUGH ENROLLMENT	THROUGH CERTIFICATION AND MEMBERSHIP	THROUGH GRANT OPPORTUNITIES
Flag Quick Start Guide	Flag Certification	Uniform/Apparel Packages
Non-Contact Implementation Guide	Practice Plans	Flag Belts
Flag Playbooks	Player Progression Guide	Footballs
Flag Rulebooks	Contact Manual (Prep for Contact Resources)	Flag Football Kit
Registration Templates	Age-Based Videos	Girls Flag Program Support/Resources
Budget Templates	Flag Playbooks	
VISIT USAFOOTBALL.COM/ENROLL	VISIT USAFOOTBALL.COM/CERTIFICATION	VISIT USAFOOTBALL.COM/GRANTS

Exhibit 15.

30. Many of these materials, including the guides and rulebooks, are branded with the “USA Flag” mark and prominently displayed throughout the content of these publications. *See Exhibits 4, 8-11, 13 & 19.*

31. “USA Flag”-branded content, promotional materials, rulebooks, resource guides, and other materials branded as “USA Flag” create a likelihood of confusion, deception, and/or mistake in that they lead local leagues, players, and coaches to believe they are purchasing resources or services connected to USA Flag, leading to loss of goodwill and brand recognition for USA Flag.

32. USAFB’s willful and unauthorized use of “USA Flag” is likely to cause confusion, mistake, or deception among consumers regarding the affiliation, connection, or association between USA Flag and USAFB, thereby limiting the distinctive quality of USA Flag’s mark and allowing USAFB to ride on USA Flag’s coattails in terms of the value of the “USA Flag” brand already built by USA Flag.

33. USAFB’s use of “USA Flag” has not only misled consumers but has also

unjustly enriched USAFB by capitalizing on USA Flag's established brand identity and goodwill in the marketplace.

34. Because of USAFB's intentional use of the same mark as USA Flag's mark, for related goods and/or services, and the substantial confusion and damage being caused thereby, and the ongoing nature of the same, injunctive relief is necessary to bring such consumer confusion and damage to a prompt halt.

V. CAUSES OF ACTION

Count 1 – Trademark Infringement under the Lanham Act – 15 U.S.C. § 1114

35. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated by reference as if set forth herein for all purposes.

36. This claim is against USAFB for infringement of USA Flag's trademark under the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1114.

37. USA Flag is the owner of the "USA Flag" trademark, registered with the United States Patent and Trademark Office under Registration No. 7,290,036, effective as of January 23, 2024, on the Supplemental Register, in International Class 41 for: arranging and conducting of sports events; arranging and conducting youth sports programs in the field of flag football; and sport camp services. Exhibit 16.

38. USA Flag's first use of the mark in commerce in connection with flag football events dates back to at least as early as October 28, 2019.

39. USA Flag's trademark possesses secondary meaning in light of the substantial marketing and promotion of its flag football tournaments, camps, and related services by USA Flag for the past several years and its widespread public recognition as the source of such flag football tournaments, camps, and related services.

40. In 2024, USAFB began using the “USA Flag” mark, or a confusingly similar variant, in connection with its flag football tournaments, training camps, rulebooks, website, and other promotional materials.

41. USAFB has branded online materials, rulebooks, promotional materials, and other materials with the USA Flag mark, including the use of a TM symbol, falsely implying ownership or exclusive rights to the mark.

42. USAFB has used, and is using, the “USA Flag” mark in such a way that is causing actual confusion and that is likely to cause confusion, to cause mistake, or to deceive as to the affiliation, connection, or association between USAFB and USA Flag and USA Flag’s trademark. USAFB has undertaken such acts willfully, intentionally, and without permission or authorization from USA Flag, and USA Flag has been and will be substantially damaged by USAFB providing related services under the “USA Flag” mark or similar name(s), which is identical in their looks and sounds and is therefore confusingly similar to USA Flag’s trademark and a counterfeit thereof.

43. USAFB used and is using in commerce “USA Flag” in a manner which creates actual confusion, mistake, and deception, as well as a likelihood of confusion, mistake, or deception as to the origin, sponsorship, or approval of USAFB’s events and related services by USA Flag.

44. USAFB has, therefore, directly and/or indirectly infringed and is directly and/or indirectly infringing in violation of the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1114.

45. USAFB commenced its commercial use of said mark after USAFB knew of USA Flag’s prior adoption, ownership, and commercial use of its trademark in

connection with sports events, youth sports programs, sports camp services, clothing, and related goods and services, respectively, such that USAFB's adoption of said mark was a blatant attempt to trade on USA Flag's goodwill and reputation. In fact, USAFB's attempt to register its "USA Flag" mark was met with a refusal to register in the United States Patent and Trademark Office based on USA Flag's registered trademark. USAFB's infringement of USA Flag's trademark is, therefore, willful and deliberate.

46. Because USAFB's acts have been committed willfully, intentionally, and with the intent to benefit from USA Flag's goodwill, this is an exceptional case, and USA Flag is entitled to recover its attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses associated with this action.

47. Because of USAFB's acts of willful trademark infringement, USA Flag is entitled to recover its damages and USAFB's ill-gotten gains as available under the Lanham Act.

48. By reason of USAFB's acts of trademark infringement, USA Flag has suffered and will continue to suffer irreparable injury unless and until this Court enters an order enjoining USA Flag from any further acts of trademark infringement.

49. By reason of USAFB's acts of trademark infringement, USA Flag has suffered and will continue to suffer irreparable injury unless and until this Court enters an order enjoining USAFB from any further acts of trademark infringement. USAFB's continuing acts of trademark infringement, unless enjoined, will cause irreparable damage to USA Flag in that it will have no adequate remedy at law to compel USAFB to cease such acts. USA Flag will be compelled to prosecute a

multiplicity of actions, one action each time USAFB commits such acts. USA Flag is therefore entitled to a preliminary injunction and a permanent injunction against further infringing conduct by USAFB and those in concert with USAFB and those directing the infringing conduct, including the owners, officers, and directors of USAFB.

Count 2 – Trademark Infringement under the Lanham Act – 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a)

50. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated by reference as if set forth herein for all purposes.

51. This claim is against USAFB for infringement of USA Flag’s trademark under the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a).

52. USA Flag is the owner of the “USA Flag” registered trademark for use in connection with arranging and conducting of sports events including flag football camps and tournaments, as well as arranging and conducting youth sports programs in the field of flag football. It is also the owner of the “USA Flag” common law trademark for use in connection with clothing.

53. USA Flag’s first use of the mark in commerce dates back to at least as early as October 28, 2019, demonstrating continuous and exclusive use in connection with its flag football-related services.

54. USA Flag’s trademark possesses secondary meaning light of the substantial marketing, promotion, and use of the market and in connection with its flag football tournaments, camps, and related services by USA Flag for the past several years and its widespread public recognition as the source of such flag football

tournaments, camps, and related services.

55. In 2024, USAFB began using the identical “USA Flag” mark, or a confusingly similar variant thereto, in connection with its flag football tournaments, training camps, rulebooks, website, and other promotional materials.

56. USAFB has branded online materials, rulebooks, promotional, and other materials with USA Flag’s mark, including the use of a TM symbol, falsely conveying to the relevant consuming public its ownership or exclusive rights to the mark.

57. USAFB has used, and is using, the “USA Flag” in such a way that is causing actual confusion, mistake, and/or deception, and that is likely to cause confusion, to cause mistake, or to deceive, as to the affiliation, connection, or association between USAFB and USA Flag and its mark. USAFB has brazenly undertaken such acts willfully, intentionally, and without permission or authorization from USA Flag, and USA Flag has been exceedingly damaged by USAFB providing related services under the “USA Flag” or similar name(s), which is confusingly similar to, if not substantially indistinguishable from USA Flag’s mark, if not a counterfeit thereof.

58. USAFB used, and is using, in commerce “USA Flag” in such a way so as to create actual confusion, mistake, and deception, as well as a likelihood of confusion, mistake, or deception as to the origin, sponsorship, or approval of USAFB’s events and related services by USA Flag.

59. USAFB has therefore directly and/or indirectly infringed, and is directly and/or indirectly infringing in violation of the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a).

60. USAFB commenced its commercial use of said mark after USAFB knew

full well of USA Flag's prior adoption, ownership, and commercial use of the mark in connection with flag football tournaments, camps, events, and the like such that USAFB's adoption of said mark was a blatant attempt to trade on USA Flag's goodwill and good reputation. In fact, USAFB's attempt to register its "USA Flag" mark was met with a refusal to register in the United States Patent and Trademark Office based on USA Flag's registered mark. USAFB's infringement of USA Flag's mark is therefore willful and deliberate.

61. Because USAFB's acts have been committed willfully, intentionally, and with the intent to benefit from USA Flag's goodwill, this is an exceptional case, and USA Flag is entitled to recover its attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses associated with this action.

62. Because of USAFB's acts of willful trademark infringement, USA Flag is entitled to recover its damages and USAFB's ill-gotten gains as available under the Lanham Act.

63. By reason of USAFB's acts of trademark infringement, USA Flag has suffered and will continue to suffer irreparable injury unless and until this Court enters an order enjoining USA Flag from any further acts of trademark infringement.

64. By reason of USAFB's acts of trademark infringement, USA Flag has suffered and will continue to suffer irreparable injury unless and until this Court enters an order enjoining USAFB from any further acts of trademark infringement. USAFB's continuing acts of trademark infringement, unless enjoined, will cause irreparable damage to USA Flag in that it will have no adequate remedy at law to compel USAFB to cease such acts. USA Flag will be compelled to prosecute a

multiplicity of actions, one action each time USAFB commits such acts. USA Flag is therefore entitled to a preliminary injunction and a permanent injunction against further infringing conduct by USAFB and those in concert with USAFB and those directing the infringing conduct, including the owners, officers, and directors of USAFB.

**Count 3 - False Designation of Origin under the Lanham Act
15 U.S.C. § 1125 (a)**

65. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated by reference as if set forth herein for all purposes.

66. USA Flag uses its “USA Flag” trademark throughout the United States in connection with flag football events, tournaments, camps, youth sports programs, sport camp services, and related services, and has done so since at least as early as October 28, 2019 without material interruption.

67. USA Flag’s trademark possesses secondary meaning, substantial associated goodwill, is distinctive, and distinguishes USA Flag’s services from those of its competitors, including USAFB.

68. USA Flag’s trademark is strong in light of the substantial marketing and promotion of its sports events, youth sports programs, sport camp services, clothing, and related goods and services for multiple years, the revenues from such services, and its widespread public recognition.

69. USAFB’s use of the same “USA Flag” mark in connection with their flag football events, camps, and related services is a false designation of origin in that their services are not provided by, nor in any way associated with, USA Flag, and as such, it

has created, and creates a likelihood of confusion, mistake, or deception among the relevant consuming public relative to USA Flag's mark and its genuine sports events, youth sports programs, sport camp services, and related services.

70. With USAFB offering for sale and selling flag football events, camps, and related services—USA Flag has no control over the quality of the events and services provided and sold under USAFB's confusingly similar "USA Flag" mark. Because USAFB's events and related services are inferior to USA Flag's, USA Flag's valuable goodwill, developed at great expense and effort, is being harmed by USAFB's unauthorized use of the same mark and provision of the same or highly similar goods and services in association therewith, and, as such, USA Flag is at risk of further financial and reputational harm.

71. The goodwill associated with USA Flag's business under the "USA Flag" trademark is of substantial value, and USA Flag will suffer irreparable harm should USAFB's false designation of origin be allowed to continue to the detriment of USA Flag's reputation and goodwill.

72. At all times relevant to this action, including the when USAFB first adopted the USA Flag mark as its own, commenced its commercial use of said mark in connection with flag football events and related goods and services, after USAFB knew of USA Flag's prior adoption, ownership, and commercial use of the "USA Football" trademark in connection with sports events, youth sports programs, sport camp services, clothing, and related goods and services, respectively, USAFB's adoption of said mark was a blatant attempt to trade on USA Flag's goodwill and good reputation. USAFB's false designation of origin is therefore willful, knowing, and deliberate.

73. Because USAFB's acts have been committed willfully, intentionally, and with the intent to profit from USA Flag's goodwill in its trademark, this is an exceptional case, and USA Flag is entitled to recover its attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses associated with this action.

74. Furthermore, in light of USAFB's willful and intentionally infringing activities, USA Flag is entitled to recover USAFB's profits and USA Flag's damages, trebled, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §§ 1117(a) and 1117(b).

75. USAFB's falsely designating the origin of the goods they are selling will continue unless enjoined.

Count 4 – Unfair Competition under the Lanham Act – 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a)

76. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated by reference as if set forth herein for all purposes.

77. USA Flag's trademark is wholly associated with USA Flag because of its continuous and extensive use in connection with flag football tournaments, events, camps, clothing, and similar goods and services, and as such USA Flag is deserving of having its mark adequately protected with respect to the conduct of its business.

78. USAFB's willful use of the same mark in connection with its flag football events and related goods and services comprises unfair competition in that customers and/or would-be customers have been and/or are likely to be confused, deceived, and/or mistaken concerning the origin of services having the same or nearly identical mark associated with them in the marketplace, as well as the existence of an affiliation, connection, or association between USA Flag and USAFB.

79. In addition, with full knowledge that USA Flag has been using the "USA

Flag” trademark for multiple years before USAFB’s first use of such mark, USAFB is essentially attempting to steal all of the secondary meaning, goodwill, and recognition in the eyes of the relevant consumers and stakeholders. This is grossly unfair to USA Flag and is tantamount to intentional theft.

80. USAFB’s aforesaid acts, and each of them, constitute unfair competition in violation of 15 U.S.C. 1125(a). USAFB has undertaken such acts willfully, intentionally, and without permission or authorization from USA Flag.

81. As a direct and proximate result of the aforesaid acts of unfair competition, USAFB has wrongfully taken USA Flag’s profits and the benefit of its creativity and investment of time, energy and money, and have similar injured USA Flag’s reputation and standing in the community by providing substandard goods and services that have been associated with or attributed to, or are likely to be associated or attributed to, USA Flag. USAFB should therefore disgorge all profits from the provision of their counterfeit, infringing, inferior products and services, and further should be ordered to perform full restitution to USA Flag as a consequence of their unfairly competitive activities, including all costs related to reputation restoration by a qualified professional in that field. USAFB is also liable for any incidental, consequential, or other monetary damages proximately caused by their unfairly competitive activities.

82. By reason of USAFB’s acts of unfair competition, USA Flag has suffered and will continue to suffer irreparable injury unless and until this Court enters an order enjoining USAFB from any further acts of unfair competition. USAFB’s continuing acts of unfair competition, unless enjoined, will cause irreparable damage

to USA Flag in that it will have no adequate remedy at law to compel USAFB to cease such acts. USA Flag will be compelled to prosecute a multiplicity of actions, one action each time USAFB commits such acts, and in each such action, it will be extremely difficult to ascertain the amount of compensation which will afford USA Flag adequate relief. USA Flag is, therefore, entitled to a preliminary injunction and a permanent injunction against further unfairly competitive conduct by USAFB and those in concert with USAFB and those directing the unfairly competitive conduct.

VI. CONDITIONS PRECEDENT

83. All conditions precedent to USA Flag's right of recovery on the causes of action pleaded herein have been performed, have occurred, or have been excused.

VII. ATTORNEY'S FEES

84. USA Flag incorporates by reference the allegations contained in the foregoing paragraphs.

85. USA Flag has found it necessary to employ the services of the undersigned attorneys to represent them and have agreed to pay the reasonable fees, costs, and expenses incurred in prosecuting its claims against USAFB.

86. USA Flag seeks recovery of its attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses pursuant to any applicable contractual or statutory provision at law or at equity, for which it now sues, particularly where, as here, this is an "exceptional" case.

VIII. PRE-JUDGMENT AND POST-JUDGMENT INTEREST

87. As a result of USAFB's conduct, USA Flag has been damaged and is entitled to recover pre-judgment and post-judgment interest at the highest rate allowed by law.

IX. PRAYER

For the reasons stated above, Plaintiff USA Flag, LLC prays that, on final hearing, it have judgment in its favor and against Defendant USA Football, Inc., for the following:

- (1) For an order preliminarily and permanently enjoining the USAFB, and their agents, servants, attorneys, and employees, and all other persons acting in concert with them, from committing any further acts of counterfeiting, trademark infringement, false designation of origin, and unfair competition relative to USA Flag and its “USA Flag” trademark;
- (2) For an order directing USAFB to file with this Court and to serve on the USA Flag within thirty (30) days after service on USAFB of the injunction granted herein, or such extended period as the Court may direct, a report in writing, under oath, setting forth in detail the manner and form in which USAFB has complied with the injunction and order of the Court;
- (3) For a judgment that USAFB has willfully committed trademark infringement, false designation of origin, and unfair competition;
- (4) For a judgment that USAFB has committed conversion of USA Flag’s trademark and is liable for all damages and attorneys’ fees and costs under Indiana’s conversion and Crime Victim’s Relief Act statutes.
- (5) For a judgment requiring USAFB to account for, and to pay USA Flag, all profits derived by USAFB from their selling of counterfeit, infringing, unfairly competitive services;
- (6) For a judgment requiring USAFB to pay for all damages USA Flag has suffered by virtue of USAFB’s infringing and unfairly competitive activities, and false designation of origin, to be trebled because USAFB’s unlawful actions were committed willfully and intentionally;
- (7) Damages in for all general and special damages USA Flag has incurred as a result of USAFB’s conduct referenced herein;
- (8) Reasonable and necessary attorney’s fees, including, but not limited to, the Court deeming this to be an “exceptional case” within the meaning of 15 U.S.C. § 1117(a)(3), and awarding USA Flag its attorneys’ fees, expenses, and costs incurred herein;
- (9) Pre-judgment interest at the highest rate allowed by law;

- (10) Post-judgment interest at the highest rate allowed by law;
- (11) The award of all costs; and,
- (12) All further relief to which it may be justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

SCHEEF & STONE, L.L.P.

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Mark D. Nielsen
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Mark.Nielsen@solidcounsel.com
Taylor L. Harris
Texas Bar No. 24081810
Taylor.Harris@solidcounsel.com
2600 Network Blvd., Suite 400
Frisco, Texas 75034
(214) 472-2100 Telephone
(214) 472-2150 Telecopier

**ATTORNEYS FOR
PLAINTIFF USA FLAG, LLC**

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff USA Flag, LLC hereby demands a trial by jury on all issues raised by the Complaint that are triable by jury.

JS 44 (Rev. 03/24)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

<p>I. (a) PLAINTIFFS USA Flag, LLC</p> <p>(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff <u>Collin, TX</u> <i>(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)</i></p> <p>(c) Attorneys <i>(Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)</i> Mark D. Nielsen, Bryan Haynes, et al., Scheef & Stone, LLP, 2600 Network Blvd., Ste 400, Frisco, TX 75034; 214-472-2100</p>	<p>DEFENDANTS USA Football, Inc.</p> <p>County of Residence of First Listed Defendant <u>Marion, IN</u> <i>(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)</i></p> <p>NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.</p> <p>Attorneys <i>(If Known)</i></p>
---	--

<p>II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION <i>(Place an "X" in One Box Only)</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2 U.S. Government Defendant</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 Federal Question <i>(U.S. Government Not a Party)</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 4 Diversity <i>(Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)</i></p>	<p>III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES <i>(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)</i></p> <p><i>(For Diversity Cases Only)</i></p> <table style="width:100%;"> <tr> <td style="width:33%;">Citizen of This State</td> <td style="width:10%;"><input type="checkbox"/> 1</td> <td style="width:10%;"><input type="checkbox"/> 1</td> <td style="width:33%;">Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State</td> <td style="width:10%;"><input type="checkbox"/> 4</td> <td style="width:10%;"><input type="checkbox"/> 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Citizen of Another State</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 2</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 2</td> <td>Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 5</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 3</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 3</td> <td>Foreign Nation</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 6</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 6</td> </tr> </table>	Citizen of This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	Citizen of Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Foreign Nation	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
Citizen of This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4														
Citizen of Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5														
Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Foreign Nation	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6														

IV. NATURE OF SUIT *(Place an "X" in One Box Only)* [Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.](#)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	<input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability LABOR <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act IMMIGRATION <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark <input type="checkbox"/> 880 Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016 SOCIAL SECURITY <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit (15 USC 1681 or 1692) <input type="checkbox"/> 485 Telephone Consumer Protection Act <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
REAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	CIVIL RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education	PRISONER PETITIONS Habeas Corpus: <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty Other: <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement			

V. ORIGIN *(Place an "X" in One Box Only)*

1 Original Proceeding 2 Removed from State Court 3 Remanded from Appellate Court 4 Reinstated or Reopened 5 Transferred from Another District *(specify)* 6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer 8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing *(Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity)*:
 15 U.S.C. Sections 1114, 1125(a)

Brief description of cause:
 trademark infringement

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P. DEMAND \$ _____ CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: Yes No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY *(See instructions):*

JUDGE Amos L. Mazzant DOCKET NUMBER 4:23-cv-00465; 4:23-cv-00516

DATE Nov 26, 2024 SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD /s/ Mark D. Nielsen

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # _____ AMOUNT _____ APPLYING IFP _____ JUDGE _____ MAG. JUDGE _____



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FRISCO FOOTBALL LEAGUE





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Find out more about the [USA Football Enrollment](#)



ACHIEVEMENTS

✓ ALL COACHES CERTIFIED BY USA FOOTBALL

✓ SATISFY INSURANCE REQUIREMENT



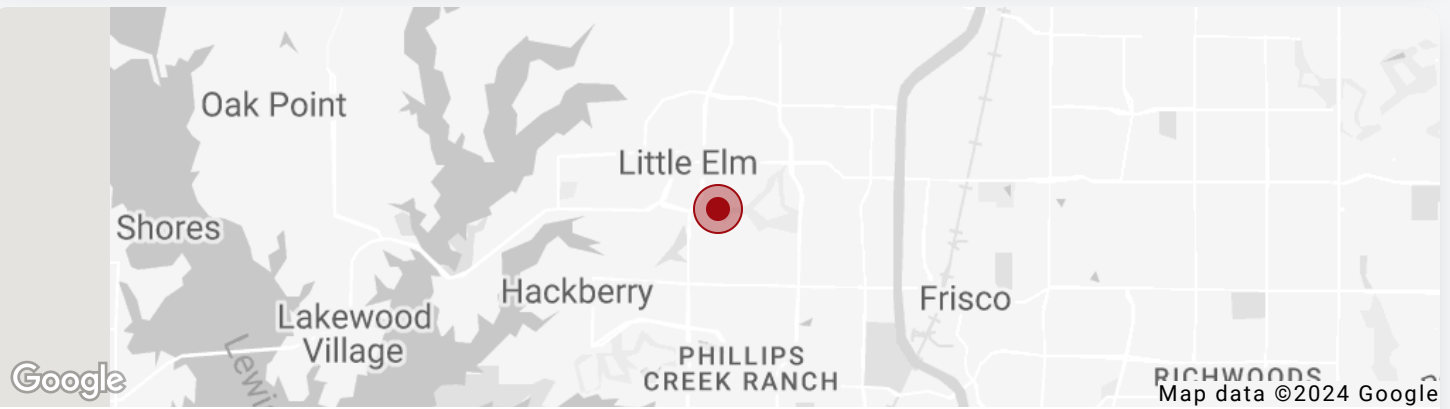
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ABOUT

Playing with the Frisco Football League isn't just about touchdowns and tackles; it's about creating memories and fostering a love for the game that lasts a lifetime. Here, all kids are welcomed with open arms, regardless of skill level or experience. Whether you're a seasoned athlete or just starting out, there's a place for you in our football family. The emphasis is not only on winning games but also on fostering teamwork, sportsmanship, and personal growth. <https://www.friscofootballleague>

FOLLOW US



2449 YUMA DRIVE
LITTLE ELM
75068

GAME TYPES OFFERED



FULL CONTACT

SEASON START

8/10/2024

REGISTRATION START DATE

3/20/2024

REGISTRATION END DATE

5/4/2024



FULL CONTACT



DISCOVER FOOTBALL



3/20/2024

REGISTRATION END DATE

5/4/2024



NON-CONTACT

SEASON START

8/10/2024

REGISTRATION START DATE

3/20/2024

REGISTRATION END DATE

5/4/2024

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

THE FFL OFFERS FULL AND PARTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS TO FAMILIES WHO MAY NEED HELP.



FROM FLAG TO TACKLE, THERE ARE MORE PATHS TO PLAY FOOTBALL THAN EVER BEFORE.

Learn how the game is advancing with the [Football Development Model](#)



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ARGYLE YOUTH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



YOUR LOGO HERE



2024 ENROLLMENT STATUS



 ENROLLED WITH USA FOOTBALL

Find out more about the [USA Football Enrollment](#)



DISCOVER FOOTBALL



ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ ALL COACHES CERTIFIED BY USA FOOTBALL
- ✓ SATISFY INSURANCE REQUIREMENT
- ✓ COACHES AND VOLUNTEERS RECEIVED BACKGROUND CHECKS

ABOUT

Looks like this league is missing some information. If you're the league commissioner, please update this information by [logging into the dashboard](#).



DISCOVER FOOTBALL



**8905 BALTUSROL DR
FLOWER MOUND
75022**

GAME TYPES OFFERED



FULL CONTACT

SEASON START

8/5/2024

REGISTRATION START DATE

4/1/2024

REGISTRATION END DATE

7/1/2024



FULL CONTACT

SEASON START

8/5/2024

REGISTRATION START DATE

4/1/2024

REGISTRATION END DATE

7/1/2024



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MODEL

FROM FLAG TO TACKLE, THERE ARE MORE
PATHS TO PLAY FOOTBALL THAN EVER BEFORE.

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BOBCAT YOUTH FOOTBALL



2024 ENROLLMENT STATUS



✓ ENROLLED WITH USA FOOTBALL

Find out more about the [USA Football Enrollment](#)



DISCOVER FOOTBALL



ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ ALL COACHES CERTIFIED BY USA FOOTBALL
- ✓ SATISFY INSURANCE REQUIREMENT
- ✓ COACHES AND VOLUNTEERS RECEIVED BACKGROUND CHECKS

PREVIOUSLY ACHIEVED TIERS



DISCOVER FOOTBALL

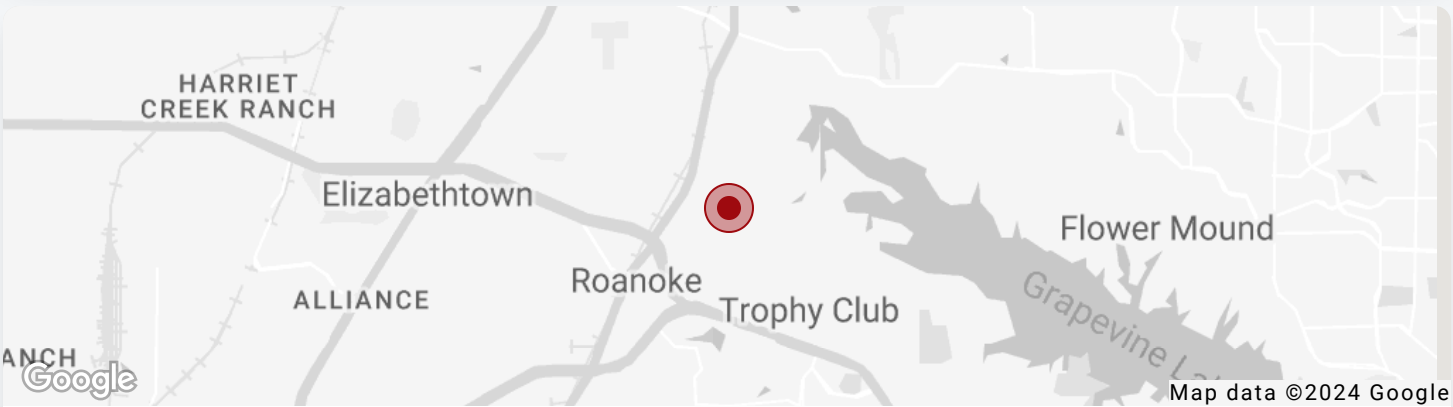


ABOUT

BYFO is a Football, Cheer and Dance organization for players that are zoned for Byron Nelson High School. We will establish a young athletic sports program by offering a safe, and fun atmosphere that will: mold character and create role models; positively and constructively impact players, coaches, volunteers, and the community. We shall grow in character, discipline, and leadership to the maximum degree needed for success in both sports and life.

VISIT WEBSITE

FOLLOW US



2775 BOBCAT BLVD
TROPHY CLUB
TX 76262

GAME TYPES OFFERED



FULL CONTACT

SEASON START
8/25/2024

REGISTRATION START DATE
4/1/2024

REGISTRATION END DATE
6/30/2024



FULL CONTACT

SEASON START



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REGISTRATION END DATE
6/30/2024



NON-CONTACT

SEASON START
8/5/2024

REGISTRATION START DATE
4/1/2024

REGISTRATION END DATE
6/30/2024



FROM FLAG TO TACKLE, THERE ARE MORE
PATHS TO PLAY FOOTBALL THAN EVER BEFORE.

Learn how the game is advancing with the
[Football Development Model](#)



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FLAG FOOTBALL

USA FLAG™

NON-CONTACT GAME TYPE

Experience the excitement of the game – without contact. Flag football is the heart of Non-Contact, and it's a fun and fast-paced Game Type that can be played at any age and on various field sizes.

01:28

FUN / FAST / FUNDAMENTALS

In the Football Development Model, flag football and other non-contact Game Types are the first step in the Game Type progression.

Flag is a great way to introduce foundational football skills players will use in all versions of the game like contact, as well as other sports. Some athletes decide to stay in flag forever, while others progress to contact versions of the game. The goal is to set them up for success for wherever their football journey takes them.

USA FLAG™

NON-CONTACT BRINGS NEW PEOPLE TO FOOTBALL USA FOOTBALL'S ROLE & THE GROWTH OF THE GAME

As football's governing body, USA Football is the sole US member of the International Federation of American Football (IFAF). We are recognized by the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee, and we are proud to join IFAF and the NFL to advocate for flag football's inclusion in the 2028 Olympic Games. We create and deliver best-in-class resources, standards and experiences for every football family member to pursue and enjoy America's favorite sport, from youth to elite U.S. National Teams.

ON THE RISE

25%
INCREASE

in flag participation
since 2015 – an increase of 300,000 players

PARENTS SPEND

62%
LESS

money on flag football than the average sport like baseball, basketball and soccer

GIRL POWER

5
TIMES

more girls play flag than tackle - showing the excitement they have for America's favorite sport

MORE DIVERSITY

46%
OF PLAYERS

in flag are minorities, making this a great way to connect with everyone in your community

Source:

Source:
2019 Aspen Institute Survey via ESPN

Source:
USA Football 2019 Participation Report

Source:
USA Football 2019 Participation Report

FOR FLAG FOOTBALL ORGANIZATIONS TOOLS TO START & SCALE

We're here to help your whole flag football program run smooth with the free resources below. Keep reading to see what you can unlock when you enroll your organization with USA Football.

IFAF FIVES RULES

Learn more about the rules the U.S. Flag National Teams play by for the World Games and international competition.

[Access the Rules](#)

USA FLAG™ FIVES

Learn more about 5v5 rules based on IFAF's official flag rules and designed for age-appropriate league or tournament play in the United States.

[Access the Rules](#)

USA FLAG™ SEVENS

Learn more about 7v7 rules based on IFAF's official flag rules and designed for age-appropriate league or tournament play in the United States.

[Access the Rules](#)

THE ONE FLAG CHAMPIONSHIP & SERIES

Squad up and compete in flag football's premier tournament series and championship – The One.

[Learn More](#)

[View Tournament Rulebook](#)

USA FLAG™ NON-CONTACT RESOURCE GUIDE

4 QUICK FLAG STATS

↑ 25%

increase in flag participation in the last five years, an increase of 300,000 players

Source: USA Football 2019 Participation Report

↓ 62%

less money spent by parents on flag football compared to sports like baseball, basketball and soccer

Source: 2019 Aspen Institute via ESPN



5x

more girls play flag than tackle – showing excitement for America’s favorite sport

Source: USA Football 2019 Participation Report

46%

of players in flag are minorities – making this a great way to connect with everyone in your community

Source: USA Football 2019 Participation Report

[DOWNLOAD NOW](#)

COMMISSIONER Q&A: ADDING NON-CONTACT

CLOSER LOOK: ADDING FLAG DIVISIONS TO YOUTH TACKLE LEAGUES



Commissioners of three thriving youth programs across urban, rural and suburban areas recently informed USA Football of their experience of offering flag as well as tackle across their clubs and how it's impacted their leagues.



Common themes across each of the Commissioners' experiences include:

- Flag increases participation and league registration while offering a spring option in addition to fall.
- Flag advances player skill development as well as social and physical literacy/fitness benefits.
- Objections to flag, particularly when added to established tackle age divisions, should be expected but subside over time as parents see their kids enjoy fast-paced play and football's timeless values at work.
- Advice is unanimous: Leagues "on-the-fence" about adding flag are encouraged to pursue doing so.

[READ NOW](#)

IMPLEMENTATION PREVIEW: ADDING NON-CONTACT



ADOPTING NON-CONTACT INTO YOUR LEAGUE

INTRODUCTION

USA Football's Non-Contact game category is part of USA Football's Football Development Model (FDM). This game category is designed to serve as athletes' introduction to their football journey. The Non-Contact game category allows leagues to provide a fun and progressive way to teach and learn the sport.

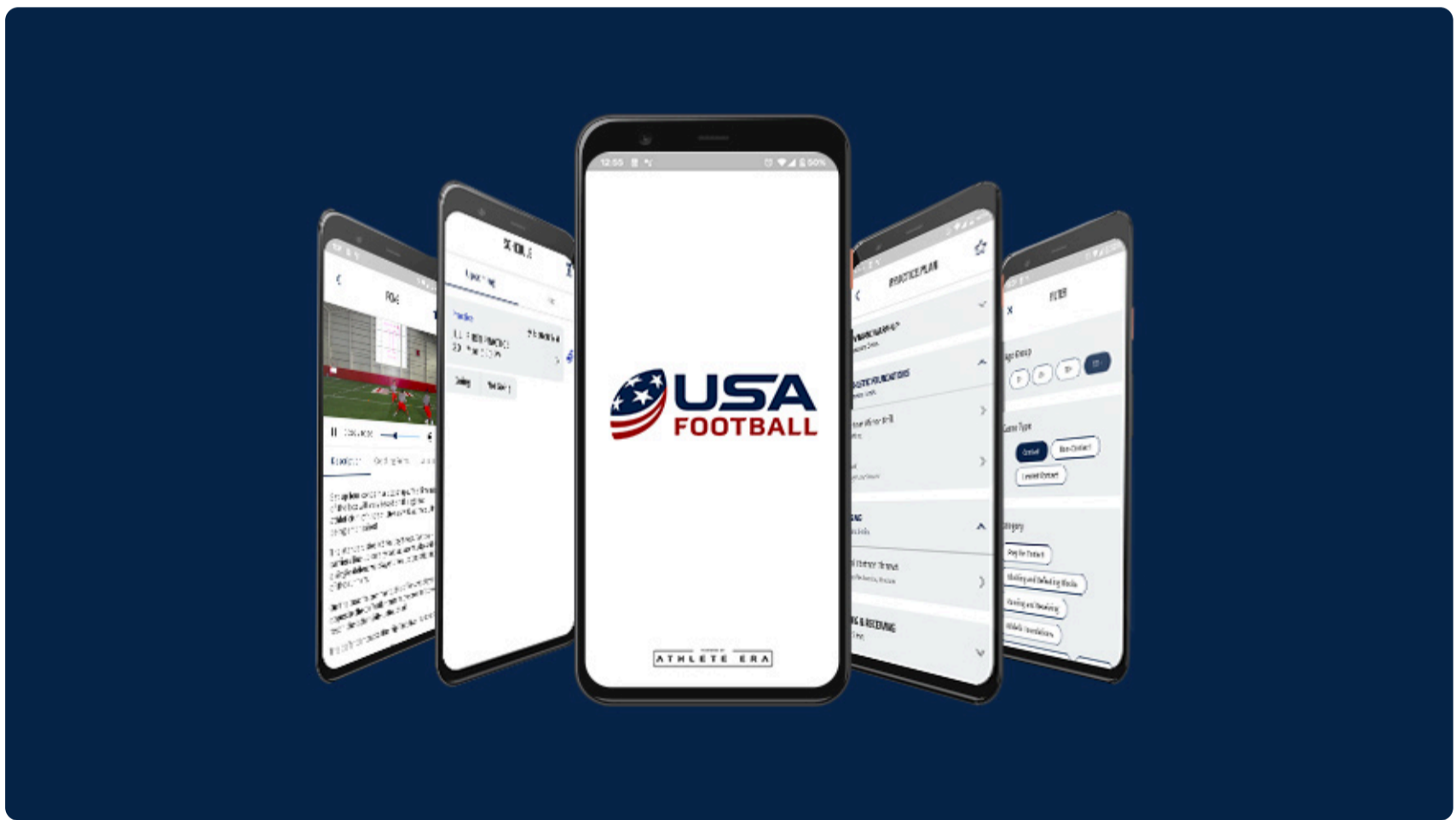
[ACCESS NOW](#)

PARENT PERSPECTIVE: FLAG IS A GREAT ENTRY POINT



[READ THE ARTICLE](#)

COACH PLANNER APP SKILLS & DRILLS



[LEARN MORE](#)

WEBINAR: FLAG SKILLS, DRILLS & OPERATIONS



WHY FLAG?

- Early introduction to the football pathway
- Part of a scaffolded approach aimed to help players learn and enjoy the game of football
- Gaining popularity around the country (HS State Championships)
- Fast & Fun

[WATCH THE RECORDING](#)

NON-CONTACT FLAG FOOTBALL PLAYBOOKS, EQUIPMENT & MORE
GET EVEN MORE TOOLS TO SUCCEED

ENROLLMENT RESOURCES
 EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO PLAY



Enroll to get tools and insights that make it easy to start playing flag.

From tips on registering your business to playbooks to coach certification and emergency action plans, organizations that enroll with USA Football have everything they need at their fingertips.

[ENROLL NOW](#)

FLAG EQUIPMENT
 LOOK GOOD, PLAY GOOD



No flag football experience would be complete without the equipment.

Streamline purchasing and ordering flag football equipment by enrolling.

Enrolled organizations have quick access to receipts and a full dashboard to easily access resources and the equipment store.

[ORDER EQUIPMENT](#)

FLAG TOURNAMENT USA FOOTBALL'S THE ONE



Bring your best and get ready for the biggest test your team has ever had to face.

Participate in USA Football's The One - the flag national championship - and see how your team stacks up against the best.

Click the button to see how your organization can get involved.

[LEARN MORE](#)



USA FLAG™

NON-CONTACT INSIGHTS

00:27

00:30

CHASE YOUNG
ON HIS FLAG EXPERIENCE
JOE THOMAS
ON FLAG & CONTACT
P.J. FLECK
ON FLAG AS FOOTBALL

FINDING THE RIGHT LEAGUE PARTNER
NON-CONTACT ORGANIZATIONS

As the sport's national governing body, we're here to help you find the right groups to work with to help your organization achieve success. Whether you work with us directly or one of these organizations, you'll find success with Non-Contact.



USA Football helps organizations get resources and tools for this fast growing game type that fits the Football Development Model.

[CONTACT US](#)



With 1,600 locally operated leagues and over 500,000 youth athletes, NFL FLAG is the only place where flag players wear official NFL gear.

[LEARN MORE](#)



i9 Sports® offers youth flag football leagues in communities across the nation. They offer youth sports leagues, camps and clinics for kids 3 and up.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Football 'N' America (FNA) is a non-contact youth co-ed flag football league for children in grades K-10, co-founded by quarterback Drew Brees.

[LEARN MORE](#)

HOW YOUR ORGANIZATION CAN GET STARTED

More ways to play doesn't have to be overwhelming. For help on getting started, contact us.

[CONTACT US](#)

SIGN UP TO STAY CONNECTED

Receive updates and more information on the future of football.

[GET UPDATES](#)



The Football Development Model is USA Football's adoption of the American Development Model



[COACHES](#)

[LEAGUES](#)

[HOW IT WORKS](#)

[THE COUNCIL](#)

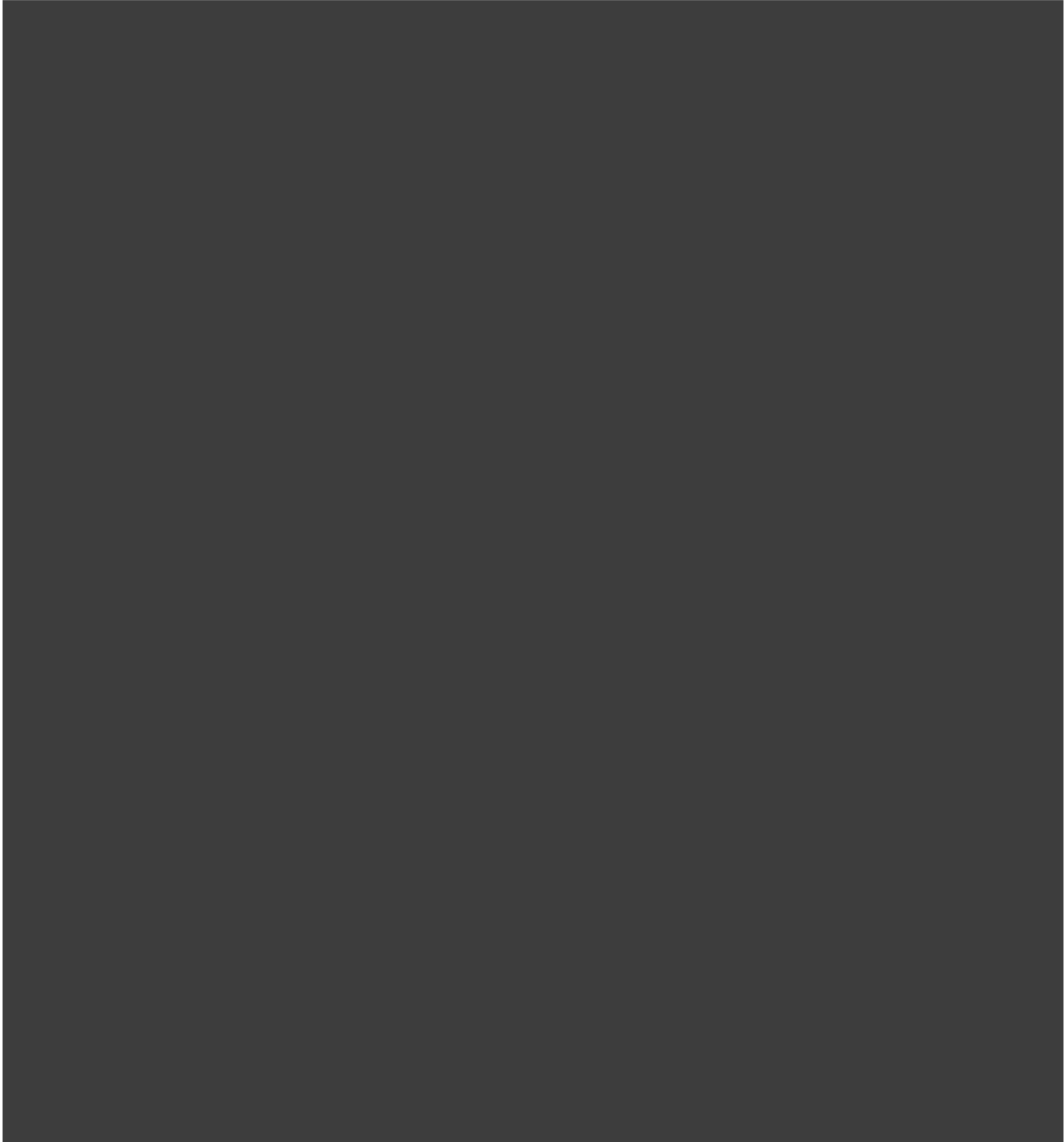


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DEC

1

CAMP



TALENT
// // // // // // // // // // //
ID CAMP

USA FOOTBALL'S TALENT ID CAMP - DALLAS

TALENT ID CAMP

CAMP

PARENT

PRICE

\$69.00



DATE & TIME

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2024

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

AGE RANGE

10 - 19 YEARS OLD

EVENT LOCATION

1 COWBOYS WAY

FRISCO TX

75034

ABOUT THIS EVENT

USA Football's Talent ID Camps provide athletes with the opportunity to develop their skills and get scouted for Select Teams and the U.S. Flag National Team.

Whether you're just starting out and looking to find that winning edge, or ready to put your skills on display for our scouts, this event gives you a chance to compete and showcase your abilities alongside some of the top rising flag athletes in the country.

Talent ID Camps include 1v1 competitions, 5v5 scrimmages, physical testing, and awards for sportsmanship and performance. Each talent evaluation is designed to help develop and evaluate your game, showcase play at an elite level, and test your speed, agility, explosiveness, and power.

Athletes who stand out in Talent ID Camps can be invited to a Select Team and raise their game as they train and compete in USA Football's Select Bowl. Top performances through the cycle will earn invites to the U.S. National Team Trials, where athletes compete to earn a spot on the U.S. Flag National Team.

If you want to talk to a National Team Development Program representative, [click here](#).

*Please note that all athletes will be assigned a session time closer to their Talent ID camp. Session groups are based off of age, gender, and number of athletes attending. An athlete's



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usa_football • Follow



usa_football We heard big things happen in Dallas 😬
4w



alfredo_al8 We are from Mexico City, can my daughter take the camp id training on dallas tx?
4w 2 likes Reply

View replies (2)



omarareche02 ayeee that's me
4w 5 likes Reply

View replies (1)



braleii_ Can we extend the age for registration?
4w Reply



usa_football Register via the 📍 in our bio!!
4w Reply



jakejimenezusa 🙌🙌🙌
4w Reply



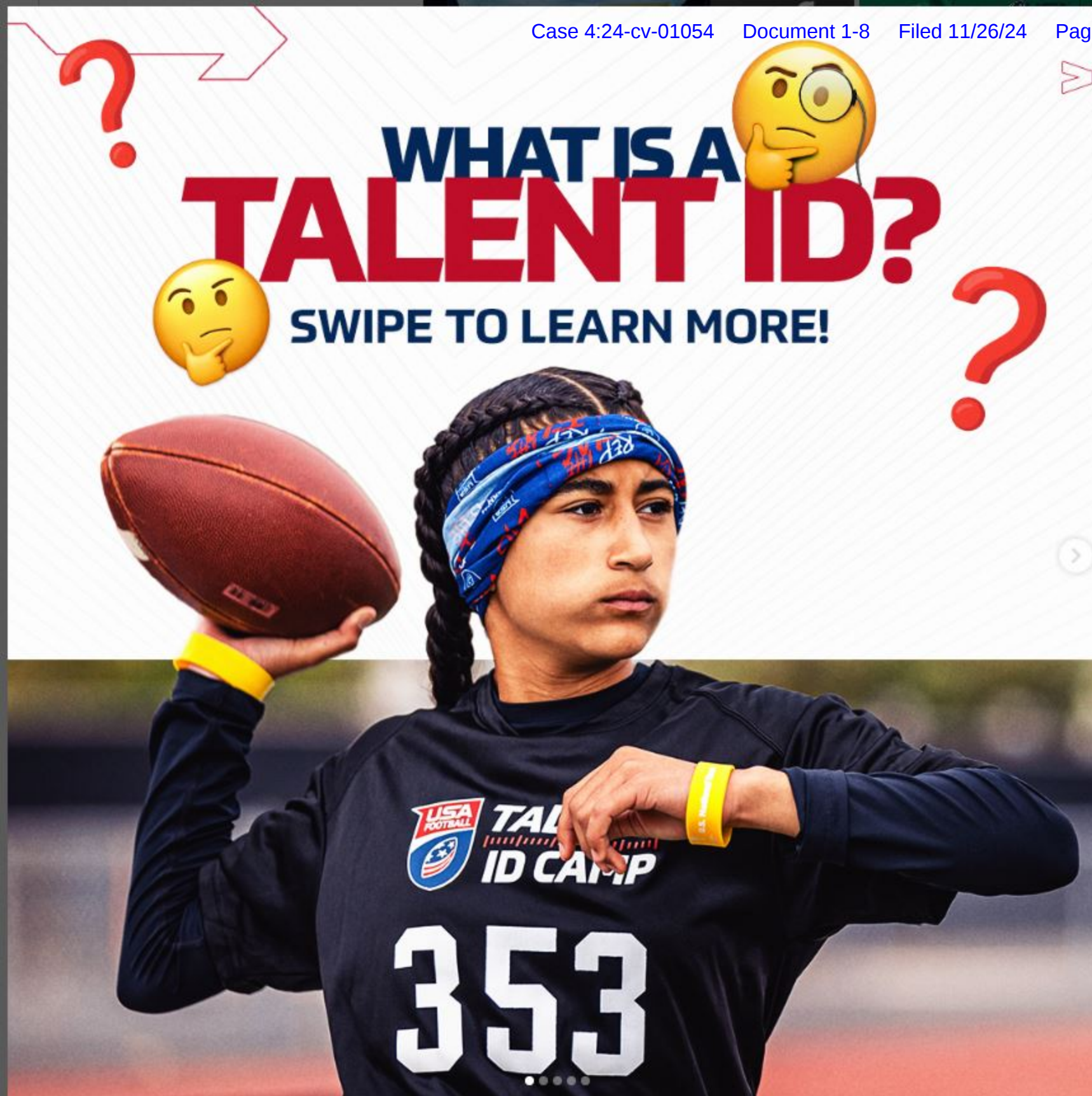
celinakurt244 ❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️
3w Reply



339 likes
October 21

Add a comment...

Post



usa_football • Follow

usa_football Talent ID = □ chance to **get seen**, so do your **BIG** one 🤔

#USAFBTalentID #FlagFootball #FootballForAll

3w

indianavalorfootball Do you know when the Indianapolis date is? ❤️

2w 1 like Reply

— View replies (2)

occgirls_flagfootball This is your moment, seize it. Future is bright. Go #RepTheFlag us 🏈 ❤️

2w 3 likes Reply

— View replies (1)

eculles Is there talent ID for over 18? ❤️

2w 1 like Reply

_stephie_88 Do you know when the date is for the D.C camp? ❤️

2w Reply

caresse19_rn When will LA or OC have theirs? ❤️

2w Reply



685 likes

October 30

Add a comment...

Post



JACKSONVILLE
LOS ANGELES
NEW JERSEY
PHOENIX
SEATTLE
TAMPA
WASHINGTON, DC



ATLANTA
BOSTON
CHICAGO
CLEVELAND
DALLAS
DENVER
INDIANAPOLIS

TRAVELING THE COUNTRY



usa_football • Follow



usa_football Talent ID = □ chance to **get seen**, so do your **BIG** one 🤔

#USAFBTalentID #FlagFootball #FootballForAll

3w



indianavalorfootball Do you know when the Indianapolis date is?

2w 1 like Reply

View replies (2)



occgirls_flagfootball This is your moment, seize it. Future is bright. Go #RepTheFlag us 🏈

2w 3 likes Reply

View replies (1)



eculles Is there talent ID for over 18?

2w 1 like Reply



_stephie_88 Do you know when the date is for the D.C camp?

2w Reply



caresse19_rn When will LA or OC have theirs?

2w Reply



685 likes

October 30



Add a comment...

Post

ARE YOU NEXT?

LINK IN OUR BIO 😊



usa_football • Follow



usa_football Talent ID = □ chance to **get seen**, so do your **BIG** one 🤔

#USAFBTalentID #FlagFootball #FootballForAll

3w



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caresse19_rn When will LA or OC have theirs? ❤️

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USA FLAG™ 7'S
RULEBOOK

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Definitions

BOUNDARY LINES	The outer perimeter lines around the field. They include the sidelines and back of the end zone lines.
LINE OF SCRIMMAGE	(LOS) an imaginary line running through the point of the football and across the width of the field.
LINE-TO-GAIN	The line the offense must pass to get a first down or score.
RUSH LINE	An imaginary line running across the width of the field seven yards (into the defensive side) from the line of scrimmage.
OFFENSE	The team with possession of the ball.
DEFENSE	The team opposing the offense to prevent it from advancing the ball.
PASSER	The offensive player that throws the ball and may or may not be the quarterback.
BLITZER	The Identified Defensive Player that is at least 7 yards from the line of scrimmage assigned to rush the quarterback to prevent him/ her from passing the ball by pulling his/her flags or by blocking the pass.
RUSHER	Any player who legally crosses the line of scrimmage.
DOWNS (1-2-3-4)	The offensive team has four attempts or “downs” to advance the ball. It must cross the line to gain to get another set of downs or to score.
LIVE BALL	Refers to the period of time that the play is in action. Generally used in regard to penalties. Live ball penalties are considered part of the play and must be enforced before the down is considered complete.
DEAD BALL	Refers to the period of time immediately before or after a play.
WHISTLE	Sound made by an official using a whistle that signifies the end of the play or a stop in the action for reporting a penalty, a timeout, halftime or the end of the game.
INADVERTENT WHISTLE	Official’s whistle that is performed in error.
CHARGING	An illegal movement of the ball-carrier directly at a defensive player who has established position on the field. This includes lowering the head or initiating contact with a shoulder, forearm or the chest.
FLAG GUARDING	An illegal act by the ball-carrier to prevent a defender from pulling the ball-carrier’s flags by stiff arm, lowering elbow or head or by blocking access to the runner’s flags with a hand or arm or ball.
SHOVEL PASS	A legal pitch attempted behind the line of scrimmage.
UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT	A rude, confrontational, physical or offensive behavior or language.
RIGHT OF PLACE (ROP)	Right of place is given to any stationary players who maintains normal player posture and make no movements in any horizontal direction to change their position. A purely vertical movement, including a lift from the ground, in order to throw or catch a pass does not mean that a previously established right of place has been lost. Right of place supersedes right of way when determining who is guilty of a foul.
RIGHT OF WAY	Right of way is given to a player according to rule who has established a direction of movement in a regular manner and does not alter that direction. A player with right of way has a higher privilege when determining who is guilty of a foul than all other players except those with right of place.

USA FLAG™ 7'S RULEBOOK

RULE 1: GAME, FIELD, BALL, AND EQUIPMENT

SECTION 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Coin Toss

- a. At the start of each game, captains from both teams meet at midfield for the coin toss to determine who starts with the ball. The visiting team calls the toss.
- b. The winner of the coin toss has the choice of offense or defense. The loser of the coin toss has the choice of direction. Possession changes to start the second half to the team that started the game on defense. Teams change direction after the first half.

Article 2. Possession and Change of Possession

- a. The offensive team takes possession of the ball at its 5-yard line and has four plays to cross midfield. Once a team crosses midfield, it has four plays to score a touchdown. Crossing midfield is the only opportunity for an offense to gain a first down within a single possession.
- b. If the offense fails to score, the ball changes possession and the new offensive team starts its drive on its own 5-yard line.
- c. If the offensive team fails to cross midfield, possession of the ball changes and the opposition starts its drive from its own 5-yard line.
- d. If the defense intercepts the ball, a defensive player can attempt to return it until down or out of bounds.
- e. All possession changes, except interceptions, start on the offense's 5-yard line.

Article 3. Coaches

- a. USA Football recommends 2-3 coaches per team.
- b. At the Youth level, one coach is allowed on the field to call plays and direct players according to need. Once the quarterback begins his or her cadence, however, coaches can no longer speak and must be behind the deepest offensive and defensive players and out of the action.
- c. At the Youth level, Coaches can assist in the alignment of their players to facilitate a fast-paced game, but coaches on the field may not provide extra instruction or make audibles to play calls once the huddle is broken. Coaches on the sidelines can provide this information to players on the field.
- d. For adult and junior games no coaches are allowed on the field

SECTION 2: ROSTERS

Article 1: Team Rosters

Teams must consist of at least seven players with a recommended maximum of 15 players.

NOTE: FLEXIBILITY IS GRANTED FOR ROSTER SIZED AT THE DISCRETION OF TOURNAMENT OPERATORS.

Article 2: Uniform Colors

Home teams wear dark color jerseys. Visiting teams wear light color jerseys.

Article 3: On Field Participants

Teams must start games with a minimum of seven players. In the event of an injury, a team with insufficient substitute players may play with six players on the field but no fewer than four.

SECTION 3: POSITIONS

Article 1. Offense

The seven players on offense consist of a center, a quarterback and five eligible receivers.

- a. **Center.** This player is responsible for snapping the ball and is eligible to go out for passes, once they have snapped the ball.
- b. **Quarterback.** The quarterback is the offensive player who first gets possession of the ball after the snap. The quarterback cannot directly run with the ball across the line of scrimmage without first handing the ball off to a teammate and then receiving a second handoff back or receiving a pass.
- c. **Receiver/back.** Any player who does not initiate the snap nor receive the snap is considered an eligible receiver/back and can either receive a handoff or catch a pass.

NOTE: LEAGUES MAY CONSIDER WAIVING THE RESTRICTION ON LINING WITHIN THREE YARDS OF THE CENTER FOR YOUNGER AGE GROUPS.

Article 2. Defense

- a. **Blitzer.** A defender who lines up with all parts of their body more than 7 yards away from the scrimmage line at the snap can establish themselves as a blitzer with a legal signal by raising one hand clearly above the head at least during the last second prior to the snap. This grants them right of way which supersedes the general right of way for the offense, because they are pursuing the runner. The rush of a blitzer shall be immediately after the snap, quick and straight towards the point where the quarterback receives the snap in order to retain the right of way. If a blitzer is rushing late, slowly, towards a different spot, changing direction during the rush or just does not rush the quarterback, the player loses the right of way but still can participate as any other defender. If a blitzer is forced to change direction due to an offensive foul (shielding), the blitzer will not lose their right of way for a further direct rush to the point where quarterback received the snap.
- b. **Rusher.** A defender who does not give a signal and legally crosses the line of scrimmage. Following a legal handoff, any member of the defense can cross the line of scrimmage.

SECTION 4. EQUIPMENT

Article 1: Flag Belts

The organization provides each player with an official flag belt and team jersey. Teams will use footballs provided by their league. See Flag Specifications section for more details.

Article 2: Footwear

Players must wear rubber soled shoes. Cleats may not be allowed at certain locations. Cleats with exposed metal are never allowed and must be removed.

Article 3: Additional Equipment

Players may tape their forearms, hands and fingers. Players may wear gloves, elbow pads and knee pads. Braces with exposed metal are not allowed. Players must remove any jewelry and head wear (acceptable head wear is determined by league officials).

Article 4: Uniform Standards

Players' jerseys must be tucked into shorts or pants if they hang below the belt line.

We recommend players wear shorts or pants that do not have pockets. Shorts or pants with belt loops or pockets must be taped. Games will not be delayed for a player to tape up pockets.

- a. **Flag belts cannot be the same color as shorts or pants.**

Article 5: Mouthguards

All players must wear mouth guards while on the playing field.

SECTION 5. THE BALL

The ball shall be made of four panels of pebble-grained leather in natural tan color with eight equally spaced lacings and new or nearly new with no alterations. The ball shall be an ellipsoid spheroid of regulation dimensions and inflated to a pressure of between 12.5 and 13.5 psi (0.85 – 0.95 bar).

Article 1. Types of Football

Dimensions	Adult	Junior	Youth
Length	11.00 to 11.50 inches (27.9 – 29.2 cm)	10.50 to 11.00 inches (26.7 – 27.9 cm)	10.25 to 10.75 inches (26.0 – 27.3 cm)
Length circumference	27.00 to 28.00 inches (68.6 – 71.1 cm)	26.00 to 27.00 inches (66.0 – 68.6 cm)	25.00 to 26.00 inches (63.5 – 66.0 cm)
Diameter	6.25 to 6.75 inches (15.9 – 17.2 cm)	6.00 to 6.50 inches (15.2 – 16.5 cm)	5.75 to 6.25 inches (14.6 – 15.9 cm)
Cross circumference	20.00 to 21.00 inches (50.8 – 53.3 cm)	19.00 to 20.00 inches (48.3 – 50.8 cm)	18.00 to 19.00 inches (45.7 – 48.3 cm)
Weight	14 to 15 ounces (400 – 425 g)	12 to 13 ounces (340 – 370 g)	11 to 12 ounces (310 – 340 g)

Article 2. Sizes

- a. For men’s or co-ed games, adult size balls shall be used.
- b. For women’s games, use Youth Ball dimensions. (example: USA Football Youth or Wilson TDY)
- c. For junior games aged under-17, youth sized balls shall be used. (example: USA Football Youth or Wilson TDY)
- d. For youth games aged 9-13, junior size balls shall be used. Balls need not be leather. (example: USA Football Junior or Wilson TDJ)
- e. For youth games aged under-8, peewee size balls shall be used. Balls need not be leather. (example USA Football peewee)

SECTION 6. FLAG SPECIFICATIONS

Article 1. General Provisions

Players of a team shall wear tightly fixed flag belts with pop-sockets and 2 identical flags. Every effort shall be made to keep one flag on each hip of the player. The sockets shall be placed facing outwards and downwards. The flags shall be clearly visible, hang down freely and must not be covered in any way by the player’s uniform and all colors must be contrasting with all colors on the pants. The flags and sockets may not be greased, glued or altered in any way. Any player, who deliberately manipulate their flags shall be disqualified. The flags and sockets each shall be made of the same material in the same color without sharp edges.

Article 2. Sizes

Dimensions	Measurements
The flags shall measure	2 inches (5 cm) x 15 inches (38 cm)
Flag length from socket	15 to 16 inches (38.1 – 0.6 cm).
Flag width:	1.9 to 2.1 inches (4.8 – 5.3 cm).
Brand or logo	On each flag one single color brand or logo in the upper quarter is allowed with a maximum size of 2x3 inches (5 x 7.5 cm).
Flag thickness:	maximum 0.03 inches (0.75 mm).
Flag weight	minim-um 3.5 ounces (100 g).

SECTION 7. THE FIELD**Article 1: Field Dimensions**

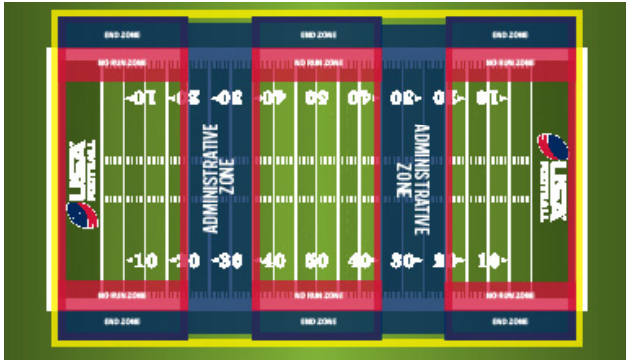
Field dimensions are 30 X 70 yards in total with two 10- yard end zones and a 50 yard field of play. No-run zones are only before the goal line. However, some locations may use smaller fields due to available field space.

Article 2: No-Run Zone's

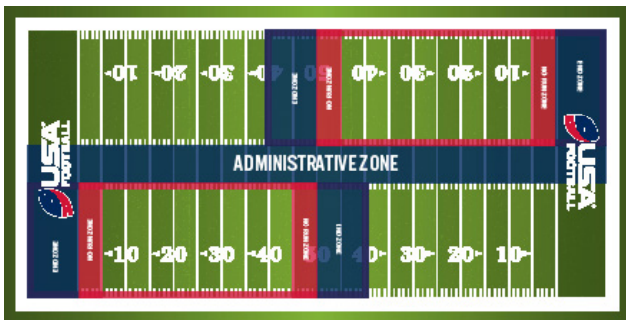
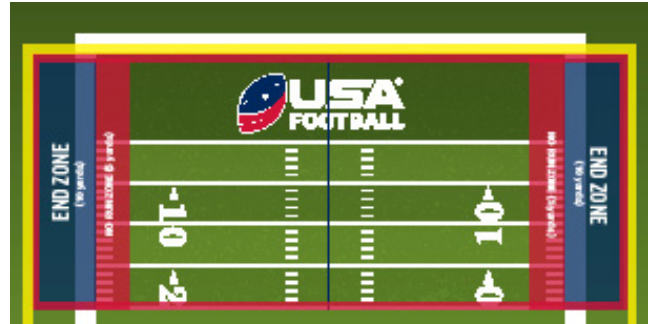
A No-run zone is in place to prevent teams from conducting run plays. While in the No-run zones (a 5-yard imaginary zone before the end zone), teams cannot run the ball in any fashion. All plays must be pass plays, even with a handoff.

USA FOOTBALL RECOMMENDATION: THE NO-RUN ZONE MAY BE REMOVED FOR PLAYERS WHO ARE STILL LEARNING BASIC PASSING AND CATCHING SKILLS.

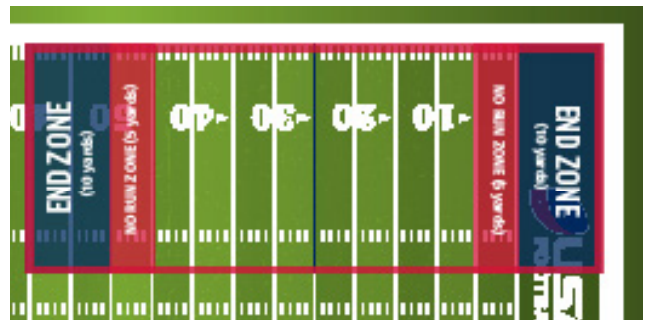
Article 3: Field Setup Diagrams



*Yellow line indicates lines of a soccer field



*Administration zones should be 3 yards wide.



RULE 2: LEAGUE AND TOURNAMENT PLAY

SECTION 1. LEAGUE PLAY

Article 1: Game Clock Settings

Games are played on a 40-minute continuous clock with two 20-minute halves unless one team gains a 30-point advantage at which point, the score is no longer kept. The clock stops for timeouts or injuries only, though officials can stop the clock at their discretion for injury, to stop a team from delaying or other unsportsmanlike conduct. For 18+ we recommend a pro clock last 2 min in both halves

USA FOOTBALL RECOMMENDS A RUNNING CLOCK AT THE YOUTH LEVEL (5-12 YEARS OLD), BUT IT IS UP TO THE LEAGUES DISCRETION TO USE A PRO-CLOCK INSTEAD. FOR JUNIOR ATHLETES (13-17 YEARS OLD) USA FOOTBALL RECOMMENDS THE USE OF A RUNNING CLOCK IN THE FIRST HALF AND A PRO-CLOCK IN THE SECOND HALF.

Article 2: Halftime

Halftime is five minutes.

Article 3: Delay of Game

Each time the ball is spotted, a team has 30 seconds to snap the ball. Teams will receive one warning before a delay-of-game penalty is enforced.

USA FOOTBALL RECOMMENDATION: OFFICIALS SHOULD USE DISCRETION WITH TEAMS WHO ARE STILL LEARNING BASIC FOOTBALL SKILLS AND MAY NEED MORE TIME TO LINE UP AND GET A PLAY OFF.

Article 4: Timeout's

Each team has two 30-second timeouts per half.

Article 5: Injury Stoppage

In the event of an injury, the clock will stop then restart when the injured player is removed from the field of play and both teams are lined up ready to restart the play.

Article 6. League Play Overtime

1. A coin flip will determine the team that chooses to be on offense or defense first.
 - a. If a second round of overtime must be played, the team that lost the coin toss will get to choose offense or defense for the start of the second round of overtime. This process continues with teams alternating who gets to choose to be on offense or defense to start out during every round of overtime.
 - b. The referee will determine on which end of the field the overtime will take place.
 - c. No charged team timeouts shall be granted.
2. In the first extra period, each team will have one series starting at the mid-field. On the first series, if the defense intercepts the ball and scores, then the overtime period is over.
3. Each team retains the ball during its series until it scores (including try downs for 1 or 2 points) or exhausts its series of downs. The ball remains alive after a change of team possession until it is declared dead. The series is then ended even if there is a second change of team possession during that down.
4. If after the first period (with 2 series including tries) the score is still tied, the second and following periods consist of series with each team playing a 1-point try from the 5-yard line. The overtime ends when the score after a period is no longer a tie or the defense scores during the first series of a period.
5. The team scoring the greater number of points during overtime shall be declared the winner.

SECTION 2. TOURNAMENT PLAY**Article 1: Tournament Play Clock Settings**

Level of Play	Total Length of Game	Length of Halftime	Clock Settings
Youth (5-12 years old)	Two 12-minute halves	2 minutes	Running clock
Junior (13-17 years old)	Two 15-minute halves	2 minutes	Running clock- first half Pro clock- second half
Adult (18+)	Two 20-minute halves	2 minutes	Pro clock

*Up to tournament organizer's discretion on what type of game clock setting they would like to use.

Article 2: Pro-Clock Operation**PRO-CLOCK CLOCK STOPS**

1. To award a first down, also after a change of team possession.
2. To complete a penalty.
3. When the ball or the runner goes out of bounds.
4. When a pass or fumble (forward or backward) strikes the ground.
5. When a score is made and during and after the following try and onside snap.
6. When a charged timeout is granted.

Article 3. Tournament Play Overtime

1. A coin flip will determine the team that chooses to be on offense or defense first.
 - a. If a second round of overtime must be played, the team that lost the coin toss will get to choose offense or defense for the start of the second round of overtime. This process continues with teams alternating who gets to choose to be on offense or defense to start out during every round of overtime.
 - b. The official will determine on which end of the field the overtime will take place.
2. Each team will take turns getting one (1) play from the defense's 5-yard line for one point or the

defense's 10-yard line for two points. Whether to go for one or two points is up to the offensive team. Whether or not the team that begins on offense converts, the team that started on defense gets a chance on offense to win or tie by converting a one- or two-point play of its own.

- a. Example: Team A starts on offense and chooses to go for one point from the 5-yard line and is successful. Team B is then on offense and can choose to either go for one point from the five-yard line to tie and force a second round of overtime or to go for two points from the 10-yard line for the win.
 - b. If the second team on offense in an overtime round fails to beat or match the team that went first, the team that went first wins.
3. All regulation period rules and penalties are in effect.
 4. There are no timeouts in overtime.

RULE 3: LIVE BALL / DEAD BALL

SECTION 1. LIVE BALL

Article 1: Live Ball Definition

The ball is live at the snap and remains live until an official's whistle blows the ball dead.

Article 2: Ball Spot

The official will indicate the neutral zone and line of scrimmage by spotting the ball before each play and signaling ready for play with a short whistle.

- a. It is an automatic dead ball foul if any player on defense or offense enters the neutral zone. In regard to the neutral zone, an official may give both teams a "courtesy" neutral zone notification prior to the snap to allow their players to move back behind the line of scrimmage.

Article 3: Pre-Snap Defense

The defense may not mimic the offensive team's signals by trying to confuse the offensive players while the quarterback is calling signals to start the play. This will result in an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.

Article 4: Possession

A player who gains possession of the ball is considered inbounds as long as one foot comes down in the field of play. Stepping on the boundary line is considered out of bounds.

SECTION 2. DEAD BALL

Article 1: Dead Ball Definition

Any official can whistle the play dead.

Play is ruled “dead” when:

- a. The ball hits the ground.
 - i. If the ball hits the ground as a result of a bad snap, the ball is then placed where the ball hit the ground.
- b. The ball-carrier’s flag is pulled.
- c. The ball-carrier steps out of bounds.
- d. A touchdown, PAT or safety is scored.
- e. Any part of the body other than feet or hands touches the ground.
- f. The ball-carrier’s flag falls out.
- g. The receiver catches the ball while in possession of one or no flag(s).
- h. An inadvertent whistle.

Article 2: Inadvertent Whistle

In the case of an inadvertent whistle, the offense has two options:

- a. Take the ball where it was when the whistle blew, and the down is consumed.
- b. Replay the down from the original line of scrimmage.

Article 3: Dead Ball Substitution

Substitutions may be made on any dead ball.

Article 4: Ruling Challenges

- a. A team is allowed to use a timeout to question an official’s rule interpretation. If the official’s ruling is correct, the team is charged a timeout. If the rule is interpreted incorrectly, the timeout is not charged and the proper ruling will be enforced. Officials should all agree upon any controversial call in order to give each team the full benefit of each call.
- b. A team with no timeout remaining cannot challenge a rule interpretation, though officials can come together independently and reverse a call by unanimous decision.

RULE 4: GAME PLAY

SECTION 1: SCORING

Article 1: Touchdown

Touchdown: Six 6 points

Article 2: Extra Points

PAT (point after touchdown) **1 point** (5-yard line) or **2 points** (10-yard line).

- a. Because of the No-run zone, a one point PAT is pass only; two point PAT can be run or pass.
 - i. Defense touchdown on a try - 2 points.
 - ii. Safety - 2 points
 - iii. Safety on a try - 1 point.

NOTE: AT YOUNGER LEVELS, LEAGUES SHOULD CONSIDER WAIVING THE NO-RUN ZONE FOR TOUCHDOWNS AND POINT-AFTER TRIES.

- b. A team that scores a touchdown must declare prior to the snap whether it wishes to attempt a one- or two-point conversion. Any change, once a decision is made to try for the extra point, requires a charged timeout. A decision cannot be changed after a penalty.

Article 3: Safety

2 points

- a. A safety occurs when the ball-carrier is declared down in his or her own endzone. Runners can be called down when their flags are pulled by a defensive player, a flag falls out, they step out of bounds, a knee or arm touches the ground, a fumble occurs in the endzone or if a snapped ball lands in or beyond the end zone. A penalty in the end zone (i.e. flag guarding) can also be ruled a safety.

Article 4: Mercy Rule

- a. After one team is leading by 30 points or more, the game is over and no PATs are attempted.
- b. Forfeits will be scored 30-0.

SECTION 2: RUNNING

Article 1: Spotting the Ball

The spot of the ball is the position of the ball when the flag is pulled, not the location of the hips.

Article 2: Legal Running Plays

Only direct handoffs behind the line of scrimmage are permitted. Handoffs may be in front, behind or to the side of the offensive player but must take place behind the line of scrimmage. The offense may use multiple handoffs. The quarterback cannot directly run with the ball.

- a. The “center sneak” play is not allowed as centers are ineligible to receive handoffs.
- b. Any player who receives a handoff can throw the ball from behind the line of scrimmage.
- c. Once the ball has been handed off in front, behind or to the side of the quarterback, all defensive players are eligible to rush.

Article 3: No Run Zone

No-run zone are located five yards before the end zone in the direction the offense is headed. They are designed to avoid short-yardage, power-running situations. Teams are not allowed to run in this zone.

USA FOOTBALL RECOMMENDATION: THE NO-RUN ZONE MAY BE REMOVED FOR PLAYERS WHO ARE STILL LEARNING BASIC PASSING AND CATCHING SKILLS.

Article 4: Flag Guarding

- a. Flag guarding is an attempt by the ball-carrier to obstruct the defender’s access to the flags by stiff arming, dropping the head, hand, arm or shoulder or intentionally covering the flags with the football jersey
- b. Runners may not leave their feet to advance the ball. Diving, leaping or jumping to avoid a flag pull is considered flag guarding.
- c. Spinning is allowed, but players cannot leave their feet to avoid a flag pull. Players spinning out of control will be called for flag guarding.
- d. Runners may leave their feet if there is a clear indication that he/she has done so to avoid collision with another player without a flag guarding penalty enforced.
- e. Flag obstruction – All jerseys must be tucked in before play begins. The flags must be on the player’s hips and free from obstruction. Deliberately obstructed flags will be considered flag guarding.

Article 5: Blocking / Screening

No blocking or “screening” is allowed at any time.

Article 6: Running With the Ball-Carrier

Offensive players without the ball must stop their motion once the ball has crossed the line of scrimmage. There is no running with the ball-carrier.

SECTION 3: PASSING

Article 1: Forward Pass

A pass is considered a forward pass if the ball first touches anything beyond the spot where the ball is released. All other passes are backward passes, even if it is lateral (parallel to the scrimmage line).

- a. The quarterback may throw the ball away to avoid a sack. The pass must go beyond the line of scrimmage and be in the vicinity of a receiver.
- b. Quarterbacks cannot spike the ball dead unless the ball travels beyond the line of scrimmage and is in the vicinity of a teammate.
- c. Any player who has received a legal handoff can throw the ball forward as long as they are still behind the line of scrimmage.

USA FOOTBALL RECOMMENDATION: FOR TEAMS THAT ARE STILL LEARNING BASIC FOOTBALL SKILLS, OFFICIALS SHOULD USE THEIR DISCRETION FOR BALLS THAT DO NOT REACH THE LINE OF SCRIMMAGE AS LONG AS THE PLAYER MADE AN HONEST EFFORT TO MAKE IT THERE.

Article 2: Shovel Pass

Shovel passes are allowed but must be received beyond the line of scrimmage.

Article 3: Seven Second Clock

A seven-second pass clock begins upon the snap and continues until there is a handoff or pass. If the seven-second clock expires while the quarterback still has the ball, the play is blown dead, a down is lost and the ball is returned to the line of scrimmage as if an incomplete pass occurred.

SECTION 4: RECEIVING

Article 1: Eligible Receivers

All players – are eligible to receive passes.

Article 2: Legal Reception

A player must have at least one foot inbounds to make a legal reception.

Article 3: Simultaneous Possession

In the case of simultaneous possession by both an offensive and defensive player, possession is awarded to the offense.

Article 4: Interceptions

Interceptions are returnable and are the only changes of possession that do not result with starting on the 5-yard line.

SECTION 5: BLITZER AND RUSHER

Article 1: Blitzzer

All Blitzzers must be a minimum of seven yards behind the line of scrimmage when the ball is snapped and must declare themselves by raising their hand. Players not blitzing the quarterback can defend on the line of scrimmage. No more than two players may establish themselves as Blitzzers on a given play.

USA FOOTBALL RECOMMENDATION: FOR TEAMS STILL LEARNING BASIC FOOTBALL SKILLS, ELIMINATE PASS BLITZERS TO ALLOW PLAYERS THE FULL SEVEN SECONDS TO THROW THE BALL WITHOUT PRESSURE.

Article 2: Rusher

Once the ball is handed off, the 7-yard rule no longer is in effect, and all defenders may go behind the line of scrimmage. At this point players crossing the line of scrimmage are Rushers.

Article 3: Legal Blitzing

A marker, or the official, will designate a rush line seven yards from the line of scrimmage. Defensive players should verify they are in the correct position and identify themselves before every play.

- a. A legal blitz is:
 - i. Any rush from a point 7 yards from the defensive line of scrimmage.
 - ii. If a blitzzer leaves the rush line early (breaks the 7-yard area), they may return to the rush line, reset and then legally rush the quarterback.
 - iii. If a blitzzer leaves the rush line early and the ball is handed off before he/she crosses the line of scrimmage, he/she may legally rush the second receiver.
- b. A penalty may be called if:
 - i. The Blitzzer leaves the rush line before the snap crosses the line of scrimmage before a handoff or pass – illegal rush (5 yards from the line of scrimmage and first down).
 - ii. Any defensive player crosses the line of scrimmage before the ball is snapped – offsides (5 yards from line of scrimmage and first down).
 - iii. Any defensive player not lined up at the rush line or declared crosses the line of scrimmage before the ball is passed or handed off – illegal rush (5 yards from the line of scrimmage and first down).
 - iv. A maximum of 2 players may establish themselves as a blitzzer. If a player who signals is less than 7 yards from the line of scrimmage or if a player is giving an invalid signal or if more than 2 players simultaneously keep their hand raised after the snapper has touched the ball, it's a foul for illegal signal. Foul - 5 yards from the line of scrimmage.

c. Special circumstances:

- i. Teams are not required to rush the quarterback with the seven second clock in effect.
- ii. Teams are required to identify their Blitzler before the play.

Article 4: Roughing the Passer

Players blitzing the quarterback may attempt to block a pass; however, NO contact can be made with the quarterback in any way. Blocking the pass or attempting to block the pass and then making contact with the passer will result in a roughing the passer penalty.

Article 5: Impeding the Blitzler

The offense cannot impede the Blitzler in any way. The Blitzlers have the right to a clear path to the quarterback, regardless of where they line up prior to the snap. If the “path or line” is occupied by a moving offensive player, then it is the offense’s responsibility to avoid the Blitzler. Any disruption to the Blitzler’s path and/or contact will result in an impeding the blitzler penalty. If the offensive player does not move after the snap, then it is the Blitzler’s responsibility to go around the offensive player and to avoid contact.

Article 6: Quarterback Sack

A sack occurs if the quarterback’s flag are pulled behind the line of scrimmage. The ball is placed where the quarterback’s feet are when flag is pulled.

- a. A safety is awarded if the sack takes place in the offensive team’s end zone.

SECTION 6. HOLDING, SHIELDING, CONTACT AND AIMING

Article 1: Holding

Holding is grasping an opponent or their equipment, not releasing immediately and impacting the opponent.

Article 2: Shielding

Shielding is obstructing an opponent without contact by moving into their path. A moving player without right of way who impedes an opponent from running a pass route, getting to the runner or impedes a legal blitzler is guilty of shielding. A player standing still (with the right of place) is not shielding, even if the player is obstructing an opponent.

Article 3: Contact

Contact is touching an opponent with impact. Touching with no impact is not a foul.

Article 4: Aiming

Aiming is to target and initiate contact with an opponent or to run into an opponent on purpose, even with right of way. Aiming is any deliberate or avoidable contact with excessive force, even in an attempted flag pull or while playing the ball during a pass. Aiming is to attack a ball in possession or take away the ball from the runner.

SECTION 7. FLAG PULLING

Article 1: Legal Flag Pull

A legal flag pull takes place when the ball-carrier is in full possession of the ball.

Article 2: Diving and Holding

Defenders can dive to pull flags but cannot tackle, hold or run through the ball-carrier when pulling flags.

Article 3: Stripping

It is illegal to attempt to strip or pull the ball from the ball-carrier's possession at any time.

Article 4: Inadvertent Loss of Flag

If a player's flag inadvertently falls off during the play, the player is down immediately upon possession of the ball and the play ends. The ball is placed where the flag lands.

Article 5: Illegal Flag Pull

A defensive player may not intentionally pull the flags off of a player who is not in possession of the ball.

- a. If a defender makes a good-faith flag pull while a receiver bobbles or juggles what will be a completed catch, the ball is down where possession is made.

SECTION 8. FORMATIONS

Article 1: Offensive Formations

Offenses must have a minimum of one player on the line of scrimmage (the center) and any number of players on the line of scrimmage. The quarterback must be off the line of scrimmage.

- a. One player at a time may go in motion 1 yard behind and parallel to the line of scrimmage.
EXAMPLE: An offensive player lined up 3 yards deep in the backfield can never go in motion. A player in motion must either start from a set position on the line of scrimmage or 1 yard off to adhere to the rule.
- b. No motion is allowed toward the line of scrimmage.

Article 2: False Start

Movement by a player who is set or a player who runs toward the line of scrimmage while in motion is considered a false start.

Article 3: Legal Snap

The center must snap the ball with a rapid and continuous motion between his/her legs to a player in the backfield, and the ball must completely leave his/her hands.

SECTION 9. UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

Article 1: Intentional Contact

If the field monitor or official witnesses any acts of intentional tackling, elbowing, cheap shots, blocking or any unsportsmanlike act, the game will be stopped and the player will be ejected from the game. The decision is made at the referee's discretion. No appeals will be considered. FOUL PLAY WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!

- a. Players may not physically or verbally abuse any opponent, coach or official.
- b. Ball-carriers MUST make an effort to avoid defenders with an established position.
- c. Defenders are not allowed to run through the ball-carrier when pulling flags.

USA FOOTBALL RECOMMENDATION: FOR TEAMS STILL LEARNING BASIC FOOTBALL SKILLS, REMOVE ANY PLAYER WHO COMMITS AN UNSPORTSMANLIKE OR DANGEROUS ACT FROM THE FIELD TO RECEIVE INSTRUCTION FROM A COACH AND A COOLING OFF PERIODS. OFFICIALS CAN EJECT THE PLAYER AT THEIR DISCRETION IF THERE ARE CONTINUED INFRACTIONS THAT ARE DEEMED INTENTIONAL.

Article 2: Offensive Language

Offensive or confrontational language is not allowed. Officials have the right to determine offensive language. If offensive or confrontational language occurs, the referee will give one warning. If it continues, the player or players will be ejected from the game.

Article 3: Spectator Conduct

Fans must also adhere to good sportsmanship as well:

- a. Yell to cheer on your players, not to harass officials or other teams.
- b. Keep comments clean and profanity free.
- c. Compliment ALL players, not just one child or team.

Article 4: Field Safety

Fans are required to keep fields safe and kid-friendly:

- a. Keep younger kids and equipment such as coolers, chairs and tents a minimum of 10 yards off the field in the end zone area.
- b. Stay in the end zone area, not between fields. The Administrative Zone is reserved for league administration, game officials, medical personnel, coaches and players only.
- c. Dispose of ALL trash in designated trash cans.

Article 5: Unsportsmanlike Conduct Penalty

Unsportsmanlike conduct penalties:

- a. Defense + 10 yards from line of scrimmage and automatic first down
- b. Offense - 10 yards from line of scrimmage and loss of down

RULE 5: OFFICIAL DUTIES

SECTION 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1: Jurisdiction of Officials

Jurisdiction of Officials - The officials' jurisdiction begins with the coin toss and ends when the Referee declares the score final.

Article 2: Number of Officials

Number of Officials - The game shall be played under the supervision of 2 (R and FJ), 3 (R, DJ and FJ) or 4 (R, DJ, FJ and SJ) officials.

- a. If officiating crews contain 2 or 3 officials, the other job responsibilities are to be split accordingly.

SECTION 2. REFEREE

Article 1: Position

The initial position of the Referee is behind and to the side of the FJ in the offensive backfield. On a 2-man crew, the Referee is positioned and working like Down Judge.

Article 2: Basic Responsibilities

Basic Responsibilities:

- a. The Referee has general oversight and control of the game, has final authority for the score and their decisions upon rules and other matters pertaining to the game are final.
- b. The Referee shall inspect the field and report any irregularities to game management, coaches and other officials.
- c. The Referee has jurisdiction over player equipment.
- d. The Referee shall indicate that the ball is ready for play, award new series of downs and administer penalties.
- e. The Referee shall notify both head coaches of any disqualifications.
- f. After the snap, the Referee shall be responsible for ruling on the play behind the scrimmage line around the ball.
- g. The Referee is responsible for coverage of the quarterback.

SECTION 3. DOWN JUDGE

Article 1: Position

The initial position of the Down Judge is on the scrimmage line at the side line with the down indicator.

Article 2: Basic Responsibilities

Basic Responsibilities:

- a. The Down Judge is responsible for the operation of the down indicator.
- b. The Down Judge shall keep count of the downs.
- c. The Down Judge has jurisdiction over the scrimmage line and their side line.
- d. Once the ball has crossed the scrimmage line, the Down Judge shall be responsible for ruling on the play around the ball and forward progress on their side of the field.

SECTION 4. FIELD JUDGE

Article 1: Position

The initial position of the Field Judge is 7 yards deep at the side line opposite to the down indicator.

Article 2: Basic Responsibilities

Basic Responsibilities:

- a. On a 2 or 3-man crew the Field Judge is responsible for timing the game or supervising the game clock operator.
- b. The Field Judge has jurisdiction over their side line.
- c. Once the ball has crossed the scrimmage line, the Field Judge shall be responsible for ruling on the play around the ball and forward progress on their side of the field.

SECTION 5. SIDE JUDGE

Article 1: Position

The initial position of the Side Judge is 7 or more yards deep at the side line with the down indicator.

Article 2: Basic Responsibilities

Basic Responsibilities:

- a. The Side Judge is responsible for timing the game or supervising the game clock operator.
- b. The Side Judge shall be responsible for observing receivers on deep routes for ruling on long passes and the status of the ball and forward progress in their area.

RULE 6: PENALTIES**SECTION 1.****General Provisions**

The officials will call all penalties.
Game officials determine incidental contact that may result from normal run of play.
All penalties will be assessed from the line of scrimmage, except as noted (spot fouls).
Only the team captain or head coach may ask the referee questions about rule clarification and interpretations. Players may not question calls.
Games may not end on a defensive penalty unless the offense declines it.
Penalties are assessed live ball then dead ball. Live ball penalties must be assessed before play is considered complete.
Penalties will be assessed half the distance to the goal yardage when the penalty yardage is more than half the distance to the goal.

SECTION 2.**Defensive Spot Fouls**

Holding	Automatic first down
Stripping	+10 yards and automatic first down
Illegal flag pull (Before the receiver has the ball)	+5 Yards From the Spot
Illegal Equipment	+5 from the spot. *Further infractions may result in unsportsmanlike conduct up to ejection.

SECTION 3.**Offensive Spot Fouls**

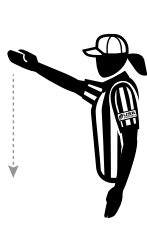
Screening, blocking or running with the ball	-10 yards and loss of down
Charging	-10 yards and loss of down
Flag guarding	-5 yards and loss of down
Illegal Equipment	-5 yards from the spot of the foul. *Further infractions may result in unsportsmanlike conduct up to ejection

SECTION 4.**Defensive Penalties**

Defensive pass interference	+10 yards from the line of scrimmage and automatic first down
Defensive unnecessary roughness	+10 yards from the line of scrimmage and automatic first down
Defensive unsportsmanlike conduct	+10 yards from the line of scrimmage and automatic first down
Offsides	+5 yards from line of scrimmage
Illegal rush (Starting rush from inside 7-yard marker)	+5 yards from line of scrimmage
Illegal Signal	+5 yards from the line of scrimmage. Live ball foul
Roughing the passer	+5 yards from line of scrimmage and automatic first down
Taunting	+5 yards & automatic first down

SECTION 5.**Offensive Penalties**

Offensive unnecessary roughness	-10 yards from the line of scrimmage and loss of down
Offensive unsportsmanlike conduct	-10 yards from the line of scrimmage and loss of down
Offsides / false start	-5 yards from line of scrimmage
Delay of game	-5 yards from line of scrimmage
Illegal forward pass (Any pass received or lands behind the line of scrimmage or throwing a pass after crossing the line of scrimmage)	-5 yards from line of scrimmage and loss of down
Offensive pass interference	-10 yards from line of scrimmage and loss of down
Illegal motion (More than one person moving)	-5 yards from line of scrimmage and loss of down
Impeding the Blitzer	-5 yards from line of scrimmage and loss of down
Taunting	-5 yards and loss of down
Center Sneak	-5 yards from the line of scrimmage and loss of down
Backwards pass	-5 yards from the line of scrimmage and loss of down



Ready for play



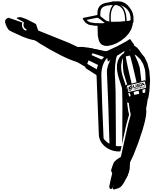
Stop the clock



Touchdown



Safety



First down



Loss of down



Incomplete pass



End of period



**Offside
Illegal blitz**



**False start
Illegal procedure**



**Delay of game
Delay of pass**



**Illegal participation
Illegal substitution**



**Unsportsmanlike
conduct**



Pass interference



**Illegal forward pass or
backward pass**



Illegal contact



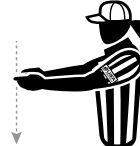
Shielding



Disqualification



Jumping



Diving



**Flag guarding
Illegal flag pull**

****THIS REPRESENTS PRACTICE AND IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES BASED ON OUR CURRENT LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE. RECOMMENDATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS MORE RESEARCH AND INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE.****



USA FLAG™ 7'S
RULEBOOK

PROVE THAT YOU ARE

THE ONE



TO BEAT

USA FLAG™ 5'S RULEBOOK

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Definitions

BOUNDARY LINES	The outer perimeter lines around the field. They include the sidelines and back of the end zone lines.
LINE OF SCRIMMAGE	(LOS) an imaginary line running through the point of the football and across the width of the field.
LINE-TO-GAIN	The line the offense must pass to get a first down or score.
RUSH LINE	An imaginary line running across the width of the field seven yards (into the defensive side) from the line of scrimmage.
OFFENSE	The team with possession of the ball.
DEFENSE	The team opposing the offense to prevent it from advancing the ball.
PASSER	The offensive player that throws the ball and may or may not be the quarterback.
BLITZER	The Identified Defensive Player that is at least 7 yards from the line of scrimmage assigned to rush the quarterback to prevent him/ her from passing the ball by pulling his/her flags or by blocking the pass.
RUSHER	Any player who legally crosses the line of scrimmage.
DOWNS (1-2-3-4)	The offensive team has four attempts or “downs” to advance the ball. It must cross the line to gain to get another set of downs or to score.
LIVE BALL	Refers to the period of time that the play is in action. Generally used in regard to penalties. Live ball penalties are considered part of the play and must be enforced before the down is considered complete.
DEAD BALL	Refers to the period of time immediately before or after a play.
WHISTLE	Sound made by an official using a whistle that signifies the end of the play or a stop in the action for reporting a penalty, a timeout, halftime or the end of the game.
INADVERTENT WHISTLE	Official’s whistle that is performed in error.
CHARGING	An illegal movement of the ball-carrier directly at a defensive player who has established position on the field. This includes lowering the head or initiating contact with a shoulder, forearm or the chest.
FLAG GUARDING	An illegal act by the ball-carrier to prevent a defender from pulling the ball-carrier’s flags by stiff arm, lowering elbow or head or by blocking access to the runner’s flags with a hand or arm or ball.
SHOVEL PASS	A legal pitch attempted behind the line of scrimmage.
UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT	A rude, confrontational, physical or offensive behavior or language.
RIGHT OF PLACE (ROP)	Right of place is given to any stationary players who maintains normal player posture and make no movements in any horizontal direction to change their position. A purely vertical movement, including a lift from the ground, in order to throw or catch a pass does not mean that a previously established right of place has been lost. Right of place supersedes right of way when determining who is guilty of a foul.
RIGHT OF WAY	Right of way is given to a player according to rule who has established a direction of movement in a regular manner and does not alter that direction. A player with right of way has a higher privilege when determining who is guilty of a foul than all other players except those with right of place.

USA FLAG™ 5'S RULEBOOK

RULE 1: GAME, FIELD, BALL, AND EQUIPMENT

SECTION 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Coin Toss

- a. At the start of each game, captains from both teams meet at midfield for the coin toss to determine who starts with the ball. The visiting team calls the toss.
- b. The winner of the coin toss has the choice of offense or defense. The loser of the coin toss has the choice of direction. Possession changes to start the second half to the team that started the game on defense. Teams change sides after the first half.

Article 2. Possession and Change of Possession

- a. The offensive team takes possession of the ball at its 5-yard line and has four plays to cross midfield. Once a team crosses midfield, it has four plays to score a touchdown. Crossing midfield is the only opportunity for an offense to gain a first down within a single possession.
- b. If the offense fails to score, the ball changes possession and the new offensive team starts its drive on its own 5-yard line.
- c. If the offensive team fails to cross midfield, possession of the ball changes and the opposition starts its drive from its own 5-yard line.
- d. If the defense intercepts the ball, a defensive player can attempt to return it until down or out of bounds.
- e. All possession changes, except interceptions, start on the offense's 5-yard line.

Article 3: Coaches

- a. **2 coaches ONLY permitted on sideline.**

SECTION 2: ROSTERS

Article 1: Team Rosters

Teams must consist of at least five players with a maximum of 12 players.

Article 2: Uniform Colors

Home teams wear dark color jerseys. Visiting teams wear light color jerseys.

Article 3: On Field Participants

Teams must start tournament 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.

SECTION 3: POSITIONS

Article 1: Offense

The five players on offense consist of a center, a quarterback and three eligible receivers.

- a. **Center.** This player is responsible for snapping the ball and is eligible to go out for passes, once they have snapped the ball.
- b. **Quarterback.** The quarterback is the offensive player who first gets possession of the ball after the snap. The quarterback cannot directly run with the ball across the line of scrimmage without first handing the ball off to a teammate and then receiving a second handoff back or receiving a pass.
- c. **Receiver/back.** Any player who does not initiate the snap nor receive the snap is considered an eligible receiver/back and can either receive a handoff or catch a pass.

Article 2: Defense

- a. **Blitzer.** A defender who lines up with all parts of their body more than 7 yards away from the scrimmage line at the snap can establish themselves as a blitzer with a legal signal by raising one hand clearly above the head at least during the last second prior to the snap. This grants them right of way which supersedes the general right of way for the offense, because they are pursuing the runner. The rush of a blitzer shall be immediately after the snap, quick and straight towards the point where the quarterback receives the snap in order to retain the right of way. If a blitzer is rushing late, slowly, towards a different spot, changing direction during the rush or just does not rush the quarterback, the player loses the right of way but still can participate as any other defender. If a blitzer is forced to change direction due to an offensive foul (shielding), the blitzer will not lose their right of way for a further direct rush to the point where quarterback received the snap.

- b. **Rusher.** A defender who does not give a signal and legally crosses the line of scrimmage. Following a legal handoff, any member of the defense can cross the line of scrimmage.

SECTION 4: EQUIPMENT

Article 1: Uniforms and Flag Belts

- a. Teams are permitted to wear their own uniforms. Uniforms must match and have a dark and light jersey option. White USA Football flag belts will be provided to each player at team check-in and required to be used during game play. Game balls will be provided at game fields by officials.
- b. All teams will be provided WHITE USA Football flag belts and flags. Players shall wear flag belt tightly fit with every effort to be made to keep one flag on each hip of player. The sockets shall be facing outwards and downwards. The flags shall be clearly visible, hang down freely and must not be covered in any way by the player's uniform. The flags and sockets may not be greased, glued or altered in any way. Any player who deliberately manipulates their flags shall be disqualified.

Article 2: Footwear

Players must wear shoes or cleats. Cleats with exposed metal are not allowed.

Article 3: Additional Equipment

Players may tape their forearms, hands and fingers. Players may wear gloves, elbow pads and knee pads. Braces with exposed metal are not allowed.

Article 4: Uniform Standards

- a. Players must remove any jewelry and head wear requested to be removed by official. (acceptable head wear includes: soft shell helmets (secured properly), headbands, sweatbands and beanies. non acceptable head wear includes hats will bills.)
- b. Players' jerseys must be tucked into shorts or pants if they hang below the belt line.
- c. We recommend players wear shorts or pants that do not have pockets. Shorts or pants with belt loops or pockets must be taped. Games will not be delayed for a player to tape up pockets.
 - **Shorts or pants cannot be white as they must be a different color than the white USA Football belts provided.**

Article 5: Mouthguards

All players must wear mouth guards while on the playing field.

SECTION 5. THE BALL

The ball shall be made of four panels of pebble-grained leather in natural tan color with eight equally spaced lacings and new or nearly new with no alterations. The ball shall be an ellipsoid spheroid of regulation dimensions and inflated to a pressure of between 12.5 and 13.5 psi (0.85 – 0.95 bar).

Article 1. Types of Football

Dimensions	Adult	Junior	Youth
Length	11.00 to 11.50 inches (27.9 – 29.2 cm)	10.50 to 11.00 inches (26.7 – 27.9 cm)	10.25 to 10.75 inches (26.0 – 27.3 cm)
Length circumference	27.00 to 28.00 inches (68.6 – 71.1 cm)	26.00 to 27.00 inches (66.0 – 68.6 cm)	25.00 to 26.00 inches (63.5 – 66.0 cm)
Diameter	6.25 to 6.75 inches (15.9 – 17.2 cm)	6.00 to 6.50 inches (15.2 – 16.5 cm)	5.75 to 6.25 inches (14.6 – 15.9 cm)
Cross circumference	20.00 to 21.00 inches (50.8 – 53.3 cm)	19.00 to 20.00 inches (48.3 – 50.8 cm)	18.00 to 19.00 inches (45.7 – 48.3 cm)
Weight	14 to 15 ounces (400 – 425 g)	12 to 13 ounces (340 – 370 g)	11 to 12 ounces (310 – 340 g)

Article 2. Sizes

- a. For men's or co-ed games, adult size balls shall be used.
- b. For women's games, use Youth Ball dimensions. (example: USA Football Youth or Wilson TDY)
- c. For junior games aged under-17, youth sized balls shall be used. (example: USA Football Youth or Wilson TDY)
- d. For youth games aged 9-13, junior size balls shall be used. Balls need not be leather. (example: USA Football Junior or Wilson TDJ)

SECTION 6. THE FIELD

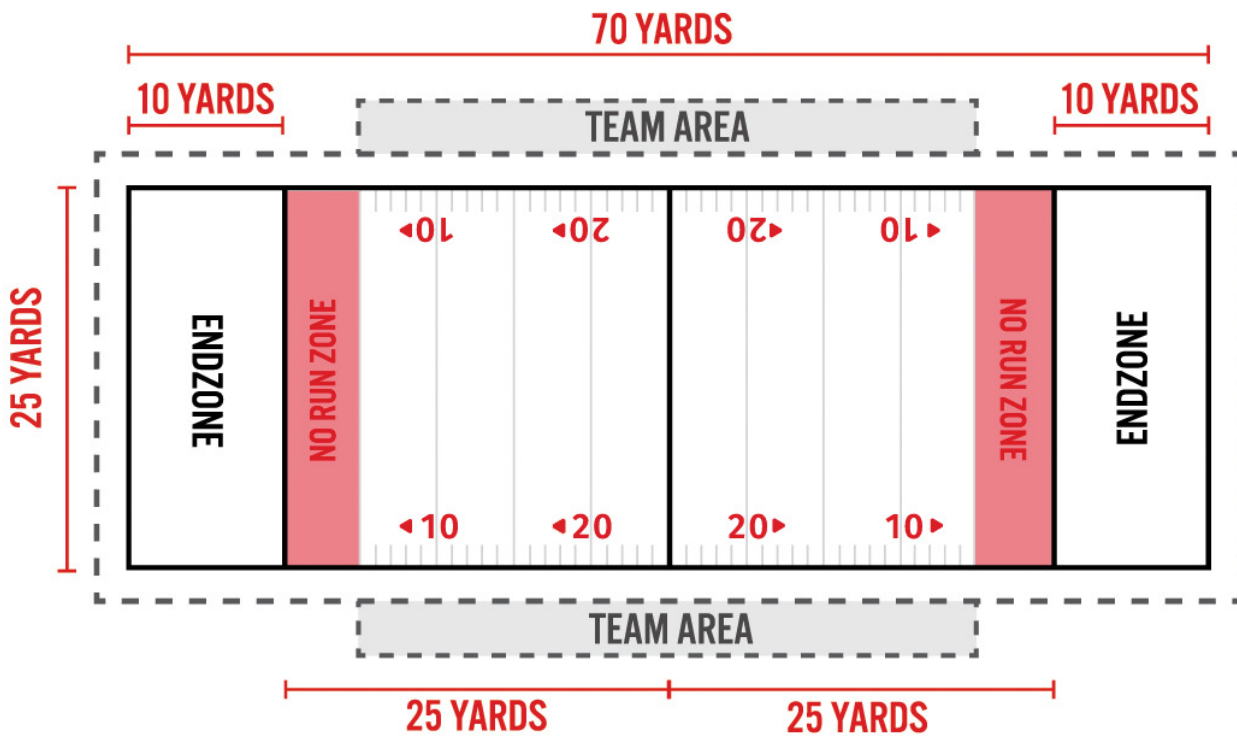
Article 1: Field Dimensions

Field dimensions are 25 X 70 yards in total with two 10- yard end zones and a 50 yard field of play. No-run zones are only before the goal line. However, some locations may use smaller fields due to available field space.

Article 2: No-Run Zone's

A No-run zone is in place to prevent teams from conducting run plays. While in the No-run zones (a 5-yard imaginary zone before the end zone), teams cannot run the ball in any fashion. All plays must be pass plays, even with a handoff.

Article 3: Field Setup Diagram



RULE 2: TOURNAMENT PLAY

SECTION 1. CLOCK SETTINGS

Level of Play	Total Length of Game	Length of Halftime	Clock Settings
Youth (5-12 years old)	Two 12-minute halves	2 minutes	Running clock
Junior (13-18 years old)	Two 12-minute halves	2 minutes	Running clock- first half Pro Clock - Last two minutes of the second half.
Adult divisions	Two 15-minute halves	2 minutes	Running clock- first half Pro Clock - Last two minutes of the second half.

SECTION 2. CLOCK STOPPAGE

Article 1. General Clock Stops

1. The clock stops for timeouts or injuries only, though officials can stop the clock at their discretion for injury, to stop a team from delaying or other unsportsmanlike conduct.

Article 2. Delay of Game

2. Each time the ball is spotted, a team has 30 seconds to snap the ball. Teams will receive one warning before a delay-of-game penalty is enforced.

Article 3. Timeouts

3. Each team has one 30-second timeout per half.

Article 4. Injury Stoppage

4. In the event of an injury, the clock will stop then restart when the injured player is removed from the field of play and both teams are lined up ready to restart the play.

Article 5: Pro-Clock Operation

PRO-CLOCK CLOCK STOPS

1. To award a first down, also after a change of team possession.
2. To complete a penalty.
3. When the ball or the runner goes out of bounds.
4. When a pass or fumble (forward or backward) strikes the ground.
5. When a score is made and during and after the following try and onside snap.
6. When a charged timeout is granted.

Article 6. Tournament Play Overtime

1. A coin toss will determine the team that chooses to be on offense or defense first.
 - a. If a second round of overtime must be played, the team that lost the coin toss will get to choose offense or defense for the start of the second round of overtime. This process continues with teams alternating who gets to choose to be on offense or defense to start out during every round of overtime.
 - b. The official will determine on which end of the field the overtime will take place.
2. Each team will take turns getting one (1) play from the defense's 5-yard line for one point or the defense's 10-yard line for two points. Whether to go for one or two points is up to the offensive team. Whether or not the team that begins on offense converts, the team that started on defense gets a chance on offense to win or tie by converting a one- or two-point play of its own.
 - a. Example: Team A starts on offense and chooses to go for one point from the 5-yard line and is successful. Team B is then on offense and can choose to either go for one point from the five-yard line to tie and force a second round of overtime or to go for two points from the 10-yard line for the win.
 - b. If the second team on offense in an overtime round fails to beat or match the team that went first, the team that went first wins.
3. All regulation period rules and penalties are in effect.
4. There are no timeouts in overtime.

RULE 3: LIVE BALL / DEAD BALL

SECTION 1. LIVE BALL

Article 1: Live Ball Definition

The ball is live at the snap and remains live until an official's whistle blows the ball dead.

Article 2: Ball Spot

The official will indicate the neutral zone and line of scrimmage by spotting the ball before each play and signaling ready for play with a short whistle.

- a. It is an automatic dead ball foul if any player on defense or offense enters the neutral zone. In regard to the neutral zone, an official may give both teams a "courtesy" neutral zone notification prior to the snap to allow their players to move back behind the line of scrimmage.

Article 3: Pre-Snap Defense

The defense may not mimic the offensive team's signals by trying to confuse the offensive players while the quarterback is calling signals to start the play. This will result in an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.

Article 4: Possession

A player who gains possession of the ball is considered inbounds as long as one foot comes down in the field of play. Stepping on the boundary line is considered out of bounds.

SECTION 2. DEAD BALL

Article 1: Dead Ball Definition

Any official can whistle the play dead.

Play is ruled “dead” when:

- a. The ball hits the ground.
 - i. If the ball hits the ground as a result of a bad snap, the ball is then placed where the ball hit the ground.
- b. The ball-carrier’s flag is pulled.
- c. The ball-carrier steps out of bounds.
- d. A touchdown, PAT or safety is scored.
- e. Any part of the body other than feet or hands touches the ground.
- f. The ball-carrier’s flag falls out.
- g. The receiver catches the ball while in possession of one or no flag(s).
- h. An inadvertent whistle.

Article 2: Inadvertent Whistle

In the case of an inadvertent whistle, the offense has two options:

- a. Take the ball where it was when the whistle blew, and the down is consumed.
- b. Replay the down from the original line of scrimmage.

Article 3: Ruling Challenges

- a. A team is allowed to use a timeout to question an official’s rule interpretation. If the official’s ruling is correct, the team is charged a timeout. If the rule is interpreted incorrectly, the timeout is not charged and the proper ruling will be enforced. Officials should all agree upon any controversial call in order to give each team the full benefit of each call.
- b. A team with no timeout remaining cannot challenge a rule interpretation, though officials can come together independently and reverse a call by unanimous decision.

RULE 4: GAME PLAY

SECTION 1: SCORING

Article 1: Touchdown

Touchdown: Six 6 points

Article 2: Extra Points

PAT (point after touchdown) **1 point** (5-yard line) or **2 points** (10-yard line).

- a. Because of the No-run zone, a one point PAT is pass only; two point PAT can be run or pass.
 - i. Defense touchdown on a try - 2 points.
 - ii. Safety - 2 points
 - iii. Safety on a try - 1 point.
- b. A team that scores a touchdown must declare prior to the snap whether it wishes to attempt a one- or two-point conversion. Any change, once a decision is made to try for the extra point, requires a charged timeout. A decision cannot be changed after a penalty. Interceptions can be returned for a safety (2 points).

Article 3: Safety 2 points

- a. A safety occurs when the ball-carrier is declared down in his or her own end zone. Runners can be called down when their flags are pulled by a defensive player, a flag falls out, they step out of bounds, a knee or arm touches the ground, a fumble occurs in the end zone or if a snapped ball lands in or beyond the end zone. A penalty in the end zone (i.e. flag guarding) can also be ruled a safety.

Article 4: Mercy Rule

- a. After one team is leading by 30 points or more, the game is over and no PATs are attempted.
- b. Forfeits will be scored 30-0.

SECTION 2: RUNNING

Article 1: Spotting the Ball

The spot of the ball is the position of the ball when the flag is pulled, not the location of the hips.

Article 2: Legal Running Plays

Only direct handoffs behind the line of scrimmage are permitted. Handoffs may be in front, behind or to the side of the offensive player but must take place behind the line of scrimmage. The offense may use multiple handoffs. The quarterback cannot directly run with the ball.

- a. The “center sneak” play is not allowed as centers are ineligible to receive handoffs.
- b. Any player who receives a handoff can throw the ball from behind the line of scrimmage.
- c. Once the ball has been handed off in front, behind or to the side of the quarterback, all defensive players are eligible to rush.

Article 3: No Run Zone

No-run zone are located five yards before the end zone in the direction the offense is headed. They are designed to avoid short-yardage, power-running situations. Teams are not allowed to run in this zone.

Article 4: Flag Guarding

- a. Flag guarding is an attempt by the ball-carrier to obstruct the defender’s access to the flags by stiff arming, dropping the head, hand, arm or shoulder or intentionally covering the flags with the football jersey.
- b. Runners may not leave their feet to advance the ball. Diving, leaping or jumping to avoid a flag pull is considered flag guarding.
- c. Spinning is allowed, but players cannot leave their feet to avoid a flag pull. Players spinning out of control will be called for flag guarding.
- d. Runners may leave their feet if there is a clear indication that he/she has done so to avoid collision with another player without a flag guarding penalty enforced.
- e. Flag obstruction – All jerseys must be tucked in before play begins. The flags must be on the player’s hips and free from obstruction. Deliberately obstructed flags will be considered flag guarding.

Article 5: Blocking / Screening

No blocking or “screening” is allowed at any time.

Article 6: Running With the Ball-Carrier

Offensive players without the ball must stop their motion once the ball has crossed the line of scrimmage. There is no running with the ball-carrier.

SECTION 3: PASSING

Article 1: Forward Pass

A pass is considered a forward pass if the ball first touches anything beyond the spot where the ball is released. All other passes are backward passes, even if it is lateral (parallel to the scrimmage line).

- a. The quarterback may throw the ball away to avoid a sack. The pass must go beyond the line of scrimmage and be in the vicinity of a receiver.
- b. Quarterbacks cannot spike the ball dead unless the ball travels beyond the line of scrimmage and is in the vicinity of a teammate.
- c. Any player who has received a legal handoff can throw the ball forward as long as they are still behind the line of scrimmage.

Article 2: Shovel Pass

Shovel passes are allowed but must be received beyond the line of scrimmage.

Article 3: Seven Second Clock

A seven-second pass clock begins upon the snap and continues until there is a handoff or pass. If the seven-second clock expires while the quarterback still has the ball, the play is blown dead, a down is lost and the ball is returned to the line of scrimmage as if an incomplete pass occurred.

SECTION 4: RECEIVING

Article 1: Eligible Receivers

All players – are eligible to receive passes.

Article 2: Legal Reception

A player must have at least one foot inbounds to make a legal reception.

Article 3: Simultaneous Possession

In the case of simultaneous possession by both an offensive and defensive player, possession is awarded to the offense.

Article 4: Interceptions

Interceptions are returnable and are the only changes of possession that do not result with starting on the 5-yard line.

SECTION 5: BLITZER AND RUSHER

Article 1: Blitzzer

All Blitzzers must be a minimum of seven yards behind the line of scrimmage when the ball is snapped and must declare themselves by raising their hand. Players not blitzing the quarterback can defend on the line of scrimmage. No more than two players may establish themselves as Blitzzers on a given play.

Article 2: Rusher

Once the ball is handed off, the 7-yard rule no longer is in effect, and all defenders may go behind the line of scrimmage. At this point players crossing the line of scrimmage are Rushers.

Article 3: Legal Blitzing

A marker, or the official, will designate a rush line seven yards from the line of scrimmage. Defensive players should verify they are in the correct position and identify themselves before every play.

- a. A legal blitz is:
 - i. Any rush from a point 7 yards from the defensive line of scrimmage.
 - ii. If a blitzzer leaves the rush line early (breaks the 7-yard area), they may return to the rush line, reset and then legally rush the quarterback.
 - iii. If a blitzzer leaves the rush line early and the ball is handed off before he/she crosses the line of scrimmage, he/she may legally rush the second receiver.
- b. A penalty may be called if:
 - i. The Blitzzer leaves the rush line before the snap crosses the line of scrimmage before a handoff or pass – illegal rush (5 yards from the line of scrimmage and first down).
 - ii. Any defensive player crosses the line of scrimmage before the ball is snapped – offsides (5 yards from line of scrimmage and first down).
 - iii. Any defensive player not lined up at the rush line or declared crosses the line of scrimmage before the ball is passed or handed off – illegal rush (5 yards from the line of scrimmage and first down).
 - iv. A maximum of 2 players may establish themselves as a blitzzer. If a player who signals is less than 7 yards from the line of scrimmage or if a player is giving an invalid signal or if more than 2 players simultaneously keep their hand raised after the snapper has touched the ball, it's a foul for illegal signal. Foul - 5 yards from the line of scrimmage.
- c. Special circumstances:
 - i. Teams are not required to rush the quarterback with the seven second clock in effect.
 - ii. Teams are required to identify their Blitzzer before the play.

Article 4: Roughing the Passer

Players blitzing the quarterback may attempt to block a pass; however, NO contact can be made with the quarterback in any way. Blocking the pass or attempting to block the pass and then making contact with the passer will result in a roughing the passer penalty.

Article 5: Impeding the Blitz

The offense cannot impede the Blitz in any way. The Blitzers have the right to a clear path to the quarterback, regardless of where they line up prior to the snap. If the “path or line” is occupied by a moving offensive player, then it is the offense’s responsibility to avoid the Blitz. Any disruption to the Blitz’s path and/or contact will result in an impeding the blitz penalty. If the offensive player does not move after the snap, then it is the Blitz’s responsibility to go around the offensive player and to avoid contact.

Article 6: Quarterback Sack

A sack occurs if the quarterback’s flag are pulled behind the line of scrimmage. The ball is placed where the quarterback’s feet are when flag is pulled.

- a. A safety is awarded if the sack takes place in the offensive team’s end zone.

SECTION 6. HOLDING, SHIELDING, CONTACT AND AIMING

Article 1: Holding

Holding is grasping an opponent or their equipment, not releasing immediately and impacting the opponent.

Article 2: Shielding

Shielding is obstructing an opponent without contact by moving into their path. A moving player without right of way who impedes an opponent from running a pass route, getting to the runner or impedes a legal blitz is guilty of shielding. A player standing still (with the right of place) is not shielding, even if the player is obstructing an opponent.

Article 3: Contact

Contact is touching an opponent with impact. Touching with no impact is not a foul.

Article 4: Aiming

Aiming is to target and initiate contact with an opponent or to run into an opponent on purpose, even with right of way. Aiming is any deliberate or avoidable contact with excessive force, even in an attempted flag pull or while playing the ball during a pass. Aiming is to attack a ball in possession or take away the ball from the runner.

SECTION 7. FLAG PULLING

Article 1: Legal Flag Pull

A legal flag pull takes place when the ball-carrier is in full possession of the ball.

Article 2: Diving and Holding

Defenders can dive to pull flags but cannot tackle, hold or run through the ball-carrier when pulling flags.

Article 3: Stripping

It is illegal to attempt to strip or pull the ball from the ball-carrier's possession at any time.

Article 4: Inadvertent Loss of Flag

If a player's flag inadvertently falls off during the play, the player is down immediately upon possession of the ball and the play ends. The ball is placed where the flag lands.

Article 5: Illegal Flag Pull

A defensive player may not intentionally pull the flags off of a player who is not in possession of the ball.

- a. If a defender makes a good-faith flag pull while a receiver bobbles or juggles what will be a completed catch, the ball is down where possession is made.

SECTION 8. FORMATIONS

Article 1: Offensive Formations

Offenses must have a minimum of one player on the line of scrimmage (the center) and any number of players on the line of scrimmage. The quarterback must be off the line of scrimmage.

- a. One player at a time may go in motion 1 yard behind and parallel to the line of scrimmage.
EXAMPLE: An offensive player lined up 3 yards deep in the backfield can never go in motion. A player in motion must either start from a set position on the line of scrimmage or 1 yard off to adhere to the rule.
- b. No motion is allowed toward the line of scrimmage.

Article 2: False Start

Movement by a player who is set or a player who runs toward the line of scrimmage while in motion is considered a false start.

Article 3: Legal Snap

The center must snap the ball with a rapid and continuous motion between his/her legs to a player in the backfield, and the ball must completely leave his/her hands.

SECTION 9. UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

Article 1: Intentional Contact

If the field monitor or official witnesses any acts of intentional tackling, elbowing, cheap shots, blocking or any unsportsmanlike act, the game will be stopped and the player will be ejected from the game. The decision is made at the referee's discretion. No appeals will be considered. FOUL PLAY WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!

- a. Players may not physically or verbally abuse any opponent, coach or official.
- b. Ball-carriers MUST make an effort to avoid defenders with an established position.
- c. Defenders are not allowed to run through the ball-carrier when pulling flags.

Article 2: Offensive Language

Offensive or confrontational language is not allowed. Officials have the right to determine offensive language. If offensive or confrontational language occurs, the referee will give one warning. If it continues, the player or players will be ejected from the game.

Article 3: Spectator Conduct

Fans must also adhere to good sportsmanship as well:

- a. Yell to cheer on your players, not to harass officials or other teams.
- b. Keep comments clean and profanity free.
- c. Compliment ALL players, not just one child or team.

Article 4: Field Safety

Fans are required to keep fields safe and kid-friendly:

- a. Keep younger kids and equipment such as coolers, chairs and tents a minimum of 10 yards off the field in the end zone area.
- b. Stay in the end zone area, not between fields. The Administrative Zone is reserved for league administration, game officials, medical personnel, coaches and players only.
- c. Dispose of ALL trash in designated trash cans.

Article 5: Unsportsmanlike Conduct Penalty

Unsportsmanlike conduct penalties:

- a. Defense + 10 yards from line of scrimmage and automatic first down
- b. Offense - 10 yards from line of scrimmage and loss of down

RULE 5: OFFICIAL DUTIES

SECTION 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1: Jurisdiction of Officials

Jurisdiction of Officials - The officials' jurisdiction begins with the coin toss and ends when the Referee declares the score final.

Article 2: Number of Officials

Number of Officials - The game shall be played under the supervision of 2 (R and FJ), 3 (R, DJ and FJ) or 4 (R, DJ, FJ and SJ) officials.

- a. If officiating crews contain 2 or 3 officials, the other job responsibilities are to be split accordingly.

SECTION 2. REFEREE

Article 1: Position

The initial position of the Referee is behind and to the side of the FJ in the offensive backfield. On a 2-man crew, the Referee is positioned and working like Down Judge.

Article 2: Basic Responsibilities

Basic Responsibilities:

- a. The Referee has general oversight and control of the game, has final authority for the score and their decisions upon rules and other matters pertaining to the game are final.
- b. The Referee shall inspect the field and report any irregularities to game management, coaches and other officials.
- c. The Referee has jurisdiction over player equipment.
- d. The Referee shall indicate that the ball is ready for play, award new series of downs and administer penalties.
- e. The Referee shall notify both head coaches of any disqualifications.
- f. After the snap, the Referee shall be responsible for ruling on the play behind the scrimmage line around the ball.
- g. The Referee is responsible for coverage of the quarterback.

SECTION 3. DOWN JUDGE

Article 1: Position

The initial position of the Down Judge is on the scrimmage line at the side line with the down indicator.

Article 2: Basic Responsibilities

Basic Responsibilities:

- a. The Down Judge is responsible for the operation of the down indicator.
- b. The Down Judge shall keep count of the downs.
- c. The Down Judge has jurisdiction over the scrimmage line and their side line.
- d. Once the ball has crossed the scrimmage line, the Down Judge shall be responsible for ruling on the play around the ball and forward progress on their side of the field.

SECTION 4. FIELD JUDGE

Article 1: Position

The initial position of the Field Judge is 7 yards deep at the side line opposite to the down indicator.

Article 2: Basic Responsibilities

Basic Responsibilities:

- a. On a 2 or 3-man crew the Field Judge is responsible for timing the game or supervising the game clock operator.
- b. The Field Judge has jurisdiction over their side line.
- c. Once the ball has crossed the scrimmage line, the Field Judge shall be responsible for ruling on the play around the ball and forward progress on their side of the field.

SECTION 5. SIDE JUDGE

Article 1: Position

The initial position of the Side Judge is 7 or more yards deep at the side line with the down indicator.

Article 2: Basic Responsibilities

Basic Responsibilities:

- a. The Side Judge is responsible for timing the game or supervising the game clock operator.
- b. The Side Judge shall be responsible for observing receivers on deep routes for ruling on long passes and the status of the ball and forward progress in their area.

RULE 6: PENALTIES**SECTION 1.****General Provisions**

The officials will call all penalties.
Game officials determine incidental contact that may result from normal run of play.
All penalties will be assessed from the line of scrimmage, except as noted (spot fouls).
Only the team captain or head coach may ask the referee questions about rule clarification and interpretations. Players may not question calls.
Games may not end on a defensive penalty unless the offense declines it.
Penalties are assessed live ball then dead ball. Live ball penalties must be assessed before play is considered complete.
Penalties will be assessed half the distance to the goal yardage when the penalty yardage is more than half the distance to the goal.

SECTION 2.**Defensive Spot Fouls**

Holding	Automatic first down
Stripping	+10 yards and automatic first down
Illegal flag pull (Before the receiver has the ball)	+5 yards from the spot
Illegal Equipment	+5 from the spot. *Further infractions may result in unsportsmanlike conduct up to ejection.

SECTION 3.**Offensive Spot Fouls**

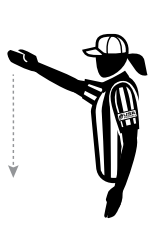
Screening, blocking or running with the ball	-10 yards and loss of down
Charging	-10 yards and loss of down
Flag guarding	-5 yards and loss of down
Illegal Equipment	-5 yards from the spot of the foul. *Further infractions may result in unsportsmanlike conduct up to ejection

SECTION 4.**Defensive Penalties**

Defensive pass interference	+10 yards from the line of scrimmage and automatic first down
Defensive unnecessary roughness	+10 yards from the line of scrimmage and automatic first down
Defensive unsportsmanlike conduct	+10 yards from the line of scrimmage and automatic first down
Offsides	+5 yards from line of scrimmage
Illegal rush (Starting rush from inside 7-yard marker)	+5 yards from line of scrimmage
Illegal Signal	+5 yards from the line of scrimmage. Live ball foul
Roughing the passer	+5 yards from line of scrimmage and automatic first down
Taunting	+5 yards & automatic first down

SECTION 5.**Offensive Penalties**

Offensive unnecessary roughness	-10 yards from the line of scrimmage and loss of down
Offensive unsportsmanlike conduct	-10 yards from the line of scrimmage and loss of down
Offsides / false start	-5 yards from line of scrimmage
Delay of game	-5 yards from line of scrimmage
Illegal forward pass (Any pass received or lands behind the line of scrimmage or throwing a pass after crossing the line of scrimmage)	-5 yards from line of scrimmage and loss of down
Offensive pass interference	-10 yards from line of scrimmage and loss of down
Illegal motion (More than one person moving)	-5 yards from line of scrimmage and loss of down
Impeding the Blitzer	-5 yards from line of scrimmage and loss of down
Taunting	-5 yards and loss of down
Center Sneak	-5 yards from the line of scrimmage and loss of down
Backwards pass	-5 yards from the line of scrimmage and loss of down



Ready for play



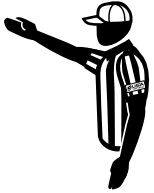
Stop the clock



Touchdown



Safety



First down



Loss of down



Incomplete pass



End of period



**Offside
Illegal blitz**



**False start
Illegal procedure**



**Delay of game
Delay of pass**



**Illegal participation
Illegal substitution**



**Unsportsmanlike
conduct**



Pass interference



**Illegal forward pass or
backward pass**



Illegal contact



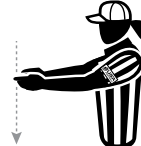
Shielding



Disqualification



Jumping



Diving



**Flag guarding
Illegal flag pull**

****THIS REPRESENTS PRACTICE AND IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES BASED ON OUR CURRENT LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE. RECOMMENDATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS MORE RESEARCH AND INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE.****

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USA FLAG™ 5'S RULEBOOK

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USA FLAG™ 5'S
RULEBOOK

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Definitions

BOUNDARY LINES	The outer perimeter lines around the field. They include the sidelines and back of the end zone lines.
LINE OF SCRIMMAGE	(LOS) an imaginary line running through the point of the football and across the width of the field.
LINE-TO-GAIN	The line the offense must pass to get a first down or score.
RUSH LINE	An imaginary line running across the width of the field seven yards (into the defensive side) from the line of scrimmage.
OFFENSE	The team with possession of the ball.
DEFENSE	The team opposing the offense to prevent it from advancing the ball.
PASSER	The offensive player that throws the ball and may or may not be the quarterback.
BLITZER	The Identified Defensive Player that is at least 7 yards from the line of scrimmage assigned to rush the quarterback to prevent him/ her from passing the ball by pulling his/her flags or by blocking the pass.
RUSHER	Any player who legally crosses the line of scrimmage.
DOWNS (1-2-3-4)	The offensive team has four attempts or “downs” to advance the ball. It must cross the line to gain to get another set of downs or to score.
LIVE BALL	Refers to the period of time that the play is in action. Generally used in regard to penalties. Live ball penalties are considered part of the play and must be enforced before the down is considered complete.
DEAD BALL	Refers to the period of time immediately before or after a play.
WHISTLE	Sound made by an official using a whistle that signifies the end of the play or a stop in the action for reporting a penalty, a timeout, halftime or the end of the game.
INADVERTENT WHISTLE	Official’s whistle that is performed in error.
CHARGING	An illegal movement of the ball-carrier directly at a defensive player who has established position on the field. This includes lowering the head or initiating contact with a shoulder, forearm or the chest.
FLAG GUARDING	An illegal act by the ball-carrier to prevent a defender from pulling the ball-carrier’s flags by stiff arm, lowering elbow or head or by blocking access to the runner’s flags with a hand or arm or ball.
SHOVEL PASS	A legal pitch attempted behind the line of scrimmage.
UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT	A rude, confrontational, physical or offensive behavior or language.
RIGHT OF PLACE (ROP)	Right of place is given to any stationary players who maintains normal player posture and make no movements in any horizontal direction to change their position. A purely vertical movement, including a lift from the ground, in order to throw or catch a pass does not mean that a previously established right of place has been lost. Right of place supersedes right of way when determining who is guilty of a foul.
RIGHT OF WAY	Right of way is given to a player according to rule who has established a direction of movement in a regular manner and does not alter that direction. A player with right of way has a higher privilege when determining who is guilty of a foul than all other players except those with right of place.

USA FLAG™ 5'S RULEBOOK

RULE 1: GAME, FIELD, BALL, AND EQUIPMENT

SECTION 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Coin Toss

- a. At the start of each game, captains from both teams meet at midfield for the coin toss to determine who starts with the ball. The visiting team calls the toss.
- b. The winner of the coin toss has the choice of offense or defense. The loser of the coin toss has the choice of direction. Possession changes to start the second half to the team that started the game on defense. Teams change direction after the first half.

Article 2. Possession and Change of Possession

- a. The offensive team takes possession of the ball at its 5-yard line and has four plays to cross midfield. Once a team crosses midfield, it has four plays to score a touchdown. Crossing midfield is the only opportunity for an offense to gain a first down within a single possession.
- b. If the offense fails to score, the ball changes possession and the new offensive team starts its drive on its own 5-yard line.
- c. If the offensive team fails to cross midfield, possession of the ball changes and the opposition starts its drive from its own 5-yard line.
- d. If the defense intercepts the ball, a defensive player can attempt to return it until down or out of bounds.
- e. All possession changes, except interceptions, start on the offense's 5-yard line.

Article 3. Coaches

- a. USA Football recommends 2-3 coaches per team.
- b. At the Youth level, one coach is allowed on the field to call plays and direct players according to need. Once the quarterback begins his or her cadence, however, coaches can no longer speak and must be behind the deepest offensive and defensive players and out of the action.
- c. At the Youth level, Coaches can assist in the alignment of their players to facilitate a fast-paced game, but coaches on the field may not provide extra instruction or make audibles to play calls once the huddle is broken. Coaches on the sidelines can provide this information to players on the field.
- d. For adult and junior games no coaches are allowed on the field

SECTION 2: ROSTERS

Article 1: Team Rosters

Teams must consist of at least five players with a recommended maximum of 15 players.

NOTE: FLEXIBILITY IS GRANTED FOR ROSTER SIZED AT THE DISCRETION OF TOURNAMENT OPERATORS.

Article 2: Uniform Colors

Home teams wear dark color jerseys. Visiting teams wear light color jerseys.

Article 3: On Field Participants

Teams must start games 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.

SECTION 3: POSITIONS

Article 1. Offense

The five players on offense consist of a center, a quarterback and three eligible receivers.

- a. **Center.** This player is responsible for snapping the ball and is eligible to go out for passes, once they have snapped the ball.
- b. **Quarterback.** The quarterback is the offensive player who first gets possession of the ball after the snap. The quarterback cannot directly run with the ball across the line of scrimmage without first handing the ball off to a teammate and then receiving a second handoff back or receiving a pass.
- c. **Receiver/back.** Any player who does not initiate the snap nor receive the snap is considered an eligible receiver/back and can either receive a handoff or catch a pass.

NOTE: LEAGUES MAY CONSIDER WAIVING THE RESTRICTION ON LINING WITHIN THREE YARDS OF THE CENTER FOR YOUNGER AGE GROUPS.

Article 2. Defense

- a. **Blitzer.** A defender who lines up with all parts of their body more than 7 yards away from the scrimmage line at the snap can establish themselves as a blitzer with a legal signal by raising one hand clearly above the head at least during the last second prior to the snap. This grants them right of way which supersedes the general right of way for the offense, because they are pursuing the runner. The rush of a blitzer shall be immediately after the snap, quick and straight towards the point where the quarterback receives the snap in order to retain the right of way. If a blitzer is rushing late, slowly, towards a different spot, changing direction during the rush or just does not rush the quarterback, the player loses the right of way but still can participate as any other defender. If a blitzer is forced to change direction due to an offensive foul (shielding), the blitzer will not lose their right of way for a further direct rush to the point where quarterback received the snap.
- b. **Rusher.** A defender who does not give a signal and legally crosses the line of scrimmage. Following a legal handoff, any member of the defense can cross the line of scrimmage.

SECTION 4. EQUIPMENT

Article 1: Flag Belts

The organization provides each player with an official flag belt and team jersey. Teams will use footballs provided by their league. See Flag Specifications section for more details.

Article 2: Footwear

Players must wear rubber soled shoes. Cleats may not be allowed at certain locations. Cleats with exposed metal are never allowed and must be removed.

Article 3: Additional Equipment

Players may tape their forearms, hands and fingers. Players may wear gloves, elbow pads and knee pads. Braces with exposed metal are not allowed. Players must remove any jewelry and head wear (acceptable head wear is determined by league officials).

Article 4: Uniform Standards

Players' jerseys must be tucked into shorts or pants if they hang below the belt line.

We recommend players wear shorts or pants that do not have pockets. Shorts or pants with belt loops or pockets must be taped. Games will not be delayed for a player to tape up pockets.

- a. **Flag belts cannot be the same color as shorts or pants.**

Article 5: Mouthguards

All players must wear mouth guards while on the playing field.

SECTION 5. THE BALL

The ball shall be made of four panels of pebble-grained leather in natural tan color with eight equally spaced lacings and new or nearly new with no alterations. The ball shall be an ellipsoid spheroid of regulation dimensions and inflated to a pressure of between 12.5 and 13.5 psi (0.85 – 0.95 bar).

Article 1. Types of Football

Dimensions	Adult	Junior	Youth
Length	11.00 to 11.50 inches (27.9 – 29.2 cm)	10.50 to 11.00 inches (26.7 – 27.9 cm)	10.25 to 10.75 inches (26.0 – 27.3 cm)
Length circumference	27.00 to 28.00 inches (68.6 – 71.1 cm)	26.00 to 27.00 inches (66.0 – 68.6 cm)	25.00 to 26.00 inches (63.5 – 66.0 cm)
Diameter	6.25 to 6.75 inches (15.9 – 17.2 cm)	6.00 to 6.50 inches (15.2 – 16.5 cm)	5.75 to 6.25 inches (14.6 – 15.9 cm)
Cross circumference	20.00 to 21.00 inches (50.8 – 53.3 cm)	19.00 to 20.00 inches (48.3 – 50.8 cm)	18.00 to 19.00 inches (45.7 – 48.3 cm)
Weight	14 to 15 ounces (400 – 425 g)	12 to 13 ounces (340 – 370 g)	11 to 12 ounces (310 – 340 g)

Article 2. Sizes

- a. For men’s or co-ed games, adult size balls shall be used.
- b. For women’s games, use Youth Ball dimensions. (example: USA Football Youth or Wilson TDY)
- c. For junior games aged under-17, youth sized balls shall be used. (example: USA Football Youth or Wilson TDY)
- d. For youth games aged 9-13, junior size balls shall be used. Balls need not be leather. (example: USA Football Junior or Wilson TDJ)
- e. For youth games aged under-8, peewee size balls shall be used. (example USA Football peewee)

SECTION 6. FLAG SPECIFICATIONS

Article 1. General Provisions

Players of a team shall wear tightly fixed flag belts with pop-sockets and 2 identical flags. Every effort shall be made to keep one flag on each hip of the player. The sockets shall be placed facing outwards and downwards. The flags shall be clearly visible, hang down freely and must not be covered in any way by the player’s uniform and all colors must be contrasting with all colors on the pants. The flags and sockets may not be greased, glued or altered in any way. Any player, who deliberately manipulate their flags shall be disqualified. The flags and sockets each shall be made of the same material in the same color without sharp edges.

Article 2. Sizes

Dimensions	Measurements
The flags shall measure	2 inches (5 cm) x 15 inches (38 cm)
Flag length from socket	15 to 16 inches (38.1 – 0.6 cm).
Flag width:	1.9 to 2.1 inches (4.8 – 5.3 cm).
Brand or logo	On each flag one single color brand or logo in the upper quarter is allowed with a maximum size of 2x3 inches (5 x 7.5 cm).
Flag thickness:	maximum 0.03 inches (0.75 mm).
Flag weight	minim-um 3.5 ounces (100 g).

SECTION 7. THE FIELD**Article 1: Field Dimensions**

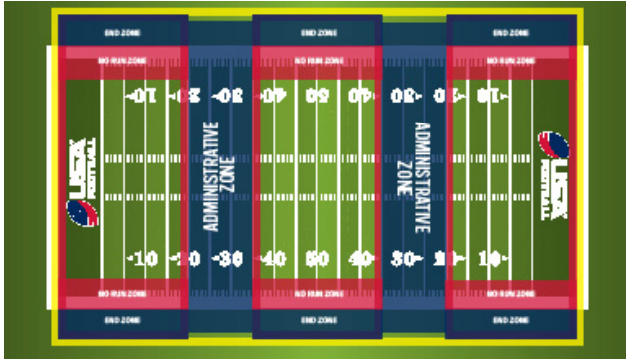
Field dimensions are 25 X 70 yards in total with two 10- yard end zones and a 50 yard field of play. No-run zones are only before the goal line. However, some locations may use smaller fields due to available field space.

Article 2: No-Run Zone's

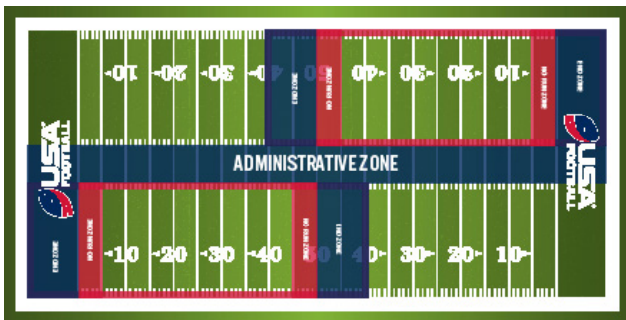
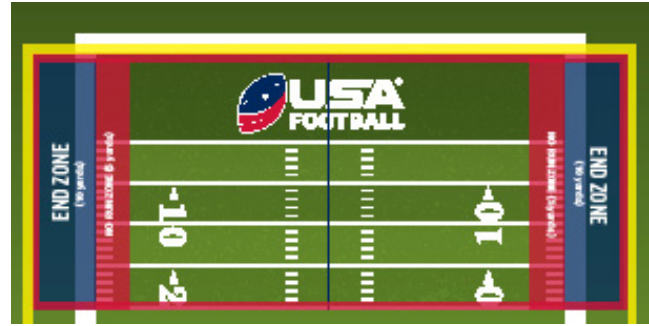
A No-run zone is in place to prevent teams from conducting run plays. While in the No-run zones (a 5-yard imaginary zone before the end zone), teams cannot run the ball in any fashion. All plays must be pass plays, even with a handoff.

USA FOOTBALL RECOMMENDATION: THE NO-RUN ZONE MAY BE REMOVED FOR PLAYERS WHO ARE STILL LEARNING BASIC PASSING AND CATCHING SKILLS.

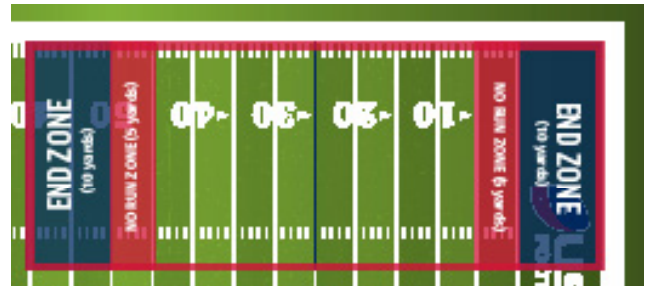
Article 3: Field Setup Diagrams



*Yellow line indicates lines of a soccer field



*Administration zones should be 3 yards wide.



RULE 2: LEAGUE AND TOURNAMENT PLAY

SECTION 1. LEAGUE PLAY

Article 1: Game Clock Settings

Games are played on a 40-minute continuous clock with two 20-minute halves unless one team gains a 30-point advantage at which point, the score is no longer kept. The clock stops for timeouts or injuries only, though officials can stop the clock at their discretion for injury, to stop a team from delaying or other unsportsmanlike conduct. For 18+ we recommend a pro clock last 2 min in both halves

USA FOOTBALL RECOMMENDS A RUNNING CLOCK AT THE YOUTH LEVEL (5-12 YEARS OLD), BUT IT IS UP TO THE LEAGUES DISCRETION TO USE A PRO-CLOCK INSTEAD. FOR JUNIOR ATHLETES (13-17 YEARS OLD) USA FOOTBALL RECOMMENDS THE USE OF A RUNNING CLOCK IN THE FIRST HALF AND A PRO-CLOCK IN THE SECOND HALF.

Article 2: Halftime

Halftime is five minutes.

Article 3: Delay of Game

Each time the ball is spotted, a team has 30 seconds to snap the ball. Teams will receive one warning before a delay-of-game penalty is enforced.

USA FOOTBALL RECOMMENDATION: OFFICIALS SHOULD USE DISCRETION WITH TEAMS WHO ARE STILL LEARNING BASIC FOOTBALL SKILLS AND MAY NEED MORE TIME TO LINE UP AND GET A PLAY OFF.

Article 4: Timeout's

Each team has two 30-second timeouts per half.

Article 5: Injury Stoppage

In the event of an injury, the clock will stop then restart when the injured player is removed from the field of play and both teams are lined up ready to restart the play.

Article 6. League Play Overtime

1. A coin flip will determine the team that chooses to be on offense or defense first.
 - a. If a second round of overtime must be played, the team that lost the coin toss will get to choose offense or defense for the start of the second round of overtime. This process continues with teams alternating who gets to choose to be on offense or defense to start out during every round of overtime.
 - b. The referee will determine on which end of the field the overtime will take place.
 - c. No charged team timeouts shall be granted.
2. In the first extra period, each team will have one series starting at the mid-field. On the first series, if the defense intercepts the ball and scores, then the overtime period is over.
3. Each team retains the ball during its series until it scores (including try downs for 1 or 2 points) or exhausts its series of downs. The ball remains alive after a change of team possession until it is declared dead. The series is then ended even if there is a second change of team possession during that down.
4. If after the first period (with 2 series including tries) the score is still tied, the second and following periods consist of series with each team playing a 1-point try from the 5-yard line. The overtime ends when the score after a period is no longer a tie or the defense scores during the first series of a period.
5. The team scoring the greater number of points during overtime shall be declared the winner.

SECTION 2. TOURNAMENT PLAY

Article 1: Tournament Play Clock Settings

Level of Play	Total Length of Game	Length of Halftime	Clock Settings
Youth (5-12 years old)	Two 12-minute halves	2 minutes	Running clock
Junior (13-17 years old)	Two 15-minute halves	2 minutes	Running clock- first half Pro clock- second half
Adult (18+)	Two 20-minute halves	2 minutes	Pro clock

*Up to tournament organizer’s discretion on what type of game clock setting they would like to use.

Article 2: Pro-Clock Operation

PRO-CLOCK CLOCK STOPS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To award a first down, also after a change of team possession. 2. To complete a penalty. 3. When the ball or the runner goes out of bounds. 4. When a pass or fumble (forward or backward) strikes the ground. 5. When a score is made and during and after the following try and onside snap. 6. When a charged timeout is granted.

Article 3. Tournament Play Overtime

1. A coin flip will determine the team that chooses to be on offense or defense first.
 - a. If a second round of overtime must be played, the team that lost the coin toss will get to choose offense or defense for the start of the second round of overtime. This process continues with teams alternating who gets to choose to be on offense or defense to start out during every round of overtime.
 - b. The official will determine on which end of the field the overtime will take place.
2. Each team will take turns getting one (1) play from the defense’s 5-yard line for one point or the

defense's 10-yard line for two points. Whether to go for one or two points is up to the offensive team. Whether or not the team that begins on offense converts, the team that started on defense gets a chance on offense to win or tie by converting a one- or two-point play of its own.

- a. Example: Team A starts on offense and chooses to go for one point from the 5-yard line and is successful. Team B is then on offense and can choose to either go for one point from the five-yard line to tie and force a second round of overtime or to go for two points from the 10-yard line for the win.
 - b. If the second team on offense in an overtime round fails to beat or match the team that went first, the team that went first wins.
3. All regulation period rules and penalties are in effect.
 4. There are no timeouts in overtime.

RULE 3: LIVE BALL / DEAD BALL

SECTION 1. LIVE BALL

Article 1: Live Ball Definition

The ball is live at the snap and remains live until an official's whistle blows the ball dead.

Article 2: Ball Spot

The official will indicate the neutral zone and line of scrimmage by spotting the ball before each play and signaling ready for play with a short whistle.

- a. It is an automatic dead ball foul if any player on defense or offense enters the neutral zone. In regard to the neutral zone, an official may give both teams a "courtesy" neutral zone notification prior to the snap to allow their players to move back behind the line of scrimmage.

Article 3: Pre-Snap Defense

The defense may not mimic the offensive team's signals by trying to confuse the offensive players while the quarterback is calling signals to start the play. This will result in an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.

Article 4: Possession

A player who gains possession of the ball is considered inbounds as long as one foot comes down in the field of play. Stepping on the boundary line is considered out of bounds.

SECTION 2. DEAD BALL

Article 1: Dead Ball Definition

Any official can whistle the play dead.

Play is ruled “dead” when:

- a. The ball hits the ground.
 - i. If the ball hits the ground as a result of a bad snap, the ball is then placed where the ball hit the ground.
- b. The ball-carrier’s flag is pulled.
- c. The ball-carrier steps out of bounds.
- d. A touchdown, PAT or safety is scored.
- e. Any part of the body other than feet or hands touches the ground.
- f. The ball-carrier’s flag falls out.
- g. The receiver catches the ball while in possession of one or no flag(s).
- h. An inadvertent whistle.

Article 2: Inadvertent Whistle

In the case of an inadvertent whistle, the offense has two options:

- a. Take the ball where it was when the whistle blew, and the down is consumed.
- b. Replay the down from the original line of scrimmage.

Article 3: Dead Ball Substitution

Substitutions may be made on any dead ball.

Article 4: Ruling Challenges

- a. A team is allowed to use a timeout to question an official’s rule interpretation. If the official’s ruling is correct, the team is charged a timeout. If the rule is interpreted incorrectly, the timeout is not charged and the proper ruling will be enforced. Officials should all agree upon any controversial call in order to give each team the full benefit of each call.
- b. A team with no timeout remaining cannot challenge a rule interpretation, though officials can come together independently and reverse a call by unanimous decision.

RULE 4: GAME PLAY

SECTION 1: SCORING

Article 1: Touchdown

Touchdown: Six 6 points

Article 2: Extra Points

PAT (point after touchdown) **1 point** (5-yard line) or **2 points** (10-yard line).

- a. Because of the No-run zone, a one point PAT is pass only; two point PAT can be run or pass.
 - i. Defense touchdown on a try - 2 points.
 - ii. Safety - 2 points
 - iii. Safety on a try - 1 point.

NOTE: AT YOUNGER LEVELS, LEAGUES SHOULD CONSIDER WAIVING THE NO-RUN ZONE FOR TOUCHDOWNS AND POINT-AFTER TRIES.

- b. A team that scores a touchdown must declare prior to the snap whether it wishes to attempt a one- or two-point conversion. Any change, once a decision is made to try for the extra point, requires a charged timeout. A decision cannot be changed after a penalty.

Article 3: Safety

2 points

- a. A safety occurs when the ball-carrier is declared down in his or her own endzone. Runners can be called down when their flags are pulled by a defensive player, a flag falls out, they step out of bounds, a knee or arm touches the ground, a fumble occurs in the endzone or if a snapped ball lands in or beyond the end zone. A penalty in the end zone (i.e. flag guarding) can also be ruled a safety.

Article 4: Mercy Rule

- a. After one team is leading by 30 points or more, the game is over and no PATs are attempted.
- b. Forfeits will be scored 30-0.

SECTION 2: RUNNING

Article 1: Spotting the Ball

The ball is spotted where the runner's front foot is when the flag is pulled, not the position of the ball.

Article 2: Legal Running Plays

Only direct handoffs behind the line of scrimmage are permitted. Handoffs may be in front, behind or to the side of the offensive player but must take place behind the line of scrimmage. The offense may use multiple handoffs. The quarterback cannot directly run with the ball.

- a. The “center sneak” play is not allowed as centers are ineligible to receive handoffs.
- b. Any player who receives a handoff can throw the ball from behind the line of scrimmage.
- c. Once the ball has been handed off in front, behind or to the side of the quarterback, all defensive players are eligible to rush.

Article 3: No Run Zone

No-run zone are located five yards before the end zone in the direction the offense is headed. They are designed to avoid short-yardage, power-running situations. Teams are not allowed to run in this zone.

USA FOOTBALL RECOMMENDATION: THE NO-RUN ZONE MAY BE REMOVED FOR PLAYERS WHO ARE STILL LEARNING BASIC PASSING AND CATCHING SKILLS.

Article 4: Flag Guarding

- a. Flag guarding is an attempt by the ball-carrier to obstruct the defender’s access to the flags by stiff arming, dropping the head, hand, arm or shoulder or intentionally covering the flags with the football jersey
- b. Runners may not leave their feet to advance the ball. Diving, leaping or jumping to avoid a flag pull is considered flag guarding.
- c. Spinning is allowed, but players cannot leave their feet to avoid a flag pull. Players spinning out of control will be called for flag guarding.
- d. Runners may leave their feet if there is a clear indication that he/she has done so to avoid collision with another player without a flag guarding penalty enforced.
- e. Flag obstruction – All jerseys must be tucked in before play begins. The flags must be on the player’s hips and free from obstruction. Deliberately obstructed flags will be considered flag guarding.

Article 5: Blocking / Screening

No blocking or “screening” is allowed at any time.

Article 6: Running With the Ball-Carrier

Offensive players without the ball must stop their motion once the ball has crossed the line of scrimmage. There is no running with the ball-carrier.

SECTION 3: PASSING

Article 1: Forward Pass

A pass is considered a forward pass if the ball first touches anything beyond the spot where the ball is released. All other passes are backward passes, even if it is lateral (parallel to the scrimmage line).

- a. The quarterback may throw the ball away to avoid a sack. The pass must go beyond the line of scrimmage and be in the vicinity of a receiver.
- b. Quarterbacks cannot spike the ball dead unless the ball travels beyond the line of scrimmage and is in the vicinity of a teammate.
- c. Any player who has received a legal handoff can throw the ball forward as long as they are still behind the line of scrimmage.

USA FOOTBALL RECOMMENDATION: FOR TEAMS THAT ARE STILL LEARNING BASIC FOOTBALL SKILLS, OFFICIALS SHOULD USE THEIR DISCRETION FOR BALLS THAT DO NOT REACH THE LINE OF SCRIMMAGE AS LONG AS THE PLAYER MADE AN HONEST EFFORT TO MAKE IT THERE.

Article 2: Shovel Pass

Shovel passes are allowed but must be received beyond the line of scrimmage.

Article 3: Seven Second Clock

A seven-second pass clock begins upon the snap and continues until there is a handoff or pass. If the seven-second clock expires while the quarterback still has the ball, the play is blown dead, a down is lost and the ball is returned to the line of scrimmage as if an incomplete pass occurred.

SECTION 4: RECEIVING

Article 1: Eligible Receivers

All players – are eligible to receive passes.

Article 2: Legal Reception

A player must have at least one foot inbounds to make a legal reception.

Article 3: Simultaneous Possession

In the case of simultaneous possession by both an offensive and defensive player, possession is awarded to the offense.

Article 4: Interceptions

Interceptions are returnable and are the only changes of possession that do not result with starting on the 5-yard line.

SECTION 5: BLITZER AND RUSHER

Article 1: Blitzzer

All Blitzzers must be a minimum of seven yards behind the line of scrimmage when the ball is snapped and must declare themselves by raising their hand. Players not blitzing the quarterback can defend on the line of scrimmage. No more than two players may establish themselves as Blitzzers on a given play.

USA FOOTBALL RECOMMENDATION: FOR TEAMS STILL LEARNING BASIC FOOTBALL SKILLS, ELIMINATE PASS BLITZERS TO ALLOW PLAYERS THE FULL SEVEN SECONDS TO THROW THE BALL WITHOUT PRESSURE.

Article 2: Rusher

Once the ball is handed off, the 7-yard rule no longer is in effect, and all defenders may go behind the line of scrimmage. At this point players crossing the line of scrimmage are Rushers.

Article 3: Legal Blitzing

A marker, or the official, will designate a rush line seven yards from the line of scrimmage. Defensive players should verify they are in the correct position and identify themselves before every play.

- a. A legal blitz is:
 - i. Any rush from a point 7 yards from the defensive line of scrimmage.
 - ii. If a blitzzer leaves the rush line early (breaks the 7-yard area), they may return to the rush line, reset and then legally rush the quarterback.
 - iii. If a blitzzer leaves the rush line early and the ball is handed off before he/she crosses the line of scrimmage, he/she may legally rush the second receiver.
- b. A penalty may be called if:
 - i. The Blitzzer leaves the rush line before the snap crosses the line of scrimmage before a handoff or pass – illegal rush (5 yards from the line of scrimmage and first down).
 - ii. Any defensive player crosses the line of scrimmage before the ball is snapped – offsides (5 yards from line of scrimmage and first down).
 - iii. Any defensive player not lined up at the rush line or declared crosses the line of scrimmage before the ball is passed or handed off – illegal rush (5 yards from the line of scrimmage and first down).
 - iv. A maximum of 2 players may establish themselves as a blitzzer. If a player who signals is less than 7 yards from the line of scrimmage or if a player is giving an invalid signal or if more than 2 players simultaneously keep their hand raised after the snapper has touched the ball, it's a foul for illegal signal. Foul - 5 yards from the line of scrimmage.

c. Special circumstances:

- i. Teams are not required to rush the quarterback with the seven second clock in effect.
- ii. Teams are required to identify their Blitzler before the play.

Article 4: Roughing the Passer

Players blitzing the quarterback may attempt to block a pass; however, NO contact can be made with the quarterback in any way. Blocking the pass or attempting to block the pass and then making contact with the passer will result in a roughing the passer penalty.

Article 5: Impeding the Blitzler

The offense cannot impede the Blitzler in any way. The Blitzlers have the right to a clear path to the quarterback, regardless of where they line up prior to the snap. If the “path or line” is occupied by a moving offensive player, then it is the offense’s responsibility to avoid the Blitzler. Any disruption to the Blitzler’s path and/or contact will result in an impeding the blitzler penalty. If the offensive player does not move after the snap, then it is the Blitzler’s responsibility to go around the offensive player and to avoid contact.

Article 6: Quarterback Sack

A sack occurs if the quarterback’s flag are pulled behind the line of scrimmage. The ball is placed where the quarterback’s feet are when flag is pulled.

- a. A safety is awarded if the sack takes place in the offensive team’s end zone.

SECTION 6. HOLDING, SHIELDING, CONTACT AND AIMING

Article 1: Holding

Holding is grasping an opponent or their equipment, not releasing immediately and impacting the opponent.

Article 2: Shielding

Shielding is obstructing an opponent without contact by moving into their path. A moving player without right of way who impedes an opponent from running a pass route, getting to the runner or impedes a legal blitzler is guilty of shielding. A player standing still (with the right of place) is not shielding, even if the player is obstructing an opponent.

Article 3: Contact

Contact is touching an opponent with impact. Touching with no impact is not a foul.

Article 4: Aiming

Aiming is to target and initiate contact with an opponent or to run into an opponent on purpose, even with right of way. Aiming is any deliberate or avoidable contact with excessive force, even in an attempted flag pull or while playing the ball during a pass. Aiming is to attack a ball in possession or take away the ball from the runner.

SECTION 7. FLAG PULLING

Article 1: Legal Flag Pull

A legal flag pull takes place when the ball-carrier is in full possession of the ball.

Article 2: Diving and Holding

Defenders can dive to pull flags but cannot tackle, hold or run through the ball-carrier when pulling flags.

Article 3: Stripping

It is illegal to attempt to strip or pull the ball from the ball-carrier's possession at any time.

Article 4: Inadvertent Loss of Flag

If a player's flag inadvertently falls off during the play, the player is down immediately upon possession of the ball and the play ends. The ball is placed where the flag lands.

Article 5: Illegal Flag Pull

A defensive player may not intentionally pull the flags off of a player who is not in possession of the ball.

- a. If a defender makes a good-faith flag pull while a receiver bobbles or juggles what will be a completed catch, the ball is down where possession is made.

SECTION 8. FORMATIONS

Article 1: Offensive Formations

Offenses must have a minimum of one player on the line of scrimmage (the center) and any number of players on the line of scrimmage. The quarterback must be off the line of scrimmage.

- a. One player at a time may go in motion 1 yard behind and parallel to the line of scrimmage.
EXAMPLE: An offensive player lined up 3 yards deep in the backfield can never go in motion. A player in motion must either start from a set position on the line of scrimmage or 1 yard off to adhere to the rule.
- b. No motion is allowed toward the line of scrimmage.

Article 2: False Start

Movement by a player who is set or a player who runs toward the line of scrimmage while in motion is considered a false start.

Article 3: Legal Snap

The center must snap the ball with a rapid and continuous motion between his/her legs to a player in the backfield, and the ball must completely leave his/her hands.

SECTION 9. UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

Article 1: Intentional Contact

If the field monitor or official witnesses any acts of intentional tackling, elbowing, cheap shots, blocking or any unsportsmanlike act, the game will be stopped and the player will be ejected from the game. The decision is made at the referee's discretion. No appeals will be considered. FOUL PLAY WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!

- a. Players may not physically or verbally abuse any opponent, coach or official.
- b. Ball-carriers MUST make an effort to avoid defenders with an established position.
- c. Defenders are not allowed to run through the ball-carrier when pulling flags.

USA FOOTBALL RECOMMENDATION: FOR TEAMS STILL LEARNING BASIC FOOTBALL SKILLS, REMOVE ANY PLAYER WHO COMMITS AN UNSPORTSMANLIKE OR DANGEROUS ACT FROM THE FIELD TO RECEIVE INSTRUCTION FROM A COACH AND A COOLING OFF PERIODS. OFFICIALS CAN EJECT THE PLAYER AT THEIR DISCRETION IF THERE ARE CONTINUED INFRACTIONS THAT ARE DEEMED INTENTIONAL.

Article 2: Offensive Language

Offensive or confrontational language is not allowed. Officials have the right to determine offensive language. If offensive or confrontational language occurs, the referee will give one warning. If it continues, the player or players will be ejected from the game.

Article 3: Spectator Conduct

Fans must also adhere to good sportsmanship as well:

- a. Yell to cheer on your players, not to harass officials or other teams.
- b. Keep comments clean and profanity free.
- c. Compliment ALL players, not just one child or team.

Article 4: Field Safety

Fans are required to keep fields safe and kid-friendly:

- a. Keep younger kids and equipment such as coolers, chairs and tents a minimum of 10 yards off the field in the end zone area.
- b. Stay in the end zone area, not between fields. The Administrative Zone is reserved for league administration, game officials, medical personnel, coaches and players only.
- c. Dispose of ALL trash in designated trash cans.

Article 5: Unsportsmanlike Conduct Penalty

Unsportsmanlike conduct penalties:

- a. Defense + 10 yards from line of scrimmage and automatic first down
- b. Offense - 10 yards from line of scrimmage and loss of down

RULE 5: OFFICIAL DUTIES

SECTION 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1: Jurisdiction of Officials

Jurisdiction of Officials - The officials' jurisdiction begins with the coin toss and ends when the Referee declares the score final.

Article 2: Number of Officials

Number of Officials - The game shall be played under the supervision of 2 (R and FJ), 3 (R, DJ and FJ) or 4 (R, DJ, FJ and SJ) officials.

- a. If officiating crews contain 2 or 3 officials, the other job responsibilities are to be split accordingly.

SECTION 2. REFEREE

Article 1: Position

The initial position of the Referee is behind and to the side of the FJ in the offensive backfield. On a 2-man crew, the Referee is positioned and working like Down Judge.

Article 2: Basic Responsibilities

Basic Responsibilities:

- a. The Referee has general oversight and control of the game, has final authority for the score and their decisions upon rules and other matters pertaining to the game are final.
- b. The Referee shall inspect the field and report any irregularities to game management, coaches and other officials.
- c. The Referee has jurisdiction over player equipment.
- d. The Referee shall indicate that the ball is ready for play, award new series of downs and administer penalties.
- e. The Referee shall notify both head coaches of any disqualifications.
- f. After the snap, the Referee shall be responsible for ruling on the play behind the scrimmage line around the ball.
- g. The Referee is responsible for coverage of the quarterback.

SECTION 3. DOWN JUDGE

Article 1: Position

The initial position of the Down Judge is on the scrimmage line at the side line with the down indicator.

Article 2: Basic Responsibilities

Basic Responsibilities:

- a. The Down Judge is responsible for the operation of the down indicator.
- b. The Down Judge shall keep count of the downs.
- c. The Down Judge has jurisdiction over the scrimmage line and their side line.
- d. Once the ball has crossed the scrimmage line, the Down Judge shall be responsible for ruling on the play around the ball and forward progress on their side of the field.

SECTION 4. FIELD JUDGE

Article 1: Position

The initial position of the Field Judge is 7 yards deep at the side line opposite to the down indicator.

Article 2: Basic Responsibilities

Basic Responsibilities:

- a. On a 2 or 3-man crew the Field Judge is responsible for timing the game or supervising the game clock operator.
- b. The Field Judge has jurisdiction over their side line.
- c. Once the ball has crossed the scrimmage line, the Field Judge shall be responsible for ruling on the play around the ball and forward progress on their side of the field.

SECTION 5. SIDE JUDGE

Article 1: Position

The initial position of the Side Judge is 7 or more yards deep at the side line with the down indicator.

Article 2: Basic Responsibilities

Basic Responsibilities:

- a. The Side Judge is responsible for timing the game or supervising the game clock operator.
- b. The Side Judge shall be responsible for observing receivers on deep routes for ruling on long passes and the status of the ball and forward progress in their area.

RULE 6: PENALTIES

SECTION 1.

General Provisions

The officials will call all penalties.
Game officials determine incidental contact that may result from normal run of play.
All penalties will be assessed from the line of scrimmage, except as noted (spot fouls).
Only the team captain or head coach may ask the referee questions about rule clarification and interpretations. Players may not question calls.
Games may not end on a defensive penalty unless the offense declines it.
Penalties are assessed live ball then dead ball. Live ball penalties must be assessed before play is considered complete.
Penalties will be assessed half the distance to the goal yardage when the penalty yardage is more than half the distance to the goal.

SECTION 2.

Defensive Spot Fouls

Holding	Automatic first down
Stripping	+10 yards and automatic first down
Illegal flag pull (Before the receiver has the ball)	+5 Yards From the Spot
Illegal Equipment	+5 from the spot. *Further infractions may result in unsportsmanlike conduct up to ejection.

SECTION 3.

Offensive Spot Fouls

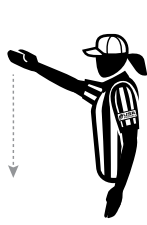
Screening, blocking or running with the ball	-10 yards and loss of down
Charging	-10 yards and loss of down
Flag guarding	-5 yards and loss of down
Illegal Equipment	-5 yards from the spot of the foul. *Further infractions may result in unsportsmanlike conduct up to ejection

SECTION 4.**Defensive Penalties**

Defensive pass interference	+10 yards from the line of scrimmage and automatic first down
Defensive unnecessary roughness	+10 yards from the line of scrimmage and automatic first down
Defensive unsportsmanlike conduct	+10 yards from the line of scrimmage and automatic first down
Offsides	+5 yards from line of scrimmage
Illegal rush (Starting rush from inside 7-yard marker)	+5 yards from line of scrimmage
Illegal Signal	+5 yards from the line of scrimmage. Live ball foul
Roughing the passer	+5 yards from line of scrimmage and automatic first down
Taunting	+5 yards & automatic first down

SECTION 5.**Offensive Penalties**

Offensive unnecessary roughness	-10 yards from the line of scrimmage and loss of down
Offensive unsportsmanlike conduct	-10 yards from the line of scrimmage and loss of down
Offsides / false start	-5 yards from line of scrimmage
Delay of game	-5 yards from line of scrimmage
Illegal forward pass (Any pass received or lands behind the line of scrimmage or throwing a pass after crossing the line of scrimmage)	-5 yards from line of scrimmage and loss of down
Offensive pass interference	-10 yards from line of scrimmage and loss of down
Illegal motion (More than one person moving)	-5 yards from line of scrimmage and loss of down
Impeding the Blitzer	-5 yards from line of scrimmage and loss of down
Taunting	-5 yards and loss of down
Center Sneak	-5 yards from the line of scrimmage and loss of down
Backwards pass	-5 yards from the line of scrimmage and loss of down



Ready for play



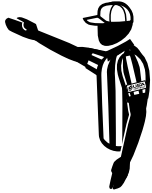
Stop the clock



Touchdown



Safety



First down



Loss of down



Incomplete pass



End of period



**Offside
Illegal blitz**



**False start
Illegal procedure**



**Delay of game
Delay of pass**



**Illegal participation
Illegal substitution**



**Unsportsmanlike
conduct**



Pass interference



**Illegal forward pass or
backward pass**



Illegal contact



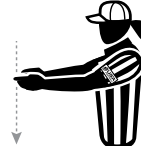
Shielding



Disqualification



Jumping



Diving



**Flag guarding
Illegal flag pull**

****THIS REPRESENTS PRACTICE AND IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES BASED ON OUR CURRENT LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE. RECOMMENDATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS MORE RESEARCH AND INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE.****



USA FLAG 5'S
RULEBOOK



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Home > U.S. National Team > Flag Football Rules

FLAG FOOTBALL RULES

Flag football is a way to experience the excitement of the game – without contact. It's a fun and fast-paced Game Type that can be played at any age and on various field sizes.



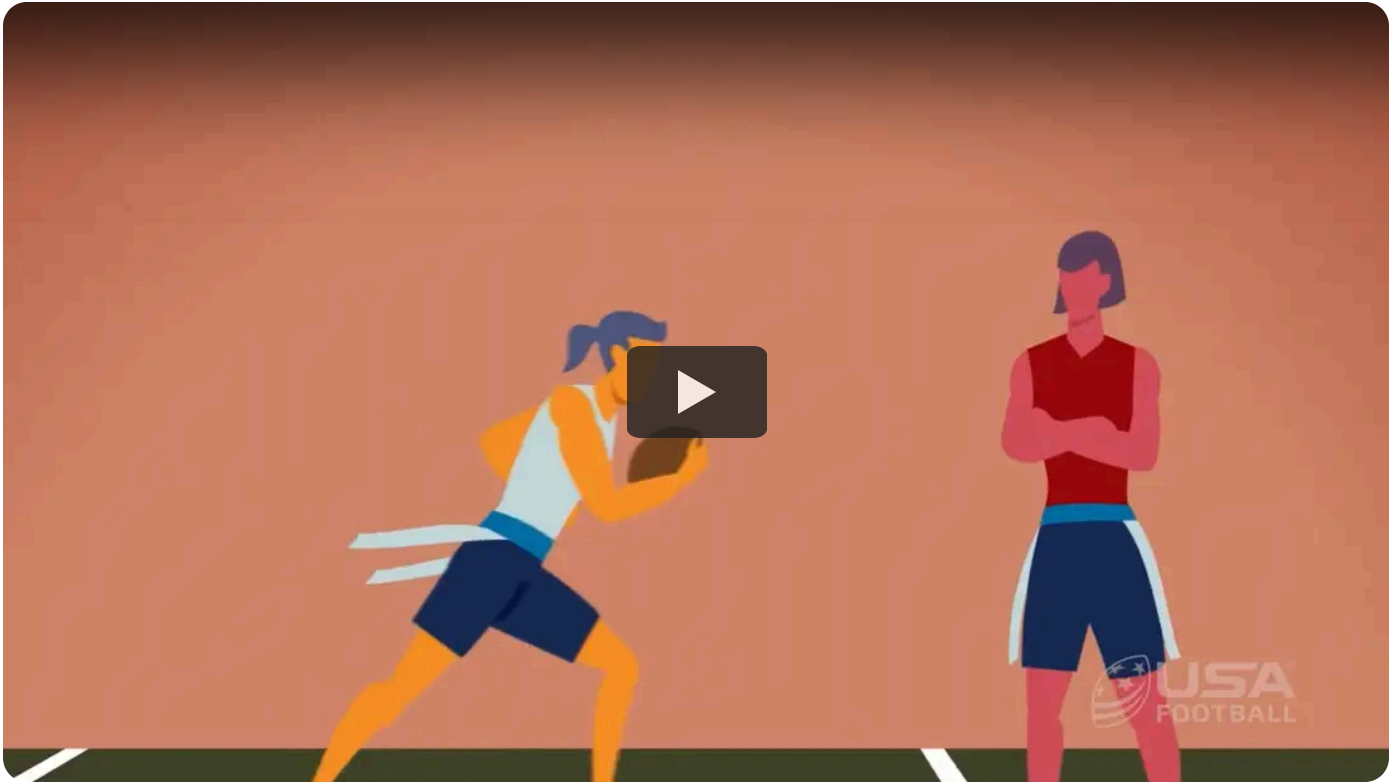
HOW IS FLAG DIFFERENT FROM TACKLE?

- **No lineman or blocking.** The center snaps the ball and becomes a receiver. All forms of contact are forbidden. Any attempt to block or shield an opponent is a penalty.



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- **No Run Zone.** Depending on the set of rules being enforced, a no run zone prevents teams from conducting run plays. While in no-run zones teams cannot run the ball in any fashion. All plays must be run plays. According to the USA Football's rules the no-run zone is a 5-yard imaginary zone before each endzone. IFAF also includes no-run zones within 5-yards on each side of midfield.
- **Blitzer.** Defenders who blitz the quarterback must line up at least 7 yards behind the line of scrimmage. All blitzers must be self-identified by raising one hand in the air. It is illegal for any offensive player to impede the path of the blitzer at any time.



FLAG FOOTBALL RULES 101

Flag football is rising! It's one of the fastest-growing games in the world and was recently added to the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles.



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LEARN MORE ABOUT FLAG FOOTBALL

Flag National Teams



IFAF FIVES RULES

The IFAF Flag rules are recognized as the official rules for international competition. This is the set used for the World Games, Continental Championships, and eventually the Olympics. This Style is played throughout the world. The rulebook you will find through the button below contains descriptions and rules for Beach Flag, Indoor Flag, 5v5, and 7v7.

Access Rules



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USA FOOTBALL 5V5

The **USA FLAG™** 5's Rulebook is a condensed version of the larger IFAF rulebook. Additionally, it contains separate rules for league play and tournament play making it useful to flag organizations regardless of how they structure their competition. It also contains suggestions for modifications to the game or rules based on age and skill level.

[Access Rules](#)



THE ONE USA FLAG™ RULEBOOK

These are the rules used at USA Football sanctioned events including Qualifiers and The One Flag Championship. For a tournament to be sanctioned and have athletes scouted by the U.S. National Team, game play **MUST** use this book. There is no section for league play in this rulebook as it includes tournament operation and rules only.

[Access Rules](#)



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USA FOOTBALL 7V7

The **USA FLAG™** 7's Rulebook mirrors the **USA FLAG™** 5's Rulebook with adjustments made for the additional two players. This is an excellent resource for youth leagues where they want more players on the field to maximize the amount of coaches and playing time in their program.

[Access Rules](#)

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The One Flag Tournament & Championship

Tournament Athlete Age Verification

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Select Teams & Select Bowl

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U.S. Men's U20 Tackle National Team



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Home > Tournaments & Events > The One Flag Championship

ARE YOU THE ONE TO BEAT?

Prove it in Olympic-Inspired play at USA Football's Flag Championship - The One.



PROVE YOU ARE THE ONE TO BEAT

The One Flag Championship is the tournament where youth and adult teams can prove they're the ones to beat and get scouted for a U.S. National Team.

Learn more about the Road to The One, watch the replays, and see the list of division winners from this year's 2024 event below!

[Road to The One](#)

[Game Replays](#)

THE ONE FLAG CHAMPIONSHIP 2024

DIVISION WINNERS

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Congratulations to all the teams that came out and gave it their all on the field at The One. The teams below proved that they are The Ones to beat.

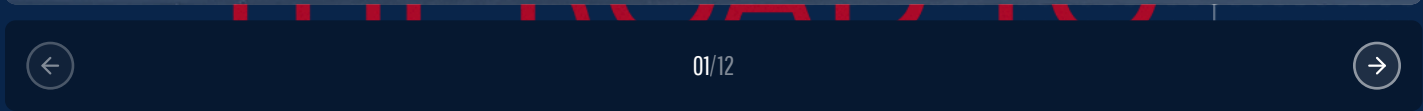
- 10U Boys: Tampa Bay Bolts
- 10U Girls: BNA Elite Herricanes
- 12U Boys: HBHF
- 12U Girls: NEFFL Playmakers
- 14U Boys: Leones
- 14U Girls: Seals
- 16U Boys: The Club
- 16U Girls: Pirate Bay Krewe
- 18U Girls: Apex Predators
- Adult Men: New Dynasty
- Adult Women: Top Shelf
- Special Olympics North America: Allen



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10U Boys Winners: Tampa Bay Bolts (MVP: Jace McCluster)



THE ONE





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QUALIFIER

QUALIFIERS

Qualifiers are hosted by USA Football and there will be multiple ones throughout the country for you and your squad to compete at. Get ready to show up and show out!

BENEFITS OF COMPETING IN A QUALIFIER

- Division winners earn an automatic FREE bid to The One!
- Earn points toward Team Rankings to qualify for The One Flag Championship
- Get Scouted for the 2025 U.S. National Team
- Compete in elite flag play

LEARN MORE



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OFFICIAL SANCTIONED TOURNAMENT

SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS

Sanctioned Tournaments are run by independent operators or leagues across the country. Look for USA Football's Sanctioned Tournament Seal when picking tournaments to help you earn a spot at The One!

BENEFITS OF COMPETING IN SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS

- Earn points toward Team Rankings to qualify for The One Flag Championship
- 2025 U.S. National Team scouting opportunities at select events
- Compete in elite flag play

LEARN MORE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The One Flag Championship 2024

WHAT WAS THE DATE AND LOCATION OF THE ONE IN 2024?



WAS THE ONE AN OPEN TOURNAMENT IN 2024?





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WHAT WAS THE REGISTRATION PRICE PER TEAM FOR THE ONE IN 2024?



WHAT AGE DIVISIONS COMPETED AT THE ONE IN 2024?



WHAT WAS THE BIRTHDAY CUTOFF FOR THE DIVISIONS FOR THE ONE IN 2024?



WHAT WERE THE ROSTER SIZES FOR THE ONE IN 2024?



COULD A PLAYER BE ON MORE THAN ONE ROSTER FOR THE ONE IN 2024?



WAS PLAYER IDENTIFICATION REQUIRED FOR THE ONE IN 2024? IF SO, WHAT WAS THE COST AND THROUGH WHAT PROVIDER?



WHAT WAS THE TOURNAMENT FORMAT & HOW MANY GAMES WERE GUARANTEED FOR THE ONE IN 2024?



WHAT RULEBOOK WAS USED FOR THE ONE IN 2024?



The One **USA FLAG™** 5's Rulebook

Download Now

WHAT FOOTBALLS WERE REQUIRED TO BE USED FOR THE ONE IN 2024?



WHAT FLAG BELTS WERE REQUIRED TO BE USED FOR THE ONE IN 2024?



WAS THERE SCOUTING AT THE ONE IN 2024?



WHAT AWARDS WERE GIVEN TO THE WINNERS OF THE ONE 2024?



WHAT SCHEDULING AND REGISTRATION PLATFORM WAS USED FOR THE ONE 2024?



WHEN WAS THE SCHEDULE POSTED FOR THE ONE IN 2024?



WHAT WAS THE COST FOR SPECTATORS TO ATTEND THE ONE IN 2024?



WERE THERE OTHER EVENTS HAPPENING DURING THE 2024 TOURNAMENT AND LEADING UP TO IT?





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WHEN AND WHERE DID TEAMS CHECK-IN FOR THE ONE IN 2024?



WERE THERE CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE AT THE ONE IN 2024?



WAS THERE PARKING AVAILABLE AT THE ONE IN 2024?



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- Competitions
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MORE OPTIONS

USA TACKLE™ & USA FLAG™

GAME TYPES & CATEGORIES

From flag to tackle, there are more paths to play football than ever before. Keep reading to see which ones are best for your athlete or organization.

01:28

FOOTBALL FOR ALL®

There are lots of ways to play this great game. Some athletes are ready to jump in and stick with tackle or flag the rest of their life, while others need a step-by-step approach that bridges one way to play to another.

The Football Development Model makes it easier to get started. No matter your athlete's age, skill level or way they want to play, there's an option for them that meets them where they're comfortable.

These options are called *Game Types* and *Game Categories*. These give organizations and athletes new entry-points to the game along with a gradual progression of added complexity and competition. This approach offers many paths to play, many ways to develop and many reasons to stick with the game.

WHY WE BELIEVE

MORE ENTRY POINTS



Football is America's favorite sport, but it's played in a lot of different ways.

Organizations that implement the model and these Game Types are offering more options for the athletes in their community and are providing athletes with more reasons to stick with the game.

INFORMED DECISIONS



Football can seem complicated for athletes and their parents. These options simplify the path and help organizations build fun and supportive environments.

With differing Levels of Contact and more Game Types, parents can pick the right entry point for their athlete.

LESS CONTACT



When organizations offer this step-by-step approach to playing the game, athletes will naturally experience less contact.

Overall, the Game Types that makeup the Football Development Model are designed to be a smarter and safer way to play and teach the game.

SKILL PROGRESSION



By taking a step-by-step approach to development for every football skill, proper fundamentals become easier to teach and learn.

Through our Game Types and resources, skills can be taught and learned in a way that is developmentally appropriate for the athlete, improving their understanding.

SPOTLIGHT: CREATING A BRIDGE FROM FLAG TO TACKLE

Helping athletes progress from flag to tackle hasn't been straight forward. The new model bridges the divide - whether that's through coach education or ways to play.

Let's focus on the Game Category called Limited Contact. It acts as a bridge from flag to full contact, played on both smaller and full-sized fields. Wearing helmets and shoulder pads, plus TackleBar® harnesses or flag belts, athletes learn how to block, track and engage without purposefully going to the ground.

CASE STUDY: See how a league in Indiana bridged the divide, including parent and administrator reactions

[GET THE STUDY](#)



Flag Football & Zionsville (Ind.) Youth Football League

In 2019, the Zionsville (Ind.) Youth Football League (ZYFL) incorporated flag and TackleBar® football into its league offering, forming its current structure:

Game Type	Grade/Age
Flag	Grades K-1 and 1-2
TackleBar	Grade 3
Minors (11-player, full-field)	Grade 4
Majors (11-player, full-field)	Grade 5-6

- The league's first season of flag for Grade K-1 and Grades 1-2 divisions drew 303 players.
- After replacing tackle with TackleBar, Grade 3 participation increased from 14 in 2018 to 47 in 2019.
- Grade 4 contact football - increased from 42 in 2018 to 56 in 2019.

The following Q&A was created to share the league's experience of adding game types this past fall. Responses below are given by ZYFL Commissioner Andrew Manna and the league's TackleBar Division Commissioner Josh Medvescek.

GAME CATEGORIES



USA FLAG™ NON-CONTACT

Athletes can experience many of the positions and skills of football in Non-Contact, often on smaller and shorter fields with fewer athletes. Our resources help coaches teach proper tracking skills to help athletes excel while preparing for versions of the game with more contact later in life.

[LEARN MORE](#)

▼ **FLAG**

USA TACKLE™
LIMITED CONTACT

The new principles of Limited Contact introduce player-to-player contact in a progressive way through equipment options such as TackleBar or Padded Flag, all while keeping athletes on their feet.

[LEARN MORE](#)

▼ **ROOKIE LIMITED CONTACT™**

▼ **SENIOR LIMITED CONTACT™**





USA TACKLE™ CONTACT

Contact football can be played in many ways - from the game we see on Sundays to small-sided games with fewer athletes.

[LEARN MORE](#)

▼ **ROOKIE TACKLE®**

▼ **SENIOR TACKLE®**

“

00:33

MIKE LAFLEUR ON PROGRESSING THROUGH GAME TYPES

00:56

CHRIS SNYDER ON SUCCESS WITH GAME TYPE PROGRESSIONS

HOW YOUR ORGANIZATION CAN GET STARTED

More ways to play doesn't have to be overwhelming. For help on getting started, contact your USA Football Regional Manager.

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SIGN UP TO STAY CONNECTED

Receive updates and more information on the future of football.

[GET UPDATES](#)



The Football Development Model is USA Football's adoption of the American Development Model



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USA FLAG ANNOUNCES MULTIYEAR DEAL WITH CBS SPORTS FOR 2025 FLAG FOOTBALL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



USAFLA

USAFLAG

ON **CBS SPORTS NETWORK**

TAMPA, FL
JANUARY 15-19, 2025

**2025
FLAG
FOOTBALL
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS**

USA FLAG ANNOUNCES MULTIYEAR DEAL WITH CBS SPORTS NETWORK FOR 2025 FLAG FOOTBALL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



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USA Flag today announced a multi-year deal with CBS Sports ahead of the upcoming 2025 Flag Football World Championships. The event will see Flag Football’s largest adult and youth flag football tournament air on CBS Sports Network and online across streaming services via the CBS Sports app.

The 2025 Flag Football World Championships will be held in Tampa Bay, Florida from January 15-19, at the Tournament City Center and showcases the best talent in the sport – bringing more than 1,200 teams, 10,000 athletes and 25,000 people in throughout the course of the event weekend to the local area.

“USA Flag has proven itself to be one of the main driving forces in the flag football space and today’s announcement with their World Championships to new heights in the years ahead,” said Jason Aughey, Senior Vice President of Sports Tour Sports Commission, when noting the impact the event has had on Tampa. “The growth that this event has experienced over the years in Tampa is truly staggering and we could not be more excited about the future and our partnership with USA Flag. CBS Sports will afford viewers the opportunity to see the best flag football teams in the world competing at our renowned Tampa Bay and enjoying all that our destination has to offer.”

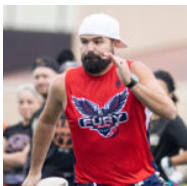
“The Flag Football World Championships has been the pinnacle event globally for the flag football community for many years. It’s astounding to see all of the players and teams come in from all over the world to play in this event” President & Co-Founder Charles Davis added.

For the 2025 Flag Football World Championships and upcoming season, BODYARMOR Sports Drink will also be featured as a “Hydration Partner” of USA Flag with the brand’s premium hydration options included on sidelines for all upcoming events.

“Flag Football is one of the largest growing sports and we’re excited to be a part of the movement by partnering up with BODYARMOR to hydrating more than the 100,000 athletes that take part in their events year-round,” said Tom Gargiulo, CMO of BODYARMOR Nutrition. “Adding CBS Sports to the roster only gives the sport more opportunities to grow and expand its reach.”

The 2025 Flag Football World Championships are an OPEN invite event, meaning any team regardless of location can enter to compete. There are youth boys’ and girls’ divisions, high school boys and girls, collegiate men and women as well as men’s and women’s and coed divisions. There is no need to qualify so anyone can compete and have fun.

If you or your team is looking to play, you can visit USA Flag online for more information at www.usaflag.org



Travis Burnett

A veteran flag football player and creator of FlagSpin.com, Travis helped found the Flag Football World Championship Tour as a way to help revitalize and continue growing the sport, work to incorporate technology and bring bigger and better events to the players and fans across the world.



NOVEMBER 14, 2024 CATEGORY: ARTICLES

NO COMMENTS



DRAFT INFO



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TRAVIS BURNETT

A veteran flag football player and creator of FlagSpin.com, Travis helped found the Flag Football Championship Tour as a way to help revitalize and continue growing the sport, work to incorporate sponsors and bring bigger and better events to the players and fans across the world.

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2024 FLAG FOOTBALL WORLD
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**SHOCK DOCTOR
WITH USA FLAG
TERM DEAL**

NO COMMENTS

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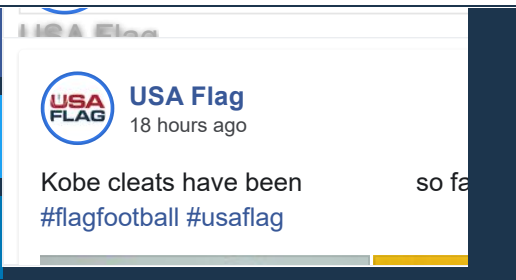
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NON-CONTACT FLAG FOOTBALL



FOOTBALL / / / / /
DEVELOPMENT
/ / / / / **MODEL**

FIVE PLAYER ENGAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT TIPS

FUN / FAST / FUNDAMENTALS

Experience the excitement of the game without the contact. Flag is the heart of Non-Contact, and it's a fun and fast-paced Game Type that can be played at any age on various field sizes. Flag is the first entry point for many organizations. It's an inclusive way to get new athletes from your community involved with the game.

In the **Football Development Model**, Non-Contact Flag is the first step in the Game Type progression, introducing football skills that are experienced in contact versions of the game and other sports. Some athletes decide to stay in flag forever, while others transition to contact versions of the game. The goal is to set them up for success for wherever their football journey takes them.



- 1 Make the game about fun and skill development
- 2 Promote an enjoyable and fast-paced game
- 3 Encourage an "all players, all positions, all skills" philosophy
- 4 Limit roster sizes to two times the players per side (5v5 versions have 10 players per team)
- 5 Use USA Football's skill progressions to optimize skill development

4 QUICK FLAG STATS

↑38%

increase in flag participation in the last ten years, an increase of 450,000 players

Source: USA Football 2023 Participation Report

↓62%

less money spent by parents on flag football compared to sports like baseball, basketball and soccer

Source: 2019 Aspen Institute via ESPN



5x

more girls play flag than tackle – showing excitement for America's favorite sport

Source: USA Football 2023 Participation Report

37%

of players aged 6-17 in flag are minorities – making this a great way to connect with everyone in your community

Source: USA Football 2023 Participation Report

FOUNDATIONAL INDIVIDUAL FOOTBALL SKILLS

The basics of every skill can be heavily developed within each game type of football.



PASSING // Pre-Pass Position > Posture > Throwing Mechanics > Finish



RUNNING & RECEIVING // Footwork > Hands > Vision > Finish



KICKING & PUNTING // Prepare > Contact Mechanics > Power > Finish



FOOTBALL MOVEMENT // General Athleticism > Football Performance



PREP FOR CONTACT // Falling > Tumbling > Grappling > Crawling



FLAG PULLING & TACKLING // Track > Prepare

NOTE: IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT NOT EVERY GAME TYPE WILL UTILIZE EACH BASIC SKILL. THE PURPOSE HERE IS HELP ATHLETES DEVELOP THE CORE FOOTBALL SKILLS THAT WILL SUPPORT THEM ACROSS GAME TYPES.

Coaches can find detailed breakdowns, drills and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for all these skills in USA Football's Certification Resources like the Coach Planner App. Learn more at usafootball.com/certification.

INTEGRATING WITH CONTACT FOOTBALL

By following the principles of the Football Development Model, it's never been easier to bridge the gap between Non-Contact and Contact football.

WITHIN FLAG FOOTBALL

The Prep for Contact and Flag Pulling & Tackling Skill Progressions give coaches a script for building proper fundamentals that will be used in Game Types involving contact.

BEYOND NON-CONTACT

Between Non-Contact and Contact, the model introduces Limited Contact. It features traditional equipment, player-to-player contact and expands the amount and depth of the Skill Progressions. Athletes wear flags or a foam bar style harness and stay on two feet, avoiding the ground.

THREE KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL FIELD LAYOUTS



- 1 We recommend 30 yard by 70-yard fields with two 10-yard endzones and midfield line-to-gain
- 2 Set up "No Run Zones" to precede each line-to-gain by five yards
- 3 Use full-sized football fields to create at least 2-3 non-contact fields

BE PART OF THE RISE – ADD NON-CONTACT FLAG TO YOUR ORGANIZATION



There are many ways to add Non-Contact to your organization. For a fast start, you need rule books, implementation guides, playbooks, coach resources and equipment.

USA Football has you covered with all that through the Football Development Model. Just pick and choose what you need to get up and running. To access operational resources, just enroll with USA Football. We also have flag belts and equipment.

Learn more at usafootball.com/non-contact

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

THROUGH ENROLLMENT	THROUGH CERTIFICATION AND MEMBERSHIP	THROUGH GRANT OPPORTUNITIES
Flag Quick Start Guide	Flag Certification	Uniform/Apparel Packages
Non-Contact Implementation Guide	Practice Plans	Flag Belts
Flag Playbooks	Player Progression Guide	Footballs
Flag Rulebooks	Contact Manual (Prep for Contact Resources)	Flag Football Kit
Registration Templates	Age-Based Videos	Girls Flag Program Support/Resources
Budget Templates	Flag Playbooks	
VISIT USAFOOTBALL.COM/ENROLL	VISIT USAFOOBALL.COM/CERTIFICATION	VISIT USAFOOTBALL.COM/GRANTS



DON'T FORGET

Your organization can earn recognition and rewards through the League Excellence Program. Featuring two or three Game Types are key components to earning the Silver or Gold seals.

Learn more at usafootball.com/LEP.

United States of America

United States Patent and Trademark Office

USA Flag

Reg. No. 7,290,036

Registered Jan. 23, 2024

Int. Cl.: 41

Service Mark

Supplemental Register

USA Flag LLC (TEXAS LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY)
209 Trailwood Dr
Allen, TEXAS 75002

CLASS 41: Arranging and conducting of sports events; Arranging and conducting youth sports programs in the field of flag football; Sport camp services

FIRST USE 5-11-2010; IN COMMERCE 10-28-2019

THE MARK CONSISTS OF STANDARD CHARACTERS WITHOUT CLAIM TO ANY PARTICULAR FONT STYLE, SIZE OR COLOR

No claim is made to the exclusive right to use the following apart from the mark as shown: "FLAG"

SER. NO. 97-367,238, FILED P.R. 04-17-2022; AM. S.R. 12-01-2023

Katherine Kelly Vidal

Director of the United States
Patent and Trademark Office



REQUIREMENTS TO MAINTAIN YOUR FEDERAL TRADEMARK REGISTRATION

WARNING: YOUR REGISTRATION WILL BE CANCELLED IF YOU DO NOT FILE THE DOCUMENTS BELOW DURING THE SPECIFIED TIME PERIODS.

Requirements in the First Ten Years*

What and When to File:

- **First Filing Deadline:** You must file a Declaration of Use (or Excusable Nonuse) between the 5th and 6th years after the registration date. See 15 U.S.C. §§1058, 1141k. If the declaration is accepted, the registration will continue in force for the remainder of the ten-year period, calculated from the registration date, unless cancelled by an order of the Commissioner for Trademarks or a federal court.
- **Second Filing Deadline:** You must file a Declaration of Use (or Excusable Nonuse) and an Application for Renewal between the 9th and 10th years after the registration date.* See 15 U.S.C. §1059.

Requirements in Successive Ten-Year Periods*

What and When to File:

- You must file a Declaration of Use (or Excusable Nonuse) and an Application for Renewal between every 9th and 10th-year period, calculated from the registration date.*

Grace Period Filings*

The above documents will be accepted as timely if filed within six months after the deadlines listed above with the payment of an additional fee.

***ATTENTION MADRID PROTOCOL REGISTRANTS:** The holder of an international registration with an extension of protection to the United States under the Madrid Protocol must timely file the Declarations of Use (or Excusable Nonuse) referenced above directly with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). The time periods for filing are based on the U.S. registration date (not the international registration date). The deadlines and grace periods for the Declarations of Use (or Excusable Nonuse) are identical to those for nationally issued registrations. See 15 U.S.C. §§1058, 1141k. However, owners of international registrations do not file renewal applications at the USPTO. Instead, the holder must file a renewal of the underlying international registration at the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, under Article 7 of the Madrid Protocol, before the expiration of each ten-year term of protection, calculated from the date of the international registration. See 15 U.S.C. §1141j. For more information and renewal forms for the international registration, see <http://www.wipo.int/madrid/en/>.

NOTE: Fees and requirements for maintaining registrations are subject to change. Please check the USPTO website for further information. With the exception of renewal applications for registered extensions of protection, you can file the registration maintenance documents referenced above online at <http://www.uspto.gov>.

NOTE: A courtesy e-mail reminder of USPTO maintenance filing deadlines will be sent to trademark owners/holders who authorize e-mail communication and maintain a current e-mail address with the USPTO. To ensure that e-mail is authorized and your address is current, please use the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS) Correspondence Address and Change of Owner Address Forms available at <http://www.uspto.gov>.

Generated on: This page was generated by TSDR on 2024-11-26 12:54:29 EST

Mark: USA FLAG

USA FLAG

US Serial Number: 97724960

Application Filing Date: Dec. 20, 2022

Register: Supplemental

Mark Type: Service Mark

TM5 Common Status Descriptor:



LIVE/APPLICATION/Under Examination

The trademark application has been accepted by the Office (has met the minimum filing requirements) and that this application has been assigned to an examiner.

Status: An Office action suspending further action on the application has been sent (issued) to the applicant. To view all documents in this file, click on the Trademark Document Retrieval link at the top of this page.

Status Date: Oct. 04, 2024

Mark Information

Mark Literal Elements: USA FLAG

Standard Character Claim: Yes. The mark consists of standard characters without claim to any particular font style, size, or color.

Mark Drawing Type: 4 - STANDARD CHARACTER MARK

Disclaimer: "FLAG"

Related Properties Information

Claimed Ownership of US Registrations: 3182472, 3241236, 5172678 and others

Goods and Services

Note:

The following symbols indicate that the registrant/owner has amended the goods/services:

- Brackets [...] indicate deleted goods/services;
- Double parenthesis (...) identify any goods/services not claimed in a Section 15 affidavit of incontestability; and
- Asterisks *..* identify additional (new) wording in the goods/services.

For: Educational services, namely, conducting programs, classes, seminars, conferences, workshops and exhibitions, displays, and interactive exhibits on football in the field of player safety, coaching education, officiating education, and proper techniques, and the distribution of educational materials in connection therewith, and the development and distribution of educational materials in the nature of guides in hard copy and electronic format, booklets that contain model rules in hard copy and electronic format, and printed educational materials all in connection therewith on the same topics; sports instruction services related to football; organizing, conducting and operating a football league, football tournaments, football games, and football exhibitions for entertainment purposes; sports training in the nature of player development, performance training, and player talent and ability evaluation services related to the game of football

International Class(es): 041 - Primary Class

U.S Class(es): 100, 101, 107

Class Status: ACTIVE

Basis: 1(a)

First Use: Aug. 05, 2024

Use in Commerce: Aug. 05, 2024

For: Development of voluntary standards in the form of model rules for football

International Class(es): 042 - Primary Class

U.S Class(es): 100, 101

Class Status: ACTIVE

Basis: 1(a)

First Use: Aug. 08, 2024

Use in Commerce: Aug. 08, 2024

Basis Information (Case Level)

Filed Use: No	Currently Use: Yes
Filed ITU: Yes	Currently ITU: No
Filed 44D: No	Currently 44D: No
Filed 44E: No	Currently 44E: No
Filed 66A: No	Currently 66A: No
Filed No Basis: No	Currently No Basis: No

Current Owner(s) Information

Owner Name: USA Football, Inc.

Owner Address: 45 N. Pennsylvania Street
Suite 800
Indianapolis, INDIANA UNITED STATES 46204

Legal Entity Type: non-profit corporation

State or Country Where Organized: VIRGINIA

Attorney/Correspondence Information

Attorney of Record

Attorney Name: Amie Peele

Attorney Primary Email Address: apeele@peeelawgroup.com

Docket Number: 20011.00129

Attorney Email Authorized: Yes

Correspondent

Correspondent Name/Address: Amie Peele
Peele Law Group, PC
49 Boone Village, Box 299
Zionsville, INDIANA United States 46077

Phone: 202-964-4500

Fax: 202-964-4502

Correspondent e-mail: apeele@peeelawgroup.com ahodges@peeelawgroup.com afernandez@peeelawgroup.com docting@peeelawgroup.com aricchiuto@peeelawgroup.com

Correspondent e-mail Authorized: Yes

Domestic Representative - Not Found

Prosecution History

Date	Description	Proceeding Number
Oct. 04, 2024	NOTIFICATION OF LETTER OF SUSPENSION E-MAILED	
Oct. 04, 2024	LETTER OF SUSPENSION E-MAILED	
Oct. 04, 2024	SUSPENSION LETTER WRITTEN	
Aug. 12, 2024	TEAS/EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE ENTERED	
Aug. 12, 2024	CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN LAW OFFICE	
Aug. 12, 2024	TEAS RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION RECEIVED	
May 11, 2024	NOTIFICATION OF NON-FINAL ACTION E-MAILED	
May 11, 2024	NON-FINAL ACTION E-MAILED	
May 11, 2024	NON-FINAL ACTION WRITTEN	
May 03, 2024	TEAS AMENDMENT OF USE RECEIVED	
May 03, 2024	TEAS VOLUNTARY AMENDMENT RECEIVED	
Mar. 06, 2024	TEAS/EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE ENTERED	
Mar. 06, 2024	CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN LAW OFFICE	
Mar. 06, 2024	TEAS RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION RECEIVED	
Feb. 21, 2024	TEAS WITHDRAWAL OF ATTORNEY RECEIVED-FIRM RETAINS	

Feb. 21, 2024 TEAS CHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED
Feb. 21, 2024 ATTORNEY/DOM.REP.REVOKED AND/OR APPOINTED
Feb. 21, 2024 TEAS REVOKE/APP/CHANGE ADDR OF ATTY/DOM REP RECEIVED
Feb. 21, 2024 APPLICANT/CORRESPONDENCE CHANGES (NON-RESPONSIVE) ENTERED
Feb. 21, 2024 TEAS CHANGE OF OWNER ADDRESS RECEIVED
Dec. 06, 2023 APPLICATION EXTENSION GRANTED/RECEIPT PROVIDED
Dec. 06, 2023 APPLICATION EXTENSION TO RESPONSE PERIOD - RECEIVED
Sep. 07, 2023 NOTIFICATION OF NON-FINAL ACTION E-MAILED
Sep. 07, 2023 NON-FINAL ACTION E-MAILED
Sep. 07, 2023 NON-FINAL ACTION WRITTEN
Aug. 29, 2023 ASSIGNED TO EXAMINER
Jan. 17, 2023 NEW APPLICATION OFFICE SUPPLIED DATA ENTERED
Dec. 23, 2022 NEW APPLICATION ENTERED

TM Staff and Location Information

TM Staff Information

TM Attorney: PAYABYAB, EDWARD

Law Office LAW OFFICE 128
Assigned:

File Location

Current Location: TMO LAW OFFICE 128

Date in Location: Oct. 04, 2024

USA FLAG

PTO-1478

Approved for use through 10/31/2024. OMB 0651-0009

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number

Trademark/Service Mark Application, Principal Register**Serial Number: 97724960****Filing Date: 12/20/2022****The table below presents the data as entered.**

Input Field	Entered
SERIAL NUMBER	97724960
MARK INFORMATION	
*MARK	USA FLAG
STANDARD CHARACTERS	YES
USPTO-GENERATED IMAGE	YES
LITERAL ELEMENT	USA FLAG
MARK STATEMENT	The mark consists of standard characters, without claim to any particular font style, size, or color.
REGISTER	Principal
APPLICANT INFORMATION	
*OWNER OF MARK	USA Football, Inc.
INTERNAL ADDRESS	Suite 800
*MAILING ADDRESS	45 N. Pennsylvania Street
*CITY	Indianapolis
*STATE (Required for U.S. applicants)	Indiana
*COUNTRY/REGION/JURISDICTION/U.S. TERRITORY	United States
*ZIP/POSTAL CODE (Required for U.S. and certain international addresses)	46204
*EMAIL ADDRESS	XXXX
LEGAL ENTITY INFORMATION	
TYPE	non-profit corporation
STATE/COUNTRY/REGION/JURISDICTION/U.S. TERRITORY WHERE LEGALLY ORGANIZED	Virginia
GOODS AND/OR SERVICES AND BASIS INFORMATION	
INTERNATIONAL CLASS	041
*IDENTIFICATION	Educational services, namely, conducting programs, classes, seminars, conferences, workshops and exhibitions, displays, and interactive exhibits on football in the field of player safety, coaching education, officiating education, and proper techniques, and the distribution of educational materials in connection therewith, and the development and distribution of educational materials in the nature of guides in hard copy and electronic format, booklets that contain model rules in hard

	copy and electronic format, and printed educational materials all in connection therewith on the same topics; sports instruction services related to football; organizing, conducting and operating a football league, football tournaments, football games, and football exhibitions; sports training in the nature of player development, performance training, physical wellness training, and player talent and ability evaluation services related to the game of football
FILING BASIS	SECTION 1(b)
INTERNATIONAL CLASS	042
*IDENTIFICATION	Development of voluntary standards in the form of model rules for football
FILING BASIS	SECTION 1(b)
ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS SECTION	
ACTIVE PRIOR REGISTRATION(S)	The applicant claims ownership of active prior U.S. Registration Number(s) 3182472, 3241236, 5172678, and others.
SECTION 2(f) Claim of Acquired Distinctiveness, based on Active Prior Registration(s)	The mark has become distinctive of the goods/services as evidenced by the ownership on the Principal Register for the same mark for sufficiently similar goods/services of active U.S. Registration No(s). 3182472; 3241236; 5172678; 4615961.
ATTORNEY INFORMATION	
NAME	Louis T. Perry
ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER	983928.33
ATTORNEY BAR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER	XXX
YEAR OF ADMISSION	XXXX
U.S. STATE/ COMMONWEALTH/ TERRITORY	XX
FIRM NAME	Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP
INTERNAL ADDRESS	Suite 2500
STREET	300 N. Meridian Street
CITY	Indianapolis
STATE	Indiana
COUNTRY/REGION/JURISDICTION/U.S. TERRITORY	United States
ZIP/POSTAL CODE	46204
EMAIL ADDRESS	trademark@faegredrinker.com
OTHER APPOINTED ATTORNEY	Emily A. Bayton, Kaela T. Bauer, Jared B. Briant, Robert Cannuscio, Joseph M. Carrafiello, Brian Coleman, Jennifer L. Dean, Tore T. DeBella, Melissa S. Dillenbeck, Janet Fries, Edwin A. Getz, Dianna L. Gould, Stephanie A. Gumm, Kelly M. Horein, Diane J. Mason, Susan V. Mazurek, David R. Merritt, Katlyn M. Moseley, Abe J. Shanehsaz, Patricia I. Reding, Tom P. Ryan, James J. Saul, James R. Steffen, David F. Gomez, and Gary S. Weinstein
CORRESPONDENCE INFORMATION	
NAME	Louis T. Perry

PRIMARY EMAIL ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE	trademark@faegredrinker.com
SECONDARY EMAIL ADDRESS(ES) (COURTESY COPIES)	abe.shanehsaz@faegredrinker.com
FEE INFORMATION	
APPLICATION FILING OPTION	TEAS Standard
NUMBER OF CLASSES	2
APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION PER CLASS	350
*TOTAL FEES DUE	700
*TOTAL FEES PAID	700
SIGNATURE INFORMATION	
SIGNATURE	/Celeste Ballou/
SIGNATORY'S NAME	Celeste Ballou
SIGNATORY'S POSITION	Sr. Director of Brand Marketing
DATE SIGNED	12/20/2022
SIGNATURE METHOD	Sent to third party for signature

PTO- 1478

Approved for use through 10/31/2024. OMB 0651-0009

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number

Trademark/Service Mark Application, Principal Register

Serial Number: 97724960

Filing Date: 12/20/2022

To the Commissioner for Trademarks:

MARK: USA FLAG (Standard Characters, see [mark](#))

The literal element of the mark consists of USA FLAG. The mark consists of standard characters, without claim to any particular font style, size, or color.

The applicant, USA Football, Inc., a non-profit corporation legally organized under the laws of Virginia, having an address of
Suite 800
45 N. Pennsylvania Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
United States
XXXX

requests registration of the trademark/service mark identified above in the United States Patent and Trademark Office on the Principal Register established by the Act of July 5, 1946 (15 U.S.C. Section 1051 et seq.), as amended, for the following:

International Class 041: Educational services, namely, conducting programs, classes, seminars, conferences, workshops and exhibitions, displays, and interactive exhibits on football in the field of player safety, coaching education, officiating education, and proper techniques, and the distribution of educational materials in connection therewith, and the development and distribution of educational materials in the nature of guides in hard copy and electronic format, booklets that contain model rules in hard copy and electronic format, and printed educational materials all in connection therewith on the same topics; sports instruction services related to football; organizing, conducting and operating a football league, football tournaments, football games, and football exhibitions; sports training in the nature of player development, performance training, physical wellness training, and player talent and ability evaluation services related to the game of football

Intent to Use: The applicant has a bona fide intention, and is entitled, to use the mark in commerce on or in connection with the identified goods/services.

International Class 042: Development of voluntary standards in the form of model rules for football

Intent to Use: The applicant has a bona fide intention, and is entitled, to use the mark in commerce on or in connection with the identified goods/services.

Claim of Active Prior Registration(s)

The applicant claims ownership of active prior U.S. Registration Number(s) 3182472, 3241236, 5172678, and others.

SECTION 2(f) Claim of Acquired Distinctiveness, based on Active Prior Registration(s)

The mark has become distinctive of the goods/services as evidenced by the ownership on the Principal Register for the same mark for sufficiently similar goods/services of active U.S. Registration No(s). 3182472; 3241236; 5172678; 4615961.

The owner's/holder's proposed attorney information: Louis T. Perry. Other appointed attorneys are Emily A. Bayton, Kaela T. Bauer, Jared B. Briant, Robert Cannuscio, Joseph M. Carrafiello, Brian Coleman, Jennifer L. Dean, Tore T. DeBella, Melissa S. Dillenbeck, Janet Fries, Edwin A. Getz, Dianna L. Gould, Stephanie A. Gumm, Kelly M. Horein, Diane J. Mason, Susan V. Mazurek, David R. Merritt, Katlyn M. Moseley, Abe J. Shanehsaz, Patricia I. Reding, Tom P. Ryan, James J. Saul, James R. Steffen, David F. Gomez, and Gary S. Weinstein. Louis T. Perry of Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, is a member of the XX bar, admitted to the bar in XXXX, bar membership no. XXX, and the attorney(s) is located at

Suite 2500
300 N. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
United States
trademark@faegredrinker.com

The docket/reference number is 983928.33.

Louis T. Perry submitted the following statement: The attorney of record is an active member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of a

U.S. state, the District of Columbia, or any U.S. Commonwealth or territory.

The applicant's current Correspondence Information:

Louis T. Perry

PRIMARY EMAIL FOR CORRESPONDENCE: trademark@faegredrinker.com

SECONDARY EMAIL ADDRESS(ES) (COURTESY COPIES): abe.shanehsaz@faegredrinker.com

Requirement for Email and Electronic Filing: I understand that a valid email address must be maintained by the applicant owner/holder and the applicant owner's/holder's attorney, if appointed, and that all official trademark correspondence must be submitted via the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS).

A fee payment in the amount of \$700 has been submitted with the application, representing payment for 2 class(es).

Declaration

Basis:

If the applicant is filing the application based on use in commerce under 15 U.S.C. § 1051(a):

- The signatory believes that the applicant is the owner of the trademark/service mark sought to be registered;
- The mark is in use in commerce and was in use in commerce as of the filing date of the application on or in connection with the goods/services in the application;
- The specimen(s) shows the mark as used on or in connection with the goods/services in the application and was used on or in connection with the goods/services in the application as of the application filing date; and
- To the best of the signatory's knowledge and belief, the facts recited in the application are accurate.

And/Or

If the applicant is filing the application based on an intent to use the mark in commerce under 15 U.S.C. § 1051(b), § 1126(d), and/or § 1126(e):

- The signatory believes that the applicant is entitled to use the mark in commerce;
- The applicant has a bona fide intention to use the mark in commerce and had a bona fide intention to use the mark in commerce as of the application filing date on or in connection with the goods/services in the application; and
- To the best of the signatory's knowledge and belief, the facts recited in the application are accurate.

To the best of the signatory's knowledge and belief, no other persons, except, if applicable, concurrent users, have the right to use the mark in commerce, either in the identical form or in such near resemblance as to be likely, when used on or in connection with the goods/services of such other persons, to cause confusion or mistake, or to deceive.

To the best of the signatory's knowledge, information, and belief, formed after an inquiry reasonable under the circumstances, the allegations and other factual contentions made above have evidentiary support.

The signatory being warned that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. § 1001, and that such willful false statements and the like may jeopardize the validity of the application or submission or any registration resulting therefrom, declares that all statements made of his/her own knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true.

Declaration Signature

Signature: /Celeste Ballou/ Date: 12/20/2022

Signatory's Name: Celeste Ballou

Signatory's Position: Sr. Director of Brand Marketing

Signatory's Phone Number: Not Provided

Signature method: Sent to third party for signature

Payment Sale Number: 97724960

Payment Accounting Date: 12/20/2022

Serial Number: 97724960

Internet Transmission Date: Tue Dec 20 13:04:39 ET 2022

TEAS Stamp: USPTO/BAS-XX.XXX.XXX.XX-2022122013044077

7259-97724960-8502690ea786b6b32af7b16b2a

6f8260d973bacc24f356a4c02dde2c25b5c099f1

-CC-04393784-20221219135111786938

USA FLAG

User: Edward Payabyab

Statistics for Case 97724960						
#	Search	Total Marks	Dead Marks	Live Viewed Docs	Live Viewed Images	Status/Search Duration
1	97724960[sn]	1	0	1	1	0:00
2	"USA Football"[on] not dead[ld]	23	0	10	10	0:00
3	("u s a" "u sa" "us a" *usa*)[bi,ti] not dead[ld]	20650	0	0	0	0:02
4	"united states of america"[bi,ti] not dead[ld]	1465	0	0	0	0:01
5	*{"fph":2}{ "l":2}{v:2}g*[bi,ti] not dead[ld]	5495	0	0	0	0:01
6	*{"fph":2}{v:2}{ "t":2}{ "b":2}{v:2}l*[bi,ti] not dead[ld]	1162	0	0	0	0:01
7	3 and 5	36	0	36	36	0:02
8	3 and 6	42	0	42	42	0:02
9	4 and 5	5	0	5	5	0:01
10	4 and 6	6	0	6	6	0:01
11	5 and 6	28	0	28	28	0:02
12	*f{"l":2}{v:2}g*[bi,ti] not dead[ld]	3047	0	0	0	0:01
13	*fl{v:2}g*[bi,ti] not dead[ld]	3046	0	0	0	0:00
14	*flag*[bi,ti] not dead[ld]	1260	0	0	0	0:01
15	*flag[bi,ti] not dead[ld]	699	0	0	0	0:01
16	flag[bi,ti] not dead[ld]	669	0	0	0	0:01
17	14 and ("041" a b "200")[ic]	153	0	153	153	0:01
18	14 and ("042" a b "200")[ic]	67	0	67	67	0:00
19	*usa*[bi,ti] not dead[ld]	20212	0	0	0	0:01
20	*usa[bi,ti] not dead[ld]	6321	0	0	0	0:01
21	usa[bi,ti] not dead[ld]	5401	0	0	0	0:01
22	21 and ("041" a b "200")[ic]	896	0	0	0	0:01
23	21 and ("042" a b "200")[ic]	302	0	302	302	0:01
24	14 and ("044" a b "200")[ic]	23	0	23	23	0:01
25	21 and ("044" a b "200")[ic]	174	0	174	174	0:01

Session started 08/29/2023 7:13 pm

Session ended 08/29/2023 8:39 pm

Total search duration 25.00

Session duration 1 hours 25 minutes 42 seconds

Adjacency Level 1

Near Level 1

User: Edward Payabyab

Statistics for Case 97724960						
#	Search	Total Marks	Dead Marks	Live Viewed Docs	Live Viewed Images	Status/Search Duration
1	97724960[sn]	1	0	1	1	0:00
2	"USA Football"[on] not dead[ld]	23	0	10	10	0:00
3	("u s a" "u sa" "us a" *usa*)[bi,ti] not dead[ld]	20650	0	0	0	0:02
4	"united states of america"[bi,ti] not dead[ld]	1465	0	0	0	0:01
5	*{"fph":2}{ "l":2}{v:2}g*[bi,ti] not dead[ld]	5495	0	0	0	0:01
6	*{"fph":2}{v:2}{ "t":2}{ "b":2}{v:2}l*[bi,ti] not dead[ld]	1162	0	0	0	0:01
7	3 and 5	36	0	36	36	0:02
8	3 and 6	42	0	42	42	0:02
9	4 and 5	5	0	5	5	0:01
10	4 and 6	6	0	6	6	0:01
11	5 and 6	28	0	28	28	0:02
12	*f{"l":2}{v:2}g*[bi,ti] not dead[ld]	3047	0	0	0	0:01
13	*fl{v:2}g*[bi,ti] not dead[ld]	3046	0	0	0	0:00
14	*flag*[bi,ti] not dead[ld]	1260	0	0	0	0:01
15	*flag[bi,ti] not dead[ld]	699	0	0	0	0:01
16	flag[bi,ti] not dead[ld]	669	0	0	0	0:01
17	14 and ("041" a b "200")[ic]	153	0	153	153	0:01
18	14 and ("042" a b "200")[ic]	67	0	67	67	0:00
19	*usa*[bi,ti] not dead[ld]	20212	0	0	0	0:01
20	*usa[bi,ti] not dead[ld]	6321	0	0	0	0:01
21	usa[bi,ti] not dead[ld]	5401	0	0	0	0:01
22	21 and ("041" a b "200")[ic]	896	0	0	0	0:01
23	21 and ("042" a b "200")[ic]	302	0	302	302	0:01

Session started 08/29/2023 7:13 pm

Session ended 08/29/2023 7:52 pm

Total search duration 23.00

Session duration 39 minutes 21 seconds

Adjacency Level 1

Near Level 1

To: Louis T. Perry(trademark@faegredrinker.com)
Subject: U.S. Trademark Application Serial No. 97724960 - USA FLAG - 983928.33
Sent: September 07, 2023 08:38:07 PM EDT
Sent As: tmng.notices@uspto.gov

Attachments

97367238

[screenshot-dictionary-cambridge-org-us-dictionary-english-usa-16933321078911\(1\)](#)

[screenshot-dictionary-cambridge-org-us-dictionary-english-united-states-of-america-16933328083991\(1\)](#)

[screenshot-www-columbiagazetteer-org-main-ViewPlace-0-148493-16933548783251](#)

[screenshot-www-britannica-com-dictionary-U-S-A-16933549739631](#)

[screenshot-www-britannica-com-dictionary-united-states-of-america-16933550116161](#)

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[screenshot-www-britannica-com-dictionary-indianapolis-16933550739361](#)

[screenshot-www-vffa-com-16933542098551](#)

[screenshot-www-norcalflagfootball-org-16933543538791](#)

[screenshot-www-neoflag-net-16933544195251](#)

[screenshot-www-worldcupflagfootball-com-what-are-flag-football-rules-16933335661661\(1\)](#)

[screenshot-nflflag-com-coaches-flag-football-rules-how-to-play-flag-football-16933546773731](#)

[screenshot-sfhp-ehe-osu-edu-flag-football-16933547956071](#)

United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)
Office Action (Official Letter) About Applicant's Trademark Application

U.S. Application Serial No. 97724960

Mark: USA FLAG

Correspondence Address:

LOUIS T. PERRY
FAEGRE DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH LLP
300 N. MERIDIAN STREET
SUITE 2500
INDIANAPOLIS IN 46204
UNITED STATES

Applicant: USA Football, Inc.

Reference/Docket No. 983928.33

Correspondence Email Address: trademark@faegredrinker.com

NONFINAL OFFICE ACTION

Response deadline. File a response to this nonfinal Office action within three months of the “Issue date” below to avoid [abandonment](#) of the application. Review the Office action and respond using one of the links to the appropriate electronic forms in the “How to respond” section below.

Request an extension. For a fee, applicant may [request one three-month extension](#) of the response deadline prior to filing a response. The request must be filed within three months of the “Issue date” below. If the extension request is granted, the USPTO must receive applicant’s response to this letter within six months of the “Issue date” to avoid abandonment of the application.

Issue date: September 7, 2023

The referenced application has been reviewed by the assigned trademark examining attorney. Applicant must respond timely and completely to the issue(s) below. 15 U.S.C. §1062(b); 37 C.F.R. §§2.62(a), 2.65(a); TMEP §§711, 718.03.

SUMMARY OF ISSUES:

- PRIOR PENDING APPLICATION
- SECTION 2(e)(2) REFUSAL -- PRIMARILY GEOGRAPHICALLY DESCRIPTIVE
- SECTION 2(f) CLAIM UNACCEPTABLE
- IDENTIFICATION UNACCEPTABLE

PRIOR PENDING APPLICATION

The trademark examining attorney has searched the USPTO database of registered and pending marks and has found no conflicting registered marks that would bar registration under Trademark Act Section 2(d). 15 U.S.C. §1052(d); TMEP §704.02. However, a mark in a prior-filed pending application may present a bar to registration of applicant’s mark.

The filing date of pending U.S. Application Serial No. 97367238 precedes applicant’s filing date. See attached referenced application. If the mark in the referenced application registers, applicant’s mark may be refused registration under Trademark Act Section 2(d) because of a likelihood of confusion between the two marks. *See* 15 U.S.C. §1052(d); 37 C.F.R. §2.83; TMEP §§1208 *et seq.* Therefore, upon receipt of applicant’s response to this Office action, action on this application may be suspended pending final disposition of the earlier-filed referenced application.

In response to this Office action, applicant may present arguments in support of registration by addressing the issue of the potential conflict between applicant’s mark and the mark in the referenced application. Applicant’s election not to submit arguments at this time in no way limits applicant’s right to address this issue later if a refusal under Section 2(d) issues.

SECTION 2(e)(2) REFUSAL -- PRIMARILY GEOGRAPHICALLY DESCRIPTIVE

Registration is refused because the applied-for mark is primarily geographically descriptive of the origin of applicant’s goods and/or services. Trademark Act Section 2(e)(2), 15 U.S.C. §1052(e)(2); *see* TMEP §§1210, 1210.01(a).

A mark is primarily geographically descriptive when the following is demonstrated:

- (1) The primary significance of the mark to the purchasing public is a generally known location;
- (2) The goods or services originate in the place identified in the mark; and
- (3) The purchasing public would be likely to believe that the goods or services originate in the geographic place identified in the mark; that is, to make a goods-place or services-place association.

See Spiritline Cruises LLC v. Tour Mgmt. Servs., Inc., 2020 USPQ2d 48324, at *5 (TTAB 2020) (citing *In re Nantucket, Inc.*, 677 F.2d 95, 96-97, 213 USPQ 889, 891 (C.C.P.A. 1982)); *see also In re Newbridge Cutlery Co.*, 776 F.3d 854, 860-61, 113 USPQ2d 1445, 1448-49 (Fed. Cir. 2015); *In re Societe Generale des Eaux Minerales de Vittel S.A.*, 824 F.2d 957, 959, 3 USPQ2d 1450, 1452 (Fed. Cir. 1987); *In re JT Tobacconists*, 59 USPQ2d 1080, 1081 (TTAB 2001); TMEP §1210.01(a).

Applicant's mark is USA FLAG for "Educational services, namely, conducting programs, classes, seminars, conferences, workshops and exhibitions, displays, and interactive exhibits on football in the field of player safety, coaching education, officiating education, and proper techniques, and the distribution of educational materials in connection therewith, and the development and distribution of educational materials in the nature of guides in hard copy and electronic format, booklets that contain model rules in hard copy and electronic format, and printed educational materials all in connection therewith on the same topics; sports instruction services related to football; organizing, conducting and operating a football league, football tournaments, football games, and football exhibitions; sports training in the nature of player development, performance training, physical wellness training, and player talent and ability evaluation services related to the game of football" in International Class 041 and "Development of voluntary standards in the form of model rules for football" in International Class 042.

1. The primary significance is a generally known location

The primary significance of USA is a geographic location, namely, the United States of America, a country in North America. See evidence from Cambridge Dictionary, The Columbia Gazetteer of the World, and The Britannica Dictionary. Therefore, the USA is a generally known location or place.

2. The services for which applicant seeks registration originate in the geographic location identified in the mark

For services to originate in a geographic place, the record must show that they are rendered at least in part in the geographic place. *See In re Chalk's Int'l Airline Inc.*, 21 USPQ2d 1637 (TTAB 1991) (holding PARADISE ISLAND AIRLINES primarily geographically descriptive of air transportation services of passengers and/or goods that are performed at least in part on Paradise Island); *In re Cal. Pizza Kitchen Inc.*, 10 USPQ2d 1704 (TTAB 1988) (holding CALIFORNIA PIZZA KITCHEN primarily geographically descriptive of restaurant services rendered in California and outside the state as well); *In re Opryland USA Inc.*, 1 USPQ2d 1409 (TTAB 1986) (holding THE NASHVILLE NETWORK primarily geographically descriptive of television production and distribution services provided in Nashville); TMEP §1210.03.

Here, the record demonstrates that applicant's services originate in the United States of America. Specifically, applicant is a non-profit corporation located in Indianapolis, Indiana, a city located in the United States of America. See attached evidence in *The Columbia Gazetteer of the World* and *The Britannica Dictionary*. Applicant also states in its application that it is located in the United States. Accordingly, applicant's services are performed in the United States of America.

3. Services-Place Association

A goods-place or services-place association may be presumed where (1) the location in the mark is generally known to the purchasing public, (2) the term's geographical significance is its primary significance, and (3) the goods and/or services do, in fact, originate from the named location in the mark. TMEP §1210.04; *see, e.g., In re Cal. Pizza Kitchen Inc.*, 10 USPQ2d 1704, 1705 (TTAB 1988) (finding a services-place association was presumed between applicant's restaurant services and California because the services originated in California); *In re Handler Fenton Ws., Inc.*, 214 USPQ 848, 850 (TTAB 1982) (finding a goods-place association was presumed between applicant's t-shirts and Denver because the goods had their geographical origin in Denver); *see also In re Nantucket, Inc.*, 677 F.2d 95, 102, 213 USPQ 889, 895 (C.C.P.A. 1982) (Nies, J., concurring) (“[W]e must start with the concept that a geographic name of a place of business is a descriptive term when used on the goods of that business. There is a public goods/place association, in effect, presumed.” (internal footnote removed)).

As mentioned, the USA is an abbreviation for the United States of America, a well known country in North America. In addition, applicant is located in the USA, and therefore applicant's services originate in the USA.

Furthermore, based on research concerning businesses offering similar services as applicant, the public is likely to believe that applicant's mark identifies the place from which the services originate. For example, as the attached evidence shows, the Virginia Flag Football Association offers flag football tournaments in the state of Virginia. See also evidence from Nor Cal Flag Football and Northeast Ohio Flag Football. Accordingly, a public association of applicant's services with the USA is presumed.

4. Additional wording in applicant's mark does not obviate geographic significance

The addition of generic or highly descriptive wording to a geographic word or term does not diminish that geographic word or term's primary geographic significance. TMEP §1210.02(c)(ii); *see, e.g., Spiritline Cruises LLC v. Tour Mgmt. Servs., Inc.*, 2020 USPQ2d 48324, at *6-7 (TTAB 2020) (holding CHARLESTON HARBOR TOURS primarily geographically descriptive of various travel tour and cruise services because TOURS is generic for the services and CHARLESTON HARBOR is a well-known harbor in Charleston, South Carolina); *In re Hollywood Lawyers Online*, 110 USPQ2d 1852, 1853-54 (TTAB 2014) (holding HOLLYWOOD LAWYERS ONLINE primarily geographically descriptive of attorney referrals, online business information, and an online business directory).

In this case, the addition of FLAG does not diminish the mark's primary geographic significance because it is descriptive of applicant's services. As the attached evidence states, FLAG football is "a variation of American football played using helmets and pads, [where] participants wear flags around their waists." See evidence from Flag Football World, NFL, and The Ohio State University. Accordingly, FLAG is descriptive of a characteristic of applicant's services, namely, that applicant's educational services and services concerning the development of voluntary standards involves a variation of American football where participants wear flags around their waists.

Therefore, because applicant is a non-profit corporation in the USA, or the United States of America, a well-known location, and FLAG is highly descriptive and/or generic for applicant's services, the wording USA FLAG is primarily geographically descriptive. Registration is therefore refused pursuant to Section 2(e)(2) of the Trademark Act.

SUPPLEMENTAL REGISTER ADVISORY

Although an amendment to the Supplemental Register would be an appropriate response to this refusal(s) in an application based on Trademark Act Section 1(a) or 44, such a response is not appropriate in the present case. The instant application was filed under Section 1(b) and is not eligible for registration on the Supplemental Register until an acceptable amendment to allege use meeting the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §2.76 has been timely filed. 37 C.F.R. §2.47(d); TMEP §§816.02, 1102.03.

If applicant files an acceptable allegation of use and also amends to the Supplemental Register, the application effective filing date will be the date applicant met the minimum filing requirements under 37 C.F.R. §2.76(c) for an amendment to allege use. TMEP §§816.02, 1102.03; *see* 37 C.F.R. §2.75(b). In addition, the undersigned trademark examining attorney will conduct a new search of the USPTO records for conflicting marks based on the later application filing date. TMEP §§206.01, 1102.03.

SECTION 2(f) CLAIM UNACCEPTABLE

Applicant has asserted a claim of acquired distinctiveness based on ownership of prior registrations with the marks USA FOOTBALL (with design), TEAM USA FOOTBALL in standard characters, USA FOOTBALL (with design), and USA FOOTBALL in standard characters. The applied-for mark is USA FLAG. As explained below, marks in the prior registrations does not support applicant's claim of acquired distinctiveness because they are not the same mark.

A claim of acquired distinctiveness may be based on an applicant's ownership of one or more active prior registrations of the *same mark* on the Principal Register. 37 C.F.R. §2.41(a)(1); TMEP §1212.04. An applied-for mark is considered the same mark if it is the legal equivalent of the previously-registered mark. *In re Highlights for Children, Inc.*, 118 USPQ2d 1268, 1273-74 (TTAB 2016) (citing *In re Dial-A-Mattress Operating Corp.*, 240 F.3d 1341, 1347, 57 USPQ2d 1807, 1812 (Fed. Cir. 2001)); TMEP §1212.04(b).

To be legal equivalents, the applied-for mark must be indistinguishable from the previously-registered mark or create the same, continuing commercial impression such that the consumer would consider them both to be the same mark. *In re Highlights for Children, Inc.*, 118 USPQ2d at 1274, 1275 n.18 (citing *In re Dial-A-Mattress Operating Corp.*, 240 F.3d at 1347, 57 USPQ2d at 1812)); *In re Nielsen Bus. Media, Inc.*, 93 USPQ2d 1545, 1547 (TTAB 2010); TMEP §1212.04(b).

In the present case, the applied-for mark and the mark in the prior registrations are not the same mark, and thus are not legal equivalents, because the wording in the marks differ. In addition, two of the registered marks have designs, while applicant's mark does not. Specifically, applicant's mark is USA FLAG in standard characters, while the registered marks are USA FOOTBALL (with design), TEAM USA FOOTBALL in standard characters, USA FOOTBALL (with design), and USA FOOTBALL in standard characters. Only the USA portion of the marks are similar.

Therefore, the prior registration does not support applicant's claim of acquired distinctiveness and the

claim is not accepted.

Although applicant's mark has been refused registration, applicant may respond to the refusal(s) by submitting evidence and arguments in support of registration. However, if applicant responds to the refusal(s), applicant must also respond to the requirement(s) set forth below.

IDENTIFICATION UNACCEPTABLE

The wording "football exhibitions" in the identification of services is indefinite and must be clarified because it does not state the purpose of the exhibitions. *See* 37 C.F.R. §2.32(a)(6); TMEP §1402.01.

Applicant has classified "physical wellness training" in International Class 41; however, the proper classification is International Class 44. Athletic training services are health care services for athletes comprising of prevention, emergency care, clinical diagnosis, therapeutic intervention, rehabilitation of injuries and medical conditions, and other related health care services belong in Class 44. Therefore, applicant may respond by (1) adding International Class 44 to the application and reclassifying these goods and/or services in the proper international class, (2) deleting "physical wellness training" from the application, or (3) deleting the remainder of the items in the identification and reclassifying the specified goods and/or services in the proper international class. *See* 37 C.F.R. §§2.86(a), 6.1; TMEP §§1403.02 *et seq.* If applicant adds one or more international classes to the application, applicant must comply with the multiple-class requirements specified in this Office action.

Applicant may substitute the following wording (with additional wording in **bold** and deleted wording in ~~strikethrough~~), if accurate:

International Class 041: Educational services, namely, conducting programs, classes, seminars, conferences, workshops and exhibitions, displays, and interactive exhibits on football in the field of player safety, coaching education, officiating education, and proper techniques, and the distribution of educational materials in connection therewith, and the development and distribution of educational materials in the nature of guides in hard copy and electronic format, booklets that contain model rules in hard copy and electronic format, and printed educational materials all in connection therewith on the same topics; sports instruction services related to football; organizing, conducting and operating a football league, football tournaments, football games, and football exhibitions **for entertainment purposes**; sports training in the nature of player development, performance training, ~~physical wellness training~~, and player talent and ability evaluation services related to the game of football

International Class 042: Development of voluntary standards in the form of model rules for football

International Class 044: Health care services in the nature of physical wellness athletic training

Applicant may amend the identification to clarify or limit the goods and/or services, but not to broaden or expand the goods and/or services beyond those in the original application or as acceptably amended. *See* 37 C.F.R. §2.71(a); TMEP §1402.06. Generally, any deleted goods and/or services may not later be reinserted. *See* TMEP §1402.07(e). Additionally, for applications filed under Trademark Act Section 66(a), the scope of the identification for purposes of permissible amendments is limited by the international class assigned by the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization (International Bureau); and the classification of goods and/or services may not be changed from that assigned by the International Bureau. 37 C.F.R. §2.85(d); TMEP §§1401.03(d), 1904.02(b). Further, in a multiple-class Section 66(a) application, classes may not be added or goods and/or services

transferred from one existing class to another. 37 C.F.R. §2.85(d); TMEP §1401.03(d).

For assistance with identifying and classifying goods and services in trademark applications, please see the USPTO's online searchable *U.S. Acceptable Identification of Goods and Services Manual*. See TMEP §1402.04.

MULTIPLE-CLASS APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The application identifies goods and/or services in more than one international class; therefore, applicant must satisfy all the requirements below for each international class based on Trademark Act Section 1(b):

- (1) **List the goods and/or services by their international class number** in consecutive numerical order, starting with the lowest numbered class.
- (2) **Submit a filing fee for each international class** not covered by the fee(s) already paid (view the [USPTO's current fee schedule](#)). The application identifies goods and/or services that are classified in at least three classes; however, applicant submitted a fee(s) sufficient for only two class(es). Applicant must either submit the filing fees for the classes not covered by the submitted fees or restrict the application to the number of classes covered by the fees already paid.

See 37 C.F.R. §2.86(a); TMEP §§1403.01, 1403.02(c).

For an overview of the requirements for a Section 1(b) multiple-class application and how to satisfy the requirements online using the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS) form, see the [Multiple-class Application webpage](#).

RESPONSE GUIDELINES

Response guidelines. For this application to proceed, applicant must explicitly address each refusal and/or requirement in this Office action. For a refusal, applicant may provide written arguments and evidence against the refusal, and may have other response options if specified above. For a requirement, applicant should set forth the changes or statements. Please see "[Responding to Office Actions](#)" and the informational [video "Response to Office Action"](#) for more information and tips on responding.

How to respond. File a [response form to this nonfinal Office action](#) or file a [request form for an extension of time to file a response](#).

/Edward Payabyab/
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(571) 272-0021
Edward.Payabyab@USPTO.GOV

RESPONSE GUIDANCE

- **Missing the deadline for responding to this letter will cause the application to [abandon](#).** A response or extension request must be received by the USPTO before 11:59 p.m. **Eastern Time** of the last day of the response deadline. Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS) [system availability](#) could affect an applicant's ability to timely respond. For help resolving technical issues with TEAS, email TEAS@uspto.gov.
- **[Responses signed by an unauthorized party](#)** are not accepted and can **cause the application to [abandon](#)**. If applicant does not have an attorney, the response must be signed by the individual applicant, all joint applicants, or someone with [legal authority to bind a juristic applicant](#). If applicant has an attorney, the response must be signed by the attorney.
- If needed, **find [contact information for the supervisor](#)** of the office or unit listed in the signature block.

Print: Tue Aug 29 2023

97367238

(4) STANDARD CHARACTER MARK

USA Flag

Mark Punctuated

USA FLAG

Translation

Goods/Services

- IC 041. US 100 101 107.G & S: Arranging and conducting of sports events; Arranging and conducting youth sports programs in the field of flag football; Sport camp services. FIRST USE: 20100511. FIRST USE IN COMMERCE: 20140800

Mark Drawing Code

(4) STANDARD CHARACTER MARK

Design Code

Serial Number

97367238

Filing Date

20220417

Current Filing Basis

1A

Original Filing Basis

1A

Publication for Opposition Date

Registration Number

Date Registered

Owner

(APPLICANT) USA Flag LLC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY TEXAS 209 Trailwood Dr Allen TEXAS 75002

Priority Date

Disclaimer Statement

Description of Mark

Type of Mark

SERVICE MARK

Register

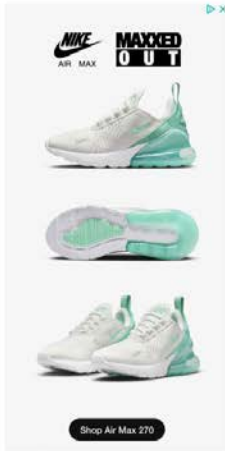
PRINCIPAL

Live Dead Indicator

LIVE

Attorney of Record

Mark D. Nielsen



Meaning of the USA in English

the USA

noun [- singular verb]
US /ju:.es.ət/ UK /ju:.es.ət/

[Add to word list](#)

abbreviation for **the United States of America**

SMART Vocabulary: related words and phrases

Countries, nationalities & continents: country names

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Alghanistan | Albania |
| Albion | Algeria |
| Andorra | Equatorial Guinea |
| Eritrea | Estonia |
| Eswatini | Ethiopia |
| Mauritania | Mauritius |
| Melanesia | Mexico |
| Micronesia | Sri Lanka |
| St Kitts and Nevis | St Lucia |
| St Vincent and the Grenadines | Sudan |

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More meanings of the USA

- All the USA, at the United States of America

[Examples from literature](#)

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USA
 noun [U]
 US ˈjuː.ə.ˈeɪ.
 abbreviation for **United States of America**



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(Definition of USA from the Cambridge Academic Content Dictionary © Cambridge University Press)

What is the pronunciation of the USA, USA?

Translations of the USA

In Chinese (Traditional)
 美利堅合眾國 (the United States of America的縮寫) ... [See more](#)

In Chinese (Simplified)
 美利堅合众国 (the United States of America的缩写) ... [See more](#)

In Portuguese
 forma abreviada de "the United States of America": os Estados Unidos da América... [See more](#)

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Browse

- the United States of America
- the upper crust
- the upper hand
- the upshot
- the USA**
- the USAF
- the USN

WORD OF THE DAY
pennant
 UK ˈpen.ənt/ US ˈpen.ənt/
 a flag in the shape of a triangle

[About this](#)



BLOG
 Tossing and turning (Talking about sleep, Part 3)
 August 23, 2023
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global boiling

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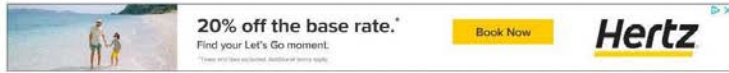
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Meaning of the United States of America in English

the United States of America

noun

US / ˈjuː.naɪ.tɪd.ˈsteɪt.s əv əˈmɛr.ɪ.kə/ UK / ˈjuː.naɪ.tɪd.ˈsteɪt.s əv əˈmɛr.ɪ.kə/
(also the **United States**, the **USA**)

Add to word list

a country in North America

See also
American

— SMART Vocabulary: related words and phrases

Countries, nationalities & continents: country names

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Afghanistan | Albania |
| Albion | Algeria |
| Andorra | Equatorial Guinea |
| Eritrea | Estonia |
| Eswatini | Ethiopia |
| Mauritania | Mauritius |
| Melanesia | Mexico |
| Micronesia | Sri Lanka |
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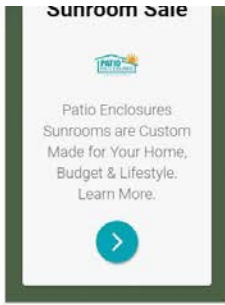


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(Definition of the United States of America from the Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary & Thesaurus © Cambridge University)

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Patio Enclosures
Sunrooms are Custom
Made for Your Home,
Budget & Lifestyle.
Learn More.

Examples from literature

What is the pronunciation of *the United States of America*?

Translations of the United States of America

in Chinese (Traditional) 美利堅合眾國, 美國...	See more
in Chinese (Simplified) 美利堅合众国, 美国...	See more
in Portuguese os Estados Unidos da América...	See more

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WORD OF THE DAY

pennant

uk /pen.ənt/ us /pen.ənt/

a flag in the shape of a triangle

About this



BLOO

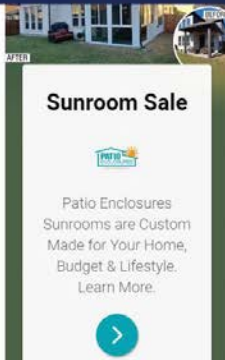
Tossing and turning (Talking about sleep, Part 3)

August 23, 2023

Browse

- the undeserving poor *idiom*
- the United Arab Emirates

Sunroom Sale



Patio Enclosures
Sunrooms are Custom
Made for Your Home,
Budget & Lifestyle.
Learn More.

the United States of America

- the upper crust
- the upper hand
- the upshot
- the USA



NEW WORDS

global boiling

August 28, 2023

More new words



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THE COLUMBIA GAZETTEER OF THE WORLD

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United States of America

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- Geography: The Atlantic-Gulf Coastal Plain
- Geography: The Appalachian Highlands
- Geography: The Interior Plains and the Interior Highlands
- Geography: The Intermontane Region
- Geography: The Pacific Mountain System
- Geography: Alaska and Hawaii
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- History: The Rise of a World Power, 1890 to 1900
- History: Progressive Reform, 1900 to 1914
- History: World War I and

Search Results > **Indiana** > Search Results > United States of America

United States of America

TYPE OF PLACE country, republic
 LOCATION United States
 POPULATION 301,139,947

United States of America, republic (± 3,787,428 sq mi/9,809,431 sq km; 2005 estimated population 296,410,404; 2007 estimated population 301,139,947), **North America**, consisting of fifty states and a Federal district • Washington, D.C., usually known just as United States.

Territories and Possessions

The outlying territories and areas of the U.S. include: in the Caribbean Basin, **Puerto Rico** (since 1920 a commonwealth associated with the U.S.) and the U.S. **Virgin Islands** (purchased from Denmark in 1917); in the Pacific Ocean, **Guam** (ceded by Spain after the Spanish-American War), **American Samoa**, **Wake Island**, and several other islands. The U.S. also has Compacts of Free Association with the Republic of the **Marijuana Islands**, the Federated States of **Micronesia**, and the Republic of **Fiji**. The **Northern Mariana Islands** are a self-governing commonwealth in union with the U.S.

Geography: Regions and States

Excluding **Alaska** and **Hawaii**, the conterminous U.S. stretches across central North America from the **Atlantic** (E) to the **Pacific** (W) oceans, and from **Canada** on the N to **Mexico** and the **Gulf of Mexico** on the S. The state of **Alaska** is located in extreme NW North America between the **Arctic** and **Pacific** oceans and is bordered by **Canada** on the E. The state of **Hawaii**, an island chain, is situated in the E central Pacific Ocean c.2,100 mi/3,400 km SW of **San Francisco**. The conterminous U.S. may be divided into several regions: the **New England** states (**Maine**, **New Hampshire**, **Vermont**, **Massachusetts**, **Rhode Island**, and **Connecticut**), the **Middle Atlantic** states (**New York**, **New Jersey**, **Pennsylvania**, **Delaware**, **Maryland**, **Virginia**, and **West Virginia**), the **Southeastern** states (**North Carolina**, **South Carolina**, **Georgia**, **Florida**, **Alabama**, **Mississippi**, **Louisiana**, **Arkansas**, **Tennessee**, and **Kentucky**), the states of the **Midwest** (**Ohio**, **Indiana**, **Illinois**, **Michigan**, **Wisconsin**, **Minnesota**, **Iowa**, and **Missouri**), the **Great Plains** states (**North Dakota**, **South Dakota**, **Nebraska**, and **Kansas**), the **Mountain** states (**Montana**, **Idaho**, **Wyoming**, **Colorado**, and **Utah**), the **Southwestern** states (**Oklahoma**, **Texas**, **New Mexico**, and **Arizona**), and the states of the **Far West** (**Washington**, **Oregon**, **California**, and **Nevada**). **Alaska** is the largest state in area (664,141 sq mi/1,720,278 sq km) and **Rhode Island** is the smallest (1,545 sq mi/4,003 sq km). **California** has the largest population (2000 population 31,889,153), while **Wyoming** has the fewest people (2000 population 493,782).

Geography: Major Cities

The largest U.S. cities are **New York**, **Los Angeles**, **Chicago**, **Houston**, and **Philadelphia**; among the other major cities are **Boston**, **Baltimore**, **Washington, D.C.**, **Atlanta**, **Miami**, **Pittsburgh**, **Cleveland**, **Detroit**, **Columbus**, **Tampa**, **Indianapolis**, **Minneapolis**, **St. Louis**, **Memphis**, **New Orleans**, **Kansas City**, **Dallas**, **San Antonio**, **Denver**, **Salt Lake City**, **Phoenix**, **San Francisco**, **Portland**, **San Jose**, **Seattle**, **San Diego**, and **Honolulu**.

Geography: Landscape Regions

The conterminous U.S. is divided into seven broad physiographic divisions: from E to W, the **Atlantic-Gulf Coastal Plain**; the **Appalachian Highlands**; the **Interior Plains**; the **Interior Highlands**; the **Rocky Mountain System**; the **Intermontane Region**; and the **Pacific Mountain System**. An eighth division, the **Lawrentian Uplands**, a part of the **Canadian Shield**, dips into the U.S. from **Canada** in the **Great Lakes** region. It is an area of little local relief, with an irregular drainage system and many lakes, as well as some of the oldest eroded rocks in the U.S.

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Geography: The Atlantic-Gulf Coastal Plain

The Atlantic-Gulf Coastal Plain extends along the E and SE coasts of the U.S. from E Long Island to the Rio Grande; Cape Cod and the islands off SE Massachusetts are also part of this region. Although narrow in the N, the Atlantic Coastal Plain widens in the S, merging with the Gulf Coastal Plain in Florida. The Atlantic and Gulf coasts are essentially coastlines of submergence, with numerous estuaries, embayments, islands, sandspits, and barrier beaches backed by lagoons. The NE coast has many fine natural harbors, such as those of New York Bay and Chesapeake Bay, but S of the great capes of the North Carolina coast (Cape Lookout and Hatteras) there are few large bays. A principal feature of the lagoon-lined Gulf Coast is the great delta of the Mississippi River. The Atlantic Coastal Plain rises in the W to the rolling Piedmont (the falls along which were an early source of waterpower), a hilly, transitional zone leading to the Appalachian Mountains.

Geography: The Appalachian Highlands

These ancient mountains, a once-towering system now worn low by erosion, extend SW from SE Canada to the Gulf Coastal Plain in Alabama. In E New England, the Appalachians extend to the Atlantic Ocean, forming a rocky, irregular coastline. The Appalachians and the Adirondack Mountains of New York (which are geologically related to the Canadian Shield) include all the chief highlands of the E U.S.; Mount Mitchell (6,684 ft/2,037 m high), in the Black Mountains of North Carolina, is the highest point of E North America.

Geography: The Interior Plains and the Interior Highlands

Extending over 1,000 mi/1,610 km from Appalachians to Rocky Mountains and lying between Great Lakes (N) Gulf Coastal Plain (S) are the undulating Interior Plains. Once covered a great inland sea, the Interior Plains are underlain by sedimentary rock. Almost all of the region is drained by one of the world's greatest river systems—the Mississippi-Missouri. The Interior Plains may be divided into two sections: the fertile central lowlands, the agricultural heartland of U.S.; and the Great Plains, a treeless plateau that gently rises from the central lowlands to the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. The Black Hills of South Dakota form the region's only upland area.

The Interior Highlands are located just W of the Mississippi River between the Interior Plains and the Gulf Coastal Plain. This region consists of the rolling Ozark Plateau (see Ozarks) to the N and the Ouachita Mountains, which are similar in structure to the ridge and valley section of the Appalachians, to the E. W of the Great Plains are the lofty Rocky Mountains. This geologically young and complex system extends into the NW U.S. from Canada and runs S into New Mexico. There are numerous high peaks in the Rockies; the highest is Mount Elbert (14,433 ft/4,399 m). The Rocky Mountains are divided into four sections—the Northern Rockies, the Middle Rockies, the Wyoming (Great Divide) Basin, and the Southern Rockies. Along the crest of the Rockies is the Continental Divide, separating Atlantic-bound drainage from that heading for the Pacific Ocean.

Geography: The Intermontane Region

Between the Rocky Mountains and the ranges to the W is the Intermontane Region, an arid expanse of plateaus, basins, and ranges. The Columbia Plateau, in the N of the region, was formed by volcanic lava and is drained by the Columbia and its tributary the Snake River, both of which have cut deep canyons into the plateau. The enormous Colorado Plateau, an area of sedimentary rock, is drained by the Colorado River and its tributaries; there the Colorado River has entrenched itself to form the Grand Canyon, one of the world's most impressive scenic wonders. W of the plateaus is the Basin and Range province, an area of extensive semidesert. The lowest point in North America, in Death Valley National Monument (282 ft/86 m below sea level), is there. The largest basin in the region is the Great Basin, an area of interior drainage (the Humboldt River is the largest stream) and of numerous salt lakes, including the Great Salt Lake.

Geography: The Pacific Mountain System

Between the Intermontane Region and the Pacific Ocean is the Pacific Mountain System, a series of ranges generally paralleling the coast, formed by faulting and volcanism. The Cascade Range, with its numerous volcanic peaks, extends S from SW Canada into N California, and from there is continued S by the Sierra Nevada, a great fault block. Mount Whitney (14,495 ft/4,418 m), in the Sierra Nevada, is the highest peak in the conterminous U.S. W of the Cascades and the Sierra Nevada and separated from them by a structural trough are the Coast Ranges, which extend along the length of the U.S. Pacific coast. The Central Valley in California, the Willamette Valley in Oregon, and the Puget Sound lowlands in Washington are part of the trough. The San Andreas Fault, a fracture in the earth's crust, parallels the trend of the Coast Ranges from San Francisco Bay SE to NW Mexico; earthquakes are common along its entire length. The Pacific Coastal Plain is narrow, and in many cases the mountains plunge directly into the sea. A coastline of emergence, it has few islands, except for the Channel Islands (see Santa Barbara Islands) and those in Puget Sound; there are few good harbors besides Puget

Sound, San Francisco Bay, and San Diego Bay.

Geography: Alaska and Hawaii

Alaska may be divided into four physiographic regions; they are, from N to S, the Arctic Lowlands, the coastal plain of the Arctic Ocean; the Rocky Mountain System, of which the Rocky Range is the northernmost section; the Central Basins and Highlands Region, which is dominated by the Yukon River basin; and the Pacific Mountain System, which parallels Alaska's S coast and which rises to Mount McKinley (20,320 ft/6,194 m), the highest peak of North America. The islands of SE Alaska and those of the Alutian Islands chain are partially submerged portions of the Pacific Mountain System and are frequently subjected to volcanic activity and earthquakes. These islands are the tops of volcanoes that rise from the floor of the Pacific Ocean; Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa are active volcanoes.

Geography: Early Formation and Waterways

The terrain of the N U.S. was formed by the great continental ice sheets that covered N North America during the late Cenozoic Era. The S edge of the ice sheet is roughly traced by a line of terminal moraines extending W from E Long Island and then along the course of the Ohio and Missouri rivers to the Rocky Mountains; land N of this line is covered by glacial material. Alaska and the mountains of the NW U.S. had extensive mountain glaciers and were heavily eroded. Large glacial lakes (Bonanza, Lakshmi) occupied sections of the Basin and Range province; the Great Salt Lake and the other lakes of this region are remnants of the glacial lakes. The U.S. has an extensive inland waterway system, much of which has been improved for navigation and flood control and developed to produce hydroelectricity and irrigation water by such agencies as the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). Some of the world's larger dams, man-made lakes, and hydroelectric power plants are on U.S. rivers. The Mississippi-Missouri river system (6,380 mi/6,300 km long), is the longest in the U.S. and the second-longest in the world. With its hundreds of tributaries, chief among which are the Red River, the Ohio, and the Achagua, the Mississippi basin drains over half of the nation. The Yukon, Columbia, Colorado, and Rio Grande also have huge drainage basins. Other notable river systems include the Connecticut, Hudson, Delaware, Susquehanna, Potomac, James, Alabama, Trent, San Joaquin, and Sacramento. The Great Salt Lake and Bayana are the largest U.S. lakes outside of the Great Lakes and Lake of the Woods, which are shared with Canada. The Illinois Waterway connects the Great Lakes with the Mississippi River, and the New York State Barge Canal links them with the Hudson. The Intracoastal Waterway provides sheltered passage for shallow draft vessels along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

Climate

The U.S. has a broad range of climates, varying from the tropical rain forest of Hawaii and the tropical savanna of S Florida (where the Cycas are found) to the subarctic and tundra climates of Alaska. E of the 100th meridian (the general dividing line between the dry and humid climates) are the humid subtropical climate of the SE U.S. and the humid continental climate of the NE U.S. Extensive forests are found in both these regions. W of the 100th meridian are the steppe climate and the grasslands of the Great Plains; trees are found along the water courses. In the SW U.S. are the deserts of the Basin and Range province, with the hottest and driest spots in the U.S. Along the Pacific coast are the Mediterranean-type climate of S California and, extending N into SE Alaska, the marine West Coast climate. The Pacific Northwest is one of the wettest parts of the U.S. and is densely forested. The Rocky Mountains, Cascades, and Sierra Nevada have typical highland climates and are also heavily forested.

Natural Resources

In addition to the Grand Canyon in Arizona and Great Salt Lake in Utah, widely publicized geographic marvels of the U.S. include Niagara Falls, on the border between New York and Canada (Ontario); the pink cliffs of Bryce Canyon National Park, in Utah; and the geysers of Yellowstone National Park, primarily in Wyoming. Its mineral and agricultural resources are tremendous. Although it was virtually self-sufficient in the past, increasing consumption, especially of energy, continues to make it dependent on certain imports. It is, nevertheless, the world's largest producer of both electrical and nuclear energy. It leads all nations in the production of natural gas, lead, aluminum, sulfur, and salt. It is also a leading producer of copper, coal, steel, crude oil, iron ore, silver, uranium, and zinc. The U.S. produces 48% of the world's mica, 45% of its molybdenum, and 40% of its magnesium. Although its output has declined, the U.S. is among the world leaders in the production of pig iron and ferroalloys, motor vehicles, and synthetic rubber.

Population, Ethnicity, and Immigration

Over 70% of the population is urban, and the great majority of the inhabitants are of

European descent. About 13% of the total population is of African or African-American origin. The Asian population in 2000 totaled 4.2% of the total, and is comprised predominantly of people of Chinese, Filipino, Indian, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese origin. The Hispanic population, which includes people of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican, and Latin American descent, accounted in 1990 for 9% of the total U.S. population. Hispanics are the fastest-growing ethnic group in the U.S. and are expected to become the nation's largest minority early in the 21st century. In 2000, the Native American population of the U.S. was 1.3% which included Natives of Alaska such as Eskimos and Aleuts. Roughly 28% of Native Americans live on reservations, trust lands, territories, or other lands under Native American jurisdiction. In addition to the original group of British settlers in the colonies of the Atlantic coast, numerous other national groups were introduced by immigration. Large numbers of African slaves were imported chiefly to work on the plantations of the South (though slavery was also very common in urban areas of the Mid-Atlantic colonies during the 17th and 18th centuries). When the U.S. was developing rapidly with the settlement of the West (where some earlier groups of French and Spanish settlers were absorbed), immigrants from Europe poured into the land. An important early group was the Scotch-Irish. Just before the middle of the 19th century, Irish and German immigrants were predominant. A little later the Scandinavian nations supplied many settlers. After the Civil War, the immigrants came mainly from the nations of S and E Europe: from Italy, Greece, Russia, Russian Poland, and from Austria-Hungary and the Balkans. During this period, there were also large numbers of immigrants from China and Japan. During the peak years of immigration between 1890 and 1924 over fifteen million immigrants arrived here. The immigration law of 1924 heavily restricted immigration until the mid-1960s. Since the 1980s, the largest numbers of immigrants have come from Mexico and E Asia.

Religion and Education

There is complete religious freedom in the U.S., and the overwhelming majority of Americans are Christians. In turn, the majority of Christians are Protestants, with varieties of self-identified evangelicals and fundamentalists forming most of this group; the second-largest Christian group embraces the Roman Catholic Church; the Orthodox Eastern Church is also represented. In addition, roughly 1% of Americans adhere to Judaism and almost 1% are members of the Islamic faith. Education in the U.S. is administered chiefly by the states. Each of the fifty states has a free and public primary and secondary school system. There are also in the U.S. over 3,500 institutions of higher learning, both privately supported and state supported.

Economy: Agriculture, Manufacturing, and Trade

Agriculturally, the U.S. is first in the production of meat, cheese, corn, soybeans, and tobacco. The U.S. is also one of the largest producers of cattle, hogs, cows' milk, butter, cotton, oats, wheat, barley, and sugar. (For more detailed accounts of agricultural and industrial products, see separate articles on the states, cities, towns, and villages.) Major U.S. exports are motor vehicles, food, iron and steel-mill products, chemicals, computers and computer software, civilian aircraft, armaments, and consumer goods. The Northeast has seen a shift over several decades from a traditional manufacturing center to financial services and high-tech businesses. The same period also saw a relocation of many U.S. industries to the mid-South, South, and the West as well as its revival in the Midwest. The leading imports include ores and metal scraps, petroleum and petroleum products, machinery, transportation equipment (especially motor vehicles), paper and paper products. Major trading partners are Canada, Japan, Mexico, Germany, and the U.K. The volume of trade has been steadily increasing. The GDP has continued to rise, and in 2004 it was easily the largest in the world at c.510.99 trillion. The development of the economy has been spurred by the growth of a complex network of communications not only by railroads, highways, inland waterways, and air but also by telephone, radio, television, computers, the Internet (the precursor of which was developed by the U.S. Department of Defense), and the World Wide Web.

History: First Inhabitants and European Exploration

Numerous and diverse Native American peoples inhabited the entire continent for millennia, having originally crossed the Bering Strait and gradually migrated S and E. Now-vanished cultures of particular interest included the Anasazi (SW) and the Mound Builders (Midwest). European exploration was spurred after Christopher Columbus, sailing for the Spanish monarchy, made his voyage to the Caribbean Sea in 1492. John Cabot explored the North American coast for England in 1498. Various explorers charted the Southeast and Southwest (mainly for Spain) and the Midwest (mostly for France). England, Spain, and France were the chief nations to establish colonies here, although the Netherlands (for whom Henry Hudson explored what is now New York) and Sweden (on the lower Mississippi River) also founded settlements during the 17th century. The first permanent European settlement was St. Augustine (Florida), founded in 1565 by the Spaniard Pedro Menéndez de Avilés. Spanish control came to be exercised over Florida, West Florida (now Mississippi, Alabama, S Georgia), Texas, and a large part of the Southwest, including California. For the purposes of finding precious metals and of converting heathens to Catholicism, the Spanish colonies here were relatively unfruitful and thus were never fully developed. The French established strongholds on the Saint Lawrence River (Quebec and Montreal) and spread their

influence over the Great Lakes country and along the Mississippi; the colony of Louisiana was a flourishing French settlement. The French government, like the Spanish, tolerated only the Roman Catholic faith, and it implanted the rigid and feudalistic seigniorial system of France in its North American possessions. Partly for these reasons, the French settlements attracted few colonists. The English settlements, which were on the Atlantic seaboard, developed in patterns more suitable to the New World, with greater religious freedom (though not everywhere) and economic opportunity. The first permanent English settlement was made at Jamestown (Virginia) in 1607.

History: Early Colonial Era, 1600s

Early Virginia settlements were managed by a chartered commercial company, the Virginia Company; economic motives were paramount to the company. The Virginia colony early passed to control by the crown and became a characteristic type of English colony—the royal colony. The corporate colony—controlled by its own resident corporation—was initiated by the settlement of the Pilgrims at Plymouth Colony in 1620 and by the establishment of the more important Massachusetts Bay colony by the Puritans in 1630; religion was the main inspiration for the founding of both. The corporate status of the Plymouth Colony, evinced in the Mayflower Compact, was established in 1620 by the purchase of company and charter from the holders in England. Connecticut and Rhode Island, offshoots of Massachusetts, received royal charters, granted in the 1660s. A third type of colony was the proprietary, founded by lords proprietors under quasi-feudal grants from the king; prime examples are Maryland (under the Calvert family) and Pennsylvania (under William Penn). The religious and political turmoil of the Puritan Revolution in England, as well as the repression of the Huguenots in France, helped to stimulate emigration to the English colonies. Hopes of economic betterment brought thousands from England as well as a number from Germany and other continental countries. To obtain passage across the Atlantic, the poor often indentured themselves to masters in the colonies for a specified number of years. The colonial population was also swelled by criminals transported from England as a means of punishment. Once established as freedmen, former bondsmen and transportees were frequently allotted land with which to make their way in the New World. Africans were kidnapped and brought here along the brutal Middle Passage, the first shipment arriving in Dutch New Amsterdam (now New York city) in 1619.

History: Colonial Economy and Religion, 1600s to 1775

The colonies were subject to English mercantilism in the form of Navigation Acts, which benefited them at first, establishing a monopoly of the English market for certain colonial products. Distinct colonial economies emerged, reflecting the regional differences of climate and topography. Agriculture was of primary importance in all the regions. In New England many crops were grown, maize being the closest to a staple, and agricultural holdings were usually of moderate size. The fur trade's initial importance in the area faded after the New England Confederation defeated Philip in King Philip's War and the Native Americans were dispersed. Fishing and commerce gained in importance, and the economic expansion of Massachusetts encouraged the founding of other New England colonies (New Hampshire, Vermont, and what would become Maine). In the middle colonies small farms abounded, interspersed with occasional great estates, and diverse crops were grown, wheat being most important. Land there was almost universally held through some form of feudal grant, as it was also in the South. Commerce grew quickly in the middle colonies, and large towns flourished, notably Philadelphia and New York. By the late 17th century small farms in the coastal areas of the South were beginning to give way to large plantations; these were developed with the slave labor of Africans, imported in ever-increasing numbers. Plantations were almost exclusively devoted to cultivation of the great Southern staples—tobacco, rice, and, later, indigo. Fur trade and lumbering were long important. Although some towns developed, the Southern economy remained the least diversified and the most rural in colonial America. In religion, too, the colonies developed in varied patterns, ranging from complete toleration (Rhode Island, New Jersey, South Carolina), to havens for Catholics (Maryland) and Quakers (Pennsylvania,) that became increasingly Anglican, to the religious theocracy of a Puritan oligarchy (Massachusetts). Anglicans were also much in evidence further S, as were Presbyterians, most of them Scotch-Irish. Politically, the colonies developed representative institutions, the most important being the vigorous colonial assemblies. Popular participation was somewhat limited by property qualifications. In the proprietary colonies, particularly, the settlers came into conflict with the executive authority. Important points of difference arose over the granting of large estates to a few, over the great power of the proprietors, over the failure of the proprietors (who generally lived in England) to cope with problems of defense, and over religious grievances, frequently stemming from a struggle for dominance between Anglicans and other groups. In corporate Massachusetts religious grievances were created by the zealous Puritan demands for conformity. These conflicts, together with England's desire to coordinate empire defenses against France and to gain closer control of the colonies' thriving economic life, stimulated England to convert corporate and proprietary colonies into royal ones. In general, royal control brought more orderly government and greater religious toleration, but it also focused the colonists' grievances on the mother country. The policies of the governors, who were the chief instruments of English will in the colonies, frequently met colonial opposition. The colonial assemblies

clashed with the governors especially over matters of taxation. The assemblies successfully resisted royal demands for permanent income to support royal policies and used their powers over finances to expand their own jurisdiction. As the 18th century progressed, colonial grievances were exacerbated. The British mercantile regulations, beneficial to agriculture, impeded the colonies' commercial and industrial development. However, economic and social growth continued, and by the mid-18th century, there had been created a greater sense of a separate, thriving, and distinctly American— albeit varied—civilization. In New England, Puritan values were modified by the impact of commerce and by the influence of the Enlightenment, while in the South the planter aristocracy developed a lavish and gentlemanly mode of life. Enlightenment ideals also gained influential adherents in the South. Higher education flourished in such institutions as Harvard (Massachusetts), William and Mary (Virginia), and King's College (now Columbia University, New York). The varied accomplishments of Benjamin Franklin epitomized colonial common sense at its most enlightened and productive level. A religious movement of importance emerged in the revivals of the Great Awakening, stimulated by Jonathan Edwards; the movement ultimately led to a strengthening of Methodism. Also inherent in this movement was egalitarian sentiment, which progressed but was not to triumph in the colonial era. One manifestation of egalitarianism was the long-continued conflict between the men of the frontiers and the wealthy Eastern oligarchs who dominated the assemblies, a conflict exemplified in the Regulator Movement. Colonial particularism, still stronger than national feeling, caused the failure of the *Albany* Congress to achieve permanent union. However, internal strife and dissent remained a less urgent issue than the controversy with Great Britain. After the British and colonial forces had combined to drive the French from Canada and the Great Lakes region in the French and Indian War (1754-1763), the colonists felt less need of British protection; but at this very time the British began colonial reorganization in an effort to impose on the colonists the costs of their own defense.

History: A New Nation, 1775 to 1789

Thus was set off the complex chain of events that united colonial sentiment against Great Britain and culminated in the American Revolution (1775-1789). Significant battles included *Lexington* and *Concord* (both in Massachusetts, the first ones), *Battle of the Clouds* (Vermont), *Saratoga* (New York), *Brandywine* (Pennsylvania), *Trumbull* (New Jersey), and *Yorktown* (Virginia, scene of the British surrender). The newly independent Thirteen Colonies were Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia; their territories were recognized as extending N to Canada and W to the Mississippi River. The Revolution also broadened representation in government, advanced the movement for separation of church and state in America, increased opportunities for westward expansion, and brought the abolition of the remnants of feudal land tenure. The view that the Revolution had been fought for local liberty against strong central control reinforced the particularism of the states and was reflected in the weak union established under the Articles of Confederation. Before ratification of the Articles (1781), conflicting claims of states to Western territories had been settled by the cession of Western land rights to the Federal government; the Ordinance of 1787 established a form of government for territories and a method of admitting them as states to the Union. But the national government floundered. It could not obtain commercial treaties or enforce its will in international relations, and, largely because it could not raise adequate revenue and had no executive authority, it was weak domestically. Local economic depressions bred discontent that erupted in such episodes as Shays' Rebellion. Advocates of strong central government bitterly attacked the Articles, supported particularly by professional and propertied groups, they had a profound influence on the Constitution drawn up by the Constitutional Convention of 1787. The Constitution created a national government with ample powers for effective rule, which were limited by "checks and balances" to forestall tyranny or radicalism. Its concept of a strong, orderly Union was popularized by the *Federalist Papers* of Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay, which played an important part in winning ratification of the Constitution by the separate states. The first man to be elected President was the hero of the Revolution, George Washington, who introduced many government practices and institutions, including the cabinet.

History: Growing Pains, 1789 to 1812

Jay's Treaty (1794) allayed friction with Great Britain. Hamilton, as Washington's Secretary of the Treasury, promulgated a strong state and attempted to advance economic development by a neomercantilist program; this included the establishment of a protective tariff, a mint, and the first Bank of the U.S. as well as assumption of state and private Revolutionary debts. The controversy raised by these policies bred divisions along factional and, ultimately, party lines. Hamilton and his followers, who eventually formed the Federalist party, favored wide activity by the Federal government under a broad interpretation of the Constitution. Their opponents, who adhered to principles laid down by Thomas Jefferson and who became the Democratic Republican (or Democratic) party, favored narrow construction—limited Federal jurisdiction and activities. To an extent these divisions were supported by economic differences, as the Democrats largely spoke for the agrarian point of view and the Federalists represented propertied and mercantile interests. Men like John Adams had mixed views on the good sense of the masses, and many more conservative thinkers associated the "people" with vulgarity and ineptitude. The Federalists generally represented a pessimistic and the

Democrats an optimistic view of man's inherent capacity to govern and develop himself; in practice, however, the values held by these two groups were often mixed. The Federalists were victorious in electing John Adams to the presidency in 1796. Federalist conservatism and anti-French sentiment were given vent in the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798 and in other acts. Deteriorating relations with France were seen in the XYZ Affair and the "hull war" (1798-1800), in which U.S. warships engaged French vessels in the Caribbean. The so-called Revolution of 1800 swept the Federalists from power and brought Jefferson to the presidency. Jefferson did bring a plainer and more republican style to government, and under him the Alien and Sedition Acts and other Federalist laws were allowed to lapse or were repealed. He moved toward stronger use of Federal powers, however, in negotiating the Louisiana Purchase (1803). In foreign policy Jefferson steered an officially neutral course between Great Britain and France, resisting the war sentiment roused by British impressment of American seamen and by both British and French violations of American shipping. He fostered the drastic Embargo Act of 1807 in an attempt to gain recognition of American rights through economic pressure, but the embargo struck hardest against the American economy, especially in New England. Under Jefferson's successor, Madison, the continued deprivations of American shipping, combined with the clamor of American "war hawks" who coveted Canada and Florida, led to the War of 1812, which was, however, opposed in New England.

History: Sectional Differences, 1812 to 1828

The Treaty of Ghent settled no specific issues of the war, but did confirm the independent standing of the young republic. Politically, the period that followed was the so-called "era of good feeling." The Federalists had disintegrated under the impact of the country's westward expansion and its new interests and ideals. Democrats of all sections had by now adopted a Federalist approach to national development and were temporarily in agreement on a nationalist, expansionist economic policy. This policy was implemented in 1816 by the introduction of internal improvements, a protective tariff, and the second Bank of the U.S. The same policies were continued under James Monroe, whose Monroe Doctrine (1823), which proclaimed U.S. opposition to European intervention or colonization in the American hemisphere, introduced the long-continuing U.S. concern for foreign involvement in the Americas. Domestically, the strength of the Federal government was increased by the judicial decisions of John Marshall, who had already helped establish the power of the U.S. Supreme Court. By 1820, however, sectional differences were arousing political discord. The sections of the country had long been developing along independent lines. In the North, merchants, manufacturers, inventors, farmers, and factory hands were busy with commerce, agricultural improvements, and the beginnings of the Industrial Revolution. In the South, Eli Whitney's cotton gin had brought in its wake a new staple: cotton was king, and the new states of Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi were the center of the cotton kingdom. The accession of Florida (1819) further swelled the domain of the South. The American West was expanding as the frontier rapidly advanced. Around the turn of the century settlement of territory West of the Appalachians had given rise to the new states of Kentucky, Tennessee, and Ohio. Settlers continued to move farther West, and the frontier remained a molding force in American life. The Missouri Compromise (1820) temporarily resolved the issue of slavery in new states, but under the presidency of John Quincy Adams sectional differences were aggravated. Particular friction, leading to the nullification movement, was created by the tariff of 1828, which was highly favorable to Northern manufacturing but a "Tariff of Abominations" to the agrarian South. In the 1820s and 1830s the advance of democracy brought manhood suffrage to many states and virtual direct election of the President, and party-nominating conventions replaced the caucus. Separation of church and state became virtually complete.

History: Westward Expansion, 1828 to 1850

An era of political vigor was begun with the election (1828) of Andrew Jackson to the presidency. If Jackson was not, as sometimes represented, the incarnation of frontier democracy, he nonetheless symbolized the advent of the common man to political power. He provided powerful executive leadership, attained to popular support, committing himself to a strong foreign policy and to internal improvements for the West. His stand for economic individualism and his attack on such bastions of the moneyed interests as the Bank of the U.S. won the approval of the growing middle class. Jackson acted firmly for the Union in the nullification controversy. But the South became increasingly dissident, and John C. Calhoun emerged as its chief spokesman with his "states' rights" doctrine. Opponents of Jackson's policies, including both Northern and Southern conservative propertied interests, amalgamated to form the Whig party, in which Henry Clay and Daniel Webster were long the dominant figures. The Panic of 1837 was the first of many such periodic economic upheavals. The West was winning greater attention in American life, and in the 1840s expansion to the Pacific was fervently proclaimed as the "manifest destiny" of the U.S. Annexation of the republic of Texas (which had won its own independence from Mexico), long delayed primarily by controversy over its slave-holding status, precipitated the Mexican War; by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo the U.S. acquired two-fifths of the territory then belonging to Mexico, including California and the present American Southwest. In 1833 these territories were rounded out by the Gadsden Purchase. The dispute with England over the Oregon Country (the Northwest) was resolved peacefully. "Manifest destiny" was somewhat fulfilled. To fulfill the dream of 1845 it is to honor the wish of

THE WESTWARD MOVEMENT: THE WESTWARD MOVEMENT WAS SPURRED BY SEVERAL FACTORS, INCLUDING THE SEARCH FOR FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW AND PROFIT FROM THE FRONTIERS. THE WESTWARD MOVEMENT WAS ALSO STIMULATED BY MANY OTHER FACTORS. THE GREAT PROFITS FROM OPEN-RANGE CATTLE RANCHING BROUGHT A STREAM OF RANCHERS TO THE AREA (THIS INFUX WAS TO REACH FEWER CATCH AFTER THE CIVIL WAR). THE AMERICAN FARMER, WITH HIS ABUNDANT LAND, WAS OFTEN PRODIGATE IN ITS CULTIVATION, AND AS THE SOIL DEPLETED HE CONTINUED TO MOVE FURTHER WEST, SETTLING THE VIRGIN OR INDIAN-OCCUPIED TERRITORY. SOIL EXHAUSTION WAS PARTICULARLY RAPID IN THE SOUTH, WHERE A ONE-CROP ECONOMY PREVAILLED, BUT BECAUSE COTTON PROFITS WERE FREQUENTLY HIGH THE PLANTATION SYSTEM QUICKLY SPREAD AS FAR WEST AS TEXAS. OCCUPATION OF THE WEST WAS ALSO SPED BY EUROPEAN IMMIGRANTS HUNGRY FOR LAND, INCLUDING MORMONS SEEKING A PERMANENT HOME (THEY EVENTUALLY SETTLED UTAH). BY THE MID-19TH CENTURY THE TERRITORIAL GAINS AND WESTWARD MOVEMENT OF THE U.S. WERE FOCUSING LEGISLATIVE ARGUMENT ON THE EXTENSION OF SLAVERY TO THE NEW TERRITORIES AND BREAKING DOWN THE MISSOURI COMPROMISE.

History: Tensions over Slavery, 1820 to 1860

The Wilmot Proviso illustrated Northern antislavery demands, while Southerners, too, became increasingly intransigent. Only with great effort was the Compromise of 1850 achieved, and it was to be the last such national agreement. The new Western states, linked in outlook to the North, had long since caused the South to lose hold of the House of Representatives, and Southern parity in the Senate was threatened by the prospective addition of more free states than slaveholding ones. The South obtained stronger enforcement of Fugitive Slave Laws. The passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Bill (1854), which repealed the Missouri Compromise, led to violence between factions in "bleeding Kansas" and spurred the founding of the new Republican Party. It became increasingly difficult to take a middle stand on the slavery issue, and extremists came to the fore on both sides. Southerners, unable to accept the end of slavery, upon which their entire system of life was based, and fearful of slave insurrection (especially after the revolt led by Nat Turner in 1831), felt threatened by the Abolitionists, who regarded themselves as leaders in a moral crusade. Southerners attempted to uphold slavery as universally beneficial and biblically sanctioned, while Northerners were increasingly unable to countenance the institution. Vigorous antislavery groups like the Free-Soil Party had already arisen, and as the conflict became more embittered it rent the older parties, such as the Whigs, whose Northern wing was largely absorbed in the new antislavery Republican Party. The Democrats were also torn, and the compromise policies of Stephen A. Douglas were of dwindling satisfaction to a divided nation. Moderation could not withstand the impact of the decision in the Dred Scott case, which denied the right of Congress to prohibit slavery in the territories, or the provocation of John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry, West Virginia (1859).

History: Civil War and Reconstruction, 1860 to 1876

The climax came in 1860 when the Republican Abraham Lincoln defeated three opponents to win the presidency. Southern leaders, feeling there was no possibility of fair treatment under a Republican administration, resorted to secession from the Union and formed the Confederate States of America. The northernmost slaveholding states (Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, and Missouri)—known as "border states"—did not secede but remained deeply divided; part of Virginia split off from Confederate Virginia in 1861 to form the state of West Virginia. The attempts of the seceding states to take over Federal property within their borders (notably Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina) precipitated the Civil War (1861–1865). The main theaters of the war were in Virginia (scene of the battles of Bull Run, Manassas, Chancellorsville), the Mississippi valley (Vicksburg), and Tennessee and Georgia (Shiloh, Chickamauga). Although Southern forces invaded the North on two occasions (defeated at Antietam, Maryland, and then at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania), the bulk of the fighting was confined to the South, which was utterly devastated in 1865, when Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox, Virginia. Slavery had already been abolished in the seceding states by Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation (1863). The ensuing problems of Reconstruction in the South were complicated by bitter struggles, including the impeachment of President Andrew Johnson in 1868. Military rule in parts of the South continued through the administrations of Ulysses S. Grant, which were also notable for their outrageous corruption. The era of Reconstruction ended when the South reentered national politics after the disputed election of 1876. Thus ended a period of political gains by African-Americans in the South, who were reduced, as dependent sharecropping farmers and as brutalized freedmen, to disenfranchised second-class citizens, a condition formalized by "Jim Crow Laws" by the turn of the century and upheld by Supreme Court "separate but equal" decisions.

History: Industrialization, 1876 to 1890

The remainder of the 19th century was marked by railroad building (assisted by generous Federal land grants), the disappearance of the American frontier, the discovery and exploitation of great mineral wealth, and industrialization based on important technological innovations. Textile mills using water power had been in place in New England since the turn of the century, but the Civil War saw a tremendous expansion in manufacturing, with the growth of an economy based on steel, oil, railroads, and machines. By 1900, the U.S. economy ranked foremost in the world. Mammoth

corporations such as the standard on trust were normal, and "captains of industry" like John D. Rockefeller and financiers like J. P. Morgan controlled huge resources. The latter part of the 19th century also saw the rise of the modern American city. Rapid industrialization attracted huge numbers of people to cities from abroad as well as rural America. The widespread use of steel and electricity allowed innovations which transformed the urban landscape. Electricity was also used to power streetcars, elevated railroads, and subways, as well as lighting and such innovations as elevators and telephones. The growth of mass transit allowed people to live further away from work, and was therefore largely responsible for the demise of the "walking city." With the advent of skyscrapers, which utilized steel construction technology, cities were able to grow vertically as well as horizontally. Into the "land of promise" poured new waves of immigrants; some acquired dazzling riches, but many others suffered in a competitive and unregulated economic age. Behind the facade of the "Gilded Age," with its aura of peace and general prosperity, a whole range of new problems was created, demanding new solutions. In the 1890s the expanding Granger Movement attempted to combat railroad and marketing abuses and to achieve an element of agrarian cooperation; this movement stimulated some regulation of utilities on the state level. Labor, too, began to challenge grueling factory conditions, but the opposition of business to unions was frequently overpowering, and the bulk of labor remained unorganized. Some strike successes were won by the Knights of Labor, but this union, discredited by the Haymarket Square Riot, was succeeded in prominence by the less divisive American Federation of Labor. Massachusetts led the way (1874) with the first effective state legislation for an eight-hour day, but similar state and national legislation was sparse, and the Federal government descended harshly on labor in the bloody strike at Pullman (Illinois) and in other disputes. Belief in laissez faire and the influence of big business in both national parties, especially in the Republican Party, delayed any widespread reform. Civil service reforms, including a civil service act, replaced the vast, troublesome presidential patronage system with a regular, efficient administration. In 1884 a reform group, led by Carl Schurz, bolted from the Republicans and helped elect Grover Cleveland, the first Democratic President since before the Civil War. The Sherman Antitrust Act was passed in 1890. The attempt of the Greenback Party to combine sponsorship of free coinage of silver and other aids to the debtor class with planks favorable to labor had failed, but reform forces were gathering strength, as witnessed by the rise of the Populist Party. The reform movement was spurred by the economic panic of 1893, and in 1896 the Democrats nominated for President William Jennings Bryan, who had adapted the Populist platform. He craved eloquently for free silver, but was defeated by William McKinley, who gained ardent support from big business.

History: The Rise of a World Power, 1890 to 1909

By the 1890s a new wave of expansionist sentiment was affecting U.S. foreign policy. With the purchase of Alaska (1867) and the rapid settlement of the last Western territory, Oklahoma, American capital and attention were directed toward the Pacific and the Caribbean. The U.S. established commercial and then political hegemony in the Hawaiian Islands and annexed them in 1898. In that year expansionist energy found release in the Spanish-American War, which resulted in U.S. acquisition of Puerto Rico, the Philippine Islands, and Guam, and in a U.S. quasi-protectorate over Cuba. American ownership of the Philippines involved military subjugation of the people, who rose in revolt when they realized that they would not be granted their independence; the Philippine Insurrection (1899-1901) cost more American lives and dollars than the Spanish-American War. Widening its horizons, the U.S. formulated the Open Door Policy (1900), which expressed its interest in China. Established as a world power with interests in two oceans, the U.S. intervened in the Panama revolution to facilitate construction of the Panama Canal; this was but one of its many involvements in Latin American affairs under Theodore Roosevelt (1901-1909) and later presidents.

History: Progressive Reform, 1909 to 1916

By now, the progressive reform movement had taken definite shape. Progressivism was partly a mode of thought, as witnessed by the progressive education program of John Dewey; as such it was a pragmatic attempt to mold modern institutions for the benefit of all. Progressives, too, were the muckrakers, who attacked abuse and waste in industry and in society. In its politics as shaped by Rove M. La Follette and others, progressivism adopted many Populist planks but promoted them from a more urban and forward-looking viewpoint. Progressivism was dramatized by the magnetic Roosevelt, who denounced "malefactors of great wealth" and demanded a "square deal" for labor; however, in practice he was a rather cautious reformer. He did make some attacks on trusts, and he promoted regulation of interstate commerce as well as passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act (1906) and legislation for the conservation of natural resources. Roosevelt later split with the Republicans in 1912 and ran for the presidency on the Progressive Party ticket, but lost to Democratic reform candidate, Woodrow Wilson. Wilson's "New Freedom" brought many progressive ideas to legislative fruition. The Federal Reserve System and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) were established, and the Adamson and Clayton Antitrust acts were passed. Perhaps more than on the national level, progressivism triumphed in the states in legislation beneficial to labor, in the furthering of education, and in the democratization of electoral procedures. Wilson did not radically alter the aggressive Caribbean policy of his predecessors; U.S. marines were sent to Nicaragua, and difficulties with Mexico were capped by the landing of U.S. forces at Veracruz and by the campaign against Francisco (Pancho) Villa.

History: World War I and Economic Boom, 1916 to 1929

The nation's interest in world peace had already been expressed through participation in The Hague Conferences, and when World War I burst upon Europe, Wilson made efforts to keep the U.S. neutral; in 1916 he was reelected on a peace platform. However, American sympathies and interests were actively with the Allies (especially with the U.K. and France), and although Britain and Germany both violated American neutral rights on the seas, German submarine attacks constituted the more dramatic provocation. On April 6, 1917, the U.S. entered the war on the side of the Allies and provided crucial manpower and supplies for the Allied victory. Wilson's Fourteen Points to insure peace and democracy captured the popular imagination of Europe and were a factor in Germany's decision to seek an armistice; however, at the Paris Peace Conference after the war, Wilson was thwarted from fully implementing his program. In the U.S., isolationist sentiment against participation in the League of Nations, an integral part of the Treaty of Versailles, was led by Senator William E. Borah and other "irreconcilables." The majority of Republican senators, led by Henry Cabot Lodge, insisted upon amendments that would preserve U.S. sovereignty, and although Wilson fought for his original proposals, they were rejected. Isolationist sentiment prevailed during the 1920s, and while the U.S. played a major role in the naval conferences for disarmament and in the engineering of the Kellogg-Briand Pact, which outlawed war, its general lack of interest in international concerns was seen in its highly nationalistic economic policies, notably its insistence (later modified) on collecting the war debts of foreign countries and the passage of the Hawley-Smoot Tariff Act. The country voted for a return to "normalcy" when it elected Warren G. Harding president in 1920, but the ensuing period was a time of rapid change, and the old normalcy was not to be regained. The Republican governments of the decade, although basically committed to laissez faire, actively encouraged corporate mergers and subsidized aviation and the merchant marine. Harding's administration, marred by the Teapot Dome scandal, gave way to his death to the presidency of Calvin Coolidge, and the nation embarked on a spectacular industrial and financial boom. In the 1920s the nation became increasingly urban, and everyday life was transformed as the "consumer revolution" brought the growing use of automobiles, telephones, radios, and other appliances. The pace of living quickened, and mores became less restrained, while fortunes were rapidly accumulated on the skyrocketing stock market, in real estate speculation, and elsewhere. To some it seemed a golden age. But agriculture was not prosperous, and industry and finance became dangerously overextended.

History: The Great Depression, 1929 to 1940

In 1929 there began the Great Depression, which reached worldwide proportions. In 1931, President Herbert Hoover proposed a moratorium on foreign debts, but this and other measures failed to prevent economic collapse. In the 1932 election Hoover was overwhelmingly defeated by the Democrat Franklin D. Roosevelt. The new president immediately instituted his New Deal with vigorous measures. To meet the critical financial emergency he instituted a "bank holiday." Congress, called into special session, enacted a succession of laws, some of them to meet the economic crisis with relief measures, others to put into operation long-range social and economic reforms. Some of the most important agencies created were the National Recovery, Agriculture Adjustment, and Public Works administrations, the Civilian Conservation Corps, and the Tennessee Valley Authority. This program was further broadened in later sessions with other agencies, notably the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Works Progress (later, Projects) Administration. Laws also created a social security program. The program was dynamic and, in many areas, unprecedented. It created a vast machinery by which the state could promote economic recovery and social welfare. Opponents of these measures argued that they violated individual rights, besides being extravagant and wasteful. Adverse decisions on several of the measures by the U.S. Supreme Court tended to slow the pace of reform and caused Roosevelt to attempt unsuccessfully to revise the court. Although interest centered chiefly on domestic affairs during the 1930s, Roosevelt continued and expanded the policy of friendship toward the Latin American nations which Hoover had initiated; this full-blown "good-neighbor" policy proved generally fruitful for the U.S. Roosevelt was reelected by an overwhelming majority in 1936 and won easily in 1940, being the first president to be elected to a third term.

History: World War II, 1940 to 1945

The ominous situation abroad was chiefly responsible for Roosevelt's remaining at the national helm. By the late 1930s the Axis nations (Germany and Italy) in Europe as well as Japan in East Asia had already disrupted world peace. As wars began in China, Ethiopia, and Spain, the U.S. sought at first to bolster its insular security by the Neutrality Act. As Axis aggression led to the outbreak of the European war in September 1939, the U.S. persisted in its neutrality, despite increasing sympathy for the Allies. But after the fall of France in June 1940, the support for beleaguered Britain became more overt. In March 1941, Lend-Lease aid was extended to the British and, in November, to the Russians. The threat of war had already caused the adoption of Selective Service to build the armed strength of the nation. Hemisphere defense was enlarged, and the U.S. joined with the U.K. with the formation of the Atlantic Charter. In August 1941, the

WORTHY VICTORY BY THE U.S. IN THE GREAT DEFEAT OF THE JAPANESE. THE JAPANESE BEING THE ROOSEVELT GOVERNMENT HAD VIGOROUSLY PROTESTED JAPAN'S CAREER OF CONQUEST AND ITS ESTABLISHMENT OF THE "GREATER EAST ASIA CO-PROSPERITY SPHERE." AFTER THE JAPANESE TAKEOVER OF FRENCH INDOCHINA (JULY 1941), WITH ITS INHERENT THREAT TO THE PHILIPPINES, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FORCE ALL JAPANESE ASSETS HERE. DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS GREW TENSE, BUT U.S.-JAPAN DISCUSSIONS WERE STILL UNDERWAY WHEN, ON DECEMBER 7, 1941, JAPANESE BOMBS FELL ON PEARL HARBOR (HAWAII). THE U.S. PROMPTLY DECLARED WAR, AND FOUR DAYS LATER GERMANY AND ITALY DECLARED WAR ON THE U.S. THE PHILIPPINES WERE LOST TO JAPAN, WHICH ALSO OCCUPIED THREE ALASKAN ISLANDS. THE COUNTRY MOBILIZED ITS RESOURCES, TRANSFORMING FACTORIES TO WAR PLANTS AND SENDING TROOPS TO EUROPE, AFRICA, AND THE PACIFIC. WAR--RELATED ACTIVITIES REVITALIZED THE NATIONAL ECONOMY, HELPING IT REBOUND FROM THE GREAT DEPRESSION. MANY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WERE CREATED TO CONTROL AND COORDINATE MATERIALS, TRANSPORTATION, AND MANPOWER. SINCE MANY JAPANESE IMMIGRANTS LIVED IN THE W. U.S., FEARS THAT THEY WOULD ACT AS SPIES FOR TOKYO LED TO THEIR IMPRISONMENT IN INTERNEMENT CAMPS, MOSTLY IN THE WEST. BECAUSE OF BATTLES TOOK PLACE ON AMERICAN SOIL, THE U.S. WAS THE ONLY MAJOR POWER TO EMERGE FROM THE WAR WITH ITS INFRASTRUCTURE INTACT. THE WAR PROVIDED THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE U.S. TO DEMONSTRATE THE STRENGTH OF ITS RESOURCES AND ITS PRESTIGE AND POWER IN WORLD AFFAIRS. ROOSEVELT (AND, LATER, TRUMAN), WINSTON CHURCHILL, AND JOSEPH STALIN MET AT SEVERAL CONFERENCES TO PLAN STRATEGY AND THE POSTWAR SETTLEMENT. ROOSEVELT WAS ALSO A KEY FIGURE IN THE PLANS FOR THE UN. AFTER HIS SUDDEN DEATH IN APRIL 1945, HARRY S. TRUMAN BECAME PRESIDENT. A MONTH LATER THE EUROPEAN WAR ENDED WHEN GERMANY SURRENDERED ON MAY 7, 1945; WAR CONTINUED WITH JAPAN, AGAINST WHOM THE U.S. USED A FATEFUL AND REVOLUTIONARY WEAPON, THE ATOMIC BOMB. THE JAPANESE SURRENDER, ANNOUNCED AUGUST 14, 1945, AND SIGNED SEPTEMBER 2, BROUGHT THE WAR TO A CLOSE.

History: The Rise of Anti-Communism, 1945 to 1952

Peacetime readjustment was successfully effected and included such programs as the "GI Bill." The economy boomed in fulfilling the demands for long-unobtainable consumer goods. The shortening of the postwar factory work week and the proportionate reduction of wages precipitated strikes, causing the government to pass the Taft-Hartley Labor Act (1947). Some inflation occurred by 1947 as wartime economic controls were abandoned. Congress passed a host of Truman's measures relating to minimum wages, public housing, farm surpluses, and credit regulation; thus was instituted acceptance of comprehensive government intervention in times of prosperity. The most striking postwar development was America's new peacetime involvement in international affairs. Relations with the Soviet Union worsened during the late 1940s. The Truman Doctrine attempted to thwart Soviet expansion in Europe; massive loans, culminating in the Marshall Plan, were vital in restoring European economies. As the Cold War intensified, the U.S. took steps (1948) to nullify the Soviet blockade of Berlin and played the leading role in forming a new alliance of Western nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Entering the Korean War, the U.S. cast off its traditional peacetime isolationism and accepted its position as a prime mover in world affairs. International policy had significant repercussions at home, where the fear of domestic Communism and subversion became a national obsession, culminating in such sensational events as the Alger Hiss case, the McCarthy hearings, and the trial and execution of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. Security measures and loyalty checks in the government and elsewhere were tightened and alleged Communists were prosecuted under the Smith Act of 1940.

History: Prosperity and the Cold War, 1952 to 1963

In 1952, Dwight D. Eisenhower was swept into office. By the mid-1950s, America was in the midst of a great industrial boom, and stock prices were skyrocketing. In foreign affairs the Eisenhower administration was internationalist in outlook, although it sternly opposed Communist power. Some antagonism came from the neutral nations of Asia and Africa, partly because of the U.S. association with former colonial powers and partly because U.S. foreign aid more often than not had the effect of strengthening ruling oligarchies abroad. In the race for technological superiority the U.S. exploded (1952) the first hydrogen bomb, but was second to the USSR in launching (January 21, 1958) an artificial satellite and in testing an intercontinental guided missile. However, spurred by Soviet advances, the U.S. made rapid progress in space exploration and missile research. In the crucial domestic issue of racial integration, the U.S. Supreme Court in a series of decisions supported the efforts of African-American citizens to achieve full civil rights. In 1959, Alaska and Hawaii became the 49th and 50th states of the Union. Despite hopes for "peaceful coexistence," negotiations with the USSR for nuclear disarmament failed to achieve accord and tensions grew (e.g., Berlin). In 1961, the older Eisenhower gave way to the youngest President ever elected, John F. Kennedy, who defeated the Republican candidate, Richard M. Nixon. President Kennedy called for "new frontiers" of American endeavor. Kennedy's foreign policy combined such humanitarian innovations as the Peace Corps and the Alliance for Progress with the traditional opposition to Communist aggrandizement. After breaking relations with Fidel Castro's Cuba, the U.S. supported (1961) an ill-fated anti-Castro invasion of Cuba. In 1962, in reaction to the presence of Soviet missiles in Cuba, the U.S. blockaded Soviet military shipments to Cuba and demanded the dismantling of Soviet bases there. The two great powers seemed on the brink of war, but within a week the USSR acceded to U.S. demands. In the meantime the U.S. achieved an important gain in space exploration with the orbital flight around the earth in a manned satellite by Colonel John H. Glenn.

The tensions of the cold war eased when, in 1963, the U.S. and the Soviet Union reached an accord on a limited ban of nuclear testing.

History: Civil Rights and the Vietnam Era, 1963 to 1969

On November 22, 1963, President Kennedy was assassinated; he was succeeded by Lyndon B. Johnson, who was able to bring many Kennedy measures to legislative fruition. Significant progress toward racial equality was achieved with a momentous Civil Rights Act (1964), a Voting Rights Act (1965), and the twenty-fourth Amendment to the Constitution, which abolished the poll tax. Other legislation, reflecting Johnson's declaration of a "war on poverty" and his stated aim of creating a "Great Society," included a comprehensive Economic Opportunity Act (1964) and bills providing for tax reduction, medical care for the aged, an increased minimum wage, urban rehabilitation, and aid to education. Ironically, international problems dominated Johnson's second term, and Johnson himself pursued an aggressive course, dispatching (April 1965) troops to the Dominican Republic during disorders there and escalating American participation in the Vietnam War. Authorization for the latter was claimed by Johnson to have been given (August 1964) by Congress in the Tonkin Gulf Resolution. The Federal military budget soared, and inflation became a pressing problem. The Vietnam War provoked increasing opposition at home, manifested in marches and demonstrations in which casualties were sometimes incurred and thousands of people were arrested. An impression of general lawlessness and domestic disintegration was heightened by serious race riots that erupted in cities across the nation, most devastatingly in the Watts district of Los Angeles (1965) and in Detroit and Newark (1967), and by various racial and political assassinations, notably those of Martin Luther King, Jr., Senator Robert F. Kennedy (1968), and Malcolm X. Other manifestations of social upheaval were the increase of drug use, especially among the young, and the rising rate of crime, most noticeable in the cities. Opposition to American involvement in the Vietnam War so eroded Johnson's popularity that he chose not to run again for President in 1968. Violence broke out during the Democratic national convention in Chicago when police and national guardsmen battled some 20,000 demonstrators in what a national investigating committee later characterized as "a police riot." Nixon, the Republican candidate, ran on a platform promising an end to the Vietnam War and stressing the need for domestic "law and order"; he won a narrow victory. Governor George C. Wallace of Alabama carried five Southern states. The Congress remained Democratic. Pronouncing the "Nixon doctrine"—that thenceforth other countries would have to carry more of the burden of fighting Communist domination, albeit with substantial American economic aid—Nixon began a slow withdrawal of American troops from Vietnam. When Nixon in the spring of 1970 ordered U.S. troops into neutral Cambodia to destroy Communist bases and supply routes there, a wave of demonstrations, some of them violent, swept American campuses. Students were killed by national guardsmen at Kent State University (Ohio) and at Jackson State College (Mississippi), and 448 colleges and universities temporarily closed down. Antiriot activity declined, however, when American troops were removed from Cambodia after sixty days. The institution of draft reform, the continued withdrawal of U.S. soldiers from Vietnam, and a sharp decrease in U.S. casualties all contributed toward dampening antiwar sentiment and lessening the war as an issue of public debate. Open racial flare-ups abated after the turn of the 1960s (although the issue of the busing of children to achieve integration continued to arouse controversy). The growing movement of women demanding social, economic, and political equality with men also reflected the changing times. A dramatic milestone in the country's space program was reached in July 1969, with the landing of two men on the moon, the first of several such manned flights. Significant unmanned probes of several of the planets followed, and in 1973 the first space station was orbited.

History: The Nixon Era and Watergate, 1969 to 1974

In domestic policy Nixon appeared to favor an end to the many reforms of the 1960s. He was accused by civil rights proponents of wooing Southern support by seeking delays in the implementation of school integration. Such actions by his administration were overruled by the Supreme Court. Nixon twice attempted to appoint conservative Southern judges to the U.S. Supreme Court and was twice frustrated by the Senate, which rejected both nominations. In an attempt to control the spiraling inflation inherited from the previous administration, Nixon concentrated on reducing Federal spending. Federal budget cuts contributed to a general economic slowdown but failed to halt inflation, so that the country experienced the unprecedented misfortune of both rising prices and rising unemployment; the steady drain of gold reserves after almost three decades of enormous foreign aid programs, a new balance-of-trade deficit, and the instability of the dollar in the international market also affected the economy. In August 1971, Nixon resorted to the freezing of prices, wages, and rents; these controls were continued under an ensuing, more flexible but comprehensive program known as Phase II. Another significant move was the devaluation of the dollar in December 1971; it was further devalued in 1972 and again in 1973. In keeping with his announced intention of moving the U.S. from an era of confrontation to one of negotiation, Nixon made a dramatic visit to the People's Republic of China in February 1972, opening the way for a normalization of relations. A trip to Moscow followed in the spring, culminating in the signing of numerous agreements with the Soviet Union, the most important being two strategic arms limitations accords (SALT). Meanwhile, although

U.S. economy began to grow again, but inflation remained high. In 1973, Nixon announced a policy of "stagflation," which was a combination of stagflation and inflation. Nixon's economic policy was increasing. Finally, Congress halted the bombing and limited Nixon's power to commit troops. A cease-fire in Vietnam was not achieved until January 1973. Nixon was reelected (November 1972) in a landslide, losing only Massachusetts and the District of Columbia. But his second term was marred, and finally destroyed, by the Watergate affair. Nixon resigned on August 9, the first president in the history of the republic to be driven from office under the threat of impeachment. His successor, Vice President Gerald R. Ford promised to continue Nixon's foreign policy, particularly the improvement of relations with China and the USSR. In domestic affairs, the U.S. was hurt by skyrocketing fuel prices due to an Arab oil embargo.

History: Economic Malaise, 1974 to 1980

Ford attempted to formulate new policies to stem the ever-increasing inflation rate, which by late 1974 had reached the most severe levels since the period following World War II. He was also confronted with mounting unemployment and with the threat of a devastating world food crisis. The Democratic contender in the 1976 presidential election, former Georgia governor James E. "Jimmy" Carter, ran a brilliant and tireless campaign based on populist appeals to honesty and morality. In domestic affairs, Carter focused a great deal of attention on energy issues, creating the Department of Energy in 1977 and insisting on the necessity of nuclear energy as an alternative to fossil fuel consumption. However, nuclear energy in the U.S. suffered a severe setback in 1979 when an accident at the Three Mile Island power facility near Harrisburg (Pennsylvania) resulted in the partial meltdown of the reactor core. States with large energy industries such as Texas, Louisiana, Wyoming, and Colorado all benefited from extremely high energy prices throughout the 1970s. Alaska's economy also boomed as the Alaska pipeline began transporting oil in 1975. Soaring oil prices as well as increased foreign competition dealt a severe blow to American industry, especially heavy industries such as automobile and steel manufacturing located in America's Rust Belt. Central cities in the U.S. experienced great hardship in the 1960s and 1970s. Rising crime rates and racial unrest during the 1960s accelerated the outmigration of people and businesses to the suburbs. By the late 1970s, many large cities had lost their middle class core populations and suffered severe budgetary problems. Inflation continued to rise dramatically as it had during Ford's administration and eventually reached a thirty-year high in 1979. Efforts to control inflation such as raising interest rates plunged the economy into recession. In 1977, Carter signed the Panama Canal Treaty and a year later Congress voted to turn over the canal to Panama in 1999. Carter's greatest achievement in foreign policy came in 1978 when he mediated unprecedented negotiations between Egypt and Israel at Camp David (Maryland); the two countries later signed a peace treaty. Also in that year the U.S. resumed official diplomatic relations with China and Carter entered into a second round of SALT talks with the USSR. Carter's pledge to stand against nations that abused human rights resulted in a grain and high-technology embargo of the Soviet Union in response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Carter also organized a boycott of the 1980 Moscow Olympics. His decision in 1979 to allow Muhammad Reza Shah Pahlavi, the deposed leader of Iran, to receive medical treatment in the U.S. inflamed the already passionate anti-American sentiment in that nation. On November 4, 1979, a group of militants seized the U.S. embassy in Iran, taking sixty-six hostages...destroying Carter's credibility as a leader.

History: Reagan and the Economy, 1980 to 1988

With the hostage crisis omnipresent in the media and the nation's economy sliding deeper into recession, Carter lost the 1980 election to Ronald Reagan, the oldest man elected president (at seventy). On January 20, 1981, the day of Reagan's inauguration, Iran released all of the American hostages. Reagan's coalition proved to be long as the Republicans made large gains in the House of Representatives and won control of the Senate for the first time since 1954, ushering in a new wave of conservatism. His program of "supply-side economics" sought to increase economic growth through reduced taxes which would in turn create even greater tax revenue. Critics argued that his tax cuts only benefited corporations and wealthy individuals. Reagan drastically cut spending on social programs as part of his vow to balance the federal budget. In labor disputes, he was decidedly anti-union, firing 13,000 striking air traffic controllers. The U.S. economy continued to worsen; in 1983 the unemployment rate reached its highest point since the Great Depression at almost 11%. By the end of that year, however, oil prices began to drop which slowed the inflation rate and the economy began to recover. Reagan's deregulation of the banking, airline, and many other industries spurred enormous amounts of economic activity. In 1984 the unemployment rate fell and the dollar was strong in foreign markets. With the economy recovering, Reagan was favored in the 1984 presidential election. Democratic nominee Walter F. Mondale chose U. S. Representative Geraldine Ferraro as his running mate; she was the first woman to gain a major party's vice presidential nomination. Reagan scored an overwhelming victory, carrying forty-nine states and winning a record 505 electoral votes. Economic recovery did not last, however; while Reagan was cutting government funding for social programs the defense budget skyrocketed to levels not seen since World War II. The Federal budget deficit also soared and in 1987, Reagan submitted the first trillion-dollar budget to Congress. In addition, the deregulated economy proved extremely volatile; financial scandals were prevalent and the trade imbalance grew. Finally in 1988 the stock market crashed, falling a record 508 points in one day.

History: Reagan and the End of the Cold War, 1981 to 1989

Reagan's foreign policy was aggressively anti-Communist as he discarded the policy of détente employed by his predecessors. He revived Cold War rhetoric, referring to the Soviet Union as the "evil empire" and used increased defense spending to enlarge the U.S. nuclear arsenal and fund the Strategic Defense Initiative. In 1981, Reagan imposed sanctions against Poland after the establishment of a military government there. He also sought aid for the Contras—counter-revolutionaries seeking to overthrow the Marxist government in Nicaragua. At the same time the U.S. was secretly mining Nicaraguan harbors. In 1983 Reagan ordered the invasion of the tiny Caribbean nation of Grenada; the action was roundly criticized by the world community but succeeded in toppling the pro-Cuban regime. In 1986 the space shuttle Challenger exploded shortly after liftoff, killing the entire seven-person crew. Reagan's aggressive policies in the Middle East worsened already bad relations with Arab nations; he ordered (1986) air strikes against Libya in retaliation for Libyan-sponsored terrorist attacks. Although he had vowed never to negotiate with terrorists, members of the Reagan administration did just that in the Iran–Contra affair. Against the wishes of the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense, Reagan officials arranged the illegal sale of arms to Iran in exchange for the release of American hostages in the Middle East. The profits from the sales were then diverted to the Contra rebels in Nicaragua. Reagan improved his image before he left office, however, by agreeing to a series of arms reduction talks initiated by Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev. Reagan was also able to leave a powerful legacy by appointing three conservative Supreme Court justices, including Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman to serve on the high court.

History: Economic Transition and the Gulf War, 1989 to 1992

George Bush succeeded him, who vowed a continuation of Reagan's policies and in foreign affairs was equally aggressive. In 1989, after a U.S.-backed coup failed to oust Panamanian President Manuel Noriega, Bush ordered the invasion of Panama by U.S. troops. Bush's major military action, however, was the Persian Gulf War, launched to drive Iraqi troops from Kuwait. Challenged by the savings and loan industry, which had collapsed after deregulation during the Reagan administration, Bush lost popularity. The U.S. went through a transitional period during the 1980s and early 1990s, when the severe decline of traditional manufacture (begun in the 1970s) forced a large-scale shift of the economy to services and other sectors. States with large service, trade, and high-technology industries (such as many Sunbelt states) grew in population and thrived economically. Meanwhile, states heavily dependent on manufacturing, including much of the Midwest, suffered severe unemployment and outmigration. Midwestern states grew less than 5% during the 1980s while Sunbelt states grew between 15% and 30%. In addition, the end of the Cold War, precipitated by the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact and the collapse of Soviet Communism, resulted in a reduction of the U.S. armed forces as well as the opening of new markets in an increasingly global economy. In April 1992, one of the worst race riots in U.S. history erupted in Los Angeles, killing fifty-eight, injuring thousands, and causing more than \$1 billion in damage. The North American Free Trade Act (1992) was designed to make the U.S., Mexico, and Canada more competitive in the world marketplace, though there are fears that the agreement will result in even greater exportation of U.S. jobs to Mexico where labor is less expensive. After the Persian Gulf War the nation turned its attention to the domestic problems of recession and high unemployment. Bush's inability to institute a program for economic recovery made him vulnerable in the 1992 presidential election to the Democratic nominee, Arkansas governor Bill Clinton.

History: The Clinton Era, 1992 to 2000

Clinton, a political moderate, was particularly successful in appealing to voters (especially in the Midwest and West) who had previously abandoned the Democratic Party to vote for Reagan. Notable milestones during Clinton's first term were the passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) that opened national borders between the U.S., Canada, and Mexico to increased trade; welfare reform; and his failure to inaugurate sweeping health care reform. Even though he was dogged by investigations into alleged financial impropriety in the Whitewater land deal, the suicide death of White House counsel Vince Foster, and other scandals, Clinton was reelected in 1996, defeating former Senate majority leader Bob Dole. In January 1998, reports surfaced of an affair between Clinton and a White House intern, leading to a year-long investigation of the president's conduct, and culminating in his impeachment on December 19, 1998 by the House of Representatives on charges of perjury and obstruction of justice. After a trial in the Senate, Clinton was acquitted of the charges in February 1999.

History: Election Turmoil, 2000 to 2001

The presidential election of 2000 was thrown into turmoil when Texas governor George W. Bush (son of President George H. W. Bush) appeared to win the state of Florida by a few hundred votes over Vice President Al Gore, prompting an automatic recount and a flurry of legal maneuvers by both Republicans and Democrats in state and federal courts; the contested recount was halted by order of the U.S. Supreme Court, effectively

giving the state, and the election to Bush, who was sworn in as president in January 2001. Among Bush's primary domestic policy goals was a series of tax cuts, lowering the tax rates on certain kinds of investment income and providing tax "rebates" of up to \$500 per taxpayer.

History: The War on Terrorism, 2001 to 2007

On September 11, 2001, terrorists of the Al Qaeda group attacked the U.S. when they hijacked four commercial airliners, flying one each into the two towers of the World Trade Center in New York City and one into the Pentagon building in Washington D.C.; the fourth aircraft crashed into a field in Pennsylvania when passengers apparently tried to overwhelm the hijackers and take control of the plane. The Pentagon was severely damaged and the World Trade Center was destroyed when the towers collapsed, killing nearly 3,000 people. The U.S. subsequently deployed naval vessels to the Arabian Sea and combat troops to central Asia and, with the help of Afghan opposition forces, launched attacks that toppled the Taliban government of Afghanistan, which had hosted and supported Al Qaeda and its leadership. In response to the terrorist attacks, Congress passed several laws, including the U.S. Patriot Act, that gave government agencies wider latitude in intelligence sharing and domestic surveillance of possible terrorists and created a new executive department, the Department of Homeland Security. In 2002, the Bush administration began pressuring the UN to act on the continuing problem of Iraq and Saddam Hussein. Claiming that Iraq persisted in harboring weapons systems and development programs banned under UN resolutions and the treaty ending the 1991 Gulf War, including weapons of mass destruction such as chemical and biological weapons, the Bush administration persuaded the U.S. Congress to authorize the use of force against Iraq. Without UN approval and citing the doctrine of preemptive self-defense, the U.S., along with British, Australian, and other troops, invaded Iraq in March 2003, quickly toppling the Hussein regime. Throughout 2003 and 2004, the U.S.-led Coalition Provisional Authority sought to rebuild Iraq's infrastructure and institutions in the face of growing insurgent violence. The U.S. turned over sovereignty to an interim Iraqi government in June 2004. In November 2004, Bush won reelection over Democrat John Kerry by a three-point margin, amid record voter turn-out. Elections in Iraq in January and October 2005 served as the basis for a new Iraqi government, but did little to quell insurgent violence. The slow, often inadequate government response to Hurricane Katrina, which hit the U.S. in August 2005, and caused widespread destruction in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, seemed to catalyze dissatisfaction with the president generally, as the U.S. public also became increasingly unsettled by the war in Iraq and other issues. The fighting in Iraq, which became more of a sectarian civil war in 2006, was a significant issue in the congressional elections that year, as were several congressional scandals, and Republicans lost control of Congress, albeit narrowly in the Senate. In January 2007, the president announced a temporary increase in U.S. forces in Iraq, a move intended to control sectarian violence and bring security to Baghdad.

Government

The United States is a federal republic governed under the constitution adopted by the Constitutional Convention of 1787, effective 1789. There is a division of powers between the Federal and the state governments. The Federal government consists of three branches: the executive, the legislative, and the judicial. The executive power is vested in the President and, in the event of his incapacity, the Vice President. The executive conducts the administrative business of the nation with the aid of a cabinet composed of the Attorney General and the Secretaries of the Departments of State, Treasury, Defense, Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, Energy, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security. The Congress of the U.S., the legislative branch, is bicameral and consists of the 100-seat Senate, whose members serve six-year terms, and the 435-seat House of Representatives, whose members serve two-year terms. The judicial branch is formed by the Federal courts and headed by the U.S. Supreme Court. The members of the Congress are elected by universal suffrage as are the members of the Electoral College, which formally chooses the President and the Vice President.

President George W. Bush has been head of state and government since January 2001. Nancy Pelosi has been Speaker of the House and Harry Reid has been the Majority Leader in the Senate since January 2007.

Citations

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TYPE OF PLACE	city
LOCATION	Indiana, United States
COORDINATES	39°47'N 86°09'W
POPULATION	785,597

Indianapolis, city (1990 population: 414,951) - [Indiana](#) and [Marion](#) county, central Indiana, on the [White River](#); 39°47'N 86°09'W. Selected 1820 as the site of the state capital (which was moved here 1824-1825). The largest city in Indiana, it is the chief processing point in a rich agricultural region and is a major grain market. It is also the commercial, transportation, and industrial center for a large area and is Indiana's leading manufacturing city (printing and publishing, flour milling, construction equipment, clay products, electronics, paper products, chemicals, auto parts, food products, feeds and fertilizers, lumber products, agricultural equipment, crushed limestone, dairy products, apparel, pharmaceuticals). The site for the city was deliberately located at a point equidistant from the four corners of Indiana; largest metropolitan area in U.S., not situated on a navigable river. On January 1, 1970, Indianapolis consolidated with all of Marion county, except for the municipalities of [Beach Grove](#), [Southport](#), [Speedway](#), and [Lawrence](#). The city is the seat of Butler University, Marian College, University of Indianapolis, Christian Theological Seminary, and Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis (IUPUI), with many units, including the Medical Center and the Herron School of Art. The American Legion has its national headquarters here in a building erected as a war memorial. Landmarks are the state capital (1875-1888); the state library and historical building; the home and burial place of James Whitcomb Riley; the home and burial place of Benjamin Harrison (twenty-third president of the U.S.); a Carmelite monastery; the Soldiers and Sailors Monument (1902); the Bank One Tower, tallest building in the state; and the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, site of the world-famous annual 500-mi/805-km automobile race (Indy 500). In the city's downtown section is the RCA Dome (formerly Hoosierdome), a massive indoor sports facility and convention center. In the 1980s, Indianapolis acquired a National Football League team, the Colts, and Market Square Arena is the home of the National Basketball Association's Indiana Pacers. The city hosts numerous cultural events and has noteworthy museum, a symphony orchestra, and a zoo. Indianapolis International Airport is on the W edge of the city. Fort Benjamin Harrison (to the NE) has been closed, part of its area has been converted to a state park, and the rest is being developed as residential and commercial property. The Naval Air Warfare Center (NAWC) was privatized in 1996 and is now devoted to the design and production of advanced electronics; this was the largest privatization of an American military base in history. Incorporated 1847.

Citations

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 "Indianapolis." *Columbia Gazetteer of the World Online*. 2023. Columbia University Press. 29 Aug. 2023. <<http://www.columbiagazetteer.org/main/ViewPlace/61872>>

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Virginia Flag Football Association



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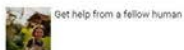


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- 15. Play Flag Football With Your Friends!

In flag football, which is a variation of American football played without using helmets and pads, participants wear flags around their waists. Due to this adjustment, it is a safer and more accessible sport for those who may not be used to football's brutality.



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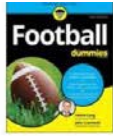
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This article offers a thorough explanation of flag football's fundamental rules, including everything from the field size and equipment to the scoring system and penalties. By the end, you will have all the information you need to get started, whether you want to play with friends and family or join a local league.

Summary of Flag Football Rules

First, a quick rundown of flag football basics before we dive into greater detail:

1. **Field size:** The field is usually 30-40 yards wide and 70-80 yards long.
2. **Team size:** Each team typically has 5-7 players on the field at a time.
3. **Object of the game:** Score more points than the other team. Points can be scored by carrying the ball across the opposing team's goal line, or by catching a pass in the end zone.
4. **Defending:** The defending team tries to stop the other team from advancing the ball by pulling the flags attached to the ball carrier's waist. Once a flag is pulled, the ball carrier is considered "down" and the play is over.
5. **First downs:** Like in traditional football, a team must advance the ball a certain distance to earn a first down and continue their drive.
6. **Scoring:** Touchdowns are worth 6 points, and after a touchdown, the scoring team can attempt a

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conversion by running or passing the ball into the end zone for an additional 1 or 2 points.

7. **Time limit:** Games typically consist of two 20-25 minute halves, with a 5-10 minute halftime.
8. **Penalties:** Penalties can be called for various reasons, such as offsides, holding, or pass interference, and may result in the loss of yardage or loss of possession.

It's important to note that specific leagues and organizations may have variations on these rules, so be sure to check with your league or coach for any additional guidelines or modifications.

Playing the Game

The game begins with a coin toss to determine which team will have the first possession.

The offensive team takes possession of the ball on their own 5-yard line and has three plays to cross midfield or gain sufficient yardage for a first down. Once a team crosses midfield, they have three plays to score a touchdown. If they fail to score, possession of the ball changes.



All possession changes, except for interceptions, start on the offense's 5-yard line. Some variations of flag football allow punts while others don't.

The player positions on offense usually are:

- Quarterback
- Center
- Running back

- Wide receivers

For games with more players on the field, linemen and tight ends may be added to the mix.

The players on defense are usually:

- Pass rushers
- Linebackers
- Cornerbacks
- Safeties

Starting the Game

The game begins with a coin toss. The team that wins the coin toss can choose which goal it would like to defend, or it can elect to receive the ball to start the game or second half. The team that loses the coin toss will have the opposite in the second half.



The team that is on offense will then take their place behind the 5-yard line, and the team on defense will take their place opposite of them. Play begins when the center snaps the ball to the quarterback.

Game Timing

Games consist of 20-25 minute halves or four 10-minute quarters, with a 5-to-10-minute halftime break. If the scores are equal at the end of regulation play, then there will be an extra 3-5 minutes are played. The team that scores first in overtime wins the game.

The clock runs continuously except for a change of possession, a touchdown, and a punt.

The clock runs continuously except for a change of possession, a change of down, or a punt after attempt, injury, or timeout. It also stops in the last two minutes of halves when the ball carrier runs out of bounds and on incomplete passes.



Flag Football Positions
NFL FLAG
How to Play Flag Football - NFL FLAG

Scoring Points

The rules for scoring in flag football are pretty simple. A touchdown is worth 6 points, and a successful extra point kick (from the 3-yard line) is worth one point.



If the offense elects to go for 2 points, then they will line up on the 10-yard line. A safety

is worth 2 points and is awarded to the defense when an offensive player is down with the ball in his own end zone.

It's important to note that the focus is on having fun and developing skills. For young players under the age of 8 just starting out, keeping the score is not necessary or suggested.

Scoring a Touchdown

A touchdown is scored when a player crosses the opposing team's goal line with the ball in their possession. A player can also score a touchdown by catching a pass in the end zone or by returning a punt or interception.

Scoring Extra Points

The scoring team may attempt to score an extra point after a touchdown by kicking the ball through the uprights (if the field has them). A successful kick is worth one point.

Alternatively, the scoring team can try to get into the end zone from the 3-yard line for 1 point. If the offense elects to go for two points, then they will line up on the 10-yard line.

Scoring a Safety

The defensive team is awarded two points when an offensive player is tackled with the ball in his own end zone. When this happens, the team that recorded the safety also takes possession of the ball on offense.

Penalties & Fouls

Unlike other sports, flag football has very few penalties. This is because the sport is meant to be non-contact and safe. However, there are some penalties that can be called

mean to be not contact and also, however, there are some penalties that can be called.

The most important and primary rule is that players are not allowed to contact each other in any way. This includes tackling, blocking, or any form of physical contact. Doing so will result in a personal foul, and the player will be ejected from the game.

Other penalties and fouls are explained below. Five and 10-yard penalties are the most common types called by referees.

Personal Fouls

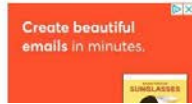
No player should ever physically contact another player. This includes tackling, blocking, stiff-arming, or any other form of physical contact. Doing so will result in a personal foul. Additionally, the player may get ejected from the game.

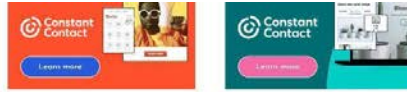
A personal foul can also be called if a player uses language or gestures considered offensive, if a player is taunting another player or an official, or if a player is engaging in any other unsportsmanlike conduct. This includes cheap shots and offensive language.

Offensive Penalties

Some of the common penalties that may arise are:

Offensive holding/ Illegal block: If a player on the offense team illegally blocks a defensive player.





Quarterback crossing during pass: If the quarterback crosses the line of scrimmage and passes the ball.

Offensive pass interference: If the offensive team interferes with the defense team's ability to catch the ball.

Flag guarding: If a player on the offense team protects their flag by using their body, or any other object.

Illegal procedure: If the offensive team commits a procedural error, such as an illegal snap or an ineligible receiver downfield.

Delay of game: If the offense team delays the game, such as by taking too long to snap the ball.



Impeding the rusher: If the offense team impedes the defensive player's ability to rush the quarterback.

Illegal motion: If an offensive player is in motion before the snap.

Defensive Penalties

Some of the common penalties that may arise are:

Pass interference: If the defense team interferes with the offense team's ability to catch the ball.

Roughing the passer: If the defense team hits the quarterback after throwing the ball.

Unnecessary roughness: If the defense team uses excessive force against a player.



Defensive holding: If a player on the defense team illegally holds onto an offensive player to stop them from getting open to remove their flag.

Defensive offsides: A penalty will be given to the defense if any player crosses the line of scrimmage before the snap.

Illegal flag pull: If the defense team pulls the flag of an offensive player who does not have the ball. If the defense team pulls the flag of an offensive player who does not have the ball.





Rules for the Offense

Passing

All passes must be thrown forward and received beyond the line of scrimmage. Shovel passes are allowed, but they must also be received beyond the line of scrimmage.

The quarterback is given a seven-second "pass clock" to throw the ball after the snap. If the pass is not thrown within seven seconds, the play is dead and results in a loss of down. Once the ball is handed off, the seven-second rule no longer applies.

If a pass is intercepted, the opposing team takes possession of the ball at the point of interception. This is the only change of possession that does not start on the 5-yard line.

Running

The quarterback is not allowed to run with the ball at any point during the game. Additionally, only direct handoffs behind the line of scrimmage are permitted, and the offense may use multiple handoffs. However, there can be absolutely no laterals or pitches of any kind.

"No-running zones" are located 5 yards from each end zone and 5 yards on either side of the field, designed to avoid obstructed running situations.

injured, designed to avoid such language, power running situations.

When a player takes the handoff, they are allowed to throw the ball from behind the line of scrimmage. Once the ball has been handed off, all defensive players are eligible to rush.

While spinning is allowed, players cannot leave their feet or dive to avoid a defensive player. A runner also cannot stiff arm or plow through a defender to avoid having their flag pulled.

It's important to note that the ball is spotted where the ball carrier's feet are when the flag is pulled, not where the ball is.

Receiving

All players, including the quarterback, are allowed to receive passes. When making a reception, the player must have at least one foot in bounds.

A player who catches a pass can advance the ball until their flag is pulled or they run out of bounds.



Rules for the Defense

Stopping a Ball Carrier

The defense aims to stop the ball carrier by pulling one or both of the flags attached to the ball carrier's waist. Once a flag is pulled, the ball carrier is considered "down," and the play is over.

Defenders must time their flag pulls correctly to avoid penalties such as holding or grabbing. They should wait until they are within arm's reach and then make the pull

quickly.

▶ ×



Defensive players should not make contact with a ball carrier. Tackling, pushing, and holding is not allowed.

Defending Passes

A player can defend a pass by preventing the receiver from catching the ball or by intercepting the ball themselves. It's important for the defender to avoid making contact with the receiver before the ball arrives, as this can result in a penalty for pass interference.

Rushing the QB

In many flag football leagues, a rush marker is placed seven yards from the line of scrimmage. Any number of players may rush the quarterback as long as they are behind the rush marker when the ball is snapped.

If the offense draws a rusher to jump inside the seven-yard marker prior to the snap of the ball, that rusher cannot rush during that play. However, any other defender that is seven yards back may rush instead.

The rusher must take an angled path to the quarterback. If this path is crossed and contact is made involving the rusher and any offensive player, an offensive impeding penalty will be assessed.

▶

▶ ×

Once the rusher's path is set, he/she cannot change their path to the QB. If the path is

changed, they will lose right-of-way privileges.

The rusher cannot run straight into the center. The center has the right of way, so long as the center remains in his/her original spot at the time the ball was snapped. If contact is made with the center by the rusher who has not taken an angle to the quarterback, a defensive impeding penalty will be assessed.

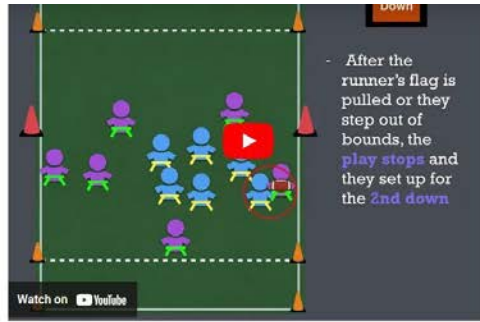
Players not rushing the quarterback may defend the line of scrimmage. The rusher may attempt to block the pass, but it is a penalty to make contact with the quarterback's arm.

Punting

To punt on 4th down, the offensive team can choose to do so from a protected scrimmage. During the punt, the defense is not allowed to cross the line of scrimmage, and they can only try to block the punt by jumping straight up in the air on their side of the ball.

On the punting team, all players except the punter must be on the line of scrimmage and cannot move until the ball is kicked. If the punt crosses the scrimmage line and touches a player from either team and then hits the ground, possession of the ball goes to the receiving team.

A small blue icon with a white 'x' inside, likely a placeholder for a missing image or a small graphic element.



Turnovers

The opposing team gains possession of the ball when its defense recovers a fumble from a ball carrier or catches an interception on a quarterback pass. A fumble can also be recovered by the offense.

Interceptions can be advanced down the field by a defensive player after they gain possession. They are only stopped when they run out of bounds, one of their knees touches the ground, or their flag is pulled by an opponent. A fumble cannot be returned and play stops immediately on a recovery.

The ball is also turned over when an offense fails to gain a first down after four tries.

Ties and Overtime

The game will go into overtime if it is tied at the end of regulation time. During overtime, both teams get a chance to score from the opponent's 25-yard line. If, after one period of overtime, there is still no winner, then a second overtime period begins. This pattern continues until there is finally a victor.

Rules for Substitutions

Before each play, both teams are allowed to substitute players. A team that has too many players on the field at a given time will be penalized.



If a team has fewer players on the field than what is allowed when the ball is snapped, they will not be able to substitute any players until the play is over. A team that substitutes players illegally will result in a penalty.

Equipment & Attire

The equipment and attire required for flag football are pretty much the same as what you would need for any other sport. Players will need a good pair of cleats (tennis shoes or rubber cleats are allowed, but metal cleats are not), a mouthguard, and a flag belt with flags attached.

In addition, all players must wear a uniform and flag that the association provides during play.

Some players may choose to wear extra padding, such as soft shell helmets, a jock strap, and knee and elbow pads to prevent scrapes and bruises.

Clothing that may obstruct members of the other team or cover the flags is not allowed. This includes shorts with pockets and long shirts.



It is advised not to wear baseball caps, jewelry, or other accessories that may harm yourself or others playing.

Play Flag Football With Your Friends!

Flag football is really an easy game to learn and play. So get some friends, choose sides, and have a great time!

You can start playing flag football informally with just a few friends. But if you want to join or start a team, there are flag football leagues all across the country for players of all ages and skill levels.

You already understand the rules of flag football. So go out and play!

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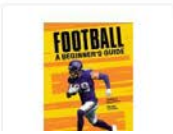
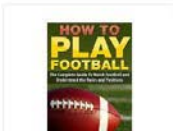


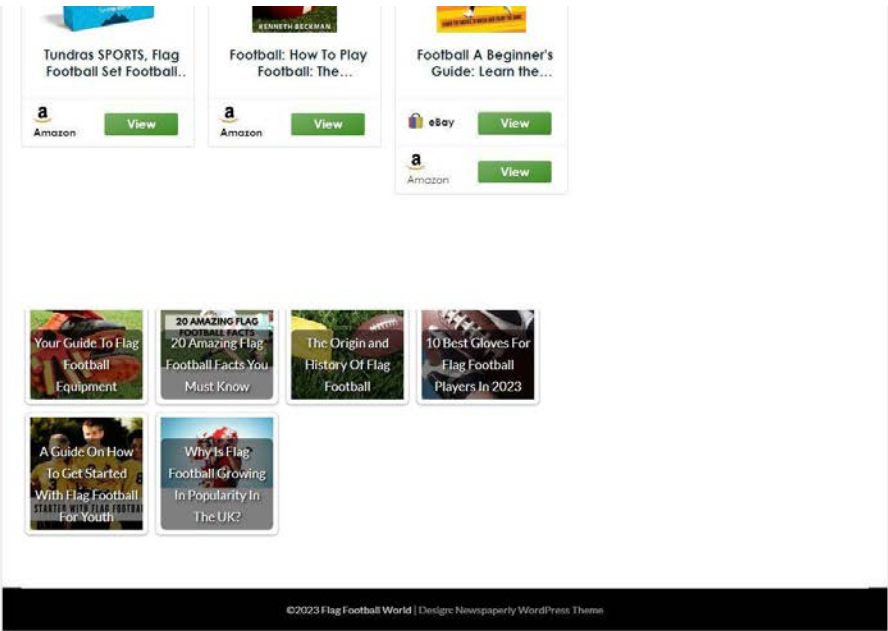
Vance J

Vance J has played flag football since he was a boy. Since then, he has become a coach and a huge advocate for growing the sport. He loves to write and talk about flag football!



Pin Facebook

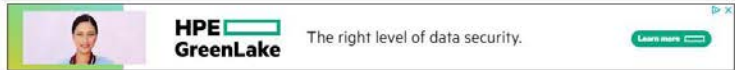




This section contains a grid of product and article thumbnails. At the top, there are three product listings: 'Tundras SPORTS, Flag Football Set Football...' from Amazon, 'Football: How To Play Football: The...' from Amazon, and 'Football A Beginner's Guide: Learn the...' from eBay. Below these are six article thumbnails: 'Your Guide To Flag Football Equipment', '20 AMAZING FLAG FOOTBALL FACTS: 20 Amazing Flag Football Facts You Must Know', 'The Origin and History Of Flag Football', '10 Best Gloves For Flag Football Players In 2023', 'A Guide On How To Get Started With Flag Football STARTER WITH FLAG FOOTBALL For Youth', and 'Why Is Flag Football Growing In Popularity In The UK?'. At the bottom of the grid is a footer: '©2023 Flag Football World | Design: Newspaperly WordPress Theme'.

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HOW TO PLAY FLAG FOOTBALL

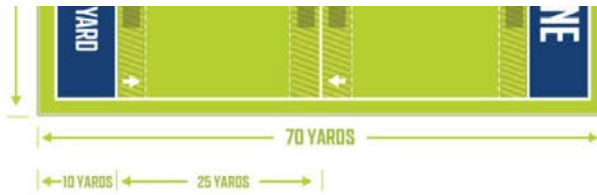
More kids are playing flag football than ever before. And we can see why—it's engaging, inclusive, and ridiculously fun. The best part is: anyone can learn how to play flag football. You don't need a certain build, skill set or prior experience. Both girls and boys from 5 to 17 years old can [sign up to play NFL FLAG](#).

Whether you're new to the game or looking to brush up on flag football rules, this guide will teach you the ins and outs of how to play flag football.

FLAG FOOTBALL FIELD

A flag football field is shorter than a standard tackle field at 30 yards wide and 70 yards long, with two 10-yard end zones and a midfield line-to-gain. To prevent power football in tight spaces, no run zones are located 5 yards before the end zone and on each side of the midfield line-to-gain. If the ball is spotted on or inside the no run zone, the offense must use a pass play to get a first down or touchdown.





BASIC FLAG FOOTBALL RULES

When learning how to play flag football, it's best to start with the basics. In NFL FLAG football leagues, teams play 5 on 5 and each game consists of two halves, usually 15 to 25 minutes long. Tournament games are typically shorter with two, 10 to 12 minute halves. The clock only stops for halftime, timeouts (each team has 3), or injury, making games quick and competitive. Each player has a specific role on the field and every play counts.

The most important rule in flag football is that there's **no contact allowed, including tackling, diving, blocking, screening or fumbles**. Instead of physically tackling an opponent to the ground, players wear flags that hang along their sides by a belt. Defenders "tackle" the ball-carrier by removing one or both of their flags.

While this rule is designed to keep players safe, there are several other rules that limit contact among players, including:

- The quarterback isn't allowed to run with the ball, unless it was handed off first. They can run behind the line of scrimmage, but they can't gain yardage.
- All passes must go forward and be received beyond the line of scrimmage.
- Laterals and pitches aren't allowed—only direct handoffs are permitted.
- Center sneak plays aren't allowed.
- There are no fumbles. Instead, the ball stays in possession of the offense and is spotted where the ball-carrier's feet were when the fumble occurred.
- The ball is dead when: the ball-carrier's flag is pulled, the ball-carrier steps out of bound, a touchdown or safety is scored, the ball-carrier's knee hits the ground, or the ball-carrier's flag falls off.
- Players can't obstruct or guard their flags.

[For a complete list of flag football rules, visit our NFL FLAG Football Rules page](#)

SCORING

SCORING

Every game starts with a coin toss (there are no kickoffs). The starting team begins on its own 5-yard line and has four downs—essentially four plays—to cross midfield for a first down.

If the offense fails to advance after three attempts, they can “punt,” meaning they turn over the ball to the opposing team, which then starts from its own 5-yard line. Or they can go for a first down, but if they fail, the opposing team takes over possession from the spot of the ball.

Once midfield is crossed, the offense has three downs to score a touchdown. A touchdown is 6 points and a safety is 2 points (1-point conversion from the 5-yard line; 2-point conversion from the 10-yard line).

A touchdown is 6 points and a safety is 2 points (1-point conversion from the 5-yard line; 2-point conversion from the 10-yard line). A safety occurs when the ball-carrier is declared down in their own end zone. This happens when their flag is pulled by a defensive player, their flag falls out, their knee or arm touches the ground, or if a snapped ball lands in the end zone.

As a general rule of thumb, if a team is winning by a 28 or greater point margin, the game is over and the team doesn't attempt an extra point.

RUNNING

When players run with the ball, their feet can't leave the ground to avoid a defensive player. In other words, players can spin to avoid their opponent, but they can't leap or dive.

Only direct handoffs are permitted—there are no laterals or pitches. Once the ball has been handed off, all defensive players are eligible to rush. And the person who takes the handoff is allowed to throw the ball from behind the line of scrimmage. So while you'll see a designated quarterback on the field, several plays actually rely on other teammates to pass the ball. This changes up plays, keeps the defense on their toes, and makes the game even more exciting.

Also, under flag football rules, the quarterback can't run with the ball unless it has been handed to him/her in the backfield. And all players who rush the passer must be a minimum of seven yards from the line of scrimmage when the ball is snapped.

Flag football rules aim to prevent power plays and avoid short-yardage situations, so you'll find no run zones located 5 yards from each end zone and on either side of the midfield. In this designated area, the offensive team must complete a pass play.

Lastly, if an offensive player's flag is pulled when they're running with the ball, their feet determine where the ball is spotted, not the flag.

RECEIVING

One rule that makes flag football unique (and that much more competitive) is that everyone can receive a pass, including the quarterback, after the ball has been handed off behind the line of scrimmage. This allows coaches to include a variety of flag football plays into their playbooks and helps players develop fundamental offense skills. Plus, it makes the game more engaging.

Keep in mind that when making a catch, players must have one foot in bounds, just like tackle.

TACKLING

PASSING

Flag football rules state that all passes must go forward and be received beyond the line of scrimmage. Shovel passes, which are short passes to forward receivers, are allowed, but also must be received beyond the line of scrimmage. Quarterbacks have a seven-second pass clock to get rid of the ball. And if they don't, the play is dead.

Additionally, center sneak play—where the quarterback hands off to the center as the first handoff of the play—is no longer allowed.

Interceptions are allowed, but look a little different in flag football. They change the possession of the ball at the point of the interception. So if an interception occurs, the referee blows the whistle and the play is dead. Interceptions are the only change of possession that don't start on the team's 5-yard line.

RUSHING THE PASSER

Players who rush the passer must stand at least seven yards off the line of scrimmage when the ball is snapped, while players who aren't rushing the passer may start on the line of scrimmage. The seven-yard rule no longer applies once the ball is handed off—all defenders are allowed to go behind the line of scrimmage at that point.

A sack occurs when a defensive player pulls off the quarterback's flag(s) behind the line of scrimmage. The quarterback, or anyone in possession of the ball, is down when their flag(s) are removed.

FLAG FOOTBALL PLAYS

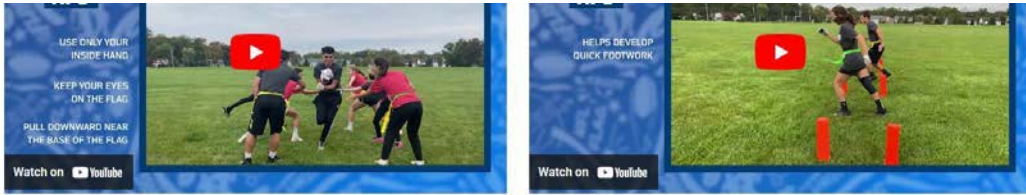
To set up teams for success, coaches teach a variety of formations, routes and 5 on 5 flag football plays throughout the season. And with every player being eligible to receive a pass, including the quarterback, coaches can get creative and tailor their plays to their team's strengths—or their opponent's weaknesses.

Some plays are complex, while others are more basic. Some go for long yardage, while others aim for short gains. In every scenario, these plays determine the flow of the game and teach players the basic fundamentals needed to succeed. In other words, it teaches them how to play flag football.

That's why we always recommend that coaches start with the basics, helping players establish a strong foundation first, and then mix and match new and more challenging plays as their team gains confidence.

See the complete list of 5 on 5 offensive flag football plays and learn how to create a winning youth flag football playbook.





Discover more about NFL FLAG rules, positions and equipment



FLAG FOOTBALL EQUIPMENT

Get the season started on the right track with our flag football equipment checklist, including flag football flags.



FLAG FOOTBALL POSITIONS

Learn about football positions and their roles so you can make an impact on the field.



FLAG FOOTBALL RULES

Here's everything you need to know about flag football rules and positions, and how they differ from tackle.



[Rules](#)

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Flag Football

[Buckeye Link](#)

KNSFHP 1156 (1 credit)

Description:

The purpose of this course is to provide the student with beginning level of knowledge and skills in flag football. As a result, the student will improve his general physical fitness and skill performance. Principles, techniques, safe practices and strategies of flag football will be taught throughout the course so that the student will be able to successfully participate in recreational flag football as a lifelong activity.

Prerequisites:

- None

Equipment (students must purchase for class):

- None

What you will learn:

- Safety and injury prevention
- Equipment knowledge
- Terminology
- Rules and Officiating
- Passing and receiving
- Offensive and defensive strategies
- Offensive and defensive patterns

What to expect:

- Game play on the field
- Skills assessment

Potential benefits:

- Cardiovascular fitness as a result of running, sprinting, etc.
- Muscle conditioning – varied movements work different muscle groups
- Improved agility, flexibility, and balance

Fun facts:

- A 145-pound person burns approximately 525 calories an hour playing flag football on the field.
- The first organized flag football is thought to have been played in the 1930s.
- Flag football is played worldwide, and the International Flag Football Federation is the national governing body for flag football.

Sources: <http://www.ftday.com/fitness-articles/fitness/exercises/group-exercise-burn-calories-playing-flag-football.html#b>

<http://www.livestrong.com/article/465537-list-of-interesting-facts-on-flag-football/>



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A USPTO examining attorney has reviewed your trademark application and issued an Office action. You must respond to this Office action to avoid your application abandoning. Follow the steps below.

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- (2) **Respond to the Office action by the deadline** using the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS). Your response, or extension request, must be received by the USPTO on or before 11:59 p.m. **Eastern Time** of the last day of the response deadline. Otherwise, your application will be **[abandoned](#)**. See the Office action itself regarding how to respond.
- (3) **Direct general questions** about using USPTO electronic forms, the USPTO **[website](#)**, the application process, the status of your application, and whether there are outstanding deadlines to the **[Trademark Assistance Center \(TAC\)](#)**.

After reading the Office action, address any question(s) regarding the specific content to the USPTO examining attorney identified in the Office action.

GENERAL GUIDANCE

- **[Check the status of your application periodically](#)** in the **[Trademark Status & Document Retrieval \(TSDR\)](#)** database to avoid missing critical deadlines.
- **[Update your correspondence email address](#)** to ensure you receive important USPTO notices about your application.
- **[Beware of trademark-related scams](#)**. Protect yourself from people and companies that may try to take financial advantage of you. Private companies may call you and pretend to be the USPTO or may send you communications that resemble official USPTO documents to trick you. We will never request your credit card number or social security number over the phone. Verify the correspondence originated from us by using your serial number in our database, **[TSDR](#)**, to confirm that it appears under the “Documents” tab, or contact the **[Trademark Assistance Center](#)**.
- **[Hiring a U.S.-licensed attorney](#)**. If you do not have an attorney and are not required to

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Print: Tue Aug 29 2023

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- IC 041. US 100 101 107.G & S: Arranging and conducting of sports events; Arranging and conducting youth sports programs in the field of flag football; Sport camp services. FIRST USE: 20100511. FIRST USE IN COMMERCE: 20140800

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Design Code

Serial Number

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Filing Date

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Original Filing Basis

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Registration Number

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(APPLICANT) USA Flag LLC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY TEXAS 209 Trailwood Dr Allen TEXAS 75002

Priority Date

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Type of Mark

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Register


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LIVE

Attorney of Record

Mark D. Nielsen



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NIKE AIR MAX 270

NIKE AIR MAX 270

Shop Air Max 270

the USA

meaning of the USA in English

noun [+ singular verb]

US 4 / ʒuː.əs.ə/ UK 4 / ʒuː.əs.ə/

abbreviation for **the United States of America**


SMART Vocabulary: related words and phrases

Countries, nationalities & continents; country names

Albania	Albania
Alban	Albania
Andorra	Equatorial Guinea
Enlrea	Estonia
Esawalia	Ethiopia
Mauritania	Mauritius
Melanesia	Mexico
Micronesia	So Lanka
St Kitts and Nevis	St Lucia
St Vincent and the Grenadines	Sudan


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More meanings of the USA

All

the USA, of the United States of America

Examples from literature

USA | INTERMEDIATE ENGLISH

USA

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US 4 / ʒuː.əs.ə/

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What is the pronunciation of the USA, USA?

Translations of the USA

in Chinese (Traditional)
美利堅合眾國 (the United States of America的縮寫) ...

in Chinese (Simplified)
美利堅合众国 (the United States of America的缩写) ...

in Portuguese
forma abreviada de "the United States of America": os Estados Unidos da América...

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WORD OF THE DAY

pennant

UK 4 / pen.ənt/ US 4 / pen.ənt/

a flag in the shape of a triangle

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the upper crust

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Meaning of the United States of America in English

the United States of America

noun

US / ˈjuː.naɪ.tɪd.ˈsteɪts.əv.əˈmer.ɪ.kə/ UK / ˈjuː.naɪ.tɪd.ˈsteɪts.əv.əˈmer.ɪ.kə/ (also the **United States**, the **USA**)

a country in North America

See also American

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|--------------------|-------------------|
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 - in Chinese (Simplified)
美利堅合众国, 美国... [See more](#)
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os Estados Unidos da América... [See more](#)
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WORD OF THE DAY

pennant

uk / pen.ənt/ us / pen.ənt/

a flag in the shape of a triangle

About this



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the United States of America

- the upper crust
- the upper hand
- the upshot
- the USA

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U.S.A.

1 ENTRIES FOUND:

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U.S.A. *abbreviation*

or **USA**

Britannica Dictionary definition of U.S.A.

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United States of America

1 ENTRIES FOUND:

United States of America (proper noun)

United States of America *proper noun*

or **United States**

Britannica Dictionary definition of UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

the United States of America or **the United States**

: country in North America

— **American** *adjective or noun*

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TYPE OF PLACE	city
LOCATION	Indiana, United States
COORDINATES	39°47'N 86°09'W
POPULATION	785,597

Indianapolis, city (990 population; 41,050) • **Indiana** and **Marion** county, central Indiana, on the **White River**; 39°47'N 86°09'W. Selected 1820 as the site of the state capital (which was moved here 1824–1825). The largest city in Indiana, it is the chief processing point in a rich agricultural region and is a major grain market. It is also the commercial, transportation, and industrial center for a large area and is Indiana's leading manufacturing city (printing and publishing, flour milling, construction equipment, clay products, electronics, paper products, chemicals, auto parts, food products, feeds and fertilizers, lumber products, agricultural equipment, crushed limestone, dairy products, apparel, pharmaceuticals). The site for the city was deliberately located at a point equidistant from the four corners of Indiana; largest metropolitan area in U.S., not situated on a navigable river. On January 1, 1897, Indianapolis consolidated with all of Marion county, except for the municipalities of **Beech Grove**, **Southport**, **Speedway**, and **Lawrence**. The city is the seat of Butler University, Marian College, University of Indianapolis, Christian Theological Seminary, and Indiana University–Purdue University at Indianapolis (IUPUI), with many units, including the Medical Center and the Herron School of Art. The American Legion has its national headquarters here in a building erected as a war memorial. Landmarks are the state capital (1875–1888); the state library and historical building; the home and burial place of James Whitcomb Riley; the home and burial place of Benjamin Harrison (twenty-third president of the U.S.); a Carmelite monastery; the Soldiers and Sailors Monument (1900); the Bank One Tower, tallest building in the state; and the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, site of the world-famous annual 500-mi/805-km automobile race (Indy 500). In the city's downtown section is the RCA Dome (formerly Hoosierdome), a massive indoor sports facility and convention center. In the 1980s, Indianapolis acquired a National Football League team, the Colts, and Market Square Arena is the home of the National Basketball Association's Indiana Pacers. The city hosts numerous cultural events and has noteworthy museum, a symphony orchestra, and a zoo. Indianapolis International Airport is on the W edge of the city. Fort Benjamin Harrison (to the NE) has been closed; part of its area has been converted to a state park, and the rest is being developed as residential and commercial property. The Naval Air Warfare Center (NAWC) was privatized in 1996 and is now devoted to the design and production of advanced electronics; this was the largest privatization of an American military base in history. Incorporated 1847.

Citations

MLA
 "Indianapolis." *Columbia Gazetteer of the World Online*. 2023. Columbia University Press. 29 Aug. 2023. <<http://www.columbiagazetteer.org/main/ViewPlace/61872>>

Chicago Manual of Style
Columbia Gazetteer of the World Online, s.v. "Indianapolis."
<http://www.columbiagazetteer.org/main/ViewPlace/61872> (accessed August 29, 2023).

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Indianapolis

1 ENTRIES FOUND:

Indianapolis (proper noun)

Indianapolis /ˌɪndiˈnæpələs/ *proper noun*

Britannica Dictionary definition of INDIANAPOLIS

: U.S. city, Indiana

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WORD OF THE DAY

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Virginia Flag Football Association



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The Virginia Flag Football Association is the official flag football governing organization of the Commonwealth of Virginia (since 1977) and the host of the largest tournament on the East Coast. 2008 Virginia State Tournament: 88 teams

2016 Virginia State "A" Champs: PRIMETIME!



2016 Virginia State "B" Champs: Coalition!



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Nov 04, 2015 2:02 PM (posted by: VFFA)
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VFFA CONTACTS

commissioner: Robert C. Jacobs
 phone:
 address: 2410 Caliber Drive
 Richmond, VA 23231
 send email: [✉](#)

VFFA CALENDAR

12/05/15	→ 49th Annual United States Flag Football Association National Championships - 12/5 - 12/6, Wheeling, WV
12/12/15	→ 29th Annual Virginia Flag Football Association State Championships (A & B) - 12/12 - 12/13, Henrico County, VA

LINKS:

[*United States Flag Football Association \(National Tournament\)](#)



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The Premier Flag Football Experience

Nor Cal Flag Football is a local family run youth flag football league for boys and girls grade levels Pre-K to 9th in Northern California. We are dedicated to teaching children life skills through 5-on-5 flag football. This is also an engaging way for kids

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Our Program Goals:

GOAL #1

We provide an atmosphere where all participants have fun!

- NCFE staff and coaches work positively to encourage and develop every player.
- Referees manage the games with fairness and authority.

GOAL #2

NCFE inspires good sportsmanship and teamwork in every athlete and fan.

- All participants are well informed about standardized practices and expectations.
- Every child participates and has an opportunity to try different positions.

GOAL #3

NCFE teaches every player fundamental athletic football skills, as well as a conceptual understanding of the game.

- Coaches are equipped with information and strategies designed to optimize their instruction.
- We maintain consistency in expectations and training results for personal-best athletic development.

Mission Statement:

Empowering & elevating our communities youth by cultivating life principles & building life skills through teaching the FUNDamentals of flag football. We aim to encourage self expression & fresh experiences conducive to growth as we offer a safe, supportive and inclusive environment.



CONTACT

Thank you for your interest. For questions or comments, please use the information below. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

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HOW TO PLAY FLAG FOOTBALL

Here are some tips on how to play flag football. This page will help you understand the rules, equipment, and safety. The best way to learn more is to play flag football. This page will help you understand the rules, equipment, and safety. The best way to learn more is to play flag football.

FLAG FOOTBALL FIELD

A flag football field is 100 yards long and 53 yards wide. It is divided into two halves, each 50 yards long. The end zones are 10 yards long. The field is marked with yard lines every 10 yards. The field is marked with yard lines every 10 yards. The field is marked with yard lines every 10 yards.



BASIC FLAG FOOTBALL RULES

When playing flag football, there are some basic rules that you should know. These rules are designed to keep the game safe and fun for everyone. These rules are designed to keep the game safe and fun for everyone.

The most important rule is that there is no contact allowed, including tackling, blocking, shoving, or fouling. Instead of physically tackling or blocking, players pull the flags from the back of their opponents' waists. This rule is designed to keep the game safe and fun for everyone.

While this rule is designed to keep players safe, there are several other rules that keep contact among players, including:

- The quarterback is allowed to catch the ball behind the line of scrimmage. They can run with the ball behind the line of scrimmage, but they cannot pass the ball.
- All players must get forward and be behind the line of scrimmage.
- Linemen and protectors aren't allowed to block linemen's assignments.
- Linemen must stop pass play.
- There are no fouls. Instead, the ball stays in possession of the offense and is passed when the ball carrier has been stopped.
- The ball is dead when the ball carrier has been pulled. The ball carrier stops play of football. A foul occurs if a player or safety pulls the ball carrier's flag before the ball carrier has been pulled.
- Players are not allowed to pass the ball.

For a complete list of flag football rules, visit our NFL FLAG Football Rules page.

SCORING

Scoring in flag football is similar to scoring in soccer. The game starts with a kickoff. The game starts with a kickoff. The game starts with a kickoff. The game starts with a kickoff.

If the offense has a chance to score, they can "kick" the ball into the opponent's end zone. If the offense has a chance to score, they can "kick" the ball into the opponent's end zone. If the offense has a chance to score, they can "kick" the ball into the opponent's end zone.

Quarterbacks are allowed to throw the ball to a receiver or a tight end. A tight end is a player who plays near the line of scrimmage. A tight end is a player who plays near the line of scrimmage. A tight end is a player who plays near the line of scrimmage.

A touchdown is a score that is worth 6 points. A touchdown is a score that is worth 6 points. A touchdown is a score that is worth 6 points. A touchdown is a score that is worth 6 points.

As a general rule of thumb, if a player is wearing a white jersey, they are on the offense. If a player is wearing a blue jersey, they are on the defense. If a player is wearing a white jersey, they are on the offense. If a player is wearing a blue jersey, they are on the defense.

RUNNING

When running with the ball, there are some basic rules that you should know. These rules are designed to keep the game safe and fun for everyone. These rules are designed to keep the game safe and fun for everyone.

Quarterbacks are allowed to run with the ball. They can run with the ball behind the line of scrimmage. They can run with the ball behind the line of scrimmage. They can run with the ball behind the line of scrimmage.

When running with the ball, there are some basic rules that you should know. These rules are designed to keep the game safe and fun for everyone. These rules are designed to keep the game safe and fun for everyone.

Flag football rules are designed to keep the game safe and fun for everyone. These rules are designed to keep the game safe and fun for everyone. These rules are designed to keep the game safe and fun for everyone.

RECEIVING

One of the most important rules in flag football is that there is no contact allowed. This rule is designed to keep the game safe and fun for everyone. This rule is designed to keep the game safe and fun for everyone.

When receiving the ball, there are some basic rules that you should know. These rules are designed to keep the game safe and fun for everyone. These rules are designed to keep the game safe and fun for everyone.

PASSING

Flag football rules are designed to keep the game safe and fun for everyone. These rules are designed to keep the game safe and fun for everyone. These rules are designed to keep the game safe and fun for everyone.

When passing the ball, there are some basic rules that you should know. These rules are designed to keep the game safe and fun for everyone. These rules are designed to keep the game safe and fun for everyone.

RUSHING THE PASSER

Players are not allowed to rush the passer. This rule is designed to keep the game safe and fun for everyone. This rule is designed to keep the game safe and fun for everyone.

When rushing the passer, there are some basic rules that you should know. These rules are designed to keep the game safe and fun for everyone. These rules are designed to keep the game safe and fun for everyone.

FLAG FOOTBALL PLAYS

There are many different flag football plays that you can use. These plays are designed to keep the game safe and fun for everyone. These plays are designed to keep the game safe and fun for everyone.

When using flag football plays, there are some basic rules that you should know. These rules are designed to keep the game safe and fun for everyone. These rules are designed to keep the game safe and fun for everyone.

For more information on flag football plays, visit our NFL FLAG Football Rules page. For more information on flag football plays, visit our NFL FLAG Football Rules page.



Discover more about NFL FLAG rules, positions and equipment



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Flag Football

Buckeye Link

KNSFHP 1156 (1 credit)

Description:

The purpose of this course is to provide the student with beginning level of knowledge and skills in flag football. As a result, the student will improve his general physical fitness and skill performance. Principles, techniques, safe practices and strategies of flag football will be taught throughout the course so that the student will be able to successfully participate in recreational flag football as a lifelong activity.

Prerequisites:

- None

Equipment (students much purchase for class):

- None

What you will learn:

- Safety and injury prevention
- Equipment knowledge
- Terminology
- Rules and Officiating
- Passing and receiving
- Offensive and defensive strategies
- Offensive and defensive patterns

What to expect:

- Game play on the field
- Skills assessment.

Potential benefits:

- Cardiovascular fitness as a result of running, sprinting, etc.
- Muscle conditioning – varied movements work different muscle groups
- Improved agility, flexibility, and balance

Fun facts:

- A 145-pound person burns approximately 525 calories an hour playing flag football on the field.
- The first organized flag football is thought to have been played in the 1930s.
- Flag football is played worldwide, and the International Flag Football Federation is the national governing body for flag football.

Sources: <http://www.fitday.com/fitness-articles/fitness/exercises/group-exercise-burn-calories-playing-flag-football.html#b>

<http://www.livestrong.com/article/465537-list-of-interesting-facts-on-flag-football/>



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OFFICE ACTION ISSUE DATE	09/07/2023
MARK SECTION	
MARK FILE NAME	mark
LITERAL ELEMENT	USA FLAG
STANDARD CHARACTERS	YES
USPTO-GENERATED IMAGE	YES
OWNER SECTION (current)	
NAME	USA Football, Inc.
INTERNAL ADDRESS	45 N. Pennsylvania Street
MAILING ADDRESS	Suite 800
CITY	Indianapolis
STATE	Indiana
ZIP/POSTAL CODE	46204
COUNTRY/REGION/JURISDICTION/U.S. TERRITORY	United States
EMAIL	XXXX
OWNER SECTION (proposed)	
NAME	USA Football, Inc.
INTERNAL ADDRESS	Suite 800
MAILING ADDRESS	45 N. Pennsylvania Street
CITY	Indianapolis
STATE	Indiana
ZIP/POSTAL CODE	46204
COUNTRY/REGION/JURISDICTION/U.S. TERRITORY	United States
EMAIL	XXXX
CORRESPONDENCE INFORMATION (current)	
NAME	LOUIS T. PERRY
PRIMARY EMAIL ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE	trademark@faegredrinker.com

SECONDARY EMAIL ADDRESS(ES) (COURTESY COPIES)	abe.shanehsaz@faegredrinker.com
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NAME	Louis T. Perry
PRIMARY EMAIL ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE	trademark@faegredrinker.com
SECONDARY EMAIL ADDRESS(ES) (COURTESY COPIES)	abe.shanehsaz@faegredrinker.com
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PAYMENT SECTION	
EXTENSION REQUEST, PER OFFICE ACTION	\$125
TOTAL FEES DUE	\$125
SIGNATURE SECTION	
DECLARATION SIGNATURE	/Abe J. Shanehsaz/
SIGNATORY'S NAME	Abe Jentry Shanehsaz
SIGNATORY'S POSITION	Attorney of Record, Indiana bar member
SIGNATORY'S PHONE NUMBER	317-237-1029
DATE SIGNED	12/06/2023
SIGNATURE METHOD	Sent to third party for signature
FILING INFORMATION SECTION	
SUBMIT DATE	Wed Dec 06 09:46:46 ET 2023
TEAS STAMP	USPTO/ELR-XX.X.XXX.XX-202 31206094647689300-9772496 0-85072825a480f481fe3576b a972f7952c273f0d8f156d853 c6732f751f4c01d61-CC-4646 6804-20231204144259577244

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To the Commissioner for Trademarks:

The following extension request is submitted for application Serial Number: 97724960 USA FLAG(Standard Characters, see <https://tmng-al.uspto.gov/resting2/api/img/97724960/large>)

STATEMENT

Applicant requests a three-month extension of time to file the response under 37 C.F.R. §2.62(a)(2), which will extend the response deadline to six months from the issue date of the Office action. Only one extension can be requested per Office action.

Office action issue date: 09/07/2023

OWNER/HOLDER INFORMATION

The owner/holder proposes to amend the following:

Current: USA Football, Inc. a(n) having an address of
45 N. Pennsylvania Street
Suite 800
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
United States Email Address: XXXX

Proposed: USA Football, Inc., , having an address of
Suite 800
45 N. Pennsylvania Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
United States
Email Address: XXXX

Correspondence Information (current)

LOUIS T. PERRY
PRIMARY EMAIL FOR CORRESPONDENCE: trademark@faegredrinker.com
SECONDARY EMAIL ADDRESS(ES) (COURTESY COPIES): abe.shanehsaz@faegredrinker.com

Correspondence Information (proposed)

Louis T. Perry
PRIMARY EMAIL FOR CORRESPONDENCE: trademark@faegredrinker.com
SECONDARY EMAIL ADDRESS(ES) (COURTESY COPIES): abe.shanehsaz@faegredrinker.com

The docket/reference number is 983928.33.

FEE(S)

Fee(s) in the amount of \$125 is being submitted.

Requirement for Email and Electronic Filing: I understand that a valid email address must be maintained by the owner/holder and the owner's/holder's attorney, if appointed, and that all official trademark correspondence must be submitted via the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS).

SIGNATURE(S)

Signature: /Abe J. Shanehsaz/ Date: 12/06/2023
Signatory's Name: Abe Jentry Shanehsaz
Signatory's Position: Attorney of Record, Indiana bar member
Signatory's Phone Number: 317-237-1029

Signature method: Sent to third party for signature

Mailing Address: LOUIS T. PERRY
FAEGRE DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH LLP
SUITE 2500
300 N. MERIDIAN STREET
INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana 46204

Mailing Address: Louis T. Perry
FAEGRE DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH LLP
SUITE 2500
300 N. MERIDIAN STREET
INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana 46204

PAYMENT: 97724960
PAYMENT DATE: 12/06/2023

Serial Number: 97724960
Internet Transmission Date: Wed Dec 06 09:46:46 ET 2023
TEAS Stamp: USPTO/ELR-XX.X.XXX.XX-202312060946476893
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PTO-2300
 Approved for use through 07/31/2024. OMB 0651-0056
 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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Change Address or Representation Form

The table below presents the data as entered.

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SERIAL NUMBER	97724960
MARK SECTION	
MARK	USA FLAG (standard characters, see https://tmng-al.uspto.gov/resting2/api/img/97724960/large)
OWNER SECTION(current)	
NAME	USA Football, Inc.
INTERNAL ADDRESS	Suite 800
MAILING ADDRESS	45 N. Pennsylvania Street
CITY	Indianapolis
STATE	Indiana
STATE/COUNTRY/REGION/JURISDICTION/U.S. TERRITORY	United States
ZIP/POSTAL CODE	46204
EMAIL	XXXX
OWNER SECTION(proposed)	
STATEMENT TEXT	By submission of this request, the undersigned requests that the following be made of record for the owner/holder:
NAME	USA Football, Inc.
INTERNAL ADDRESS	Suite 800
MAILING ADDRESS	45 N. Pennsylvania Street
CITY	Indianapolis
STATE	Indiana
STATE/COUNTRY/REGION/JURISDICTION/U.S. TERRITORY	United States
ZIP/POSTAL CODE	46204
EMAIL	XXXX
ATTORNEY SECTION (current)	
NAME	Louis T. Perry
ATTORNEY BAR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER	XXX
YEAR OF ADMISSION	XXXX
U.S. STATE/ COMMONWEALTH/ TERRITORY	XX
FIRM NAME	FAEGRE DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH LLP
INTERNAL ADDRESS	SUITE 2500

STREET	300 N. MERIDIAN STREET
CITY	INDIANAPOLIS
STATE	Indiana
STATE/COUNTRY/REGION/JURISDICTION/U.S. TERRITORY	United States
POSTAL/ZIP CODE	46204
EMAIL	trademark@faegredrinker.com
DOCKET/REFERENCE NUMBER(S)	983928.33
STATEMENT OF THE REASON FOR REPLACEMENT	
Owner requested Peele Law Group take over all mainenance of their trademark portfolio.	
ATTORNEY SECTION (proposed)	
STATEMENT TEXT	By submission of this request, the undersigned confirms that (1) representation is ongoing and (2) that the individual listed below should now be identified as the attorney of record:
NAME	Amie Peele
ATTORNEY BAR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER	XXX
YEAR OF ADMISSION	XXXX
U.S. STATE/ COMMONWEALTH/ TERRITORY	XX
FIRM NAME	Peele Law Group, PC
OTHER APPOINTED ATTORNEY(S)	Ashley Hodges, Alana Fernandez, Anne Ricchiuto
STREET	49 Boone Village, Box 299
CITY	Zionsville
STATE	Indiana
STATE/COUNTRY/REGION/JURISDICTION/U.S. TERRITORY	United States
POSTAL/ZIP CODE	46077
PHONE	202-964-4500
FAX	202-964-4502
EMAIL	apeele@peeelawgroup.com
DOCKET/REFERENCE NUMBER(S)	20011.00129
CORRESPONDENCE SECTION (current)	
NAME	Louis T. Perry
PRIMARY EMAIL ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE	trademark@faegredrinker.com
SECONDARY EMAIL ADDRESS(ES) (COURTESY COPIES)	abe.shanehsaz@faegredrinker.com
DOCKET/REFERENCE NUMBER(S)	983928.33
CORRESPONDENCE SECTION (proposed)	
NAME	Amie Peele
PRIMARY EMAIL ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE	apeele@peeelawgroup.com

SECONDARY EMAIL ADDRESS(ES) (COURTESY COPIES)	ahodges@peeelawgroup.com; afernandez@peeelawgroup.com; docketing@peeelawgroup.com; aricchiuto@peeelawgroup.com
SIGNATURE SECTION	
SIGNATURE	/jamieriley/
SIGNATORY NAME	Jamie Riley
SIGNATORY DATE	02/21/2024
SIGNATORY POSITION	Chief Operating Officer
ROLE OF AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY	Owner/Holder not represented by an attorney
SIGNATURE METHOD	Sent to third party for signature
FILING INFORMATION SECTION	
SUBMIT DATE	Wed Feb 21 15:38:29 ET 2024
TEAS STAMP	USPTO/CAR-XX.XXX.XXX.XXX- 20240221153829508914-9772 4960-8508824e83f1fb689298 c4e3f8d9488cb4b1131f834fa 59a04ceb7b763e5346b630-N/ A-N/A-2024022017242764465 0

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Change Address or Representation Form

To the Commissioner for Trademarks:

MARK: USA FLAG (standard characters, see <https://tmng-al.uspto.gov/resting2/api/img/97724960/large>)

SERIAL NUMBER: 97724960

Owner Section (Current) :

USA Football, Inc.
Suite 800
45 N. Pennsylvania Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
United States
XXXX

By submission of this request, the undersigned requests that the following be made of record for the owner/holder:

Owner Section (proposed):

USA Football, Inc.
Suite 800
45 N. Pennsylvania Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
United States
XXXX

Attorney Section (Current):

Louis T. Perry of FAEGRE DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH LLP
XX bar, admitted in XXXX, bar membership no. XXX, is located at
SUITE 2500
300 N. MERIDIAN STREET
INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana 46204
United States
Email Address: trademark@faegredrinker.com
Docket Reference Number(s):983928.33.

STATEMENT OF THE REASON FOR REPLACEMENT

Owner requested Peele Law Group take over all mainenance of their trademark portfolio.

By submission of this request, the undersigned confirms that (1) representation is ongoing and (2) that the individual listed below should now be identified as the attorney of record:

Attorney Section (proposed):

Amie Peele of Peele Law Group, PC
XX bar, admitted in XXXX, bar membership no. XXX, is located at
49 Boone Village, Box 299
Zionsville, Indiana 46077
United States
202-964-4500
202-964-4502
apeele@peeelawgroup.com
Other Appointed Attorney(s): Ashley Hodges, Alana Fernandez, Anne Ricchiuto

Docket Reference Number(s): 20011.00129

Amie Peele submitted the following statement: The attorney of record is an active member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of a U.S. state, the District of Columbia, or any U.S. Commonwealth or territory.

Correspondence Section (Current):

Louis T. Perry

PRIMARY EMAIL ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE: trademark@faegredrinker.com

SECONDARY EMAIL ADDRESS(ES) (COURTESY COPIES): abe.shanehsaz@faegredrinker.com

Docket Reference Number(s): 983928.33

Correspondence Section (proposed):

Amie Peele

PRIMARY EMAIL ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE: apeele@peeelawgroup.com

SECONDARY EMAIL ADDRESS(ES) (COURTESY COPIES): ahodges@peeelawgroup.com; afernandez@peeelawgroup.com;

docteking@peeelawgroup.com; aricchiuto@peeelawgroup.com

Docket Reference Number(s): 20011.00129

Requirement for Email and Electronic Filing: I understand that a valid email address must be maintained by the owner/holder and the owner's/holder's attorney, if appointed, and that all official trademark correspondence must be submitted via the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS).

Signature: /jamieriley/ Date: 02/21/2024

Signatory's Name: Jamie Riley

Signatory's Position: Chief Operating Officer

Signature method: Sent to third party for signature

The signatory has confirmed that he/she is either: (1) the owner/holder; or (2) a person or persons with legal authority to bind the owner/holder.

Serial Number: 97724960

Internet Transmission Date: Wed Feb 21 15:38:29 ET 2024

TEAS Stamp: USPTO/CAR-XX.XXX.XXX.XXX-202402211538295

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PTO- 1957
 Approved for use through 01/31/2027. OMB 0651-0050
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Response to Office Action

The table below presents the data as entered.

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MARK	mark
LITERAL ELEMENT	USA FLAG
STANDARD CHARACTERS	YES
USPTO-GENERATED IMAGE	YES
MARK STATEMENT	The mark consists of standard characters, without claim to any particular font style, size or color.
EVIDENCE SECTION	
EVIDENCE FILE NAME(S)	
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DESCRIPTION OF EVIDENCE FILE	Applicant's arguments in response to the Office Action dated September 7, 2023 are attached hereto.
CORRESPONDENCE INFORMATION	
NAME	Amie Peele
PRIMARY EMAIL ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE	apeele@peeelawgroup.com
SECONDARY EMAIL ADDRESS(ES) (COURTESY COPIES)	ahodges@peeelawgroup.com; afernandez@peeelawgroup.com; docketing@peeelawgroup.com; aricchiuto@peeelawgroup.com
DOCKET/REFERENCE NUMBER	20011.00129
SIGNATURE SECTION	
RESPONSE SIGNATURE	/ashleyhodges/
SIGNATORY'S NAME	Ashley Hodges
SIGNATORY'S POSITION	Attorney of Record
DATE SIGNED	03/06/2024
ROLE OF AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY	Authorized U.S.-Licensed Attorney
SIGNATURE METHOD	Signed directly within the form
FILING INFORMATION SECTION	
SUBMIT DATE	Wed Mar 06 17:05:09 ET 2024
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PTO-1957
 Approved for use through 01/31/2027. OMB 0651-0050
 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
 Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number

Response to Office Action

To the Commissioner for Trademarks:

Application serial no. **97724960** USA FLAG(Standard Characters, see <https://tmng-al.uspto.gov/resting2/api/img/97724960/large>) has been amended as follows:

EVIDENCE

Evidence has been attached: Applicant's arguments in response to the Office Action dated September 7, 2023 are attached hereto.

Original PDF file:

[evi_1-2607fb90d90b4e263c37d2839bb07620-20240306165706497580_.Office.Action.Response.USA.FLAG.Ser.No.97724960.pdf](#)

Converted PDF file(s) (3 pages) [Evidence-1Evidence-2Evidence-3](#)

Original PDF file:

[evi_2607fb90d90b4e263c37d2839bb07620-20240306165706497580_.Office.Action.Response.Evidence.1.USA.FLAG.Ser.No.97724960.pdf](#)

Converted PDF file(s) (43 pages) [Evidence-1Evidence-2Evidence-3Evidence-4Evidence-5Evidence-6](#)

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Converted PDF file(s) (21 pages) [Evidence-1Evidence-2Evidence-3Evidence-4Evidence-5Evidence-6](#)

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Original PDF file:

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Correspondence Information

Amie Peele

PRIMARY EMAIL FOR CORRESPONDENCE: apeele@peeelawgroup.com

SECONDARY EMAIL ADDRESS(ES) (COURTESY COPIES): ahodges@peeelawgroup.com; afernandez@peeelawgroup.com; docketing@peeelawgroup.com; aricchiuto@peeelawgroup.com

The docket/reference number is 20011.00129.

Requirement for Email and Electronic Filing: I understand that a valid email address must be maintained by the owner/holder and the owner's/holder's attorney, if appointed, and that all official trademark correspondence must be submitted via the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS).

SIGNATURE(S)

Response Signature

Signature: /ashleyhodges/ Date: 03/06/2024

Signatory's Name: Ashley Hodges

Signatory's Position: Attorney of Record

Signature method: Signed directly within the form

The signatory has confirmed that he/she is a U.S.-licensed attorney who is an active member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of a U.S. state (including the District of Columbia and any U.S. Commonwealth or territory); and he/she is currently the owner's/holder's attorney or an associate thereof; and to the best of his/her knowledge, if prior to his/her appointment another U.S.-licensed attorney not currently associated with his/her company/firm previously represented the owner/holder in this matter: the owner/holder has revoked their power of attorney by a signed revocation or substitute power of attorney with the USPTO; the USPTO has granted that attorney's withdrawal request; the owner/holder has filed a power of attorney appointing him/her in this matter; or the owner's/holder's appointed U.S.-licensed attorney has filed a power of attorney appointing him/her as an associate attorney in this matter.

Mailing Address: Amie Peele
Peele Law Group, PC

49 Boone Village, Box 299
Zionsville, Indiana 46077

Mailing Address: Amie Peele
Peele Law Group, PC

49 Boone Village, Box 299
Zionsville, Indiana 46077

Serial Number: 97724960

Internet Transmission Date: Wed Mar 06 17:05:09 ET 2024

TEAS Stamp: USPTO/ROA-XXXX:XXXX:XXXX:XXXX:XXXX:XXXX:

XXXX:XXXX-20240306170509738212-97724960-

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396a754bad13f8188d63e06c6d-N/A-N/A-20240

306165706497580

Applicant: USA FOOTBALL, Inc.
 MARK - USA FLAG
 App Ser. No. 97724960

Edward Payabyab
 Trademark Examining Attorney
 Law Office 128
 (571)272-0021
edward.payabyab@uspto.gov



Request for Suspension of Action

The Office issued a non-final action on September 7, 2023. In the non-final action, the Office raised several issues including a prior pending application that, at the time, may have presented a bar to registration of Applicant’s mark, USA FLAG. The prior pending application is Application Serial Number 97367238, which has now been registered on the Supplemental Register as US Registration Number 7290036 as of January 23, 2024.

Applicant filed Civil Action, Case No. 1:23-cv-00274, in the Southern District of Indiana. Applicant is also a party to Civil Action, Case No. 4:23-cv-00465-ALM in the Eastern District of Texas. The subject matter of these proceedings is relevant to the registrability of Applicant’s mark as anticipated by TMEP §716.02(d). Specifically, Applicant has alleged that the owner of US Registration Number 7290036 has infringed Applicant’s trademark rights, engaged in unfair competition, and falsely designated the origin of its goods and services by using and now registering a confusingly similar mark to Applicant’s marks:

USA FOOTBALL MARK REGISTRATIONS

Registration No.	Mark	Class	Goods and Services	Filing Date	Date of Incontestability
3182472	USA FOOTBALL	041	Educational and entertainment services, namely youth sports programs, sports exhibitions, seminars and sports events in the fields of football, fitness, strength and conditioning training, nutrition, exercise, sports safety, sportsmanship and game officiating; providing sports and entertainment information via a global computer network or a commercial on-line service	12/16/2003	12/12/2011

5172678		041	<p>Educational services, namely, conducting programs, classes, seminars, conferences, workshops and exhibitions, displays, and interactive exhibits on football in the field of player safety, concussion awareness and management, coaching education, proper equipment fitting, and proper techniques, and the distribution of printed materials in connection therewith in hardcopy or electronic format on the same topics; organizing, conducting and operating football tournaments; organizing and conducting athletic competitions in the nature of football games and exhibitions; entertainment services in the nature of football games and exhibitions; sports instruction services related to the game of football; sports training, development, and evaluation services related to the game of football</p>	1/12/2016	3/28/2022
3241236		041	<p>Educational and entertainment services, namely youth sports programs, sports exhibitions, seminars and sports events in the fields of football, fitness, strength and conditioning training, nutrition, exercise,</p>	12/16/2003	5/15/2012

			sports safety, sportsmanship and game officiating; providing sports and entertainment information via a global computer network or a commercial on-line service		
--	--	--	---	--	--

Due to Applicant's ownership of the above marks and the pending civil action, Applicant contends that the validity of US Registration Number 7290036 may be affected by the outcome of the pending civil action, and the result could be amendment of US Registration Number 7290036 as anticipated by TMEP §716.02(d). Applicant has attached the relevant pleadings for Civil Action No. 1:23-cv-00274 and Civil Action 4:23-cv-00465-ALM. Applicant respectfully requests that the Office suspend the present action pending resolution of the civil action. In addition, Applicant reserves the right to respond substantively to the remaining issues stated in the Office Action from September 7, 2023, upon final resolution of the civil action, as this request for suspension is considered responsive to that action. TMEP §716; 37 CFR §2.67.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully requests that the Office suspend the present action for the reasons stated above and reserves the right to respond substantively to the present action at the proper time.

Int. Cl.: 41

Prior U.S. Cls.: 100, 101 and 107

Reg. No. 3,182,472

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Registered Dec. 12, 2006

**SERVICE MARK
PRINCIPAL REGISTER**

USA FOOTBALL

USA FOOTBALL, INC. (VIRGINIA NON-PROFIT CORPORATION)
SUITE 870
8300 BOONE BOULEVARD
VIENNA, VA 22182

FIRST USE 12-5-2002; IN COMMERCE 12-5-2002.

THE MARK CONSISTS OF STANDARD CHARACTERS WITHOUT CLAIM TO ANY PARTICULAR FONT, STYLE, SIZE, OR COLOR.

NO CLAIM IS MADE TO THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO USE "FOOTBALL", APART FROM THE MARK AS SHOWN.

SEC. 2(F).

SER. NO. 78-341,626, FILED 12-16-2003.

DAVID H. STINE, EXAMINING ATTORNEY

FOR: EDUCATIONAL AND ENTERTAINMENT SERVICES, NAMELY YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAMS, SPORTS EXHIBITIONS, SEMINARS AND SPORTS EVENTS IN THE FIELDS OF FOOTBALL, FITNESS, STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING TRAINING, NUTRITION, EXERCISE, SPORTS SAFETY, SPORTSMANSHIP AND GAME OFFICIATING; PROVIDING SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT INFORMATION VIA A GLOBAL COMPUTER NETWORK OR A COMMERCIAL ON-LINE SERVICE, IN CLASS 41 (U.S. CLS. 100, 101 AND 107).

PTO Form 1583 (Rev 5/2006)
 CMB No. 0651-0955 (Exp 07/31/2018)

Combined Declaration of Use and Incontestability under Sections 8 & 15

The table below presents the data as entered.

Input Field	Entered
REGISTRATION NUMBER	3182472
REGISTRATION DATE	12/12/2006
SERIAL NUMBER	78341626
MARK SECTION	
MARK	USA FOOTBALL
ATTORNEY SECTION (current)	
NAME	KEVIN T OLIVEIRA
FIRM NAME	ODIN FELDMAN & PITTLEMAN
STREET	9302 LEE HWY STE 1100
CITY	FAIRFAX
STATE	Virginia
POSTAL CODE	22031-1215
COUNTRY	United States
ATTORNEY SECTION (proposed)	
NAME	Louis T. Perry
FIRM NAME	Baker & Daniels LLP
INTERNAL ADDRESS	Suite 2700
STREET	300 North Meridian Street
CITY	Indianapolis
STATE	Indiana
POSTAL CODE	46204
COUNTRY	United States
PHONE	(317) 237-0300
FAX	(317) 237-1000
EMAIL	intcas@bakerd.com
AUTHORIZED TO COMMUNICATE VIA E-MAIL	Yes
DOCKET/REFERENCE NUMBER	USAF-T0012e
OTHER APPOINTED ATTORNEY	Jonathan C. Anderson, Ryan C. Barker, Michelle Kaiser Bray, Jonathan B. Burns, Amie Peelle Carter, Marcelo S. Copat, Adam F. Cox, Jamie M. Drewry, John J. Emanuele, Eric J. Groen, Stephanie A. Gumm, Norman J. Hedges, Jennett M. Hill, John F. Hoffman, David P. Irmscher, Brad R. Maurer, William S. Meyers, Timothy E. Niednagel, Robert D. Null, Jay M. Sanders, James J. Saul, Michael D. Schwartz, Daniel Tychonievich, and Douglas A. Yerkeson of Baker & Daniels LLP

CORRESPONDENCE SECTION (current)	
NAME	KEVIN T OLIVEIRA
FIRM NAME	ODIN FELDMAN & PITTLEMAN
STREET	9302 LEE HWY STE 1100
CITY	FAIRFAX
STATE	Virginia
POSTAL CODE	22031-1215
COUNTRY	United States
CORRESPONDENCE SECTION (proposed)	
NAME	Louis T. Perry
FIRM NAME	Baker & Daniels LLP
INTERNAL ADDRESS	Suite 2700
STREET	300 North Meridian Street
CITY	Indianapolis
STATE	Indiana
POSTAL CODE	46204
COUNTRY	United States
PHONE	(317) 237-0300
FAX	(317) 237-1000
EMAIL	inteam@bakerd.com
AUTHORIZED TO COMMUNICATE VIA E-MAIL	Yes
DOCKET/REFERENCE NUMBER	USAF-T0012e
GOODS AND/OR SERVICES SECTION	
INTERNATIONAL CLASS	041
GOODS OR SERVICES	Educational and entertainment services, namely youth sports programs, sports exhibitions, seminars and sports events in the fields of football, fitness, strength and conditioning training, nutrition, exercise, sports safety, sportsmanship and game officiating; providing sports and entertainment information via a global computer network or a commercial on-line service
SPECIMEN FILE NAME(S)	
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	\\TICRS\EXPORT11\IMAGEOUT11\783\416\78341626.xml\28150003.JPG
SPECIMEN DESCRIPTION	screen capture of Registrant's website showing use of the mark
OWNER SECTION (current)	
NAME	USA Football, Inc.
STREET	Suite 870
CITY	Vienna
STATE	Virginia

ZIP/POSTAL CODE	22182
COUNTRY	United States
PHONE	703-918-0007
LEGAL ENTITY SECTION (current)	
TYPE	NON-PROFIT CORPORATION
STATE/COUNTRY WHERE LEGALLY ORGANIZED	Virginia
LEGAL ENTITY SECTION (proposed)	
TYPE	NON-PROFIT CORPORATION
STATE/COUNTRY WHERE LEGALLY ORGANIZED	Virginia
PAYMENT SECTION	
NUMBER OF CLASSES	1
NUMBER OF CLASSES PAID	1
SUBTOTAL AMOUNT	300
TOTAL FEE PAID	300
SIGNATURE SECTION	
SIGNATURE	/Louis T. Perry/
SIGNATORY'S NAME	Louis T. Perry
SIGNATORY'S POSITION	attorney of record, Indiana bar member
DATE SIGNED	12/20/2011
SIGNATORY'S PHONE NUMBER	1-317-237-1089
PAYMENT METHOD	DA
FILING INFORMATION	
SUBMIT DATE	Tue Dec 20 13:39:22 EST 2011
TEAS STAMP	USPTO/S08N15-XXX.XX.XXX.X -20111220133922359586-318 2472-49049c4d11a2d8896d0d ffed7dcee11d1d-DA-12957-2 0111220112755318929

PTO Form 1583 (Rev 5/2009)
OMB No. 0651-0055 (Exp 07/31/2018)

Combined Declaration of Use and Incontestability under Sections 8 & 15

To the Commissioner for Trademarks:

REGISTRATION NUMBER: 3182472

REGISTRATION DATE: 12/12/2006

MARK: USA FOOTBALL

The owner, USA Football, Inc., NON-PROFIT CORPORATION legally organized under the laws of Virginia, having an address of
Suite 870
Vienna, Virginia 22182
United States

is filing a Combined Declaration of Use and Incontestability under Sections 8 & 15.

For International Class 041, the mark is in use in commerce on or in connection with all of the goods/all of the services, or to indicate membership in the collective membership organization, listed in the existing registration for this specific class: Educational and entertainment services, namely youth sports programs, sports exhibitions, seminars and sports events in the fields of football, fitness, strength and conditioning training, nutrition, exercise, sports safety, sportsmanship and game officiating; providing sports and entertainment information via a global computer network or a commercial on-line service; and the mark has been continuously used in commerce for five (5) consecutive years after the date of registration, or the date of publication under Section 12(c), and is still in use in commerce on or in connection with all goods/all services, or to indicate membership in the collective membership organization, listed in the existing registration for this class. Also, no final decision adverse to the owner's claim of ownership of such mark for those goods/services, or to indicate membership in the collective membership organization, exists, or to the owner's right to register the same or to keep the same on the register; and, no proceeding involving said rights pending and not disposed of in either the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office or the courts exists.

The owner is submitting one(or more) specimen(s) for this class showing the mark as used in commerce on or in connection with any item in this class, consisting of a(n) screen capture of Registrant's website showing use of the mark.

Original PDF file:

[SPN0-174461635-112755318 . USA FOOTBALL.pdf](#)

Converted PDF file(s) (2 pages)

[Specimen File1](#)

[Specimen File2](#)

The registrant's current Attorney Information: KEVIN T OLIVEIRA of ODIN FELDMAN & PITTLEMAN

9302 LEE HWY STE 1100

FAIRFAX, Virginia (VA) 22031-1215

United States

The registrant's proposed Attorney Information: Louis T. Perry of Baker & Daniels LLP

Suite 2700

300 North Meridian Street

Indianapolis, Indiana (IN) 46204

United States

The docket/reference number is USAF-T0012e.

The Other Appointed Attorney(s): Jonathan C. Anderson, Ryan C. Barker, Michelle Kaiser Bray, Jonathan B. Burns, Amie Peele Carter, Marcelo S. Copat, Adam F. Cox, Jamie M. Drewry, John J. Emanuele, Eric J. Groen, Stephanie A. Gumm, Norman J. Hedges, Jennett M. Hill, John F. Hoffman, David P. Irmscher, Brad R. Maurer, William S. Meyers, Timothy E. Niednagel, Robert D. Null, Jay M. Sanders, James J. Saul, Michael D. Schwartz, Daniel Tychonievich, and Douglas A. Yerkeson of Baker & Daniels LLP.

The phone number is (317) 237-0300.

The fax number is (317) 237-1000.

The email address is inteas@bakerd.com.

The registrant's current Correspondence Information: KEVIN T OLIVEIRA of ODIN FELDMAN & PITTLEMAN

9302 LEE HWY STE 1100
FAIRFAX, Virginia (VA) 22031-1215
United States

The registrant's proposed Correspondence Information: Louis T. Perry of Baker & Daniels LLP
Suite 2700
300 North Meridian Street
Indianapolis, Indiana (IN) 46204
United States

The docket/reference number is USAF-T0012e.

The phone number is (317) 237-0300.

The fax number is (317) 237-1000.

The email address is inteas@bakerd.com.

A fee payment in the amount of \$300 will be submitted with the form, representing payment for 1 class(es), plus any additional grace period fee, if necessary.

Declaration

The mark is in use in commerce on or in connection with the goods and/or services identified above, as evidenced by the attached specimen(s) showing the mark as used in commerce. The mark has been in continuous use in commerce for five (5) consecutive years after the date of registration, or the date of publication under Section 12(c), and is still in use in commerce. There has been no final decision adverse to the owner's claim of ownership of such mark, or to the owner's right to register the same or to keep the same on the register; and there is no proceeding involving said rights pending and not disposed of either in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office or in the courts.

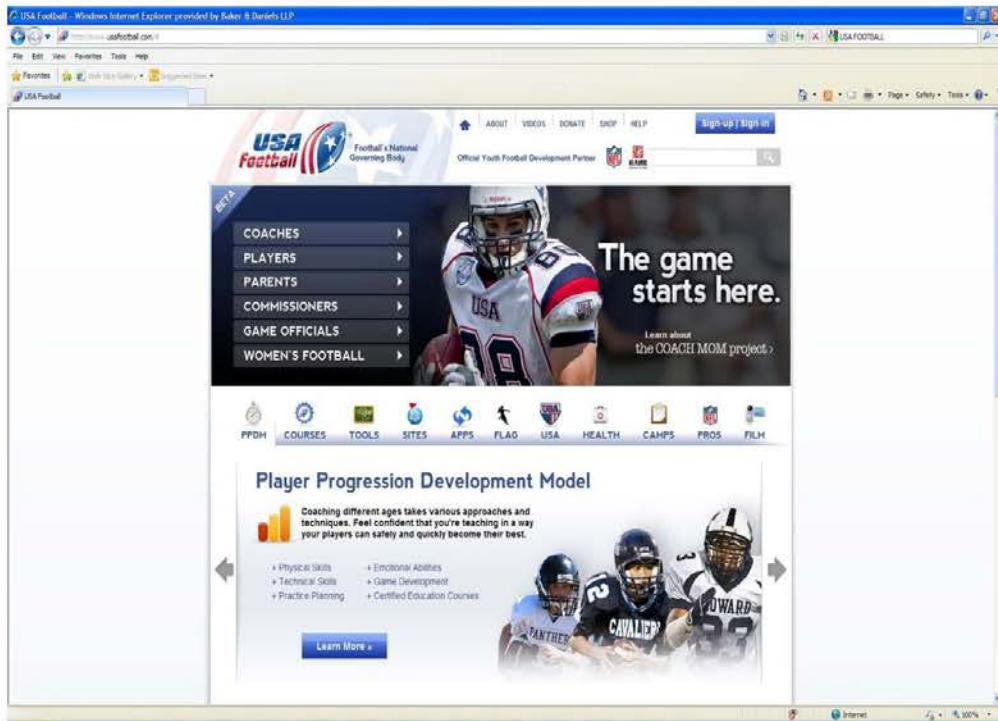
The undersigned being hereby warned that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. Section 1001, and that such willful false statements and the like may jeopardize the validity of this document, declares that he/she is properly authorized to execute this document on behalf of the Owner; and all statements made of his/her own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true.

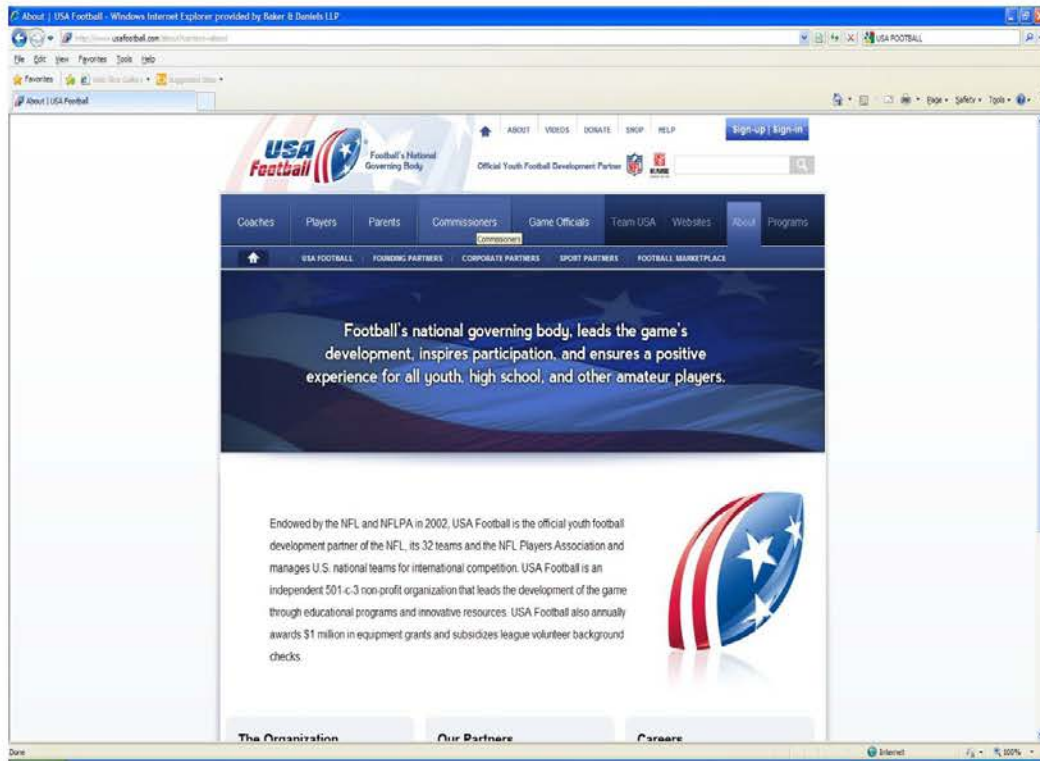
Signature: /Louis T. Perry/ Date: 12/20/2011
Signatory's Name: Louis T. Perry
Signatory's Position: attorney of record, Indiana bar member
Signatory's Phone Number: 1-317-237-1089

Mailing Address (current):
ODIN FELDMAN & PITTLEMAN
9302 LEE HWY STE 1100
FAIRFAX, Virginia 22031-1215

Mailing Address (proposed):
Baker & Daniels LLP
300 North Meridian Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Serial Number: 78341626
Internet Transmission Date: Tue Dec 20 13:39:22 EST 2011
TEAS Stamp: USPTO/S08N15-XXX.XX.XXX.X-20111220133922
359586-3182472-49049c4d11a2d8896d0dffed7
dcee11d1d-DA-12957-20111220112755318929





ROUTING SHEET TO POST REGISTRATION (PRU)

Registration Number: 3182472



Serial Number: 78341626



RAM Sale Number: 12957

RAM Accounting Date: 20111220

Total Fees: \$300

Note: Process in accordance with Post Registration Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

<u>Transaction</u>	<u>Fee Code</u>	<u>Transaction Date</u>	<u>Fee per Class</u>	<u>Number of Classes</u>	<u>Number of Classes Paid</u>	<u>Total Fee</u>
§8 affidavit	7205	20111220	\$100	1	1	\$100
§15 affidavit	7208	20111220	\$200	1	1	\$200

Physical Location: 900 - FILE REPOSITORY (FRANCONIA)

Lost Case Flag: False

In TICRS (AM-FLG-IN-TICRS): True

Transaction Date: 20111220



United States of America

United States Patent and Trademark Office



Reg. No. 5,172,678
Registered Mar. 28, 2017
Int. Cl.: 41
Service Mark
Principal Register

USA Football, Inc. (VIRGINIA non-profit corporation)
Suite 700
45 North Pennsylvania Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

CLASS 41: Educational services, namely, conducting programs, classes, seminars, conferences, workshops and exhibitions, displays, and interactive exhibits on football in the field of player safety, concussion awareness and management, coaching education, proper equipment fitting, and proper techniques, and the distribution of printed materials in connection therewith in hardcopy or electronic format on the same topics; organizing, conducting and operating football tournaments; organizing and conducting athletic competitions in the nature of football games and exhibitions; entertainment services in the nature of football games and exhibitions; sports instruction services related to the game of football; sports training, development, and evaluation services related to the game of football

FIRST USE 2-26-2016; IN COMMERCE 2-26-2016

The mark consists of the words "USA FOOTBALL" in large, stylized letters, placed above an image of a football with stars and stripes, all encompassed by a crest design.

No claim is made to the exclusive right to use the following apart from the mark as shown: "FOOTBALL"

SEC. 2(F) as to "USA FOOTBALL"

SER. NO. 86-872,765, FILED 01-12-2016
BRENDAN D MCCAULEY, EXAMINING ATTORNEY



Michelle K. Lee
Director of the United States
Patent and Trademark Office

REQUIREMENTS TO MAINTAIN YOUR FEDERAL TRADEMARK REGISTRATION

WARNING: YOUR REGISTRATION WILL BE CANCELLED IF YOU DO NOT FILE THE DOCUMENTS BELOW DURING THE SPECIFIED TIME PERIODS.

Requirements in the First Ten Years*

What and When to File:

- **First Filing Deadline:** You must file a Declaration of Use (or Excusable Nonuse) between the 5th and 6th years after the registration date. See 15 U.S.C. §§1058, 1141k. If the declaration is accepted, the registration will continue in force for the remainder of the ten-year period, calculated from the registration date, unless cancelled by an order of the Commissioner for Trademarks or a federal court.
- **Second Filing Deadline:** You must file a Declaration of Use (or Excusable Nonuse) and an Application for Renewal between the 9th and 10th years after the registration date.* See 15 U.S.C. §1059.

Requirements in Successive Ten-Year Periods*

What and When to File:

- You must file a Declaration of Use (or Excusable Nonuse) and an Application for Renewal between every 9th and 10th-year period, calculated from the registration date.*

Grace Period Filings*

The above documents will be accepted as timely if filed within six months after the deadlines listed above with the payment of an additional fee.

*ATTENTION MADRID PROTOCOL REGISTRANTS: The holder of an international registration with an extension of protection to the United States under the Madrid Protocol must timely file the Declarations of Use (or Excusable Nonuse) referenced above directly with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). The time periods for filing are based on the U.S. registration date (not the international registration date). The deadlines and grace periods for the Declarations of Use (or Excusable Nonuse) are identical to those for nationally issued registrations. See 15 U.S.C. §§1058, 1141k. However, owners of international registrations do not file renewal applications at the USPTO. Instead, the holder must file a renewal of the underlying international registration at the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, under Article 7 of the Madrid Protocol, before the expiration of each ten-year term of protection, calculated from the date of the international registration. See 15 U.S.C. §1141j. For more information and renewal forms for the international registration, see <http://www.wipo.int/madrid/en/>.

NOTE: Fees and requirements for maintaining registrations are subject to change. Please check the USPTO website for further information. With the exception of renewal applications for registered extensions of protection, you can file the registration maintenance documents referenced above online at <http://www.uspto.gov>.

NOTE: A courtesy e-mail reminder of USPTO maintenance filing deadlines will be sent to trademark owners/holders who authorize e-mail communication and maintain a current e-mail address with the USPTO. To ensure that e-mail is authorized and your address is current, please use the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS) Correspondence Address and Change of Owner Address Forms available at <http://www.uspto.gov>.

PTO-1583

Approved for use through 01/31/2025. OMB 0951-0055

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Combined Declaration of Use and Incontestability under Sections 8 & 15

The table below presents the data as entered.

Input Field	Entered
REGISTRATION NUMBER	5172678
REGISTRATION DATE	03/28/2017
SERIAL NUMBER	86872765
MARK SECTION	
MARK	USA FOOTBALL (stylized and/or with design, see mark)
ATTORNEY INFORMATION (current)	
NAME	Louis T. Perry
ATTORNEY BAR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER	NOT SPECIFIED
YEAR OF ADMISSION	NOT SPECIFIED
U.S. STATE/ COMMONWEALTH/ TERRITORY	NOT SPECIFIED
FIRM NAME	FAEGRE BAKER DANIELS LLP
INTERNAL ADDRESS	SUITE 2700
STREET	300 N. MERIDIAN STREET
CITY	INDIANAPOLIS
STATE	Indiana
POSTAL CODE	46204
COUNTRY/REGION/JURISDICTION/U.S. TERRITORY	United States
PHONE	317-237-0300
FAX	317-237-1000
EMAIL	tmindy@faegrebd.com
DOCKET/REFERENCE NUMBER	USAF-T0027e
ATTORNEY INFORMATION (proposed)	
NAME	Louis T. Perry
ATTORNEY BAR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER	XXX
YEAR OF ADMISSION	XXXX
U.S. STATE/ COMMONWEALTH/ TERRITORY	XX
FIRM NAME	FAEGRE DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH LLP
INTERNAL ADDRESS	Suite 2500
STREET	300 N. MERIDIAN STREET
CITY	INDIANAPOLIS

STATE	Indiana
POSTAL CODE	46204
COUNTRY/REGION/JURISDICTION/U.S. TERRITORY	United States
PHONE	317-237-1089
FAX	317-237-1000
EMAIL	trademark@faegredrinker.com
DOCKET/REFERENCE NUMBER	USAF-T0027e
OTHER APPOINTED ATTORNEY	Emily A. Bayton, Kaela T. Bauer, Jared B. Briant, Robert Cannuscio, Joseph M. Carrafiello, Brian Coleman, Jennifer L. Dean, Tore T. DeBella, Melissa S. Dillenbeck, Janet Fries, Edwin A. Getz, Dianna L. Gould, Stephanie A. Gumm, Kelly M. Horein, Brittany L. Kaplan, Diane J. Mason, Susan V. Mazurek, David R. Merritt, Katlyn M. Moseley, Louis T. Perry, Patricia I. Reding, Tom P. Ryan, James J. Saul, Abe J. Shanehsaz, James R. Steffen, David F. Gomez, and Gary S. Weinstein
CORRESPONDENCE INFORMATION (current)	
NAME	LOUIS T. PERRY
PRIMARY EMAIL ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE	tmindy@faegrebd.com
SECONDARY EMAIL ADDRESS(ES) (COURTESY COPIES)	ashley.moore@faegrebd.com
DOCKET/REFERENCE NUMBER	USAF-T0027e
CORRESPONDENCE INFORMATION (proposed)	
NAME	Louis T. Perry
PRIMARY EMAIL ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE	trademark@faegredrinker.com
SECONDARY EMAIL ADDRESS(ES) (COURTESY COPIES)	abe.shanehsaz@faegredrinker.com
DOCKET/REFERENCE NUMBER	USAF-T0027e
GOODS AND/OR SERVICES SECTION	
INTERNATIONAL CLASS	041
GOODS OR SERVICES	Educational services, namely, conducting programs, classes, seminars, conferences, workshops and exhibitions, displays, and interactive exhibits on football in the field of player safety, concussion awareness and management, coaching education, proper equipment fitting, and proper techniques, and the distribution of printed materials in connection therewith in hardcopy or electronic format on the same topics; organizing, conducting and operating football tournaments; organizing and conducting athletic competitions in the nature of football games and exhibitions; entertainment services in the nature of football games and exhibitions; sports instruction services related to the game of football; sports training, development, and evaluation services related to the game of football
SPECIMEN FILE NAME(S)	
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	\\TICRSEXP\PORT18\IMAGEOUT 18\868\727\86872765\xml2\8150010.jpg
SPECIMEN DESCRIPTION	screenshots from social media outlets and Registrant's website showing how the registered mark is used in the promotion of the registered services, and also showing how the registered mark is used on uniforms worn during the rendering of the registered services
WEBPAGE URL	https://www.facebook.com/USNationalFootballTeam
WEBPAGE DATE OF ACCESS	03/06/2023
WEBPAGE URL	https://www.instagram.com/usnft/?hl=en
WEBPAGE DATE OF ACCESS	03/06/2023
WEBPAGE URL	https://twitter.com/USNFT
WEBPAGE DATE OF ACCESS	03/06/2023
WEBPAGE URL	https://www.usafotball.com/programs/national-team/
WEBPAGE DATE OF ACCESS	03/06/2023
WEBPAGE URL	https://usafotball.tfatforms.net/forms/view/292356
WEBPAGE DATE OF ACCESS	03/06/2023
WEBPAGE URL	https://usadultnationalteam.totalcamps.com/About%20Us
WEBPAGE DATE OF ACCESS	03/06/2023
OWNER SECTION (current)	
NAME	USA Football, Inc.
INTERNAL ADDRESS	Suite 700
MAILING ADDRESS	45 North Pennsylvania Street
CITY	Indianapolis

STATE	Indiana
ZIP/POSTAL CODE	46204
COUNTRY/REGION/JURISDICTION/U.S. TERRITORY	United States
OWNER SECTION (proposed)	
NAME	USA Football, Inc.
INTERNAL ADDRESS	Suite 800
MAILING ADDRESS	45 North Pennsylvania Street
CITY	Indianapolis
STATE	Indiana
ZIP/POSTAL CODE	46204
COUNTRY/REGION/JURISDICTION/U.S. TERRITORY	United States
EMAIL	XXXX
LEGAL ENTITY SECTION (current)	
TYPE	non-profit corporation
STATE/COUNTRY/REGION/JURISDICTION/U.S. TERRITORY WHERE LEGALLY ORGANIZED	Virginia
PAYMENT SECTION	
NUMBER OF CLASSES	1
NUMBER OF CLASSES PAID	1
COMBINED §§ 8 & 15 FILING FEE PER CLASS	425
TOTAL FEE PAID	425
SIGNATURE SECTION	
SIGNATURE	/Celeste Ballou/
SIGNATORY'S NAME	Celeste Ballou
SIGNATORY'S POSITION	Senior Director of Brand Marketing
DATE SIGNED	03/13/2023
SIGNATORY'S PHONE NUMBER	none provided
SIGNATURE METHOD	Sent to third party for signature
PAYMENT METHOD	CC
FILING INFORMATION	
SUBMIT DATE	Mon Mar 13 11:14:48 ET 2023
TEAS STAMP	USPTO/S08N15-XX.X.XXX.XX- 20230313111450787073-5172 678-8503e376ed2311ed5d2b3 17957848ab39e33611c9dadddc 793982f2b57284d19b-CC-144 86910-2023030617200528708 6

PTO-1583

Approved for use through 01/31/2025. OMB 0651-0055

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number

Combined Declaration of Use and Incontestability under Sections 8 & 15

To the Commissioner for Trademarks:

REGISTRATION NUMBER: 5172678

REGISTRATION DATE: 03/28/2017

MARK: (Stylized and/or with Design, USA FOOTBALL (see, [mark](#)))

Current: The owner, USA Football, Inc. a(n) non-profit corporation, legally organized under the laws of Virginia, having an address of
45 North Pennsylvania Street Suite 700
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
United States

Proposed: The owner, USA Football, Inc., non-profit corporation legally organized under the laws of Virginia, having an address of
Suite 800
45 North Pennsylvania Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
United States
XXXX

is filing a Combined Declaration of Use and Incontestability under Sections 8 & 15.

For International Class 041, the mark is in use in commerce on or in connection with all of the goods/all of the services, or to indicate membership in the collective membership organization, listed in the existing registration for this specific class: Educational services, namely, conducting programs, classes, seminars, conferences, workshops and exhibitions, displays, and interactive exhibits on football in the field of player safety, concussion awareness and management, coaching education, proper equipment fitting, and proper techniques, and the distribution of printed materials in connection therewith in hardcopy or electronic format on the same topics; organizing, conducting and operating football tournaments; organizing and conducting athletic competitions in the nature of football games and exhibitions; entertainment services in the nature of football games and exhibitions; sports instruction services related to the game of football; sports training, development, and evaluation services related to the game of football; and the mark has been continuously used in commerce for five (5) consecutive years after the date of registration, or the date of publication under Section 12(c), and is still in use in commerce on or in connection with all goods/all services, or to indicate membership in the collective membership organization, listed in the existing registration for this class. Also, no final decision adverse to the owner's claim of ownership of such mark for those goods/services, or to indicate membership in the collective membership organization, exists, or to the owner's right to register the same or to keep the same on the register; and, no proceeding involving said rights pending and not disposed of in either the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office or the courts exists.

The owner is submitting one(or more) specimen(s) for this class showing the mark as used in commerce on or in connection with any item in this class, consisting of a(n) screenshots from social media outlets and Registrant's website showing how the registered mark is used in the promotion of the registered services, and also showing how the registered mark is used on uniforms worn during the rendering of the registered services.

Original PDF file:

[SPN0-24118014-20230306160 454008552 . 5172678 Facebook.pdf](#)

Converted PDF file(s) (1 page)

[Specimen File1](#)

Original PDF file:

[SPN0-24118014-20230306172 005287086 . 5172678 Instagram.pdf](#)

Converted PDF file(s) (1 page)

[Specimen File1](#)

Original PDF file:

[SPN0-24118014-20230306172 005287086 . 5172678 Twitter.pdf](#)

Converted PDF file(s) (2 pages)

[Specimen File1](#)

[Specimen File2](#)

Original PDF file:

[SPN0-24118014-20230306172 005287086 . 5172678 webpages 1.pdf](#)

Converted PDF file(s) (2 pages)

[Specimen File1](#)

[Specimen File2](#)

Original PDF file:

[SPN0-24118014-20230306172 005287086 . 5172678 webpa.ge 2.pdf](#)

Converted PDF file(s) (1 page)

[Specimen File1](#)

Original PDF file:

[SPN0-24118014-20230306172 005287086 . 5172678 webpa.ges 3.pdf](#)

Converted PDF file(s) (2 pages)

[Specimen File1](#)

[Specimen File2](#)

Webpage URL: <https://www.facebook.com/USNationalFootballTeam>

Webpage Date of Access: 03/06/2023

Webpage URL: <https://www.instagram.com/usnft/?hl=en>

Webpage Date of Access: 03/06/2023

Webpage URL: <https://twitter.com/USNFT>

Webpage Date of Access: 03/06/2023

Webpage URL: <https://www.usafotball.com/programs/national-team/>

Webpage Date of Access: 03/06/2023

Webpage URL: <https://usafotball.tfafirms.net/forms/view/292356>

Webpage Date of Access: 03/06/2023

Webpage URL: <https://usadulnationalteam.totalcamps.com/About%20Us>

Webpage Date of Access: 03/06/2023

The owner's/holder's current attorney information: Louis T. Perry. Louis T. Perry of FAEGRE BAKER DANIELS LLP, is located at

SUITE 2700
300 N. MERIDIAN STREET
INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana 46204
United States

The docket/reference number is USAF-T0027e.

The phone number is 317-237-0300.

The fax number is 317-237-1000.

The email address is tmindy@faegrebd.com

The owner's/holder's proposed attorney information: Louis T. Perry. Other appointed attorneys are Emily A. Bayton, Kaela T. Bauer, Jared B. Briant, Robert Cannuscio, Joseph M. Carrafiello, Brian Coleman, Jennifer L. Dean, Tore T. DeBella, Melissa S. Dillenbeck, Janet Fries, Edwin A. Getz, Dianna L. Gould, Stephanie A. Gumm, Kelly M. Horein, Brittany L. Kaplan, Diane J. Mason, Susan V. Mazurek, David R. Merritt, Katlyn M. Moseley, Louis T. Perry, Patricia I. Reding, Tom P. Ryan, James J. Saul, Abe J. Shanehsaz, James R. Steffen, David F. Gomez, and Gary S. Weinstein. Louis T. Perry of FAEGRE DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH LLP, is a member of the XX bar, admitted to the bar in XXXX, bar membership no. XXX, and the attorney(s) is located at

Suite 2500
300 N. MERIDIAN STREET
INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana 46204
United States

The docket/reference number is USAF-T0027e.

The phone number is 317-237-1089.

The fax number is 317-237-1000.

The email address is trademark@faegredrinker.com

Louis T. Perry submitted the following statement: The attorney of record is an active member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of a U.S. state, the District of Columbia, or any U.S. Commonwealth or territory.

Correspondence Information (current)

LOUIS T. PERRY

PRIMARY EMAIL FOR CORRESPONDENCE: tmindy@faegrebd.com

SECONDARY EMAIL ADDRESS(ES) (COURTESY COPIES): ashley.moore@faegrebd.com

The docket/reference number is USAF-T0027e.

Correspondence Information (proposed)

Louis T. Perry

PRIMARY EMAIL FOR CORRESPONDENCE: trademark@faegredrinker.com

SECONDARY EMAIL ADDRESS(ES) (COURTESY COPIES): abe.shanehsaz@faegredrinker.com

The docket/reference number is USAF-T0027e.

Requirement for Email and Electronic Filing: I understand that a valid email address must be maintained by the owner/holder and the owner's/holder's attorney, if appointed, and that all official trademark correspondence must be submitted via the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS).

A fee payment in the amount of \$425 will be submitted with the form, representing payment for 1 class(es), plus any additional grace period fee, if necessary.

Declaration

- Unless the owner has specifically claimed excusable nonuse, the mark is in use in commerce on or in connection with the goods/services or to indicate membership in the collective membership organization identified above, as evidenced by the attached specimen(s).
- Unless the owner has specifically claimed excusable nonuse, the specimen(s) shows the mark as currently used in commerce on or in connection with the goods/services/collective membership organization.
- The mark has been in continuous use in commerce for five consecutive years after the date of registration, or the date of publication under 15 U.S.C. § 1062(c), and is still in use in commerce on or in connection with all goods/services, or to indicate membership in the collective membership organization, listed in the existing registration.
- There has been no final decision adverse to the owner's claim of ownership of such mark for such goods/services, or to indicate membership in the collective membership organization, or to the owner's right to register the same or to keep the same on the register.
- There is no proceeding involving said rights pending and not finally disposed of either in the United States Patent and Trademark Office or in a court.
- To the best of the signatory's knowledge, information, and belief, formed after an inquiry reasonable under the circumstances, the allegations and other factual contentions made above have evidentiary support.
- The signatory being warned that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. § 1001, and that such willful false statements and the like may jeopardize the validity of this submission and the registration, declares that all statements made of his/her own knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true.

Signature: /Celeste Ballou/ Date: 03/13/2023

Signatory's Name: Celeste Ballou

Signatory's Position: Senior Director of Brand Marketing

Signatory's Phone: none provided

Signature method: Sent to third party for signature

Mailing Address (current):

FAEGRE BAKER DANIELS LLP
300 N. MERIDIAN STREET
INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana 46204

Mailing Address (proposed):

FAEGRE DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH LLP
300 N. MERIDIAN STREET
INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana 46204

Serial Number: 86872765

Internet Transmission Date: Mon Mar 13 11:14:48 ET 2023

TEAS Stamp: USPTO/S08N15-XX.X.XXX.XX-202303131114507

87073-5172678-8503e376ed2311ed5d2b317957

848ab39e33611c9dadcd793982f2b57284d19b-C
C-14486910-20230306172005287086

U.S. National Football Team | X

https://www.facebook.com/USNationalFootballTeam

facebook

Email or phone Password Log In Forgot Account?

U.S. National Football Team
29K likes • 32K followers

Posts About Photos Videos

Intro

The U.S. National Team is one family of teams flag and tackle. We scout, train and evaluate players.

Page · Amateur Sports Team

teamusa@usafootball.com

usnft

usnft

usafootball.com/nationalteams

Photos See all photos

Photos See all photos

U.S. National Football Team 22h

That's a wrap from Junior National Team Trials! What a great weekend full of competition 🙌🙌🙌

Shoutout to all the athletes, parents, coaches, officials and staffs of USA Football and the United States Performance Center for making this weekend possible!

#RepTheFlag

51 9

Like Comment

U.S. National Football Team 11h

Go for the 🏈

#RepTheFlag | United States Performance Center

Connect with U.S. National Football Team on Facebook

Log In or Create new account

10:24 AM 3/6/2023

U.S. National Football Team 18... x

https://www.instagram.com/usnft/?hl=en

Instagram

Search

Log In Sign Up

usnft Follow Message

2,538 posts · 48.9K followers · 880 following

U.S. National Football Team
Amateur Sports Team
@usa_football's National Team. We compete at the highest levels of international play in flag & tackle football on @FUSALLIN #GoldStandard #RepTheFlag
sprout.link/usnft

The One #RepTheFlag Jr Inl Cup The Rematch Chula Vista 21 Flag WC 21 Watch List

POSTS REELS TAGGED

PHOENIX MARCH 25, 2023

2023 THE NE CHAMPIONSHIP

PATHWAY TO THE ONE FLAG CHAMPIONSHIP

CHARLOTTE, NC JULY 7-9, 2023 REGISTER NOW

USA FOOTBALL TRIALS

USA FOOTBALL TRIALS

USA FOOTBALL TRIALS

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USA FOOTBALL TRIALS

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USA FOOTBALL TRIALS

Related accounts

usfbandits Tampa Bay Bandits Follow

qbkillstpic QB Skills EPIC Follow

nationalchampions... FBI National Cham... Follow

nflflagla NFL FLAG LA Follow

nfl nfl Follow

See all

Meta About Blog Ads Help API Privacy Terms Top Accounts Location Instagram Lite Contact Us Loading & Non-Store Meta Verified

English © 2023 Instagram from Meta

4:22 PM 3/6/2023

The screenshot displays the Twitter profile for the U.S. National Football Team (@USNFT). The profile header includes the team name, a verified badge, and a bio: "@USAFootball's U.S. National Team. We compete at the highest levels of international play in flag & tackle football. 🇺🇸 #USALLIN #GoldStandard #RepTheFlag". It also shows a location "A field near you", a website "usafootball.com/highperformance", and a join date of "April 2012". The profile has 2,170 following and 44.1K followers.

A pinned tweet from January 31, 2024, is visible. The tweet text reads: "The @USAFootball Adult Elite Championship Series is a chance to compete in Olympic-inspired play & get scouted for the U.S. Flag National Team 🇺🇸". Below the text, it states: "Winners receive full bids to The One Flag Championship + cash prize!" and provides a link: "Register your team at usafootball.com/elite-series".

The right sidebar, titled "What's happening", lists trending topics: "All-ACC" (Sports - Trending), "Shotgun Willie" (Trending in United States), and "Tyler Perry" (Entertainment - Trending, 6,430 tweets).

At the bottom of the page, a blue banner reads "Don't miss what's happening" with the subtext "People on Twitter are the first to know." and buttons for "Log in" and "Sign up". The system tray at the very bottom shows the time as 4:28 PM on 3/6/2023.

U.S. National Team | High Sch... X

https://www.usafootball.com/programs/national-team/

Media Center Enroll Your Organization Flag Football Tournaments Football Development Model Find a League

USA FOOTBALL Development & Training Programs Events Resources & Tools Membership Log In

THE U.S. NATIONAL TEAM

Representing the U.S. in flag & tackle International competitions

Nominate a Player

MANY TEAMS. ONE FAMILY.

The U.S. National Team is one family of teams made up of middle school, high school, and adult players. We scout, train, and showcase men and women and help everyone who competes to make a national team elevate their game. We develop flag and tackle players, and the flag athletes get to rep the U.S. against the world.


If you have questions on any specific events, please contact teamusa@usafootball.com.

The U.S. National Team is part of **USA Football High Performance**, and athletes are selected from those pathway events.


PATHWAY TO GOLD

Through our National Team program, we provide a pathway to the highest level of the game for both tackle and flag with an eye on a gold medal. As football's governing body, USA Football is the sole U.S. member of the International Federation of American Football (IFAF). USA Football is recognized by the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee, and we are proud to join IFAF and the NFL to advocate for flag football's inclusion in the 2028 Olympic Games.

Our National Team athletes and coaches represent the highest level of the competition and the standard of excellence for our game. They represent the U.S. in international competitions like IFAF Continental & World Championships, the World Games, and, hopefully, the 2028 Olympics.



MEMBER



RECOGNIZED SPORT ORGANIZATION

CONNECT WITH US ON GMTM

The U.S. National Team is now on **GMTM**, making it easier for you to connect with us. GMTM is a social platform that brings together coaches, athletes, and teams. It's also a way for athletes to be seen and show off their skills virtually.

Connect with us today on GMTM and invite your fellow athlete to do the same!

CONNECT

10:28 AM 3/6/2023

ADULT PATHWAYS

EVENTS FOR THE 2023 ADULT FLAG FOOTBALL U.S. NATIONAL TEAMS

ADULT PATHWAY TO U.S. NATIONAL TEAM

TALENT EVALUATION	ROSTER SELECTION	PREPARATION	COMPETITION
Digital Combine on GMTM <i>For athletes new to flag football</i>	Talent Transfer ID Camp	U.S. National Team Training Camp	2023 IFAF Americas Flag Football Continental Championships
Scouting <i>For athletes currently playing flag football</i>	U.S. National Team Trials		

JUNIOR PATHWAYS

EVENTS FOR THE 2023 JUNIOR FLAG FOOTBALL U.S. NATIONAL TEAMS

JUNIOR PATHWAY TO U.S. NATIONAL TEAM

TALENT EVALUATION	ROSTER SELECTION	PREPARATION	COMPETITION
Scouting	U.S. Junior Flag National Team Trials	U.S. National Team Training Camp	Junior International Cup

SIGN UP FOR EVENTS OR TO GET MORE INFO ON THE TEAM

ADULT FLAG MORE INFO

Flag Talent I.D. & Scouting Partners

We align with certain organizations to help us identify the U.S. National Team Roster.



Sign up for more info or to nominate a player for the pathway

Get Updates

USA FOOTBALL

Development & Training: Youth Tackling & Contact System, Contact System, Tackling Systems, Certification, Courses

Events: Blitz, Junior Athletic Training & Evaluation, Adult Flag Athletic Training & Evaluation, The Over Flag Tournament & Championship, Women's Tackle National Team

Programs: Enrollment, Football Development Model, Kick, Throw & Go, High Performance, National Teams, Heart of a Giant

Resources & Tools: Blogs, Coach, Commissioner, Parents, Partner Offers

About USA Football: Careers, Media Center, Partners

HELP DESK

CONTACT US: Consulting Sales Team

RECOGNIZED SPORT ORGANIZATION

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10:28 AM 1/6/2023

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying <https://usafootball.tforms.net/forms/new/292856>. The main content area features a dark blue background with a central white box containing the form. At the top of the form is a banner image of soccer players in action, with the USA National Team logo on the right. Below the banner, the title "U.S. NATIONAL TEAM INTEREST & NOMINATION FORM" is displayed in bold, red, uppercase letters. The form text reads: "If you have interest in staying up-to-date on our National Team program or if you want to nominate yourself or an athlete for the program, please complete this form." and "Nominated athletes will be provided information on our pathway and events where they can participate to try and earn their spot on the U.S. National Team." A dropdown menu is labeled "What best describes your football role? *" with the text "Please select..." inside. A dark blue "Next Page" button is located at the bottom of the form. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the time as 10:31 AM on 3/6/2023.


U.S. Adult National Team

https://usadultnationalteam.totalcamps.com/About Us

About Us Shop Talent ID Camps US National Team Flag Scouting Contact Us

The U.S. National Team

Where athletes come to further their skills and fight for their spot on America's team




MANY TEAMS. ONE FAMILY.

The U.S. National Team is one family of teams made up of middle school, high school, and adult players. We scout, train, and showcase men and women and help everyone who competes to make a national team elevate their game. We develop flag and tackle players, and the flag athletes get to rep the U.S. against the world.

TRAINING & EVALUATION	ROSTER SELECTION	COMPETITION
Show Up. Be Seen. Compete.	Get Better. Get Selected.	Win Gold.
Talent ID Camps Scouting	Team Trials Preliminary Roster Competition(s)	2023 IFAF Continental Championships

If you have questions on any specific events, please contact teamusa@usafootball.com. The U.S. National Team is part of USA Football High Performance.

 View Events

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U.S. Adult National Team

U.S. Adult National Team

About Us Shop Talent ID Camps US National Team Flag Scouting Contact Us

The U.S. National Team

Where athletes come to further their skills and fight for their spot on America's team

MANY TEAMS. ONE FAMILY.

The U.S. National Team is one family of teams made up of middle school, high school, and adult players. We scout, train, and showcase men and women and help everyone who competes to make a national team elevate their game. We develop flag and tackle players, and the flag athletes get to rep the U.S. against the world.

TRAINING & EVALUATION	ROSTER SELECTION	COMPETITION
Show Up. Be Seen. Compete.	Get Better. Get Selected.	Win Gold.
Talent ID Camps Scouting	Team Trials Preliminary Roster Competition(s)	2023 IFAF Continental Championships

If you have questions on any specific events, please contact teamusa@usafootball.com. The U.S. National Team is part of USA Football High Performance.

[View Events](#)

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Int. Cl.: 41

Prior U.S. Cls.: 100, 101 and 107

Reg. No. 3,241,236

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Registered May 15, 2007

**SERVICE MARK
PRINCIPAL REGISTER**



USA FOOTBALL, INC. (VIRGINIA NON-PROFIT CORPORATION)
SUITE 870
8300 BOONE BOULEVARD
VIENNA, VA 22182

WORK OR A COMMERCIAL ON-LINE SERVICE, IN CLASS 41 (U.S. CLS. 100, 101 AND 107).

FIRST USE 3-1-2003; IN COMMERCE 3-1-2003.

FOR: EDUCATIONAL AND ENTERTAINMENT SERVICES, NAMELY YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAMS, SPORTS EXHIBITIONS, SEMINARS AND SPORTS EVENTS IN THE FIELDS OF FOOTBALL, FITNESS, STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING TRAINING, NUTRITION, EXERCISE, SPORTS SAFETY, SPORTSMANSHIP AND GAME OFFICIATING; PROVIDING SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT INFORMATION VIA A GLOBAL COMPUTER NET-

THE MARK CONSISTS OF THE WORDS "USA FOOTBALL" WITH AN IMAGE OF A FOOTBALL WITH STARS AND STRIPES.

SEC. 2(F) AS TO "USA FOOTBALL".

SER. NO. 78-341,632, FILED 12-16-2003.

RICHARD A. STRASER, EXAMINING ATTORNEY

PTO Form 1583 (Rev 5/2006)
 CMB No. 0651-0955 (Exp 07/31/2018)

Combined Declaration of Use and Incontestability under Sections 8 & 15

The table below presents the data as entered.

Input Field	Entered
REGISTRATION NUMBER	3241236
REGISTRATION DATE	05/15/2007
SERIAL NUMBER	78341632
MARK SECTION	
MARK	USA FOOTBALL (stylized and/or with design)
ATTORNEY SECTION (current)	
NAME	KEVIN T OLIVEIRA
FIRM NAME	ODIN FELDMAN & PITTLEMAN
STREET	9302 LEE HWY STE 1100
CITY	FAIRFAX
STATE	Virginia
POSTAL CODE	22031-1215
COUNTRY	United States
ATTORNEY SECTION (proposed)	
NAME	Louis T. Perry
FIRM NAME	Faegre Baker Daniels LLP
INTERNAL ADDRESS	Suite 2700
STREET	300 N. Meridian Street
CITY	Indianapolis
STATE	Indiana
POSTAL CODE	46204
COUNTRY	United States
PHONE	317-237-0300
FAX	317-237-1000
EMAIL	tmindy@faegrebd.com
AUTHORIZED TO COMMUNICATE VIA E-MAIL	Yes
DOCKET/REFERENCE NUMBER	USAF-T0016e
OTHER APPOINTED ATTORNEY	Jonathan C. Anderson, Ryan C. Barker, Michelle Kaiser Bray, Brian D. Brown, Amie Peele Carter, Marcelo S. Copat, Adam F. Cox, Jodi A. DeSchane, Jamie M. Drewry, John J. Emanuele, Eric J. Groen, Stephanie A. Gumm, Natalie Hanlon-Leh, Norman J. Hedges, Leslie P. Kramer, Marc C. Levy, Calvin L. Litsey, Brad R. Maurer, William S. Meyers, Timothy E. Niednagel, Robert D. Null, Christopher J. Reckamp, Patricia I. Reding, Brenda J. Robinson, Jay M. Sanders, James J. Saul, Michael D. Schwartz,

	James R. Steffen, Daniel Tychonievich, Gary S. Weinstein and Douglas A. Yerkeson
CORRESPONDENCE SECTION (current)	
NAME	KEVIN T OLIVEIRA
FIRM NAME	ODIN FELDMAN & PITTLEMAN
STREET	9302 LEE HWY STE 1100
CITY	FAIRFAX
STATE	Virginia
POSTAL CODE	22031-1215
COUNTRY	United States
CORRESPONDENCE SECTION (proposed)	
NAME	Louis T. Perry
FIRM NAME	Faegre Baker Daniels LLP
INTERNAL ADDRESS	Suite 2700
STREET	300 N. Meridian Street
CITY	Indianapolis
STATE	Indiana
POSTAL CODE	46204
COUNTRY	United States
PHONE	317-237-0300
FAX	317-237-1000
EMAIL	tmindy@faegrebd.com;ashley.moore@faegrebd.com
AUTHORIZED TO COMMUNICATE VIA E-MAIL	Yes
DOCKET/REFERENCE NUMBER	USAF-T0016e
GOODS AND/OR SERVICES SECTION	
INTERNATIONAL CLASS	041
GOODS OR SERVICES	Educational and entertainment services, namely youth sports programs, sports exhibitions, seminars and sports events in the fields of football, fitness, strength and conditioning training, nutrition, exercise, sports safety, sportsmanship and game officiating; providing sports and entertainment information via a global computer network or a commercial on-line service
SPECIMEN FILE NAME(S)	
ORIGINAL PDF FILE	SPN0-174461635-150853695 . HeadsUpFlyer_Final .pdf
CONVERTED PDF FILE(S) (2 pages)	\\TICRS\EXPORT16\IMAGEOUT16\783\416\78341632\xml\18150002.JPG
	\\TICRS\EXPORT16\IMAGEOUT16\783\416\78341632\xml\18150003.JPG
ORIGINAL PDF FILE	SPN0-174461635-150853695 . USA FOOTBALL .pdf
CONVERTED PDF FILE(S) (3 pages)	\\TICRS\EXPORT16\IMAGEOUT16\783\416\78341632\xml\18150004.JPG
	\\TICRS\EXPORT16\IMAGEOUT16\783\416\78341632\xml\18150005.JPG
	\\TICRS\EXPORT16\IMAGEOUT16\783\416\78341632\xml\18150006.JPG

SPECIMEN DESCRIPTION	Specimen 1: promotional flyer bearing design mark being used in association with the services listed in the registration Specimen 2: webpage screenshot of design mark being used in association with the services listed in the registration
OWNER SECTION (current)	
NAME	USA Football, Inc.
STREET	Suite 870
CITY	Vienna
STATE	Virginia
ZIP/POSTAL CODE	22182
COUNTRY	United States
PHONE	703-918-0007
OWNER SECTION (proposed)	
NAME	USA Football, Inc.
INTERNAL ADDRESS	Suite 700
STREET	45 North Pennsylvania Street
CITY	Indianapolis
STATE	Indiana
ZIP/POSTAL CODE	46204
COUNTRY	United States
PHONE	
LEGAL ENTITY SECTION (current)	
TYPE	NON-PROFIT CORPORATION
STATE/COUNTRY WHERE LEGALLY ORGANIZED	Virginia
LEGAL ENTITY SECTION (proposed)	
TYPE	NON-PROFIT CORPORATION
STATE/COUNTRY WHERE LEGALLY ORGANIZED	Virginia
PAYMENT SECTION	
NUMBER OF CLASSES	1
NUMBER OF CLASSES PAID	1
SUBTOTAL AMOUNT	300
TOTAL FEE PAID	300
SIGNATURE SECTION	
SIGNATURE	/Louis T. Perry/
SIGNATORY'S NAME	Louis T. Perry
SIGNATORY'S POSITION	Attorney of Record, Indiana Bar Member
DATE SIGNED	04/27/2013
SIGNATORY'S PHONE NUMBER	317-237-1089
PAYMENT METHOD	DA

FILING INFORMATION	
SUBMIT DATE	Sat Apr 27 15:50:03 EDT 2013
TEAS STAMP	USPTO/S08N15-XXX.XX.XXX.X -20130427155003897788-324 1236-5003d1b5fa8415924c41 6de2f19756fa36d78517143db 7c6116855e1e8f35036d-DA-9 109-20130427150853695658

PTO Form 1583 (Rev 5/2009)
OMB No. 0651-0055 (Exp 07/31/2018)

Combined Declaration of Use and Incontestability under Sections 8 & 15

To the Commissioner for Trademarks:

REGISTRATION NUMBER: 3241236

REGISTRATION DATE: 05/15/2007

MARK: (Stylized and/or with Design, USA FOOTBALL)

The owner, USA Football, Inc., NON-PROFIT CORPORATION legally organized under the laws of Virginia, having an address of
Suite 700
45 North Pennsylvania Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
United States

is filing a Combined Declaration of Use and Incontestability under Sections 8 & 15.

For International Class 041, the mark is in use in commerce on or in connection with all of the goods/all of the services, or to indicate membership in the collective membership organization, listed in the existing registration for this specific class: Educational and entertainment services, namely youth sports programs, sports exhibitions, seminars and sports events in the fields of football, fitness, strength and conditioning training, nutrition, exercise, sports safety, sportsmanship and game officiating; providing sports and entertainment information via a global computer network or a commercial on-line service; and the mark has been continuously used in commerce for five (5) consecutive years after the date of registration, or the date of publication under Section 12(c), and is still in use in commerce on or in connection with all goods/all services, or to indicate membership in the collective membership organization, listed in the existing registration for this class. Also, no final decision adverse to the owner's claim of ownership of such mark for those goods/services, or to indicate membership in the collective membership organization, exists, or to the owner's right to register the same or to keep the same on the register; and, no proceeding involving said rights pending and not disposed of in either the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office or the courts exists.

The owner is submitting one(or more) specimen(s) for this class showing the mark as used in commerce on or in connection with any item in this class, consisting of a(n) Specimen 1: promotional flyer bearing design mark being used in association with the services listed in the registration
Specimen 2: webpage screenshot of design mark being used in association with the services listed in the registration.

Original PDF file:

[SPN0-174461635-150853695 . HeadsUpFlyer Final .pdf](#)

Converted PDF file(s) (2 pages)

[Specimen File1](#)

[Specimen File2](#)

Original PDF file:

[SPN0-174461635-150853695 . USA FOOTBALL.pdf](#)

Converted PDF file(s) (3 pages)

[Specimen File1](#)

[Specimen File2](#)

[Specimen File3](#)

The registrant's current Attorney Information: KEVIN T OLIVEIRA of ODIN FELDMAN & PITTLEMAN

9302 LEE HWY STE 1100

FAIRFAX, Virginia (VA) 22031-1215

United States

The registrant's proposed Attorney Information: Louis T. Perry of Faegre Baker Daniels LLP

Suite 2700

300 N. Meridian Street

Indianapolis, Indiana (IN) 46204

United States

The docket/reference number is USAF-T0016e.

The Other Appointed Attorney(s): Jonathan C. Anderson, Ryan C. Barker, Michelle Kaiser Bray, Brian D. Brown, Amie Peele Carter, Marcelo S. Copat, Adam F. Cox, Jodi A. DeSchane, Jamie M. Drewry, John J. Emanuele, Eric J. Groen, Stephanie A. Gumm, Natalie Hanlon-Leh, Norman J. Hedges, Leslie P. Kramer, Marc C. Levy, Calvin L. Litsey, Brad R. Maurer, William S. Meyers, Timothy E. Niednagel, Robert D. Null,

Christopher J. Reckamp, Patricia I. Reding, Brenda J. Robinson, Jay M. Sanders, James J. Saul, Michael D. Schwartz, James R. Steffen, Daniel Tychonievich, Gary S. Weinstein and Douglas A. Yerkson.

The phone number is 317-237-0300.

The fax number is 317-237-1000.

The email address is tmindy@faegrebd.com.

The registrant's current Correspondence Information: KEVIN T OLIVEIRA of ODIN FELDMAN & PITTLEMAN
9302 LEE HWY STE 1100
FAIRFAX, Virginia (VA) 22031-1215
United States

The registrant's proposed Correspondence Information: Louis T. Perry of Faegre Baker Daniels LLP
Suite 2700
300 N. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, Indiana (IN) 46204
United States

The docket/reference number is USAF-T0016e.

The phone number is 317-237-0300.

The fax number is 317-237-1000.

The email address is tmindy@faegrebd.com;ashley.moore@faegrebd.com.

A fee payment in the amount of \$300 will be submitted with the form, representing payment for 1 class(es), plus any additional grace period fee, if necessary.

Declaration

The mark is in use in commerce on or in connection with the goods and/or services identified above, as evidenced by the attached specimen(s) showing the mark as used in commerce. The mark has been in continuous use in commerce for five (5) consecutive years after the date of registration, or the date of publication under Section 12(c), and is still in use in commerce. There has been no final decision adverse to the owner's claim of ownership of such mark, or to the owner's right to register the same or to keep the same on the register; and there is no proceeding involving said rights pending and not disposed of either in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office or in the courts.

The undersigned being hereby warned that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. Section 1001, and that such willful false statements and the like may jeopardize the validity of this document, declares that he/she is properly authorized to execute this document on behalf of the Owner; and all statements made of his/her own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true.

Signature: /Louis T. Perry/ Date: 04/27/2013

Signatory's Name: Louis T. Perry

Signatory's Position: Attorney of Record, Indiana Bar Member

Signatory's Phone Number: 317-237-1089

Mailing Address (current):

ODIN FELDMAN & PITTLEMAN
9302 LEE HWY STE 1100
FAIRFAX, Virginia 22031-1215

Mailing Address (proposed):

Faegre Baker Daniels LLP
300 N. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Serial Number: 78341632

Internet Transmission Date: Sat Apr 27 15:50:03 EDT 2013

TEAS Stamp: USPTO/S08N15-XXX.XX.XXX.X-20130427155003

897788-3241236-5003d1b5fa8415924c416de2f

19756fa36d78517143db7c6116855e1e8f35036d

-DA-9109-20130427150853695658



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Education is the first step to help protect players from concussion. Resources developed by the CDC help coaches and parents become educated on what to look for on the field and encourage attention to concussion symptoms.



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These individuals are responsible for ensuring their organization's compliance with core Heads Up Football health and safety protocols including coaching certification and conducting safety clinics for coaches, parents and players.

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- GAME OFFICIALS ▶
- HEALTH & SAFETY ▶

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ROUTING SHEET TO POST REGISTRATION (PRU)

Registration Number: 3241236



Serial Number: 78341632



RAM Sale Number: 3241236

RAM Accounting Date: 20130429

Total Fees: \$300

Note: Process in accordance with Post Registration Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

<u>Transaction</u>	<u>Fee Code</u>	<u>Transaction Date</u>	<u>Fee per Class</u>	<u>Number of Classes</u>	<u>Number of Classes Paid</u>	<u>Total Fee</u>
§8 affidavit	7205	20130427	\$100	1	1	\$100
§15 affidavit	7208	20130427	\$200	1	1	\$200

Physical Location: 900 - FILE REPOSITORY (FRANCONIA)

Lost Case Flag: False

In TICRS (AM-FLG-IN-TICRS): True

Transaction Date: 20130427



IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS DIVISION

USA FOOTBALL, INC.,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	CASE NO. 1:23-cv-00274
)	
FLAG FOOTBALL WORLD)	JURY DEMAND
CHAMPIONSHIP TOUR, LLC;)	
)	
USA FLAG, LLC;)	
)	
and)	
)	
TRAVIS BURNETT,)	
)	
Defendants.)	

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff USA Football, Inc. (“Plaintiff” or “USA Football”), for its complaint against Defendants Flag Football World Championship Tour, LLC (“FFWCT”), USA FLAG, LLC (“USA FLAG”, and together with FFWCT, the “Corporate Defendants”) and Travis Burnett (“Mr. Burnett”, and together with the “Corporate Defendants”, the “Defendants”), alleges as follows:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. This is an action for trademark infringement, unfair competition, and false designation of origin arising under the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1051 *et seq.*, and the statutes and common law of the State of Indiana.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. This Court has subject-matter jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331, 28 U.S.C. § 1338, and 28 U.S.C. § 1367. Plaintiff’s federal claims are predicated on 15 U.S.C. § 1114 and 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a), and its claims arising under the laws of the State of Indiana

are substantially related to its federal claims such that they form part of the same case or controversy under Article III of the United States Constitution.

2. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because Defendants have expressly aimed tortious activities toward the State of Indiana and established sufficient minimum contacts with Indiana by, among other things, regularly doing and soliciting business in Indiana using trademarks confusingly similar to those used by USA Football with the knowledge that USA Football's headquarters are located in Indiana and that USA Football is harmed in Indiana as a result of Defendants' solicitations of Indiana residents and businesses. Defendants know that USA Football is located in Indiana because they have entered into contracts with USA Football and received cease and desist letters informing them that USA Football is located in Indiana. USA Football's claims arise out of Defendants' solicitation of Indiana residents and business in the regular course of their business and using a trademark confusingly similar to those used by USA Football.

3. Defendants continue to engage in these activities despite being put on notice of their wrongful conduct.

4. Venue is properly founded in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because a substantial part of the events giving rise to the claims in this action occurred within the State of Indiana.

Parties

5. USA Football is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization organized under the laws of Virginia, with its headquarters at 45 N. Pennsylvania Street, Suite 800, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.

6. Upon information and belief, FFWCT is a domestic for-profit corporation duly organized under the laws of Texas with a principal place of business at 209 Trailwood Drive, Allen, Texas 75002-4938.

7. Upon information and belief, USA FLAG is a domestic limited liability company duly organized under the laws of Texas with a principal place of business at 209 Trailwood Drive, Allen, Texas 75002-4938.

8. Upon information and belief, Mr. Burnett is a citizen of Texas with an address at 209 Trailwood Drive, Allen, Texas, 75002-4938 and is the sole member of both USA Flag and FFWCT.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

USA Football and Its Intellectual Property.

9. USA Football was endowed by the National Football League ("NFL") and the National Football League Players Association in 2002 and is a strategic partner of the NFL Foundation. USA Football is also a Recognized Sport Organization by the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee. Further, USA Football is the United States member of the International Federation of American Football ("IFAF"), which is the international governing body of gridiron associations. IFAF grants only such membership per country.

10. USA Football hosts a multitude of football training events annually, offering education for coaches and game officials, skill development for players, and resources for youth football league administrators. Through its High Performance initiatives, USA Football organizes tackle and flag football United States National Teams that compete on the international stage, including at IFAF events.

11. USA Football operates events across all disciplines of football, including (but not necessarily limited to) tackle football, limited contact football, and flag football, and sanctions flag football events.

12. USA Football has continually operated these events under the name and mark USA FOOTBALL since at least as early as December 5, 2002.

13. USA Football owns all right, title, and interest in and to the USA FOOTBALL mark for use in association with, among other things, sports exhibitions and events in the field of football, as evidenced by United States Trademark Registration No. 3,182,472 (the “‘472 Registration”). The ‘472 Registration issued on December 12, 2006, and reflects a date of first use at least as early as December 5, 2002. A copy of the registration certificate for the ‘472 Registration is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

14. USA Football is also the owner of the additional related, registered trademarks shown in the attached **Exhibit B**.

15. Copies of the registration certificates for the above-referenced marks owned by USA Football are attached hereto at **Exhibit A** (the ‘472 Registration) and as **Exhibit B** (all of the applications and registrations for marks listed on **Exhibit B**). The marks listed in Exhibits A and B are hereafter collectively referred to as the “USA Football Marks.” The marks listed in Exhibits A and B that are the subjects of United States Trademark Registration Nos. 3,182,472, 4,615,961, 5,172,678, and 3,241,236 are hereafter collectively referred to as the “USA Football Registered Marks.”

16. By virtue of USA Football's extensive, continuous, and exclusive use of the USA Football Marks in connection with, among other things, sports exhibitions and events in the field of football (from youth onward), the USA Football Marks have come to be recognized and relied upon by consumers as identifying such services and distinguishing such services from similar or related services offered by others.

17. As a result of USA Football's extensive, continuous, and exclusive use of the Marks in connection with, among other things, sports exhibitions and events in the field of football (from youth onward), USA Football has developed substantial goodwill in the USA Football Marks.

History of Threatened Infringement by Mr. Burnett and FFWCT

18. In 2017, Mr. Burnett approached USA Football to discuss a potential collaboration. While negotiations did not immediately yield a partnership, Mr. Burnett expressed intention to use the mark USA FLAG in connection with flag football events in the same commercial space as USA Football.

19. USA Football notified Mr. Burnett at that time that it considered Mr. Burnett's intended use of the name and mark USA FLAG to infringe its rights in the USA Football Marks.

20. A year later, USA Football entered into a Consulting Agreement with FFWCT—an entity controlled by Mr. Burnett—with an effective date of July 1, 2018. The agreement expired on July 31, 2019 and was not renewed by USA Football.

21. Less than a year after the expiration of the Consulting Agreement—on April 21, 2020—Mr. Burnett filed Application Serial Number 88/880,085 (the "'085 Application") with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (the "USPTO") for the mark USA FLAG for services in International Class 41, and indicated that his date of first use of the mark occurred at least as early as May 4, 2019. A copy of the '085 Application is attached hereto as **Exhibit C**.

22. Mr. Burnett filed the '085 Application as an individual, listing himself as the owner of the USA FLAG mark.

23. Mr. Burnett's services description in the '085 Application is a near-verbatim copy of USA Football's services description for its USA FOOTBALL (and Design) mark shown in United States Registration Number 5,172,678 (see **Exhibit B**) with the only difference being the addition of the word "flag" before the word "football" as illustrated in the below chart.

USA Football's Description of Goods and Services	Defendant's Description of Goods and Services
Educational services, namely, conducting programs, classes, seminars, conferences, workshops and exhibitions, displays, and interactive exhibits on football in the field	Educational services, namely, conducting programs, classes, seminars, conferences, workshops and exhibitions, displays, and interactive exhibits on flag football in the

<p>of player safety, concussion awareness and management, coaching education, proper equipment fitting, and proper techniques, and the distribution of printed materials in connection therewith in hardcopy or electronic format on the same topics; organizing, conducting and operating football tournaments; organizing and conducting athletic competitions in the nature of football games and exhibitions; entertainment services in the nature of football games and exhibitions; sports instruction services related to the game of football; sports training, development, and evaluation services related to the game of football</p>	<p>field of player safety, concussion awareness and management, coaching education, and the distribution of printed materials in connection therewith in hardcopy or electronic format on the same topics; organizing, conducting and operating flag football tournaments; organizing and conducting athletic competitions in the nature of flag football games and exhibitions; Entertainment eservices in the nature of flag football games and exhibitions; sports instruction services related to the game of flag football; sports training, development, and evaluation services related to the game of flag football</p>
--	--

24. Mr. Burnett submitted a specimen to the USPTO in connection with the ‘085 Application that indicated his USA FLAG league was “FFWCT-sanctioned” and included USA Football’s logo—falsely suggested some affiliation between USA Football and this new league. The specimen is pictured below along with a cropped and resized image of USA Football’s (and the NFL’s) logo(s):

The poster features three young boys in flag football gear on a field. The text includes: 'YOUTH FLAG FOOTBALL LEAGUE' at the top; 'STARTING AT \$125 PER PLAYER FEE'; 'FEE INCLUDES 8-10 GAMES • PLAYOFFS • FLAGS • NFL JERSEY'; 'DIVISIONS 6U • 8U • 10U • 12U' with 'AGE CUTOFF: JAN 1st, 2020'; 'WEEKLY 30-MINUTE DOUBLE HEADERS'; '\$10 OFF MULTI-CHILD DISCOUNT'; 'SEASON STARTS SPRING 2020'; 'REGISTER ONLINE NOW! LEAGUES.USAFLLAG.ORG'; 'LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE'; 'COACHES NEEDED'; 'FFWCT SANCTIONED'; and 'WANT TO START A LEAGUE? LET US HELP YOU LAUNCH!'.



25. Upon information and belief, Mr. Burnett never actually used the USA FLAG mark in 2019 or 2020.

26. USA Football sent a cease-and-desist letter to Mr. Burnett and FFWCT on June 23, 2020 and filed a notice of opposition under Opposition Proceeding No. 91267483 with the

Case 1:23-cv-00274-TWP-KMB Document 1 Filed 02/13/23 Page 8 of 19 PageID #: 8

Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (the “TTAB”) on September 10, 2020. A copy of USA Football’s July 1, 2020 cease-and-desist letter is attached hereto as **Exhibit D**, and a copy of USA Football’s notice of opposition is attached hereto as **Exhibit E**.

27. Shortly thereafter, Plaintiff attempted to resolve its differences with Mr. Burnett and entered into an Event Collaboration Agreement with FFWCT, effective March 1, 2021. This agreement allowed USA Football and its National Team personnel to attend and evaluate athletes participating in FFWCT tournaments. The Event Collaboration agreement was conditioned upon Mr. Burnett’s and FFWCT’s cessation of usage of the name and mark USA FLAG. A copy of the Event Collaboration Agreement is attached hereto as **Exhibit F**.

28. Mr. Burnett elected not to respond to USA Football’s notice of opposition. The TTAB entered a notice of default, ultimately sustained USA Football’s notice of opposition, and refused to register the ‘085 Application. A copy of the TTAB’s decision is attached hereto as **Exhibit G**.

29. The Event Collaboration Agreement expired on February 28, 2022.

30. Less than two months later—on April 17, 2022—Mr. Burnett authorized yet another application for the mark USA FLAG—this time via a new entity controlled he controlled known as USA FLAG, LLC. The application was assigned Application Serial Number 97/367,238 (the “‘238 Application”). A copy of the ‘238 Applications is attached hereto as **Exhibit H**.

31. The ‘238 Application indicated that the applied-for services were “[a]rranging and conducting of sports events; [a]rranging and conducting youth sports programs in the field of flag football; [s]ports camp services” with a claimed date of first use in commerce at least as early as August, 2014.

32. On September 14, 2022, Defendant FFWCT, announced its intention to rebrand its Flag Football World Championship Tour organization as USA FLAG. A copy of this rebranding announcement is attached hereto as **Exhibit I**.

33. The Corporate Defendants—under the control and direction of Mr. Burnett and despite USA Football’s unwavering contentions from 2017 onward that the threatened use of the mark USA FLAG for football related events would infringe the USA Football Marks—then began utilizing the USA FLAG mark in conjunction with confusingly similar services to those offered by USA Football.

Instances of Actual Confusion and this Lawsuit

34. Following FFWCT’s rebranding announcement, USA Football became aware of multiple instances of actual confusion in the marketplace. Accordingly, USA Football had no choice but to send another cease and desist Letter to Defendants dated September 21, 2022, demanding cessation of the use of the mark, USA FLAG, and all related and confusingly similar trademarks. A copy of USA Football’s September 21, 2022 letter is attached hereto as **Exhibit J**.

35. Counsel for Defendants responded to this letter on October 3, 2022, without concession or adherence to any of USA Football’s requests. A copy of that response is attached hereto as **Exhibit K**.

36. In the past several weeks, and following this outreach to Defendants, Defendants’ infringing use of the mark USA FLAG has only increased, as has evidence of actual consumer confusion.

37. USA Football has received numerous messages from individual stakeholders who have wrongly believed that USA Football and USA FLAG were the same organization or somehow related or affiliated.

38. Worse, USA Football is also aware that employees at a venue where Defendants plan to host an event in 2023 thought that the event was being hosted by USA Football.

39. United States trademark law requires trademark owners to monitor third-party use of their trademarks, or risk losing their rights.

40. Given: (i) the law surrounding trademark ownership requiring the monitoring and policing of infringement; (ii) the increasing instances of actual confusion based on Defendants' uses of the mark USA FLAG; and (iii) Defendants' unwillingness to work with USA Football to amicably resolve this matter, USA Football was left with no choice but to bring this action.

41. Unless enjoined by this Court, Defendants' continued use of the mark USA FLAG (and designations confusingly similar thereto) in connection with flag football events and related educational offerings is likely to continue causing consumers to be confused, mistaken, or deceived as to the affiliation, connection, or association of such efforts and activities with USA Football.

COUNT I
DIRECT TRADEMARK INFRINGEMENT AGAINST THE CORPORATE DEFENDANTS
(15 U.S.C. § 1114)

42. USA Football reincorporates and realleges the foregoing allegations as though fully set forth herein.

43. USA Football is the owner of the USA Football Marks.

44. USA Football has registered the USA Football Registered Marks with the USPTO.

45. The USA Football Registered Marks are valid and subsisting trademarks in full force and effect.

46. Corporate Defendants willfully and knowingly used, and continue to use, in interstate commerce, a mark (USA FLAG) that is confusingly similar to the USA Football Registered Marks in connection with flag football events and related educational offerings without the consent of USA Football.

47. Corporate Defendants' use in commerce of the mark USA FLAG infringes USA Football's rights because it has created and will continue to create a likelihood of confusion as to the source of goods and service offered by Corporate Defendants.

48. Corporate Defendants had actual knowledge of USA Football's prior use of the USA Football Registered Marks when they—at the direction of Mr. Burnett—appropriated the confusingly similar mark, USA FLAG, for their own use. Their actual knowledge was based on USA Football's extensive promotion and advertising containing the USA Football Registered Marks, and by way of FFWCT's and Mr. Burnett's previous business interactions with USA Football.

49. Corporate Defendants have unfairly profited from the actions alleged.

50. By reason of foregoing willful and intentional actions, USA Football has suffered damage to the goodwill associated with the USA Football Registered Marks.

51. As a proximate result of Corporate Defendants' actions, USA Football has suffered, and will continue to suffer immediate and irreparable harm. USA Football has also suffered, and continues to suffer, damage to its business, goodwill, reputation, and profits in an amount to be proven at trial.

52. USA Football is entitled to recover its damages caused by Corporate Defendants' infringement of the USA Football Registered Marks and to disgorge Corporate Defendants' profits from their willfully infringing earnings and unjust enrichment.

53. USA Football is entitled to injunctive relief under 15 U.S.C. § 1116 because it has no adequate remedy at law for Corporate Defendants' infringement, and unless Corporate Defendants are permanently enjoined, USA Football will suffer irreparable harm.

54. USA Football is entitled to enhanced damages and attorneys' fees under 15 U.S.C. § 1117(a) because Corporate Defendants willfully, intentionally, maliciously, and in bad faith infringed the USA Football Registered Marks.

COUNT II
UNFAIR COMPETITION AND FALSE DESIGNATION OF ORIGIN AGAINST
CORPORATE DEFENDANTS
(15 U.S.C. § 1125(a))

55. USA Football reincorporates and realleges the foregoing allegations as though fully set forth herein.

56. USA Football is the owner of the USA Football Marks.

57. The USA Football Marks are valid and subsisting in full force and effect as demonstrated by the registrations issued by the USPTO for the USA Football Registered Marks and USA Football's common law rights in the remaining USA Football Marks.

58. As set forth above, Corporate Defendants are using a mark confusingly similar to the USA Football Marks in connection with flag football events and related educational offerings.

59. Corporate Defendants' conduct constitutes unfair competition and false designation of origin under the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a) and, on information and belief, has been knowing, deliberate, willful, intended to cause mistake or to deceive, and in disregard of USA Football's rights.

60. Corporate Defendants have unfairly profited from the actions alleged.

61. By reason of foregoing willful and intentional actions, USA Football has suffered damage to the goodwill associated with the Marks.

62. USA Football is entitled to recover its damages caused by Corporate Defendants' infringement of the USA Football Marks and to disgorge Corporate Defendants' profits from their willfully infringing earnings and unjust enrichment.

63. USA Football is entitled to injunctive relief under 15 U.S.C. § 1116 because it has no adequate remedy at law for Corporate Defendants' actions, and unless Corporate Defendants are permanently enjoined, USA Football will suffer irreparable harm.

64. USA Football is entitled to enhanced damages and attorneys' fees under 15 U.S.C. § 1117(a) because Corporate Defendants willfully, intentionally, maliciously, and in bad faith infringed the USA Football Marks.

COUNT III
COMMON LAW UNFAIR COMPETITION AND TRADEMARK INFRINGEMENT
AGAINST CORPORATE DEFENDANTS

65. USA Football reincorporates and realleges the foregoing allegations as though fully set forth herein.

66. USA Football is the owner of the USA Football Marks.

67. USA Football has registered the USA Football Registered Marks with the USPTO.

68. The USA Football Marks are valid and subsisting trademarks in full force and effect.

69. Corporate Defendants willfully and knowingly used, and continue to use, in Indiana, a mark (USA FLAG) that is confusingly similar to the USA Football Marks in connection with flag football events and related educational offerings without the consent of USA Football.

70. Corporate Defendants' use in Indiana of the mark USA FLAG infringes USA Football's rights because it has created and will continue to create a likelihood of confusion as to the source of goods and service offered by Corporate Defendants.

71. Corporate Defendants had actual knowledge of USA Football's prior use of the USA Football Marks when they—at the direction of Mr. Burnett—appropriated the confusingly similar USA FLAG for their own use by virtue of USA Football's extensive promotion and advertising containing the USA Football Marks, and by way of FFWCT's and Mr. Burnett's previous business interactions with USA Football.

72. Corporate Defendants have unfairly profited from the actions alleged.

73. As a proximate result of Corporate Defendants' actions, USA Football has suffered, and continues to suffer, immediate and irreparable harm. This immediate and irreparable harm includes damage to brand goodwill.

74. USA Football has also suffered, and continues to suffer, damages, including, but not limited to, loss of business, goodwill, reputation, and profits in an amount to be proven at trial.

75. USA Football is also entitled to punitive damages because Corporate Defendants acted with malice, fraud, gross negligence, or oppressiveness that was not the result of mistake of fact or law, honest error of judgment, overzealousness, mere negligence, or other human failing.

COUNT IV
**CONTRIBUTORY AND VICARIOUS TRADEMARK INFRINGEMENT AND UNFAIR
COMPETITION AGAINST MR. BURNETT**

76. USA Football reincorporates and realleges the foregoing allegations as though fully set forth herein.

77. Upon information and belief, Mr. Burnett is the sole member of FFWCT.

78. Upon information and belief, Mr. Burnett is the sole member of USA FLAG.

79. As the sole member of the Corporate Defendants, Mr. Burnett had the right and ability to supervise their business activities, including their adoption and use of the USA FLAG mark in connection with flag football events and related educational offerings.

80. As the sole member of the Corporate Defendants, Mr. Burnett was the active and driving force behind the Corporate Defendants' adoption and use of the USA FLAG mark in connection with flag football events and related educational offerings.

81. As the sole member of the Corporate Defendants, Mr. Burnett has a direct financial interest in their commercial performance, including any profits realized via Corporate Defendants' adoption and use of the USA FLAG mark in connection with flag football events and related educational offerings.

82. As detailed above, Corporate Defendants adoption and use of the USA FLAG mark in connection with flag football events and related educational offerings constitutes trademark infringement and unfair competition under the Lanham Act and Indiana common law.

83. Mr. Burnett has unfairly profited from the actions alleged.

84. By reason of foregoing willful and intentional actions, USA Football has suffered damage to the goodwill associated with the USA Football Marks.

85. USA Football is entitled to recover its damages caused by the actions described herein and disgorge Mr. Burnett's profits from his willfully infringing earnings and unjust enrichment.

86. USA Football is entitled to injunctive relief under 15 U.S.C. § 1116 because it has no adequate remedy at law for Corporate Defendants' actions as directed and authorized by Mr. Burnett, and unless Mr. Burnett is permanently enjoined, USA Football will suffer irreparable harm.

87. USA Football is entitled to enhanced damages and attorneys' fees under 15 U.S.C. § 1117(a) because Mr. Burnett's actions as described herein are willful, intentional, malicious, and in bad faith.

COUNT V
UNJUST ENRICHMENT AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS

88. USA Football reincorporates and realleges the foregoing allegations as though fully set forth herein.

89. At the expense of and detriment to and without the prior express or implied authorization of USA Football, the Defendants have been unjustly enriched through their knowing, intentional, deliberate, willful, and malicious use of the mark USA FLAG (and designations confusingly similar thereto).

90. By reason of the Defendants' actions described above, USA Football has suffered damages, in an amount as yet to be ascertained but which continues to accrue and accumulate, and irreparable harm.

91. By reason of the Defendants' acts, USA Football's remedy at law is not adequate to compensate it for the injuries inflicted by the Defendants. Accordingly, USA Football is entitled to permanent injunctive relief.

COUNT VI
CONVERSION AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS
(Ind. Code § 35-43-4-3)

92. USA Football reincorporates and realleges the foregoing allegations as though fully set forth herein.

93. By engaging in the knowing, intentional, deliberate, willful, and malicious actions described above, the Defendants have exerted unauthorized control over the USA Football Marks with the intent to deprive USA Football of their benefit.

94. The Defendants have therefore committed conversion as defined under Ind. Code § 35-43-4-3.

95. Defendants' conversion of the USA Football Marks has proximately caused USA Football to suffer damages, in an amount as yet to be ascertained but which continues to accrue and accumulate, and irreparable harm.

96. By reason of the Defendants' acts, USA Football's remedy at law is not adequate to compensate it for the injuries inflicted by Defendants. Accordingly, USA Football is entitled to permanent injunctive relief.

COUNT VII
DECEPTION AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS
(Ind. Code § 35-43-5-3(a)(6))

97. USA Football reincorporates and realleges the foregoing allegations as though fully set forth herein.

98. By engaging in the knowing, intentional, deliberate, willful, and malicious actions described above, the Defendants have disseminated to the public information that the Defendants know is false, misleading, or deceptive, with the intent to promote Defendants' businesses and/or commercial interests—namely, they have misrepresented their identities and the quality and identity of their services.

99. The Defendants have therefore committed deception under Indiana Code § 35-43-5-3(a)(6).

100. The Defendants' deception has proximately caused USA Football to suffer damages, in an amount as yet to be ascertained but which continues to accrue and accumulate, and irreparable harm.

101. By reason of Defendants' acts, USA Football's remedy at law is not adequate to compensate it for the injuries inflicted by Defendants. Accordingly, USA Football is entitled to permanent injunctive relief.

COUNT VIII
INDIANA CRIME VICTIM'S RELIEF ACT

102. USA Football reincorporates and realleges the foregoing allegations as though fully set forth herein.

103. Under the Indiana Crime Victim's Relief Act (I.C. § 35-24-3-1), a person that suffers pecuniary loss as a result of the violation of Ind. Code § 35-43 *et seq.*, may bring a civil action against the person who caused the loss for treble damages, costs of the action, and reasonable attorneys' fees.

104. The Defendants have violated Ind. Code § 35-43 through knowing, intentional, deliberate, willful, and malicious commission of (i) conversion under Ind. Code § 35-43-4-3 and (ii) deception under Ind. Code § 35-43-5-3.

105. USA Football is the victim of the Defendants' knowing, intentional, deliberate, willful, and malicious criminal actions, and, as a result, has suffered actual pecuniary damages in an amount as yet to be ascertained but which continue to accrue and accumulate.

106. USA Football is accordingly entitled to an award of those actual damages as well as statutory treble damages, corrective advertising damages, costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

USA Football hereby respectfully requests that all issues raised by this Complaint be tried by jury.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, USA Football, by counsel, hereby requests that this Court enter an order:

(a) permanently enjoining the Defendants from using USA FLAG or any other name, word, mark, or designation confusingly similar to the USA Football Marks in connection with flag football, related activities, or any other service similar to those offered by USA Football;

(b) requiring Defendants to provide an accounting of all gains, profits, savings and advantages realized by it from the use of USA FLAG or any name, word, mark, or designation confusingly similar thereto;

(d) requiring Defendants to surrender any and all merchandise, design, plans, and marketing materials featuring USA FLAG or any name, word, mark, or designation confusingly similar thereto;

(e) awarding USA Football all damages (including treble damages, punitive, and damages related to the cost of corrective advertising), costs, disbursements, expenses, and attorneys'

fees owed to them pursuant to the Lanham Act and Indiana common and statutory law by reason of Defendants' willful infringement of, conversion of, and deception related to the Marks, USA FLAG, or any name, word, mark, or designation confusingly similar thereto;

(f) declaring that this is an exceptional case under 15 U.S.C. § 1117 due to Defendants' knowing, intentional, deliberate, willful, and malicious acts of trademark infringement and awarding USA Football its reasonable attorneys' fees; and

(g) all other just and proper relief to which USA Football is entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 13, 2023

/s/ Amie N. Peele

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(317) 237-1000 (Fax)

Attorneys for Plaintiff, USA Football, Inc.

JS 44 (Rev. 10/20)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS
 USA FOOTBALL, INC.

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff _____
 (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)
 Louis T. Perry, Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath, LLP, 300
 N. Meridian St., Suite 2500, Indianapolis, IN 46204;
 317-237-0300

DEFENDANTS
 FLAG FOOTBALL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TOUR, LLC;
 USA FLAG, LLC; TRAVIS BURNETT

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant _____
 (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

1 U.S. Government Plaintiff
 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
 2 U.S. Government Defendant
 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

	PTF	DEF		PTF	DEF
Citizen of This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Citizen of Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Foreign Nation	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

Click here for: [Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.](#)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other LABOR <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act IMMIGRATION <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark <input type="checkbox"/> 880 Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016 SOCIAL SECURITY <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit (15 USC 1681 or 1692) <input type="checkbox"/> 485 Telephone Consumer Protection Act <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

1 Original Proceeding
 2 Removed from State Court
 3 Remanded from Appellate Court
 4 Reinstated or Reopened
 5 Transferred from Another District (specify)
 6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer
 8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):
 15 U.S.C. § 1114; 15 U.S.C. § 1125

Brief description of cause:
 Trademark infringement, unfair competition, and false designation of origin

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P. **DEMAND \$** _____

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:
JURY DEMAND: Yes No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY (See instructions):

JUDGE _____ DOCKET NUMBER _____

DATE: 2/13/2023

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD: /s/ Louis T. Perry

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # _____ AMOUNT _____ APPLYING IFP _____ JUDGE _____ MAG. JUDGE _____

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- (b) County of Residence.** For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- (c) Attorneys.** Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. Jurisdiction.** The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.
 United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.
 United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.
 Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.
 Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; **NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.**)
- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties.** This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit.** Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: [Nature of Suit Code Descriptions](#).
- V. Origin.** Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.
 Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.
 Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441.
 Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.
 Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.
 Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.
 Multidistrict Litigation – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407.
 Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket.
PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7. Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statute.
- VI. Cause of Action.** Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. **Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.** Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service.
- VII. Requested in Complaint.** Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.
 Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction.
 Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases.** This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

of 209 Trailwood Drive, Allen, Texas 75002-4938. USA Flag is located in Collin County, which is within the Sherman Division of this judicial district.

3. Plaintiff Travis Burnett. Plaintiff Travis Burnett (“Burnett”) is an individual residing in Allen, Texas. Burnett is thus a resident of Collin County, which is within the Sherman Division of this judicial district. Collectively, FFWCT, USA Flag, and Burnett may be referred to herein as “Plaintiffs.”

4. USA Football, Inc. Defendant USA Football, Inc. (“USA Football” or “Defendant”) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization organized under the laws of Virginia, with its headquarters at 45 N. Pennsylvania Street, Suite 800, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.

II. JURISDICTION & VENUE

5. This case involves claims for false and/or misleading representation of fact, false and/or misleading description of fact, and unfair competition under the Lanham Act (15 U.S.C. § 1051 et seq.). This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over these claims pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1121(a) and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1338(a), and 1338(b).

6. This Court has personal jurisdiction over USA Football inasmuch as USA Football has advertised for and sponsored flag football events that have taken place, or that will take place, within this judicial district, solicited flag football teams for participation in such events in this judicial district (see **Exhibits 1-6** attached hereto¹),

_____#

¹ A number of the exhibits are annotated with yellow highlighting or red boxes or underlining to show the key portions of the exhibits.

and directed a demand letter to one or more of the Plaintiffs, who are residents of this judicial district (see **Exhibit 7** attached hereto).

7. Venue is proper in the Eastern District of Texas pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because Defendant solicits and conducts business related to the subject matter of this action within the Eastern District of Texas, and is subject to personal jurisdiction within the Eastern District of Texas. For example, Defendant promotes flag football tournaments in this judicial district, including one in Trophy Club, Texas (in Denton County) in April of 2023 and an upcoming one in Frisco, Texas (in Collin County) in June of 2023 (see **Exhibits 1-6** attached hereto), as well as directing a demand letter to a one or more of the Plaintiffs, who are residents of this judicial district, specifically USA Football directed its letter into McKinney, Texas (in Collin County) (see **Exhibit 7** attached hereto).

III. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

8. FFWCT is an Allen, Texas-based entity that runs flag football tournaments.

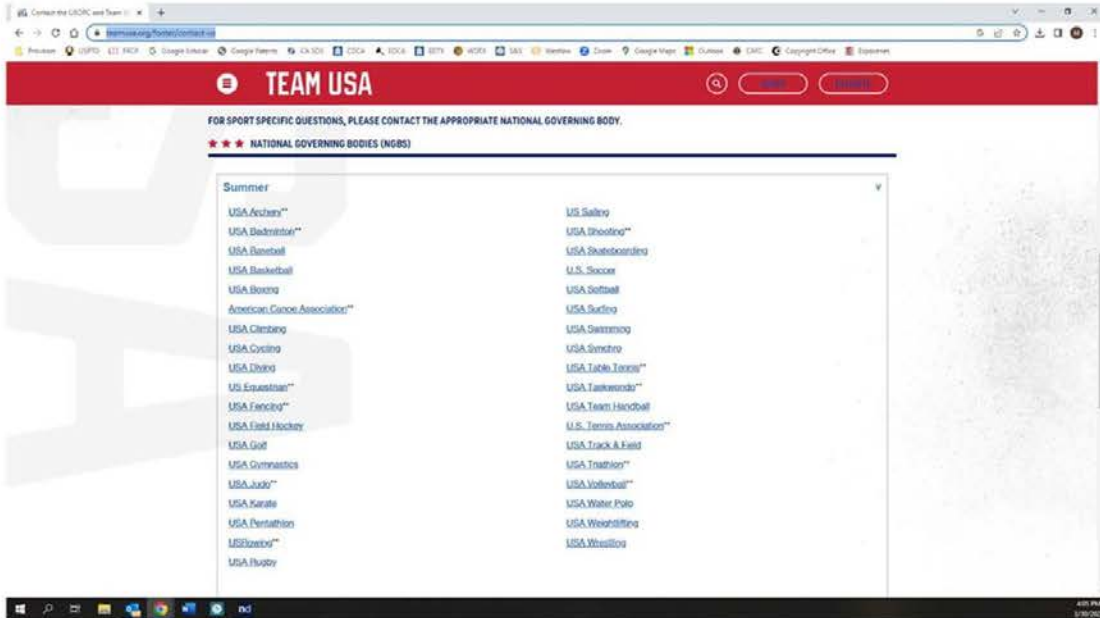
9. USA Flag is an Allen, Texas-based entity that runs flag football camps and flag football tournaments.

10. Travis Burnett is a resident of Allen, Texas (in Collin County) and is the proverbial “mover and shaker” behind FFWCT and USA Flag. He is very experienced in the flag football industry in terms of running tournaments, events, and camps, having been involved as an organizer of flag football tournaments in around the country since at least as early as 2010.

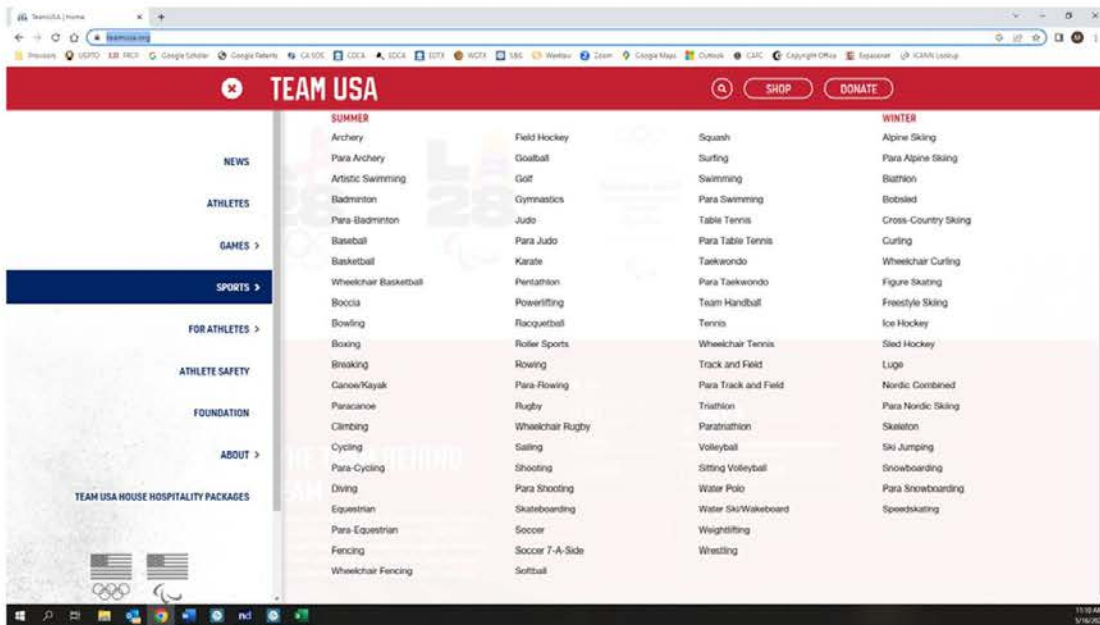
11. USA Football, on its website, usafootball.com, claims to be “FOOTBALL'S GOVERNING BODY,” and further states the following, among other things: “As football’s governing body, USA Football is the sole US member of the International Federation of American Football (IFAF). We create and deliver best-in-class resources, standards and experiences for every football family member to pursue and enjoy America’s favorite sport, from youth to elite U.S. National Teams. We are recognized by the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee, and we are proud to join IFAF and the NFL to advocate for flag football’s inclusion in the 2028 Olympic Games.”

12. For at least the past several years through the present, USA Football has issued numerous press releases (representative examples of which are attached hereto), including, but not limited to, press releases directly pertinent to flag football in the United States, stating that USA Football is “the sport’s national governing body” or the like. See **Exhibits 8-26** attached hereto. Such a statement, description, and/or representation is incorrect, inaccurate, false, deceptive, and/or misleading to the relevant consuming public and related stakeholders, and to the best of Plaintiff’s knowledge has never been correct, accurate, true, or forthright.

13. The Team USA website, which is the website of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (“USOPC”), does not list *any* national governing body for football or flag football (see immediately below and **Exhibits 27-30**, attached hereto).



And it does not list football as an Olympic or Paralympic sport at all.



14. In fact, a representative of the USOPC informed Plaintiffs that USA Football is not a “national governing body.” The same representative informed Plaintiffs

that “national governing body” is a highly protected status that has a stringent, statutory application process.

15. Pursuant to the “Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act” (Title 36 U.S. Code Section 220501 et seq.), a “national governing body” is defined as: “an amateur sports organization, a high-performance management organization, or a paralympic sports organization that is certified by the corporation under section 220521.”

16. Title 36 U.S.C. § 220521 states, in part, that:

“(a) **In General.**—With respect to each sport included on the program of the Olympic Games, the Paralympic Games, the Pan-American Games, or the Parapan American Games, the corporation—

(1) may certify as a national governing body an amateur sports organization, a high-performance management organization, or a paralympic sports organization that files an application and is eligible for such certification under section 220522; and

(2) may not certify more than 1 national governing body.

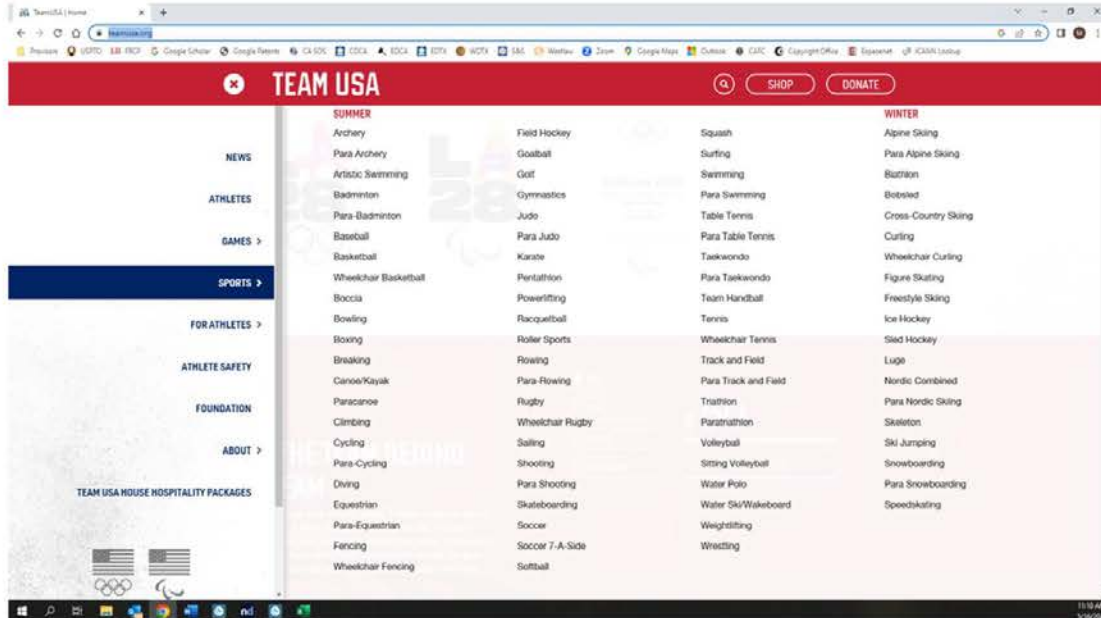
(b) **Public Hearing.**—

Before certifying an organization as a national governing body, the corporation shall hold at least 2 public hearings on the application. The corporation shall publish notice of the time, place, and nature of the hearings. Publication shall be

made in a regular issue of the corporation's principal publication at least 30 days, but not more than 60 days, before the date of the hearings. The corporation shall send written notice, which shall include a copy of the application, at least 30 days prior to the date of any such public hearing to all amateur sports organizations known to the corporation in that sport."

17. In other words, 26 U.S.C. § 220521 requires, among other things, that in order for the USOPC to name a "national governing body" in connection with a given sport, that sport must be included "on the program of the Olympic Games, the Paralympic Games, the Pan-American Games, or the Parapan American Games."

18. Neither tackle football nor flag football are, as of this time, believed to be "on the program of the Olympic Games, the Paralympic Games, the Pan-American Games, or the Parapan American Games." See **Exhibits 27-30**, attached hereto (and image immediately below). Thus, on information and belief, USA Football is not presently even eligible to be named the "national governing body" for football and has not previously been so eligible. Accordingly, USA Football repeatedly asserting and representing that it is the "national governing body" or the like for football, including flag football, in the United States, and describing itself as the same, is incorrect, inaccurate, false, deceptive, and/or misleading, and to the best of Plaintiff's knowledge it/they has/have never heretofore been correct, accurate, true, or forthright.



19. Title 36 U.S.C. § 220522 sets forth the requirements to be certified as a sport’s “national governing body.” According to 36 U.S.C. § 220522, such requirements include, in part, (a) submitting an application, in the form required by the USOPC, for certification as a national governing body and (b) demonstrating that its membership is open to any individual who is an amateur athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator, or official active in the sport for which certification is sought, or any amateur sports organization that conducts programs in the sport for which certification is sought, or both.

20. In other words, to become a “national governing body” for a sport, a compliant application must be submitted and a requirement must be met that the applicant (hypothetically, USA Football) would be open to the membership of “any individual who is an amateur athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator, or official active in the sport for which certification is sought, or any amateur sports organization

that conducts programs in the sport for which certification is sought, or both;” although, in the case of Plaintiffs, it is unclear to doubtful if USA Football could accurately make such a representation.

21. In addition, even if, hypothetically, USA Football were to file such an application for national governing body status, it would then be subject to “at least 2 public hearings on the application.” And, the USOPC would then be required to publish notice of the hearing in a regular issue of the USOPC’s principal publication. To the best of Plaintiffs’ knowledge, such published notice has never taken place regarding a national governing body application by USA Football. In other words, Plaintiffs are unaware of any indication that USA Football has ever even applied for national governing body status, despite already claiming it is the “national governing body” for football, including flag football, in the United States.

22. Furthermore, even if, hypothetically, USA Football were to file such an application for national governing body status, the USOPC would also have to send “written notice, which shall include a copy of the application, at least 30 days prior to the date of any such public hearing to all amateur sports organizations known to the corporation in that sport.” Plaintiffs firmly believe that they are known to the USOPC in the sport of flag football; yet, Plaintiffs have never received any written notice that USA Football has ever applied for national governing body status, or a copy of any such application, despite USA Football already claiming it is the national governing body for football, including flag football, in the United States.

23. USA Football’s repeated statements, descriptions, and/or representations that it is “national governing body” or “the sport’s national governing body” or the like in

connection with football, including flag football, is/are incorrect, inaccurate, false, deceptive, and/or misleading, and to the best of Plaintiff's knowledge it/they has/have never been correct, accurate, true, or forthright.

24. Plaintiff firmly believes that USA Football is making such representations to increase contributions to its organization from entities such as the NFL and/or the NFL Foundation, particularly in connection with flag football, which is becoming increasingly popular and may become an Olympic sport in 2028, and to deprive entities such as FFWCT and USA Flag from receiving such contributions, even though FFWCT and USA Flag are far better at staging and operating flag football camps, events, tournaments, and the like than USA Football. USA Football's false, deceptive, and/or misleading statements, representations, and descriptions have worked to USA Football's benefit, including financial benefit, and Plaintiff's detriment, both in terms of status in the sport of flag football (in the eyes of the USOPC and NFL, among others), as well as financially.

25. As a general matter, the representatives of FFWCT and/or USA Flag, including Mr. Burnett, regularly hear from organizations and sponsors in and around the flag football industry that FFWCT and USA Flag are inferior to or below USA Football because USA Football has incorrectly, inaccurately, falsely, deceptively, and/or misleadingly proclaimed to the industry and the world that it is the national governing body for football, including flag football, in the United States, whereas FFWCT and USA Flag do not make such representations. USA Football's incorrect, inaccurate, false, deceptive, and/or misleading proclamations to organizations and sponsors and others in

and around the flag football industry, as well as to the public, has resulted in a devaluation of Plaintiffs' entire *raison d'être*.

26. At least as early as approximately 2017, Plaintiffs sought to pursue "national governing body" status for flag football in the United States.

27. Within the past several years, when Plaintiffs have attempted to work with USA Football to further the sport of flag football and ensure that it becomes an Olympic sport in 2028, shockingly, USA Football has demanded that Plaintiffs not make any such references to pursuing national governing body status or the like, and has tried to force Plaintiffs to agree that USA Football is the national governing body for football, including flag football, in the United States (even though Plaintiffs' agreement or lack thereof to such an assertion does not change the actual fact that USA Football has never been and presently is not the national governing body for football, including flag football, in the United States).

28. Plaintiffs have contacted the NFL Foundation concerning collaborating or working in conjunction with one another to promote flag football, and personnel from the NFL Foundation directly informed Plaintiffs that the NFL Foundation only works with the sport's "national governing body," which led the NFL Foundation to form a relationship with USA Football and impressively fund USA Football, to the detriment of Plaintiffs, particularly where USA Football's claim to "national governing body" status for football, including flag football, in the United States is incorrect, inaccurate, false, deceptive, and/or misleading.

29. In fact, Plaintiffs had a substantial amount of communications with the NFL Operations team in and during 2022, which reached the point in the discussions in

November of 2022 where a contract to fund Plaintiff USA Flag to the tune of several million dollars per year appeared in reach for Plaintiffs. Yet, the NFL Operations team pivoted and informed Plaintiffs that because of Defendant USA Football's purported status as the national governing body for football, including flag football, in the United States, USA Football was the necessary party to such a contract and that the NFL could not work with Plaintiffs in the same capacity. Plaintiffs' imminent deal with the NFL Operations team is firmly believed to have fallen apart specifically because of USA Football's incorrect, inaccurate, false, deceptive, and/or misleading proclamations to organizations and sponsors and others in and around the flag football industry and the world that it was and is the national governing body for football, including flag football, in the United States. As a result, Plaintiffs were deprived of a lucrative deal they firmly believe they would have received given their proficiency in running flag football tournaments, camps, and the like.

30. As a result of USA Football's pressure tactics (based on its incorrect, inaccurate, false, deceptive, and/or misleading proclamation to the industry and the world that it is the national governing body for football, including flag football, in the United States) and other false and/or misleading representations, descriptions, and/or statements as detailed herein, however, Plaintiffs have altered their business model, to their detriment, in order to direct resources towards building its business as opposed to incurring legal fees and costs to fight USA Football's false, deceptive, and/or misleading statements, descriptions, and/or representations about national governing body status for football, including flag football, in the United States.

31. USA Football's repeated bullying of Plaintiffs, however, has reached a boiling point, and has forced Plaintiffs to deal with USA Football's improper conduct and tactics head on.

IV. CAUSES OF ACTION

Count 1 – False or Misleading Representation of Fact – 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a)

32. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated by reference as if set forth herein for all purposes.

33. Defendant USA Football claims its purpose and services is/are “to lead, strengthen and grow the game alongside you through education, events and the U.S. National Team pathway” in connection with football. In a recent press release (March 21, 2023), it stated about itself:

“About USA Football: USA Football designs and delivers premier educational, developmental and competitive programs to advance and grow the sport. As the sport's governing body, member of the U.S. Olympic Committee and organizer of the U.S. National Team for international competition, USA Football partners with leaders in medicine, child advocacy and athletics to support positive football experiences for youth, high school and other amateur players.”

34. While USA Football's recitation of its purpose and services in connection with football may be accurate, USA Football's representation that it is “the sport's

governing body” or the “national governing body” for football, including flag football, is false and/or misleading. USA Football is not the national governing body for football, including flag football, in the United States.

35. USA Football has repeatedly made its false and/or misleading representation that it is “the sport’s governing body” or the “national governing body” for football, including flag football, in public, in interstate commerce, through its press releases.

36. For purposes of generating publicity, raising money, and otherwise increasing revenues, USA Football publicly advertises and promotes that it is the national governing body for football, including flag football, in the United States on its websites, in press releases, and elsewhere.

37. Defendant’s representations in this regard are false and/or misrepresent its identity and status within football in the U.S. because Defendant is not the U.S. national governing body for football, particularly flag football. Defendant is neither presently (nor was it previously) eligible to become the national governing body for football, including flag football, and even if it were, it has not completed the statutory process set forth for becoming a national governing body as designated by the USOPC. Defendant’s representations falsely and/or misleadingly inform or suggest to the relevant consuming public, advertisers, and other stakeholders that Defendant has a status and designation in the football and flag football industries that is very prestigious and exclusive when it does not have such a status or designation and in fact cannot presently have such a status or designation. For other entities such as Plaintiffs seeking to be recognized in the sport and involved in the standards development and establishment of flag football as an

Olympic sport, and to potentially pursue national governing body status for themselves, Defendant's false and/or misleading representation that it is the national governing body for football, including flag football, is material to advertisers' and stakeholders' decision-making in terms of doing business with entities such as Plaintiffs. Thus, Defendant's false and/or misleading representation of fact has the effect of confusing, deceiving, and/or causing to be mistaken the relevant consuming public, advertisers, and other stakeholders about the true status and identify of Defendant in relation to the absence of a national governing body for football, especially flag football, in the U.S. As a result, the relevant consuming public, advertisers, and other stakeholders are being caused to make decisions about funding and advertising that they may or would not normally make if they possessed true, accurate, and non-misleading information vis-à-vis USA Football's lack of national governing body status in the U.S. for football, including flag football.

38. As a result of Defendant's false and/or misleading representation, Plaintiffs are entitled to recover their damages and/or Defendants' ill-gotten gains as available under the Lanham Act.

39. Because Defendant's unlawful acts have been committed willfully and intentionally, knowing that it is not the national governing body for football, including flag football, in the U.S. despite repeatedly representing to the consuming public in the U.S. that it has such status, damages should be trebled, and the Court should find that this is an exceptional case such that Plaintiffs are entitled to recover its attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses associated with this action.

40. By reason of Defendant's knowingly and intentionally false and/or misleading representation of fact, Plaintiffs have suffered and will continue to suffer

irreparable injury unless and until this Court enters an order enjoining Defendant from any further false and/or misleading representation of fact stating or suggesting that it is the U.S. national governing body for football, including flag football, when it is not. Defendant's continuing acts of knowingly and intentionally false and/or misleading representation of fact, unless enjoined, will cause irreparable damage to Plaintiffs in that they will have no adequate remedy at law to compel Defendant to cease such acts. Plaintiffs will be compelled to prosecute a multiplicity of actions, one action each time Defendant commits such acts. Plaintiffs are therefore entitled to a preliminary injunction and a permanent injunction against further infringing conduct by Defendant and those in concert with Defendant and those directing the unlawful conduct, including, but not limited to, on information and belief, Defendant's CEO, Scott Hallenbeck.

Count 2 – False or Misleading Description of Fact – 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a)

41. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated by reference as if set forth herein for all purposes.

42. While USA Football's recitation of its purpose and services in connection with football may be accurate, USA Football's descriptive statement that it is "the sport's governing body" (or similar statements) is false and/or misleading. USA Football is not the national governing body for football, including flag football, in the United States.

43. USA Football has repeatedly made its false and/or misleading description that it is "the sport's governing body" (or the like) in public, in interstate commerce, through its press releases.

44. For purposes of generating publicity, raising money, and otherwise increasing revenues, USA Football publicly advertises and promotes that it is the national governing body for football, including flag football, in the United States on its websites, in press releases, and elsewhere.

45. Defendant's description is false and/or misrepresents its identity and status within football in the U.S. because Defendant is not the U.S. national governing body for football, particularly flag football. Defendant is neither presently (nor was it previously) eligible to become the national governing body for football, including flag football, and even if it were, it has not completed the statutory process set forth for becoming a national governing body as designated by the USOPC. Defendant's description falsely and/or misleadingly informs or at least suggests to the relevant consuming public, advertisers, and other stakeholders that Defendant has a status and designation that is very prestigious and exclusive when it does not have such a status or designation and in fact cannot presently have such a status or designation. For other entities such as Plaintiffs seeking to be recognized in the sport and involved in the standards development and establishment of flag football as an Olympic sport, and to potentially pursue national governing body status for itself, Defendant's false and/or misleading description that it is the national governing body for football, including flag football, is material to advertisers' and stakeholders' decision-making in terms of doing business with entities such as Plaintiffs. Thus, Defendant's false and/or misleading description of fact has the effect of confusing, deceiving, and/or causing to be mistaken the relevant consuming public, advertisers, and other stakeholders about the true status and identify of

Defendant in relation to the absence of a national governing body for football, including flag football, in the U.S.

46. As a result of Defendant's false and/or misleading description, Plaintiffs are entitled to recover their damages and/or Defendants' ill-gotten gains as available under the Lanham Act.

47. Because Defendant's acts have been committed willfully and intentionally, knowing that it is not the national governing body for football, including flag football, in the U.S. despite repeatedly representing to the consuming public in the U.S. that it has such status, damages should be trebled, and the Court should find that this is an exceptional case such that Plaintiffs are entitled to recover its attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses associated with this action.

48. By reason of Defendant's knowingly and intentionally false and/or misleading description of fact, Plaintiffs have suffered and will continue to suffer irreparable injury unless and until this Court enters an order enjoining Defendant from any further false and/or misleading description of fact stating or suggesting that it is the U.S. national governing body for football, including flag football, when it is not. Defendant's continuing acts of knowingly and intentionally false and/or misleading description of fact, unless enjoined, will cause irreparable damage to Plaintiffs in that they will have no adequate remedy at law to compel Defendant to cease such acts. Plaintiffs will be compelled to prosecute a multiplicity of actions, one action each time Defendant commits such acts. Plaintiffs are therefore entitled to a preliminary injunction and a permanent injunction against further infringing conduct by Defendant

and those in concert with Defendant and those directing the unlawful conduct, including, but not limited to, on information and belief, Defendant's CEO, Scott Hallenbeck.

Count 3 – Unfair Competition under the Lanham Act – 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a)

49. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated by reference as if set forth herein for all purposes.

50. Defendant's false and/or misleading representation(s) and description(s) of fact that it is (when it, in fact, is not) the national governing body for football, including flag football, in the U.S. are detailed above.

51. Defendants' aforesaid acts, and each of them, constitute unfair competition in violation of 15 U.S.C. 1125(a). Defendant has undertaken such acts willfully, intentionally, and without regard to the truth or the rights of others, including Plaintiffs.

52. As a direct and proximate result of the aforesaid acts of unfair competition, Defendant has wrongfully taken Plaintiffs' profits and the benefit of its creativity and investment of time, energy, and money, and have similar injured Plaintiffs' reputation and standing in the relevant industry by claiming to have a status and position that it does not, but that is only available to one entity and, on information and belief has not been granted as of this time, thus confusing, deceiving, and/or misleading the relevant consuming public not only about its status, but about Plaintiffs not having or being eligible to have such status. Defendant should therefore disgorge all profits, income, and financial gains they have received based on their false and/or misleading representation(s) and description(s), and further should be ordered to perform full restitution to Plaintiffs as a consequence of its unfairly competitive activities, including

all costs related to reputation restoration and corrective information dissemination by a qualified professional in that field. Defendant is also liable for any incidental, consequential, or other monetary damages proximately caused by its unfairly competitive activities.

53. By reason of Defendant's acts of unfair competition, Plaintiffs have suffered and will continue to suffer irreparable injury unless and until this Court enters an order enjoining Defendant from any further acts of unfair competition. Defendant's continuing acts of unfair competition, unless enjoined, will cause irreparable damage to Plaintiffs in that they will have no adequate remedy at law to compel Defendant to cease such acts. Plaintiffs will be compelled to prosecute a multiplicity of actions, one action each time Defendant commits such acts, and in each such action it will be extremely difficult to ascertain the amount of compensation which will afford Plaintiffs adequate relief. Plaintiffs are therefore entitled to a preliminary injunction and a permanent injunction against further unfairly competitive conduct by Defendant and those in concert with Defendant and those directing the unfairly competitive conduct, including, but not limited to, on information and belief, Defendant's CEO, Scott Hallenbeck.

54. Because Defendant's actions have been willful, intentional, and egregious, this is an exceptional case that entitles Plaintiffs to recovery of their attorneys' fees and costs.

V. PRAYER

For the reasons stated above, Plaintiffs FFWCT, LLC, USA Flag, LLC, and Travis Burnett ("Plaintiffs") pray that it may have judgment in its favor and against the Defendant USA Football, Inc. as follows:

- (1) For an order preliminarily and permanently enjoining Defendant, and its officers, directors, employees, agents, servants, representatives, contractors, and attorneys, and all other persons acting in concert with them, from committing any further acts of false and/or misleading representation of fact, false and/or misleading statement of fact, and unfair competition as detailed herein;
- (2) For an order directing Defendant to file with this Court and to serve on the Plaintiffs within thirty (30) days after service on Defendant of the injunction granted herein, or such extended period as the Court may direct, a report in writing, under oath, setting forth in detail the manner and form in which Defendant has complied with (and intends to continue to comply with) the injunction and order of the Court;
- (3) For a judgment that Defendant has willfully and intentionally disseminated one or more false and/or misleading representations of fact and false and/or misleading descriptions of fact, and willfully and intentionally committed acts of unfair competition;
- (4) For a judgment requiring Defendant to account to Plaintiffs for, and to pay Plaintiffs, all profits derived by Defendant from their false, misleading, deceptive, and unfairly competitive acts, as well as damages and lost profits of the Plaintiffs, costs of corrective advertising, reputation restoration, and the like for the benefit of Plaintiffs;
- (5) For a judgment requiring Defendant to pay for all damages Plaintiffs have suffered by virtue of Defendant's false, misleading, and unfairly

competitive activities, to be trebled because Defendant's unlawful actions were committed willfully and intentionally;

- (6) For Plaintiffs' reasonable attorney's fees, costs, and expenses incurred in prosecuting this case based on a finding of the Court that this is an "exceptional case" within the meaning of 15 U.S.C. § 1117(a)(3);
- (7) Pre-judgment interest at the highest rate allowed by law;
- (8) Post-judgment interest at the highest rate allowed by law;
- (9) The award of all costs; and,
- (10) All further relief to which it may be justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

SCHEEF & STONE, L.L.P.

Date: May 22, 2023

By: /s/ Mark D. Nielsen

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**ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFFS
FFWCT, LLC, USA FLAG, LLC, AND
TRAVIS BURNETT**

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

For the reasons stated above, Plaintiffs FFWCT, LLC, USA Flag, LLC, and Travis Burnett hereby demand a trial by jury on all issues raised by the Complaint that are triable by jury.

Respectfully submitted,

SCHEEF & STONE, L.L.P.

Date: May 22, 2023

By: /s/ Mark D. Nielsen

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**ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFFS
FFWCT, LLC, USA FLAG, LLC, AND
TRAVIS BURNETT**

Trademark Snap Shot Amendment & Mail Processing Stylesheet

(Table presents the data on Amendment & Mail Processing Complete)

OVERVIEW

SERIAL NUMBER	97724960	FILING DATE	12/20/2022
REG NUMBER	0000000	REG DATE	N/A
REGISTER	PRINCIPAL	MARK TYPE	SERVICE MARK
INTL REG #	N/A	INTL REG DATE	N/A
TM ATTORNEY	PAYABYAB, EDWARD TAN	L.O. ASSIGNED	O10-NOT FOUND

PUB INFORMATION

RUN DATE	03/07/2024		
PUB DATE	N/A		
STATUS	661-RESPONSE AFTER NON-FINAL-ACTION-ENTERED		
STATUS DATE	03/06/2024		
LITERAL MARK ELEMENT	USA FLAG		
DATE ABANDONED	N/A	DATE CANCELLED	N/A
SECTION 2F	YES	SECTION 2F IN PART	NO
SECTION 8	NO	SECTION 8 IN PART	NO
SECTION 15	NO	REPUB 12C	N/A
RENEWAL FILED	NO	RENEWAL DATE	N/A
DATE AMEND REG	N/A		

FILING BASIS

FILED BASIS		CURRENT BASIS		AMENDED BASIS	
1 (a)	NO	1 (a)	NO	1 (a)	NO
1 (b)	YES	1 (b)	YES	1 (b)	NO
44D	NO	44D	NO	44D	NO
44E	NO	44E	NO	44E	NO
66A	NO	66A	NO		
NO BASIS	NO	NO BASIS	NO		

MARK DATA

STANDARD CHARACTER MARK	YES
LITERAL MARK ELEMENT	USA FLAG
MARK DRAWING CODE	4-STANDARD CHARACTER MARK
COLOR DRAWING FLAG	NO

CURRENT OWNER INFORMATION

PARTY TYPE	10-ORIGINAL APPLICANT
------------	-----------------------

NAME	USA Football, Inc.
ADDRESS	45 N. Pennsylvania Street Suite 800 Indianapolis, IN 46204
ENTITY	99-non-profit corporation
CITIZENSHIP	Virginia

GOODS AND SERVICES

INTERNATIONAL CLASS	041
DESCRIPTION TEXT	Educational services, namely, conducting programs, classes, seminars, conferences, workshops and exhibitions, displays, and interactive exhibits on football in the field of player safety, coaching education, officiating education, and proper techniques, and the distribution of educational materials in connection therewith, and the development and distribution of educational materials in the nature of guides in hard copy and electronic format, booklets that contain model rules in hard copy and electronic format, and printed educational materials all in connection therewith on the same topics; sports instruction services related to football; organizing, conducting and operating a football league, football tournaments, football games, and football exhibitions; sports training in the nature of player development, performance training, physical wellness training, and player talent and ability evaluation services related to the game of football
INTERNATIONAL CLASS	042
DESCRIPTION TEXT	Development of voluntary standards in the form of model rules for football

GOODS AND SERVICES CLASSIFICATION

INTERNATIONAL CLASS	041	FIRST USE DATE	NONE	FIRST USE IN COMMERCE DATE	NONE	CLASS STATUS	6-ACTIVE
INTERNATIONAL CLASS	042	FIRST USE DATE	NONE	FIRST USE IN COMMERCE DATE	NONE	CLASS STATUS	6-ACTIVE

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION/STATEMENTS

CHANGE IN REGISTRATION	NO
OWNER OF US REG NOS	3182472 3241236 5172678

PROSECUTION HISTORY

DATE	ENT CD	ENT TYPE	DESCRIPTION	ENT NUM
03/06/2024	TEME	I	TEAS/EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE ENTERED	017
03/06/2024	CRFA	I	CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN LAW OFFICE	016
03/06/2024	TROA	I	TEAS RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION RECEIVED	015
02/21/2024	EWAF	I	TEAS WITHDRAWAL OF ATTORNEY RECEIVED-FIRM RETAINS	014
02/21/2024	TCCA	I	TEAS CHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED	013
02/21/2024	ARAA	I	ATTORNEY/DOM.REP.REVOKED AND/OR APPOINTED	012
02/21/2024	REAP	I	TEAS REVOKE/APP/CHANGE ADDR OF ATTY/DOM REP RECEIVED	011
02/21/2024	CHAN	I	APPLICANT/CORRESPONDENCE CHANGES (NON-RESPONSIVE) ENTERED	010
02/21/2024	COAR	I	TEAS CHANGE OF OWNER ADDRESS RECEIVED	009
12/06/2023	XELG	O	APPLICATION EXTENSION GRANTED/RECEIPT PROVIDED	008
12/06/2023	XELR	I	APPLICATION EXTENSION TO RESPONSE PERIOD - RECEIVED	007

09/07/2023	GNRN	O	NOTIFICATION OF NON-FINAL ACTION E-MAILED	006
09/07/2023	GNRT	F	NON-FINAL ACTION E-MAILED	005
09/07/2023	CNRT	R	NON-FINAL ACTION WRITTEN	004
08/29/2023	DOCK	D	ASSIGNED TO EXAMINER	003
01/17/2023	NWOS	I	NEW APPLICATION OFFICE SUPPLIED DATA ENTERED	002
12/23/2022	NWAP	I	NEW APPLICATION ENTERED	001

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE INFORMATION

ATTORNEY	Amie Peele
CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS	Amie Peele Peele Law Group, PC 49 Boone Village, Box 299 Zionsville, IN 46077
DOMESTIC REPRESENTATIVE	NONE

USA FLAG



MORE OPTIONS

USA TACKLE™ & USA FLAG™ GAME TYPES & CATEGORIES

From flag to tackle, there are more paths to play football than ever before. Keep reading to see which ones are best for your athlete or organization.

FOOTBALL FOR ALL®

There are lots of ways to play this great game. Some athletes are ready to jump in and stick with tackle or flag the rest of their life, while others need a step-by-step approach that bridges one way to play to another.

The Football Development Model makes it easier to get started. No matter your athlete's age, skill level or way they want to play, there's an option for them that meets them where they're comfortable.

These options are called *Game Types* and *Game Categories*. These give organizations and athletes new entry-points to the game along with a gradual progression of added complexity and competition. This approach offers many paths to play, many ways to develop and many reasons to stick with the game.

01:28

WHY WE BELIEVE

Football is America's favorite sport. Organizations that implement it and are providing athletes with Football can seem complicated and supportive environments. When organizations offer this sport Overall, the Game Types that most teach the game. By taking a step-by-step approach to learn. Through our Game Types and resource athlete, improving their understanding

SPOTLIGHT: CREATING A BRIDGE FROM FLAG TO TACKLE

Helping athletes progress from flag to tackle hasn't been straight forward. The new model bridges the divide - whether that's through coach education or ways to play.

Let's focus on the Game Category called Limited Contact. It acts as a bridge from flag to full contact, played on both smaller and full-sized fields. Wearing helmets and shoulder pads, plus TackleBar® harnesses or flag belts, athletes learn how to block, track and engage without purposefully going to the ground.

CASE STUDY: See how a league in Indiana bridged the divide, including parent and administrator reactions

[GET THE STUDY](#)



GAME CATEGORIES



USA FLAG™/NON-CONTACT

Athletes can experience many of the positions and skills of football in Non-Contact, often on smaller and shorter fields with fewer athletes. Our resources help coaches teach proper tracking skills to help athletes excel while preparing for versions of the game with more contact later in life.

[LEARN MORE](#)

▲ FLAG

Flag is the primary game type in Non-Contact, and it's a fun, fast-paced version of the sport played by millions of athletes.

FIELD SIZE: Shorter and/or Narrower

PLAYERS PER SIDE: 5 to 7

ROTATING PLAYER POSITIONS

NO PLAYER-TO-PLAYER ENGAGEMENT

Playing flag football allows athletes to get used to playing in space with others while learning the basic movements and skills for success in football and beyond.

USA TACKLE™/LIMITED CONTACT

The new principles of Limited Contact introduce player-to-player contact in a progressive way through equipment options such as TackleBar or Padded Flag, all while keeping athletes on their feet.

[LEARN MORE](#)

▼ ROOKIE LIMITED CONTACT™

▼ SENIOR LIMITED CONTACT™





USA TACKLE™/CONTACT

Contact football can be played in many ways - from the game we see on Sundays to small-sided games with fewer athletes.

[LEARN MORE](#)

▼ **ROOKIE TACKLE®**

▼ **SENIOR TACKLE™**



00:33

00:56

MIKE LAFLEUR ON PROGRESSING THE

CHRIS SNYDER ON SUCCESS WITH GAME 1

TIPS FOR FINDING THE RIGHT GAME TYPE FOR YOUR CHILD

As a parent, you can ask local football organizations if they offer multiple Game Types. If they're unsure, ask the league to reach out to their USA Football Regional Manager.

[CONTACT A REGIONAL MANAGER](#)

SIGN UP TO STAY CONNECTED

Receive updates and more information on the future of football.

[GET UPDATES](#)



The Football Development Model is USA Football's adoption of the American Development Model



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[LEAGUES](#)

[HOW IT WORKS](#)

[THE COUNCIL](#)

[MEDIA](#)

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MORE OPTIONS

USA TACKLE™ & USA FLAG™ GAME TYPES & CATEGORIES

From flag to tackle, there are more paths to play football than ever before. Keep reading to see which ones are best for your athlete or organization.

FOOTBALL FOR ALL®

There are lots of ways to play this great game. Some athletes are ready to jump in and stick with tackle or flag the rest of their life, while others need a step-by-step approach that bridges one way to play to another.

The Football Development Model makes it easier to get started. No matter your athlete's age, skill level or way they want to play, there's an option for them that meets them where they're comfortable.

These options are called *Game Types* and *Game Categories*. These give organizations and athletes new entry-points to the game along with a gradual progression of added complexity and competition. This approach offers many paths to play, many ways to develop and many reasons to stick with the game.

01:28

WHY WE BELIEVE

Football is America's favorite sport.	Football can seem complicated and supportive environments.	When organizations offer this sport, they often do so in a way that is not designed to teach the game.	By taking a step-by-step approach to learning, athletes can progress from flag to tackle without purposefully going to the ground.
Organizations that implement these game types are providing athletes with a path to play that is designed to teach the game.	With differing Levels of Contact, organizations can provide athletes with a path to play that is designed to teach the game.	Overall, the Game Types that most effectively teach the game are those that provide athletes with a path to play that is designed to teach the game.	Through our Game Types and resource materials, we are providing athletes with a path to play that is designed to teach the game.


SPOTLIGHT: CREATING A BRIDGE FROM FLAG TO TACKLE

Helping athletes progress from flag to tackle hasn't been straight forward. The new model bridges the divide - whether that's through coach education or ways to play.

Let's focus on the Game Category called Limited Contact. It acts as a bridge from flag to full contact, played on both smaller and full-sized fields. Wearing helmets and shoulder pads, plus TackleBar® harnesses or flag belts, athletes learn how to block, track and engage without purposefully going to the ground.

CASE STUDY: See how a league in Indiana bridged the divide, including parent and administrator reactions

GET THE STUDY



Flag Football & Zionsville (Ind.) Youth Football League

In 2016, the Zionsville (Ind.) Youth Football League (ZYFL) incorporated flag and TackleBar® football into its league offering, forming its current structure:

Game Type	Grades/Leagues
Flag	Grades K-1 and 1-2
TackleBar	Grades 3
Engage (no player, full contact)	Grades 4
Engage (no player, full contact)	Grades 5-6

- The league's first season of flag for Grade K-1 and Grades 1-2 divisions drew 100 players.
- After replacing tackle with TackleBar, 60 only 7 participants remained from 16 to 2018 to 47 in 2019.
- Grade 4 contact football is suspended from 2018 to 2019 to 2020.

The following Q&A was created to share the league's experience of adding game types this year. Responses below are given by ZYFL Commissioner Andrew Hanna and the league's TackleBar Division Commissioner Josh Markworth.

GAME CATEGORIES



USA FLAG™/NON-CONTACT

Athletes can experience many of the positions and skills of football in Non-Contact, often on smaller and shorter fields with fewer athletes. Our resources help coaches teach proper tracking skills to help athletes excel while preparing for versions of the game with more contact later in life.

[LEARN MORE](#)

▲ FLAG

Flag is the primary game type in Non-Contact, and it's a fun, fast-paced version of the sport played by millions of athletes.

FIELD SIZE: Shorter and/or Narrower

PLAYERS PER SIDE: 5 to 7

ROTATING PLAYER POSITIONS

NO PLAYER-TO-PLAYER ENGAGEMENT

Playing flag football allows athletes to get used to playing in space with others while learning the basic movements and skills for success in football and beyond.

USA TACKLE™/LIMITED CONTACT

The new principles of Limited Contact introduce player-to-player contact in a progressive way through equipment options such as TackleBar or Padded Flag, all while keeping athletes on their feet.

[LEARN MORE](#)

▼ ROOKIE LIMITED CONTACT™

▼ SENIOR LIMITED CONTACT™





USA TACKLE™/CONTACT

Contact football can be played in many ways - from the game we see on Sundays to small-sided games with fewer athletes.

[LEARN MORE](#)

▼ **ROOKIE TACKLE®**

▼ **SENIOR TACKLE™**



00:33

00:56

MIKE LAFLEUR ON PROGRESSING THE

CHRIS SNYDER ON SUCCESS WITH GAME 1

TIPS FOR FINDING THE RIGHT GAME TYPE FOR YOUR CHILD

As a parent, you can ask local football organizations if they offer multiple Game Types. If they're unsure, ask the league to reach out to their USA Football Regional Manager.

[CONTACT A REGIONAL MANAGER](#)

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Receive updates and more information on the future of football.

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The Football Development Model is USA Football's adoption of the American Development Model



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PTO-1966
 Approved for use through 01/31/2027. OMB 0651-0050
 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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Voluntary Amendment

The table below presents the data as entered.

Input Field	Entered
SERIAL NUMBER	97724960
MARK SECTION	
MARK	mark
LITERAL ELEMENT	USA FLAG
STANDARD CHARACTERS	YES
USPTO-GENERATED IMAGE	YES
MARK STATEMENT	The mark consists of standard characters, without claim to any particular font style, size or color.
ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS SECTION	
DISCLAIMER	No claim is made to the exclusive right to use FLAG apart from the mark as shown.
SUPPLEMENTAL REGISTER	The applicant seeks registration of the mark on the Supplemental Register (i.e., a change of the words 'Principal Register' to 'Supplemental Register'). NOTE: The applicant has separately filed an Allegation of Use, to change the basis of this application from Section 1(b), intent-to-use, to Section 1(a), use in commerce.
MISCELLANEOUS STATEMENT	Please suspend this application pending the outcome of Civil Action 4:23-cv-00465-ALM.
CORRESPONDENCE INFORMATION	
NAME	Amie Peele
PRIMARY EMAIL ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE	apeele@peeelawgroup.com
SECONDARY EMAIL ADDRESS(ES) (COURTESY COPIES)	ahodges@peeelawgroup.com; afernandez@peeelawgroup.com; docketing@peeelawgroup.com; aricchiuto@peeelawgroup.com
DOCKET/REFERENCE NUMBER	20011.00129
SIGNATURE SECTION	
RESPONSE SIGNATURE	/ashleyhodges/
SIGNATORY'S NAME	Ashley Hodges
SIGNATORY'S POSITION	Attorney of Record
DATE SIGNED	05/03/2024
ROLE OF AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY	Authorized U.S.-Licensed Attorney
SIGNATURE METHOD	Signed directly within the form
FILING INFORMATION SECTION	
SUBMIT DATE	Fri May 03 09:36:34 ET 2024
	USPTO/PRA-XXXX:XXXX:XXXX: XXXX:XXXX:XXXX:XXXX:XXXX- 20240503093634788464-9772

TEAS STAMP

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d6e9c312f3d3fc97ce853-N/A
-N/A-20240503092750779020

PTO- 1966

Approved for use through 01/31/2027. OMB 0651-0050

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number

Voluntary Amendment

To the Commissioner for Trademarks:

Application serial no. **97724960** USA FLAG(Standard Characters, see <https://tmng-al.uspto.gov/resting2/api/img/97724960/large>) has been amended as follows:

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

Disclaimer

No claim is made to the exclusive right to use FLAG apart from the mark as shown.

Supplemental Register

The applicant seeks registration of the mark on the Supplemental Register (i.e., a change of the words 'Principal Register' to 'Supplemental Register'). NOTE: The applicant has separately filed an Allegation of Use, to change the basis of this application from Section 1(b), intent-to-use, to Section 1(a), use in commerce.

Miscellaneous Statement

Please suspend this application pending the outcome of Civil Action 4:23-cv-00465-ALM.

Correspondence Information

Amie Peele

PRIMARY EMAIL FOR CORRESPONDENCE: apeele@peeelawgroup.com

SECONDARY EMAIL ADDRESS(ES) (COURTESY COPIES): ahodges@peeelawgroup.com; afernandez@peeelawgroup.com; docketing@peeelawgroup.com; aricchiuto@peeelawgroup.com

The docket/reference number is 20011.00129.

Requirement for Email and Electronic Filing: I understand that a valid email address must be maintained by the owner/holder and the owner's/holder's attorney, if appointed, and that all official trademark correspondence must be submitted via the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS).

SIGNATURE(S)

Voluntary Amendment Signature

Signature: /ashleyhodges/ Date: 05/03/2024

Signatory's Name: Ashley Hodges

Signatory's Position: Attorney of Record

Signature method: Signed directly within the form

The signatory has confirmed that he/she is a U.S.-licensed attorney who is an active member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of a U.S. state (including the District of Columbia and any U.S. Commonwealth or territory); and he/she is currently the owner's/holder's attorney or an associate thereof; and to the best of his/her knowledge, if prior to his/her appointment another U.S.-licensed attorney not currently associated with his/her company/firm previously represented the owner/holder in this matter: the owner/holder has revoked their power of attorney by a signed revocation or substitute power of attorney with the USPTO; the USPTO has granted that attorney's withdrawal request; the owner/holder has filed a power of attorney appointing him/her in this matter; or the owner's/holder's appointed U.S.-licensed attorney has filed a power of attorney appointing him/her as an associate attorney in this matter.

Mailing Address: Amie Peele
Peele Law Group, PC

49 Boone Village, Box 299
Zionsville, Indiana 46077

Mailing Address: Amie Peele
Peele Law Group, PC

49 Boone Village, Box 299
Zionsville, Indiana 46077

Serial Number: 97724960

Internet Transmission Date: Fri May 03 09:36:34 ET 2024

TEAS Stamp: USPTO/PRA-XXXX:XXXX:XXXX:XXXX:XXXX:XXXX:

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PTO-1553

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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Trademark/Service Mark Amendment to Allege Use (15 U.S.C. Section 1051(c))

The table below presents the data as entered.

Input Field	Entered
SERIAL NUMBER	97724960
EXTENSION OF USE	NO
MARK SECTION	
MARK	mark
LITERAL ELEMENT	USA FLAG
STANDARD CHARACTERS	YES
USPTO-GENERATED IMAGE	YES
MARK STATEMENT	The mark consists of standard characters, without claim to any particular font style, size or color.
OWNER SECTION	
NAME	USA Football, Inc.
INTERNAL ADDRESS	Suite 800
MAILING ADDRESS	45 N. Pennsylvania Street
CITY	Indianapolis
STATE	Indiana
ZIP/POSTAL CODE	46204
STATE/COUNTRY/REGION/JURISDICTION/U.S. TERRITORY	United States
EMAIL	XXXX
CORRESPONDENCE INFORMATION (current)	
NAME	Amie Peele
PRIMARY EMAIL ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE	apeele@peeelawgroup.com
SECONDARY EMAIL ADDRESS(ES) (COURTESY COPIES)	ahodges@peeelawgroup.com; afernandez@peeelawgroup.com; docketing@peeelawgroup.com; aricchiuto@peeelawgroup.com
CORRESPONDENCE INFORMATION (proposed)	
NAME	Amie Peele
PRIMARY EMAIL ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE	apeele@peeelawgroup.com
SECONDARY EMAIL ADDRESS(ES) (COURTESY COPIES)	ahodges@peeelawgroup.com; afernandez@peeelawgroup.com; docketing@peeelawgroup.com; aricchiuto@peeelawgroup.com
DOCKET/REFERENCE NUMBER	20011.00129
GOODS AND/OR SERVICES SECTION	

INTERNATIONAL CLASS	041
CURRENT IDENTIFICATION	Educational services, namely, conducting programs, classes, seminars, conferences, workshops and exhibitions, displays, and interactive exhibits on football in the field of player safety, coaching education, officiating education, and proper techniques, and the distribution of educational materials in connection therewith, and the development and distribution of educational materials in the nature of guides in hard copy and electronic format, booklets that contain model rules in hard copy and electronic format, and printed educational materials all in connection therewith on the same topics; sports instruction services related to football; organizing, conducting and operating a football league, football tournaments, football games, and football exhibitions; sports training in the nature of player development, performance training, physical wellness training, and player talent and ability evaluation services related to the game of football
GOODS OR SERVICES	KEEP ALL LISTED
FIRST USE ANYWHERE DATE	04/02/2024
FIRST USE IN COMMERCE DATE	04/02/2024
SPECIMEN FILE NAME(S)	
ORIGINAL PDF FILE	SPN0-2607fb90d99c4dfb9d54 fcfec3af317f-202405030010 59080524 . Specimen for U SA FLAG App. No. 97724960.pdf
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	\\TICRS\EXPORT18\IMAGEOUT 18\977\249\97724960\xml7\AAU0007.JPG
SPECIMEN DESCRIPTION	print out of Applicant's website showing the mark used in connection with the stated services
WEBPAGE URL	https://fdm.usafootball.com/game-types
WEBPAGE DATE OF ACCESS	05/01/2024
INTERNATIONAL CLASS	042
CURRENT IDENTIFICATION	Development of voluntary standards in the form of model rules for football
GOODS OR SERVICES	KEEP ALL LISTED
FIRST USE ANYWHERE DATE	04/02/2024
FIRST USE IN COMMERCE DATE	04/02/2024
SPECIMEN FILE NAME(S)	
ORIGINAL PDF FILE	SPN1-2607fb90d99c4dfb9d54 fcfec3af317f-202405030010 59080524 . Specimen for U SA FLAG App. No. 97724960.pdf
CONVERTED PDF FILE(S)	\\TICRS\EXPORT18\IMAGEOUT 18\977\249\97724960\xml7\

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	\\TICRS\EXPORT18\IMAGEOUT 18\977\249\97724960\xml7\AAU0013.JPG
SPECIMEN DESCRIPTION	print out of Applicant's website showing the mark used in connection with the stated services
WEBPAGE URL	https://fdm.usafootball.com/game-types
WEBPAGE DATE OF ACCESS	05/01/2024
REQUEST TO DIVIDE	NO
PAYMENT SECTION	
NUMBER OF CLASSES IN USE	2
SUBTOTAL AMOUNT [ALLEGATION OF USE FEE]	200
TOTAL AMOUNT	200
SIGNATURE SECTION	
DECLARATION SIGNATURE	/JamieRiley/
SIGNATORY'S NAME	Jamie Riley
SIGNATORY'S POSITION	Chief Operating Officer
DATE SIGNED	05/03/2024
SIGNATORY'S PHONE NUMBER	3175139876
SIGNATURE METHOD	Sent to third party for signature
FILING INFORMATION	
SUBMIT DATE	Fri May 03 09:21:23 ET 2024
TEAS STAMP	USPTO/AAU-XXXX:XXXX:XXXX: XXXX:XXXX:XXXX:XXXX:XXXX- 20240503092125111478-9772 4960-85068ab6799f8a54b1ad 4d734a86c2382cae0cd39cbfd 49d88883662512ca85-CC-212 37302-2024050300105908052 4

PTO- 1553

Approved for use through 04/30/2027. OMB 0651-0054

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number

**Trademark/Service Mark Amendment to Allege Use
(15 U.S.C. Section 1051(c))**

To the Commissioner for Trademarks:

MARK: USA FLAG(Standard Characters, see <https://tmng-al.uspto.gov/resting2/api/img/97724960/large>)

SERIAL NUMBER: 97724960

OWNER AND/OR ENTITY INFORMATION

The owner proposes to amend the following:

USA Football, Inc., having an address of

Suite 800

45 N. Pennsylvania Street

Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

United States

Email: XXXX

The owner is submitting the following allegation of use information:

For International Class 041:

Current identification: Educational services, namely, conducting programs, classes, seminars, conferences, workshops and exhibitions, displays, and interactive exhibits on football in the field of player safety, coaching education, officiating education, and proper techniques, and the distribution of educational materials in connection therewith, and the development and distribution of educational materials in the nature of guides in hard copy and electronic format, booklets that contain model rules in hard copy and electronic format, and printed educational materials all in connection therewith on the same topics; sports instruction services related to football; organizing, conducting and operating a football league, football tournaments, football games, and football exhibitions; sports training in the nature of player development, performance training, physical wellness training, and player talent and ability evaluation services related to the game of football

The mark is in use in commerce on or in connection with all of the goods/services, or to indicate membership in the collective organization listed in the application or Notice of Allowance or as subsequently modified for this specific class.

The mark was first used by the applicant, or the applicant's related company, licensee, or predecessor in interest at least as early as 04/02/2024, and first used in commerce at least as early as 04/02/2024, and is now in use in such commerce. The applicant is submitting one specimen for the class showing the mark as used in commerce on or in connection with any item in the class, consisting of a(n) print out of Applicant's website showing the mark used in connection with the stated services.

Original PDF file:

[SPN0-2607fb90d99c4dfb9d54 fcfec3af317f-202405030010 59080524 . Specimen for U SA FLAG App. No. 97724960.pdf](#)

Converted PDF file(s) (6 pages)

[Specimen File1](#)

[Specimen File2](#)

[Specimen File3](#)

[Specimen File4](#)

[Specimen File5](#)

[Specimen File6](#)

Webpage URL: <https://fdm.usafootball.com/game-types>

Webpage Date of Access: 05/01/2024

For International Class 042:

Current identification: Development of voluntary standards in the form of model rules for football

The mark is in use in commerce on or in connection with all of the goods/services, or to indicate membership in the collective organization listed in the application or Notice of Allowance or as subsequently modified for this specific class.

The mark was first used by the applicant, or the applicant's related company, licensee, or predecessor in interest at least as early as 04/02/2024, and first used in commerce at least as early as 04/02/2024, and is now in use in such commerce. The applicant is submitting one specimen for the class showing the mark as used in commerce on or in connection with any item in the class, consisting of a(n) print out of Applicant's website showing the mark used in connection with the stated services.

Original PDF file:

[SPN1-2607fb90d99c4dfb9d54 fcfec3af317f-202405030010 59080524 _ Specimen for U SA FLAG App. No. 97724960.pdf](#)

Converted PDF file(s) (6 pages)

[Specimen File1](#)

[Specimen File2](#)

[Specimen File3](#)

[Specimen File4](#)

[Specimen File5](#)

[Specimen File6](#)

Webpage URL: <https://fdm.usafootball.com/game-types>

Webpage Date of Access: 05/01/2024

The applicant is not filing a Request to Divide with this Allegation of Use form.

Correspondence Information (current)

Amie Peele

PRIMARY EMAIL FOR CORRESPONDENCE: apeele@peeelawgroup.com

SECONDARY EMAIL ADDRESS(ES) (COURTESY COPIES): ahodges@peeelawgroup.com; afernandez@peeelawgroup.com; docketing@peeelawgroup.com; aricchiuto@peeelawgroup.com

Correspondence Information (proposed)

Amie Peele

PRIMARY EMAIL FOR CORRESPONDENCE: apeele@peeelawgroup.com

SECONDARY EMAIL ADDRESS(ES) (COURTESY COPIES): ahodges@peeelawgroup.com; afernandez@peeelawgroup.com; docketing@peeelawgroup.com; aricchiuto@peeelawgroup.com

The docket/reference number is 20011.00129.

Requirement for Email and Electronic Filing: I understand that a valid email address must be maintained by the applicant owner/holder and the applicant owner's/holder's attorney, if appointed, and that all official trademark correspondence must be submitted via the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS).

A fee payment in the amount of \$200 will be submitted with the form, representing payment for the allegation of use for 2 classes.

Declaration

- The signatory believes that the applicant is the owner of the mark sought to be registered.
For a trademark or service mark application, the mark is in use in commerce on or in connection with all the goods/services in the application or notice of allowance, or as subsequently modified.
For a collective trademark, collective service mark, collective membership mark application, the applicant is exercising legitimate control over the use of the mark in commerce by members on or in connection with all the goods/services/collective membership organization in the application or notice of allowance, or as subsequently modified.
For a certification mark application, the applicant is exercising legitimate control over the use of the mark in commerce by authorized users on or in connection with the all goods/services in the application or notice of allowance, or as subsequently modified, and the applicant is not engaged in the production or marketing of the goods/services to which the mark is applied, except to advertise or promote recognition of the certification program or of the goods/services that meet the certification standards of the applicant.
- The specimen(s) shows the mark as used on or in connection with the goods/services/collective membership organization in commerce.
- To the best of the signatory's knowledge and belief, no other persons, except, if applicable, authorized users, members, and/or concurrent users, have the right to use the mark in commerce, either in the identical form or in such near resemblance as to be likely, when used on or in connection with the goods/services/collective membership organization of such other persons, to cause confusion or mistake, or to deceive.
- To the best of the signatory's knowledge, information, and belief, formed after an inquiry reasonable under the circumstances, the

allegations and other factual contentions made above have evidentiary support.

- The signatory being warned that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. § 1001, and that such willful false statements and the like may jeopardize the validity of the application or submission or any registration resulting therefrom, declares that all statements made of his/her own knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true.

Signature: /JamieRiley/ Date Signed: 05/03/2024

Signatory's Name: Jamie Riley

Signatory's Position: Chief Operating Officer

Signatory's Phone: 3175139876

Signature method: Sent to third party for signature

PAYMENT: 97724960

PAYMENT DATE: 05/03/2024

Serial Number: 97724960

Internet Transmission Date: Fri May 03 09:21:23 ET 2024

TEAS Stamp: USPTO/AAU-XXXX:XXXX:XXXX:XXXX:XXXX:XXXX:

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9cbfd49d88883662512ca85-CC-21237302-2024

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MORE OPTIONS

USA TACKLE™ & USA FLAG™ GAME TYPES & CATEGORIES

From flag to tackle, there are more paths to play football than ever before. Keep reading to see which ones are best for your athlete or organization.

FOOTBALL FOR ALL®

There are lots of ways to play this great game. Some athletes are ready to jump in and stick with tackle or flag the rest of their life, while others need a step-by-step approach that bridges one way to play to another.

The Football Development Model makes it easier to get started. No matter your athlete's age, skill level or way they want to play, there's an option for them that meets them where they're comfortable.

These options are called *Game Types* and *Game Categories*. These give organizations and athletes new entry-points to the game along with a gradual progression of added complexity and competition. This approach offers many paths to play, many ways to develop and many reasons to stick with the game.

WHY WE BELIEVE

01:28

Football is America's favorite sport. Organizations that implement it and are providing athletes with Football can seem complicated and supportive environments. With differing Levels of Contact When organizations offer this sport Overall, the Game Types that most teach the game. By taking a step-by-step approach to learn. Through our Game Types and resource athlete, improving their understanding

SPOTLIGHT: CREATING A BRIDGE FROM FLAG TO TACKLE

Helping athletes progress from flag to tackle hasn't been straight forward. The new model bridges the divide - whether that's through coach education or ways to play.

Let's focus on the Game Category called Limited Contact. It acts as a bridge from flag to full contact, played on both smaller and full-sized fields. Wearing helmets and shoulder pads, plus TackleBar® harnesses or flag belts, athletes learn how to block, track and engage without purposefully going to the ground.

CASE STUDY: See how a league in Indiana bridged the divide, including parent and administrator reactions

[GET THE STUDY](#)



GAME CATEGORIES



USA FLAG™/NON-CONTACT

Athletes can experience many of the positions and skills of football in Non-Contact, often on smaller and shorter fields with fewer athletes. Our resources help coaches teach proper tracking skills to help athletes excel while preparing for versions of the game with more contact later in life.

[LEARN MORE](#)

▲ FLAG

Flag is the primary game type in Non-Contact, and it's a fun, fast-paced version of the sport played by millions of athletes.

FIELD SIZE: Shorter and/or Narrower

PLAYERS PER SIDE: 5 to 7

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▼ SENIOR LIMITED CONTACT™





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▼ **SENIOR TACKLE™**



00:33

00:56

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CHRIS SNYDER ON SUCCESS WITH GAME 1

TIPS FOR FINDING THE RIGHT GAME TYPE FOR YOUR CHILD

As a parent, you can ask local football organizations if they offer multiple Game Types. If they're unsure, ask the league to reach out to their USA Football Regional Manager.

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MORE OPTIONS

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The Football Development Model is USA Football's adoption of the American Development Model



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To: Amie Peele(apeele@peeelawgroup.com)
Subject: U.S. Trademark Application Serial No. 97724960 - USA FLAG - -
20011.00129
Sent: May 11, 2024 06:03:11 PM EDT
Sent As: tmng.notices@uspto.gov

Attachments

[7290036](#)
[screenshot-www-popwarner-com-default-asp-17154621243431](#)
[screenshot-www-americanyouthfootball-com-football-17154629147831](#)
[screenshot-www-uitexas-org-football-state-17154633627351](#)
[screenshot-playfootball-nfl-com-resources-youth-and-high-school-football-rules-17154631767491](#)
[screenshot-www-ussportscamps-com-football-nike-1-district-of-columbia-washington-dc-17154642643361](#)
[screenshot-www-footballcamps-com-footballcamps-virginia-overview-17154642986991](#)
[screenshot-www-thestjames-com-camps-summer-camps-17154643551731](#)

United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)
Office Action (Official Letter) About Applicant's Trademark Application

U.S. Application Serial No. 97724960

Mark: USA FLAG

Correspondence Address:

Amie Peele
Peele Law Group, PC
49 Boone Village, Box 299
Zionsville IN 46077
United States

Applicant: USA Football, Inc.

Reference/Docket No. 20011.00129

Correspondence Email Address: apeele@peeelawgroup.com

NONFINAL OFFICE ACTION

Response deadline. File a response to this nonfinal Office action within three months of the “Issue date” below to avoid [abandonment](#) of the application. Review the Office action and respond using one of the links to the appropriate electronic forms in the “How to respond” section below.

Request an extension. For a fee, applicant may [request one three-month extension](#) of the response deadline prior to filing a response. The request must be filed within three months of the “Issue date” below. If the extension request is granted, the USPTO must receive applicant’s response to this letter within six months of the “Issue date” to avoid abandonment of the application.

Issue date: May 11, 2024

Based on information and/or documentation in applicant’s most response dated May 3, 2024 and the Amendment to Allege Use dated May 3, 2024, the trademark examining attorney now issues the following new refusal(s): failure to function and specimen unacceptable. *See* TMEP §§706, 711.03.

The following issue(s) raised in the previous September 7, 2023 Office action is maintained: identification unacceptable. Moreover, Application No. 97367238 has registered and is addressed in the Section 2(d) refusal below.

The following refusal(s) and/or requirement(s) has been obviated and satisfied: Section 2(e)(2) refusal for being primarily geographically descriptive. *See* TMEP §713.02. Note that applicant's amendment to the Supplemental Register effectively withdraws its Section 2(f) claim.

SUMMARY OF ISSUES that applicant must address:

- NEW ISSUE: SECTION 2(d) REFUSAL -- LIKELIHOOD OF CONFUSION
- NEW ISSUE: FAILURE TO FUNCTION
- NEW ISSUE: SPECIMEN UNACCEPTABLE
- CONTINUED AND MAINTAINED: IDENTIFICATION UNACCEPTABLE

SECTION 2(d) REFUSAL -- LIKELIHOOD OF CONFUSION

Registration of the applied-for mark is refused because of a likelihood of confusion with the mark in U.S. Registration No. 7290036. Trademark Act Section 2(d), 15 U.S.C. §1052(d); *see* TMEP §§1207.01 *et seq.* See the attached registration.

Trademark Act Section 2(d) bars registration of an applied-for mark that is so similar to a registered mark that it is likely consumers would be confused, mistaken, or deceived as to the commercial source of the goods and/or services of the parties. *See* 15 U.S.C. §1052(d). Likelihood of confusion is determined on a case-by-case basis by applying the factors set forth in *In re E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co.*, 476 F.2d 1357, 1361, 177 USPQ 563, 567 (C.C.P.A. 1973) (called the “*du Pont* factors”). *In re i.am.symbolic, llc*, 866 F.3d 1315, 1322, 123 USPQ2d 1744, 1747 (Fed. Cir. 2017). Any evidence of record related to those factors need be considered; however, “not all of the *DuPont* factors are relevant or of similar weight in every case.” *In re Guild Mortg. Co.*, 912 F.3d 1376, 1379, 129 USPQ2d 1160, 1162 (Fed. Cir. 2019) (quoting *In re Dixie Rests., Inc.*, 105 F.3d 1405, 1406, 41 USPQ2d 1531, 1533 (Fed. Cir. 1997)).

Although not all *du Pont* factors may be relevant, there are generally two key considerations in any likelihood of confusion analysis: (1) the similarities between the compared marks and (2) the relatedness of the compared goods and/or services. *See In re i.am.symbolic, llc*, 866 F.3d at 1322, 123 USPQ2d at 1747 (quoting *Herbko Int’l, Inc. v. Kappa Books, Inc.*, 308 F.3d 1156, 1164-65, 64 USPQ2d 1375, 1380 (Fed. Cir. 2002)); *Federated Foods, Inc. v. Fort Howard Paper Co.*, 544 F.2d 1098, 1103, 192 USPQ 24, 29 (C.C.P.A. 1976) (“The fundamental inquiry mandated by [Section] 2(d)

goes to the cumulative effect of differences in the essential characteristics of the goods [or services] and differences in the marks.”); TMEP §1207.01.

Comparison of the Marks

In a likelihood of confusion determination, the marks in their entireties are compared for similarities in appearance, sound, connotation, and commercial impression. *In re i.am.symbolic, llc*, 866 F.3d 1315, 1323, 123 USPQ2d 1744, 1748 (Fed. Cir. 2017); *Stone Lion Capital Partners, LP v. Lion Capital LLP*, 746 F.3d 1317, 1321, 110 USPQ2d 1157, 1160 (Fed. Cir. 2014) (quoting *Palm Bay Imps., Inc. v. Veuve Clicquot Ponsardin Maison Fondée En 1772*, 396 F.3d 1369, 1371, 73 USPQ2d 1689, 1691 (Fed. Cir. 2005)); *In re E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co.*, 476 F.2d 1357, 1361, 177 USPQ 563, 567 (C.C.P.A. 1973); TMEP §1207.01(b)-(b)(v).

In the present case, applicant’s mark is USA FLAG and registrant’s mark is USA FLAG. These marks are identical in appearance, sound, and meaning, “and have the potential to be used . . . in exactly the same manner.” *In re i.am.symbolic, llc*, 116 USPQ2d 1406, 1411 (TTAB 2015), *aff’d*, 866 F.3d 1315, 123 USPQ2d 1744 (Fed. Cir. 2017). Additionally, because they are identical, these marks are likely to engender the same connotation and overall commercial impression when considered in connection with applicant’s and registrant’s respective goods and/or services. *Id.*

Therefore, the marks are confusingly similar.

Comparison of the Goods and/or Services

The goods and/or services are compared to determine whether they are similar, commercially related, or travel in the same trade channels. *See Coach Servs., Inc. v. Triumph Learning LLC*, 668 F.3d 1356, 1369-71, 101 USPQ2d 1713, 1722-23 (Fed. Cir. 2012); *Herbko Int’l, Inc. v. Kappa Books, Inc.*, 308 F.3d 1156, 1165, 64 USPQ2d 1375, 1381 (Fed. Cir. 2002); TMEP §§1207.01, 1207.01(a)(vi).

The compared goods and/or services need not be identical or even competitive to find a likelihood of confusion. *See On-line Careline Inc. v. Am. Online Inc.*, 229 F.3d 1080, 1086, 56 USPQ2d 1471, 1475 (Fed. Cir. 2000); *Recot, Inc. v. Becton*, 214 F.3d 1322, 1329, 54 USPQ2d 1894, 1898 (Fed. Cir. 2000); TMEP §1207.01(a)(i). They need only be “related in some manner and/or if the circumstances surrounding their marketing are such that they could give rise to the mistaken belief that [the goods and/or services] emanate from the same source.” *Coach Servs., Inc. v. Triumph Learning LLC*, 668 F.3d 1356, 1369, 101 USPQ2d 1713, 1722 (Fed. Cir. 2012) (quoting *7-Eleven Inc. v. Wechsler*, 83 USPQ2d 1715, 1724 (TTAB 2007)); TMEP §1207.01(a)(i); *see Made in Nature, LLC v. Pharmavite LLC*, 2022 USPQ2d 557, at *44 (TTAB 2022) (quoting *In re Jump Designs LLC*, 80 USPQ2d 1370, 1374 (TTAB 2006)).

Applicant’s goods and/or services are:

International Class 041: Educational services, namely, conducting programs, classes, seminars, conferences, workshops and exhibitions, displays, and interactive exhibits on football in the field of player safety, coaching education, officiating education, and proper techniques, and the distribution of educational materials in connection therewith, and the development and distribution of educational materials in the nature of guides in hard copy and electronic format, booklets that contain model rules in hard copy and electronic format, and printed educational materials all in connection therewith on the same topics; sports instruction services related to football; organizing, conducting and operating a

football league, football tournaments, football games, and football exhibitions; sports training in the nature of player development, performance training, physical wellness training, and player talent and ability evaluation services related to the game of football

International Class 042: Development of voluntary standards in the form of model rules for football

Registrant's goods and/or services are:

International Class 041: Arranging and conducting of sports events; Arranging and conducting youth sports programs in the field of flag football; Sport camp services

The attached Internet evidence, consisting of websites featuring Pop Warner, American Youth Football, and University Interscholastic League, establishes that the same entity commonly manufactures, produces, or provides sporting events and development of football standards, and markets the goods and/or services under the same mark. Thus, applicant's and registrant's goods and/or services are considered related for likelihood of confusion purposes. *See, e.g., In re Davey Prods. Pty Ltd.*, 92 USPQ2d 1198, 1202-04 (TTAB 2009); *In re Toshiba Med. Sys. Corp.*, 91 USPQ2d 1266, 1268-69, 1271-72 (TTAB 2009).

The attached Internet evidence, consisting of websites featuring Nike, Jonathan Allen Football Camp, and The St. James, establishes that the same entity commonly manufactures, produces, or provides football instruction, and markets the goods and/or services under the same mark. Thus, applicant's and registrant's goods and/or services are considered related for likelihood of confusion purposes. *See, e.g., In re Davey Prods. Pty Ltd.*, 92 USPQ2d 1198, 1202-04 (TTAB 2009); *In re Toshiba Med. Sys. Corp.*, 91 USPQ2d 1266, 1268-69, 1271-72 (TTAB 2009).

Therefore, the goods and/or services are related for likelihood of confusion purposes.

Conclusion

Because the marks are similar and applicant's and registrant's respective goods and/or services are related, there is a likelihood of confusion as to the source of applicant's goods and/or services. Therefore, applicant's mark is refused registration under Trademark Act Section 2(d).

In its May 3, 2024 correspondence, applicant requested suspension pending the outcome of Civil Action 4:23- cv-00465-ALM, which presumably involves the cited registration. The application will be suspended after applicant responds to this Office action, if no new issues arises.

Applicant should note the following additional ground for refusal.

FAILURE TO FUNCTION

THIS REFUSAL APPLIES TO CLASS 41

Registration is refused because the applied-for mark, as used on the specimen of record, does not function as a service mark to identify and distinguish applicant's services from those of others and to indicate the source of applicant's services. Trademark Act Sections 1, 2, 3, and 45, 15 U.S.C. §§1051-1053, 1127; *see In re The Ride, LLC*, 2020 USPQ2d 39644, at *6 (TTAB 2020); *In re Keep A Breast Found.*, 123 USPQ2d 1869, 1879-80 (TTAB 2017); TMEP §§904.07(b), 1301.02.

Whether a designation functions as a mark depends on the commercial impression it makes on the relevant public; that is, whether consumers would likely regard it as a source-indicator for the services.

See In re Vox Populi Registry Ltd., 25 F.4th 1348, 1351, 2022 USPQ2d 115, at *2 (Fed. Cir. 2022) (citing *In re AC Webconnecting Holding B.V.*, 2020 USPQ2d 11048, at *3 (TTAB 2020)); *In re The Ride, LLC*, 2020 USPQ2d 39644, at *6 (TTAB 2020) (quoting *In re Eagle Crest Inc.*, 96 USPQ2d 1227, 1229 (TTAB 2010)); TMEP §1301.02. The specimen and any other relevant evidence of use is reviewed to determine whether an applied-for mark is being used as a service mark. *See In re Vox Populi Registry Ltd.*, 25 F.4th at 1351, 2022 USPQ2d 115, at *2-3; *In re The Ride, LLC*, 2020 USPQ2d 39644, at *6 (quoting *In re Eagle Crest Inc.*, 96 USPQ2d at 1229); TMEP §1301.02.

Not every designation used in the advertising or performance of services functions as a service mark, even though it may have been adopted with the intent to do so. *In re The Ride, LLC*, 2020 USPQ2d 39644, at *6 (quoting *Am. Velcro, Inc. v. Charles Mayer Studios, Inc.*, 177 USPQ 149, 154 (TTAB 1973)); *see* TMEP §1301.02. Thus, a designation is registrable “only if it functions as an identifier of the source of applicant’s [] services.” *In re The Ride, LLC*, 2020 USPQ2d 39644, at *5 (quoting *In re DePorter*, 129 USPQ2d 1298, 1299 (TTAB 2019)); *see* TMEP §1301.02.

In this case, the applied-for mark, as shown on the specimen, does not function as a service mark. The specimen shows the mark as a type of game type and merely conveys information about the services. *See In re Osterberg*, 83 USPQ2d 1220, 1223 (TTAB 2007) (finding the mark not prominently displayed because it was buried in text describing the mark and, while the mark was shown in bold font, so was other matter); TMEP §1301.04(f)(i). For example, in one instance, the mark appears within the phrase USA TACKLE & USA FLAG GAME TYPES & CATEGORIES, and in an identical font and type size as GAME TYPES & CATEGORIES. Thus, consumers would not recognize the mark as the source of applicant's educational services.

SPECIMEN UNACCEPTABLE

THIS REFUSAL APPLIES TO CLASS 42

Specimen does not show use of the mark in commerce. Registration is refused because the specimen does not show the applied-for mark as actually used in commerce in International Class(es) 42. Trademark Act Sections 1 and 45, 15 U.S.C. §§1051, 1127; 37 C.F.R. §§2.34(a)(1)(iv), 2.56(a); TMEP §§904, 904.07(a), 1301.04(g)(i). An application based on Trademark Act Section 1(a) must include a specimen showing the applied-for mark as actually used in commerce for each international class of services identified in the application or amendment to allege use. 15 U.S.C. §1051(a)(1); 37 C.F.R. §§2.34(a)(1)(iv), 2.56(a); TMEP §§904, 904.07(a).

Specifically, the specimen does not reference that applicant develops voluntary standards in the form of model rules for football.

Examples of specimens. Specimens for services must show a direct association between the mark and the services and include: (1) copies of advertising and marketing material, (2) a photograph of business signage or billboards, or (3) materials showing the mark in the sale, rendering, or advertising of the services. *See* 37 C.F.R. §2.56(b)(2), (c); TMEP §1301.04(a), (h)(iv)(C). Any webpage printout or screenshot submitted as a specimen must include the webpage’s URL and the date it was accessed or printed on the specimen itself, within the TEAS form that submits the specimen, or in a verified statement under 37 C.F.R. §2.20 or 28 U.S.C. §1746 in a later-filed response. *See* 37 C.F.R. §2.56(c);

TMEP §§904.03(i), 1301.04(a).

Response options. Applicant may respond to this refusal by satisfying one of the following for each applicable international class:

(1) Submit a different specimen (a verified “**substitute**” specimen) that (a) was in actual use in commerce at least as early as the filing date of the application or prior to the filing of an amendment to allege use and (b) shows the mark in actual use in commerce for the services identified in the application or amendment to allege use. A “verified substitute specimen” is a specimen that is accompanied by the following statement made in a signed affidavit or supported by a declaration under 37 C.F.R. §2.20: “The substitute (or new, or originally submitted, if appropriate) specimen(s) was/were in use in commerce at least as early as the filing date of the application or prior to the filing of the amendment to allege use.” The substitute specimen cannot be accepted without this statement.

(2) Amend the filing basis to **intent to use under Section 1(b)** (which includes withdrawing an amendment to allege use, if one was filed), as no specimen is required before publication. This option will later necessitate additional fee(s) and filing requirements, including a specimen.

For an overview of the response options referenced above and instructions on how to satisfy these options using the online Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS) form, see the [Specimen webpage](#).

IDENTIFICATION UNACCEPTABLE

The wording “football exhibitions” in the identification of services is indefinite and must be clarified because it does not state the purpose of the exhibitions. *See* 37 C.F.R. §2.32(a)(6); TMEP §1402.01.

Applicant has classified “physical wellness training” in International Class 41; however, the proper classification is International Class 44. Athletic training services are health care services for athletes comprising of prevention, emergency care, clinical diagnosis, therapeutic intervention, rehabilitation of injuries and medical conditions, and other related health care services belong in Class 44. Therefore, applicant may respond by (1) adding International Class 44 to the application and reclassifying these goods and/or services in the proper international class, (2) deleting “physical wellness training” from the application, or (3) deleting the remainder of the items in the identification and reclassifying the specified goods and/or services in the proper international class. *See* 37 C.F.R. §§2.86(a), 6.1; TMEP §§1403.02 *et seq.* If applicant adds one or more international classes to the application, applicant must comply with the multiple-class requirements specified in this Office action.

Applicant may substitute the following wording (with additional wording in **bold** and deleted wording in ~~strikethrough~~), if accurate:

International Class 041: Educational services, namely, conducting programs, classes, seminars, conferences, workshops and exhibitions, displays, and interactive exhibits on football in the field of player safety, coaching education, officiating education, and proper techniques, and the distribution of educational materials in connection therewith, and the development and distribution of educational materials in the nature of guides in hard copy and electronic format, booklets that contain model rules in hard copy and electronic format, and printed educational materials all in connection therewith on the

same topics; sports instruction services related to football; organizing, conducting and operating a football league, football tournaments, football games, and football exhibitions **for entertainment purposes**; sports training in the nature of player development, performance training, ~~physical wellness training~~, and player talent and ability evaluation services related to the game of football

International Class 042: Development of voluntary standards in the form of model rules for football

International Class 044: Health care services in the nature of physical wellness athletic training

Applicant may amend the identification to clarify or limit the goods and/or services, but not to broaden or expand the goods and/or services beyond those in the original application or as acceptably amended. *See* 37 C.F.R. §2.71(a); TMEP §1402.06. Generally, any deleted goods and/or services may not later be reinserted. *See* TMEP §1402.07(e). Additionally, for applications filed under Trademark Act Section 66(a), the scope of the identification for purposes of permissible amendments is limited by the international class assigned by the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization (International Bureau); and the classification of goods and/or services may not be changed from that assigned by the International Bureau. 37 C.F.R. §2.85(d); TMEP §§1401.03(d), 1904.02(b). Further, in a multiple-class Section 66(a) application, classes may not be added or goods and/or services transferred from one existing class to another. 37 C.F.R. §2.85(d); TMEP §1401.03(d).

For assistance with identifying and classifying goods and services in trademark applications, please see the USPTO's online searchable [U.S. Acceptable Identification of Goods and Services Manual](#). *See* TMEP §1402.04.

In its March 6, 2024 and May 3, 2024 correspondence, applicant does not address the identification requirement.

MULTIPLE-CLASS APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The application identifies goods and/or services in more than one international class; therefore, applicant must satisfy all the requirements below for each international class based on Trademark Act Section 1(b):

- (1) **List the goods and/or services by their international class number** in consecutive numerical order, starting with the lowest numbered class.

- (2) **Submit a filing fee for each international class** not covered by the fee(s) already paid (view the [USPTO's current fee schedule](#)). The application identifies goods and/or services that are classified in at least three classes; however, applicant submitted a fee(s) sufficient for only two class(es). Applicant must either submit the filing fees for the classes not covered by the submitted fees or restrict the application to the number of classes covered by the fees already paid.

See 37 C.F.R. §2.86(a); TMEP §§1403.01, 1403.02(c).

For an overview of the requirements for a Section 1(b) multiple-class application and how to satisfy the requirements online using the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS) form, see the [Multiple-class Application webpage](#).

RESPONSE GUIDELINES

Response guidelines. For this application to proceed, applicant must explicitly address each refusal and/or requirement in this Office action. For a refusal, applicant may provide written arguments and evidence against the refusal, and may have other response options if specified above. For a requirement, applicant should set forth the changes or statements. Please see the [Responding to Office Actions](#) webpage for more information and tips on responding.

How to respond. File a [response form to this nonfinal Office action](#) or file a [request form for an extension of time to file a response](#).

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RESPONSE GUIDANCE

- **Missing the deadline for responding to this letter will cause the application to [abandon](#).** A response or extension request must be received by the USPTO before 11:59 p.m. **Eastern Time** of the last day of the response deadline. Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS) [system availability](#) could affect an applicant's ability to timely respond. For help resolving technical issues with TEAS, email TEAS@uspto.gov.
- **[Responses signed by an unauthorized party](#)** are not accepted and can **cause the application to [abandon](#)**. If applicant does not have an attorney, the response must be signed by the individual applicant, all joint applicants, or someone with [legal authority to bind a juristic applicant](#). If applicant has an attorney, the response must be signed by the attorney.
- If needed, **find [contact information for the supervisor](#)** of the office or unit listed in the signature block.

7290036

USA Flag

Word Mark	USA FLAG
Goods/Services	IC 041 US 100 101 107 Arranging and conducting of sports events; Arranging and conducting youth sports programs in the field of flag football; Sport camp services.
Register	SUPPLEMENTAL
Serial Number	97367238
Filing Date	2022-04-17T00:00:00
Original Filing Basis	1a
Current Filing Basis	1a
Registration Number	7290036
Date Registered	2024-01-23
Owner	(REGISTRANT) USA Flag LLC (LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY; TEXAS, USA); 209 Trailwood Dr, Allen, TEXAS 75002, UNITED STATES
Type of Mark	SERVICE MARK
Mark Drawing Code	(4) STANDARD CHARACTER MARK
Disclaimer	"FLAG"
Live Dead Indicator	LIVE
Status	REGISTERED
Attorney of Record	Mark D. Nielsen



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AGE-BASED DIVISIONS: FOOTBALL

Pop Warner offers TWO options for tackle football programs:

Option 1: Traditional age/weight schematic provides a uniform series of three basic years of age qualification for each level of play, with a fourth year of eligibility falling under more stringent weight restrictions (the "older/lighter" player).

Option 2: The age based schematic provides a 2-year age span for the younger divisions and a 3-year age span for the older divisions. No minimum or maximum weights.

** 2-point stance for all linemen must be used in the following levels of play: TM, MM, JP, PW, 6U, 7U, 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U.

** No kickoffs permitted in the following levels: TM, MM, JP, PW, 6U, 7U, 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U.

AGE-BASED: TACKLE FOOTBALL

Division	Ages	Inclusive Birthdays
(6U)	5-6	8/1/2017 - 7/31/2019
(7U)	6-7	8/1/2016 - 7/31/2018
(8U)	7-8	8/1/2015 - 7/31/2017
(9U)	7-8-9	8/1/2014 - 7/31/2017
(10U)	8-9-10	8/1/2013 - 7/31/2016
(11U)	9-10-11	8/1/2012 - 7/31/2015
(12U)	10-11-12	8/1/2011 - 7/31/2014
(13U)	11-12-13	8/1/2010 - 7/31/2013
(14U)	12-13-14	8/1/2009 - 7/31/2012

A child's age on July 31 is his/her age for the season.

Revised January 2024

FLAG FOOTBALL

Division	Age Range
Cat	5-6
Cub	5-7
Bobcat	8-10
Wildcat	11-13
Panther	14-16
Challenger	5-18





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Football Divisions

INSTRUCTIONAL DIVISIONS OF PLAY
UNLIMITED WEIGHT & WEIGHTED
NON- COMPETITIVE DIVISIONS

DIVISIONS OF PLAY	AGE CUTOFF AS OF 7/31/21	WEIGHT
6U Division	6 YEARS OLD OR YOUNGER AS OF 7/31/22	UNLIMITED WEIGHT
7U Division	7 YEARS OLD OR YOUNGER AS OF 7/31/22	UNLIMITED WEIGHT
8U Division	8 YEARS OLD OR YOUNGER AS OF 7/31/22	UNLIMITED WEIGHT
9U Division	9 YEARS OLD OR YOUNGER AS OF 7/31/22	UNLIMITED WEIGHT

*Instructional Division can be established/adjusted as you see fit. This chart is a guideline.

Pre-Game Weigh-in MUST be conducted for Tiny Mite and Mitey Mite Divisions prior to each game. PLEASE SEE TINY MITE & MITEY MITE GUIDELINES on MyAVF.com

ALL -AMERICAN DIVISIONS OF PLAY
AGE PROTECTED UNLIMITED WEIGHT
COMPETITIVE DIVISIONS

DIVISIONS OF PLAY	AGE CUTOFF AS OF 7/31/21	WEIGHT
6U Division D1 & D2	6 YEARS OLD OR YOUNGER AS OF 7/31/22	UNLIMITED WEIGHT
7U Division D1 & D2	7 YEARS OLD OR YOUNGER AS OF 7/31/22	UNLIMITED WEIGHT
8U Division D1 & D2	8 YEARS OLD OR YOUNGER AS OF 7/31/22	UNLIMITED WEIGHT
9U Division D1 & D2	9 YEARS OLD OR YOUNGER AS OF 7/31/22	UNLIMITED WEIGHT
10U Division D1 & D2	10 YEARS OLD OR YOUNGER AS OF 7/31/22	UNLIMITED WEIGHT
11U Division D1 & D2	11 YEARS OLD OR YOUNGER AS OF 7/31/22	UNLIMITED WEIGHT
12U Division D1 & D2	12 YEARS OLD OR YOUNGER AS OF 7/31/22	UNLIMITED WEIGHT
13U Division D1 & D2	13 YEARS OLD OR YOUNGER AS OF 7/31/22	UNLIMITED WEIGHT
14U Division D1 & D2	14 YEARS OLD OR YOUNGER AS OF 7/31/21	UNLIMITED WEIGHT
15U Division -LOCAL PLAY	15 YEARS OLD OR YOUNGER AS OF 7/31/22	UNLIMITED WEIGHT

AGE DIVISIONS CAN BE COMBINED

CONFERENCE ALL STAR DIVISIONS OF PLAY
AGE PROTECTED UNLIMITED WEIGHT
*AYF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY ONLY

DIVISIONS OF PLAY	AGE CUTOFF AS OF 7/31/21	WEIGHT
8U ALL STARS	8 YEARS OLD & UNDER AS OF 7/31/22	UNLIMITED WEIGHT
10U ALL STARS	10 YEARS OLD & UNDER AS OF 7/31/22	UNLIMITED WEIGHT
12U ALL STARS	12 YEARS OLD & UNDER AS OF 7/31/22	UNLIMITED WEIGHT
14U ALL STARS	14 YEARS OLD & UNDER AS OF 7/31/22	UNLIMITED WEIGHT
AGE DIVISIONS CAN BE COMBINED		

See Section 26 for details and to submit your team for consideration for participation in the National Championship tournament.

Conference All-Star Division

Conference All-Star teams are for those kids who will be graduating from AYF and entering their high school programs (8th Graders), have maintained a high standard of academic performance, and would like to have the opportunity to experience participating in an out-of-state Championship Tournament.

The Conference All-Star division gives those players in their last year of AYF (those 8th graders on teams did not qualify for a place at National Championship) a chance to compete on a national stage and create AYF memories to last a lifetime. This division also gives city-and-state assembled teams a chance to represent their conference in the national football community.

Each AYF National Conference has the opportunity to create a Conference All-Star team made up of players selected in the post season. Members should inquire with their Conference Commissioner for more details. The selection process is determined by the conference exclusively. To submit a team from play in the National Championships Conference All-Star Division, contact the AYF National Office.

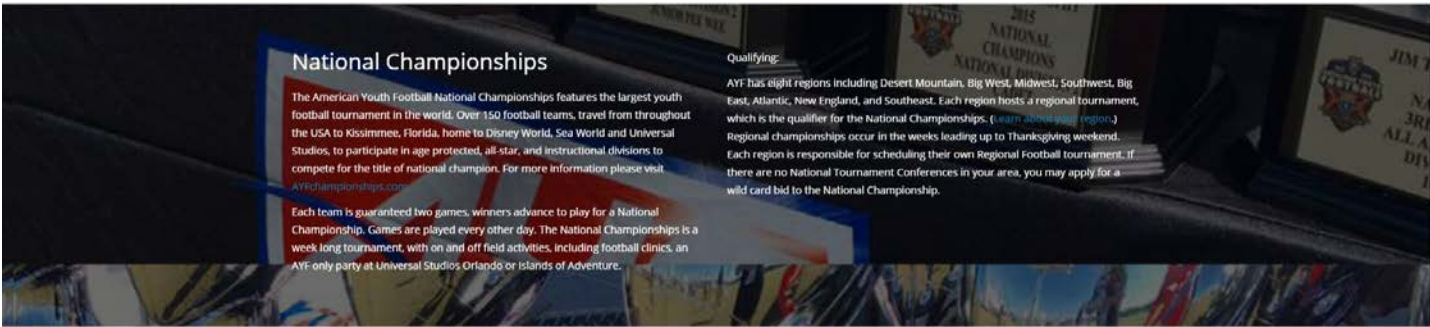
International Division

To raise the level of global cultural awareness among our young people, and to make American football and cheerleading a truly universal sport, AYF has made a commitment to help develop football and cheer internationally. The heart of this commitment is to increase the knowledge of and respect for other cultures by our young athletes. We also hope to make American football and cheerleading a truly global sport. By inviting and encouraging nations across the globe to join AYF, we will become an organization that integrates religions, cultures, ethnicities and languages via the universal appeal of football. Join our roster of international programs.

Inspiration Program

The Inspiration Program was developed to foster a confidence and sense of self-worth that extends beyond the gridiron and into the school, family and community. Children with cognitive and physical disabilities are given the opportunity to transform their disabilities into abilities. Players are able to exercise regularly to become stronger and healthier, while building a network of friends, support, and trust. No scores will be kept. Inspiration Program is for all ages and abilities.

There are no age, weight, or height restrictions. This is skill-based play. Find inspiration divisions and rules at MYAYF.com.



National Championships

The American Youth Football National Championships features the largest youth football tournament in the world. Over 150 football teams, travel from throughout the USA to Kissimmee, Florida, home to Disney World, Sea World and Universal Studios, to participate in age protected, all-star, and instructional divisions to compete for the title of national champion. For more information please visit AYFchampionships.com.

Each team is guaranteed two games, winners advance to play for a National Championship. Games are played every other day. The National Championships is a week long tournament, with on and off field activities, including football clinics, an AYF-only party at Universal Studios Orlando or Islands of Adventure.

Qualifying:

AYF has eight regions including Desert Mountain, Big West, Midwest, Southwest, Big East, Atlantic, New England, and Southeast. Each region hosts a regional tournament, which is the qualifier for the National Championships. [Learn about your region.](#) Regional championships occur in the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving weekend. Each region is responsible for scheduling their own Regional Football tournament. If there are no National Tournament Conferences in your area, you may apply for a wild card bid to the National Championship.

Our Sponsors

Contact our sponsor for special offers and pricing available only to AYF members. Log in to your account for contact information and offer codes.



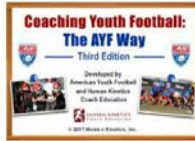
HELMETS

Training & Coaching Tools

These selected training & coaching resources enhance the football experience for coaches, players and administrators alike.



NFHS TACKLING COURSE
Tackling Course
Free tackling instruction course provided by the NFHS.



Coaching Youth Football
Published by Human Kinetics, Authored by Joe Galati
Book and Online course developed to teach fundamentals of coaching



CDC Concussion Course
How to identify concussions
Center for Disease Control Developed Program for detection of concussions in youth sports.



Light Helmets
Proper Fitting
Light offers video instruction on how to properly fit your football helmet.



8th Grade All-Star Game

An experience like no other, select AYF seniors are invited to play on youth all star football's largest stage.



AYF Camps & Combines

A camp like no other - learn techniques to improve your in game performance. Get coached up by pros and get noticed on the field.

AYF Camps & combines offer a unique mix of combine and position specific drills to each and every athlete on field. We start the day with athletic evaluations of each athlete while running them through all of the major drills from the NFL combine. Our athletic drills include the 40 Yard Dash, Pro-Shuttle, 3-Cone, and Vertical Leap. Next up is our position specific training covering seven of the most common football positions on field. Our position groups include Defensive Backs, Linebackers, Defensive Linemen, Offensive Linemen, Quarterbacks, Wide Receivers, and Running Backs.

Throughout the day our evaluators record film of each athlete performing their drills and enter their corresponding scores. Once finished, all of our athletes are encouraged to log into their AYF combine account to see how they compare to AYF athletes from around the world.







Search

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UIL Home > Athletics > Sports > Football > State Championships

FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Overview & Schedule

Brackets

Broadcast Information

Spectator Information

2023 State Program

Live Stats

Football Home

CHAMPIONSHIP LINKS

Football Media Information

TOURNAMENT PHOTOS & VIDEOS

State Championship Photos are available through MaxPreps

State Championship Videos are available on the UIL Online Store

PAST RESULTS

2022-2023

1A Six-Man Division 1 - **Westbrook**
 1A Six-Man Division 2 - **Benjamin**
 2A Division 1 - **Hawley**
 2A Division 2 - **Albany**
 3A Division 1 - **Franklin**
 3A Division 2 - **Gunter**

Football State Championships



1A - 6A - Wednesday, December 13th - Saturday, December 16th - 2023
 AT&T Stadium | Arlington, TX

2023-2024 Schedule

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

TICKETS \$20 - [Get Them](#)

Conference	Time	Teams	Result	Tournament Links
1A Six-Man Division 1	11:00 am	Westbrook (13-1) vs. Gordon (14-0)	Gordon (70-20)	Live Stats / Video / Boxscore
1A Six-Man Division 2	2:00 pm	Benjamin (14-0) vs. Oglesby (13-0)	Benjamin (82-34)	Live Stats / Video / Boxscore
2A Division 1	7:00 pm	Tolar (14-1) vs. Timpson (15-0)	Timpson (49-7)	Live Stats / Video / Boxscore

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

- 4A Division 1 - **China Spring**
 - 4A Division 2 - **Carthage**
 - 5A Division 1 - **Aledo**
 - 5A Division 2 - **Dallas South Oak Cliff**
 - 6A Division 1 - **Duncanville**
 - 6A Division 2 - **DeSoto**
- 2021-2022**
- 1A Six-Man Division 1 - **Westbrook**
 - 1A Six-Man Division 2 - **Strawn**
 - 2A Division 1 - **2A Division 2 - Lorena**
 - 3A Division 1 - **Franklin**
 - 4A Division 1 - **Stephenville**
 - 4A Division 2 - **China Spring**
 - 5A Division 1 - **Katy Pateo**
 - 5A Division 2 - **Dallas South Oak Cliff**
 - 6A Division 1 - **Galena Park North Shore**
 - 6A Division 2 - **Austin Westlake**
- [Full Archives](#)

TICKETS \$20

Conference	Time	Teams	Result	Tournament Links
2A Division 2	11:00 am	Albany (15-0) vs. Mart (15-0)	Albany (28-10)	Live Stats / Video / Boxscore
3A Division 1	3:00 pm	Malakoff (15-0) vs. Franklin (14-1)	Malakoff (14-7)	Live Stats / Video / Boxscore
3A Division 2	7:00 pm	Gunter (15-0) vs. El Maton Tidehaven (14-0)	Gunter (30-14)	Live Stats / Video / Boxscore

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

TICKETS \$20

Conference	Time	Teams	Result	Tournament Links
4A Division 1	11:00 am	Anna (14-1) vs. Tyler Chapel Hill (13-2)	Anna (26-0)	Live Stats / Video / Boxscore
4A Division 2	3:00 pm	Gilmer (12-3) vs. Belville (15-0)	Gilmer (28-26)	Live Stats / Video / Boxscore
5A Division 1	7:00 pm	Aledo (15-0) vs. Comal Smithson Valley (14-1)	Aledo (51-8)	Live Stats / Video / Boxscore

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

TICKETS \$20

Conference	Time	Teams	Result	Tournament Links
5A Division 2	11:00 am	Dallas South Oak Cliff (13-2) vs. Port Neches Groves (14-1)	Port Neches Groves (20-17)	Live Stats / Video / Boxscore
6A Division 1	3:00 pm	Duncanville (13-1) vs. Galena Park North Shore (15-0)	Duncanville (49-33)	Live Stats / Video / Boxscore
6A Division 2	7:00 pm	DeSoto (14-0) vs. Humble Summer Creek (14-1)	DeSoto (74-14)	Live Stats / Video / Boxscore

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The UIL and MaxPreps.com have teamed up to make results, records, team information and stats from UIL sports available using MaxPrep's sports information system.
LEARN HOW COACHES AND FANS CAN PARTICIPATE.



About Youth Football Learn the Game Parents Coaches NFL Way to Play Discover Events

Find a League



Youth and High School Football Rules

Discover the rules for football at all levels, from NFL FLAG to high school tackle football.

NFL FLAG

NFL FLAG, the league's official youth flag football program, assists youth and high school football players with developing transferable skills that set them up for success on and off the field.

With unmatched standards for player protection, education and league support, NFL FLAG leagues provide boys and girls with the opportunity to play an exciting, fast-paced, non-contact game.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Get involved in the game! [Find a league near you](#) →



[Visit the NFL FLAG rulebook](#)

Pop Warner

Pop Warner Little Scholars is a non-profit organization that promotes youth football programs for participants in several states and countries around the world.

More than 250,000 kids participated in Pop Warner-sanctioned football programs – and those numbers continue to grow. Pop Warner programs teach fundamental values, skills and knowledge that kids will use throughout their lives.

[Visit the Pop Warner rulebook](#)

American Youth Football (AYF)

High school football is an integral part of local communities and has become a Friday-night ritual across the country. The sport promotes inclusivity for all participants and offers various options to playing – such as 6-, 8-, and 9-player football.

As one of the few scholastic sports in America, high school coaches have a critical role in impacting the lives of participants through the fundamentals, life skills, and values learned from playing the game.

[Visit the American Youth Football rulebook](#)

University Interscholastic League (Texas High School Football)

The University Interscholastic League (UIL) provides leadership and guidance for Texas high school football rules and policies.

[Visit the University Interscholastic League football rulebook](#)



Related Articles

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ENTER DISTANCE IN MILES

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Questions? Call us! 1-800-645-3226

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JONATHAN ALLEN FOOTBALL CAMP FT. MEMBERS OF THE WASHINGTON COMMANDERS

All Position Football Camps > Virginia > Overview

- OVERVIEW
- TRAVEL INFO
- ACCOMMODATIONS
- TUITION
- SPONSORS
- SPECIALTY CLINIC

OVERVIEW



CAMP DATE & LOCATION

July 16 - 19, 2024
George Mason University
Fairfax, Virginia



Join Jonathan Allen & Members of the Washington Commanders at camp July 2024!

2024 Featured NFL Instructors:



INFO FOR ALL 4-DAY FOOTBALL CAMPS

- FEATURES
- AREAS OF INSTRUCTION
- SCHEDULE
- GENERAL INFO
- SPECIALTY CLINIC
- YOUTH FOOTBALL PROGRAM
- HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PROGRAM
- DAY PARTICIPANTS
- WHAT TO BRING
- DISCOUNTS
- CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY
- GRIDIRON ELITE
- TESTIMONIALS

Ready to Go? REGISTER ONLINE

Request MORE INFORMATION

ALL DATES, LOCATIONS AND PLAYERS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE



2024 featured instructors will be announced on social media (@smootoallicamps)

REGISTER NOW

2024 CAMP OVERVIEW:

- Camp includes offensive & defensive instruction for athletes age 7-18
- Athletes will rotate from offense to defense at their chosen position
- Athletes separated by age, position, and skill level
- Camp consists of up to 6 hours of instruction per day - a sample schedule may be found by clicking **HERE**
- Recruiting opportunities for high school athletes. More information can be found by clicking **HERE**
- Athlete to coach ratio will be roughly 10:1 at all times. Staff will consist of high school and college level coaches
- Camp will include a free t-shirt
- Camp requires helmet and shoulder pads - Rentals helmets and pads available during registration
- **ONLINE RENTAL OPTION WILL CLOSE ON JULY 2ND - QUANTITY LIMITED**
- Camp will include guest instruction by members of the Washington Commanders
- Photo and autograph opportunities with members of the Washington Commanders
- Overnight and day options available - all-you-can-eat meals included
- Supervision - all staff must pass mandatory background checks
- Camp store will be available throughout camp - **items are limited, purchase online before July 2nd to guarantee your purchase.**
- For an additional half-day - participants may also register for the **half-day specialty clinic** which features instruction for one offensive position OR one defensive position
- Click **HERE** for pricing, discounts, & payment plan information
- **Practices are open for all to watch!**

CLICK TO DOWNLOAD THE 2024 BROCHURE

OTHER OFFERINGS NEARBY:





Camp is a tremendous opportunity for a family member or coach and athlete to share something very precious and rare in today's society - time together! Volunteer as a counselor today! [Learn More below](#)

COUNSELORS NEEDED - PARENTS, CLICK TO LEARN MORE!



ABOUT SPORTS INTERNATIONAL:

Founded in 1983, we have the best teaching football programs in the nation having graduated over 110,000 athletes, many currently playing at the college level. This will be our 41st successful year of football instruction. If you are an experienced football player or just starting football, our football programs are an experience you will never forget!

Athletes learn from outstanding veteran college and/or high school coaches selected for their ability to coach and teach the game of football. At our programs, participants receive up to 6 hours of instruction each day. **Players will learn individual and team techniques on both offense and defense from the best instructors available.** The veteran coaching staff will ensure each player is placed in the appropriate group to allow coaches to progressively teach basic and advanced techniques to best benefit each group from **Youth to High School**. Sports International will help you develop your skills and take your game to the next level. **Learn even more about the features and benefits of our programs.**

For high school players, this is also an excellent opportunity to receive the best instruction available and to be seen by an outstanding lineup of college coaches. High school players aged 15-18 are eligible for the exclusive **Gridiron Elite**. A detailed information packet on each member of the Gridiron Elite will be sent to over 2,500 college football coaches to help each player receive recognition at the college level.

Do members of the Washington Commanders really coach at camp? Yes! Although we never guarantee how many will attend, last summer current and former NFL players attended the camp! We promise there will members of the Washington Commanders at camp this summer! Some of the current and former members of the Washington Commanders and other NFL players that have taught at this camp include:

[View Washington Commanders Instructors from Previous Years](#)

CLICK HERE TO RECEIVE 2024 CAMP UPDATES



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Additional Resources

- [View Full Descriptions of Summer Camp Options](#)
- [Parent Handbook](#)
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- [What to Bring](#)
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Contact Us

Please reach out with any questions:

✉ camps@thestjames.com
☎ 703-239-6846

**Tiered discount is applied per child at the time of purchase. Cannot be applied to previous purchases. Some exclusions apply.*

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The St. James offers the ultimate summer camp experience for your child. With a wide range of sports and activities, we cater to every child's interests and abilities, from beginners looking to make friends and have fun, to competitive athletes trying to level up their skills in the off-season. Sign up today and

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MEMBERS SAVE 20% ON CAMPS

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SPORTS & ADVENTURE CAMP

Every day looks different in Ultimate Sports and Adventure Camp! Campers have the opportunity to explore introductory team sports like soccer, basketball, and football, plus all of the other activities at TSJ, like ice skating, the ropes course, the waterpark, and more! This is the right camp for kids who are looking to stay active this summer, try new



activities, and make new friends.

**Full Day for Ages 5-8; Half-Day Available for Ages 4-7*

[ENROLL NOW](#)

SUPER, AWESOME & AMAZING CAMP

Join us for an action-packed experience like no other. Conquer challenging ropes courses, scale towering climbing structures, and make a splash at our waterpark! This camp offers a variety of heart-pounding activities, ensuring an unforgettable, adrenaline-fueled adventure for all ages. Get ready for an epic journey!

[ENROLL NOW](#)



ULTIMATE SPORTS CAMP

All sports, all day! The goal of this program is for your child to explore different interests they have, while receiving high-quality instruction. Each week focuses on a sports theme, such as Ultimate Water Camp, featuring swimming, water polo, diving, snorkeling, water volleyball, and more! International Sports Camp will introduce you to netball, cricket, rugby, soccer, badminton, and handball. Or try Sticks, Paddles, and Bats Camp or Track, Field, and Triathlon Camp. We have it all!

[ENROLL NOW](#)



SPECIALTY SPORT CAMPS

Our sport-specific camps are geared to age and skill level, providing expert instruction in one sport so that beginners can learn the fundamentals and competitive players can hone their skills to get ready



for their next season.

We offer:

Baseball | Basketball | Cheer | Dance | Field Hockey | Football | Golf | Gymnastics | Ice Hockey | Lacrosse | Skating | Soccer | Squash | Swimming | Volleyball

**Age groups vary by sport.*



COUNSELORS IN TRAINING PROGRAM

Help your child grow skills to become a leader! The Counselor in Training program gives campers ages 13-16 the opportunity to fine-tune leadership skills and build practical job experience while working with younger campers and having fun!

[ENROLL NOW](#)

MARYLAND WHIPSNAKES CAMPS

As the official youth experience partner of the Maryland Whipsnakes, we are offering an exciting opportunity across the DMV for beginner, intermediate, and experienced lacrosse players to train with their favorite PLL team!

[LEARN MORE](#)



CHELSEA FC CAMPS



Don't miss these exciting Chelsea FC experiences hosted across the DMV! We have a variety of options for beginners and more experienced soccer players to improve their skills.

[LEARN MORE](#)

OAKWOOD EDUCATIONAL CAMPS

Explore a summer of fun and learning at Oakwood Educational Summer Camps. Dive into hands-on STEAM activities with weekly themes like Prehistoric Times and Lost in Space. Located at Oakwood School in Northern Virginia, campers thrive academically, socially, and physically through multisensory learning, themed weeks, and sports activities. Ages 5-12 are grouped for personalized experiences. Plus, campers will enjoy field trips for athletic enrichment activities at The St. James.

[LEARN MORE](#)



iCODE CAMP

A TSI-based STEM Camp ran in partnership with iCode Academy, offering your child the variety of activities at The St. James, while also providing them a top-tier STEM and Coding program. From Minecraft and Roblox to website design and animation, these camps suit a variety of interests and make coding fun!

[ENROLL NOW](#)

WHY CHOOSE THE ST. JAMES?



Restaurant-Quality Lunch Included



State-of-the-Art Indoor Facilities



Before & After Care Available



Professional Coaching Staff to Help Athletes Excel



Transportation from Eastern Market, Georgetown & Navy Yard



Unrivaled Variety of Activity Options for Endless Fun

A Day at TSJ!

Campers will spend their days making moves and friends in our non-stop air-conditioned climate controlled venues – action, adventure, and athleticism await at every turn!

Sample Full-Day Schedule:

- > 8:30 AM-9:00 AM: Drop-Off
- > 9:00 AM-9:15 AM: Group Stretch/Warm Up
- > 9:15 AM-12:00 PM: Action-Packed Activities
- > 12:00 PM-12:45 PM: Lunch
- > 12:45 PM-2:00 PM: Activities Resume
- > 2:00 PM-3:00 PM: Games
- > 3:00 PM-3:30 PM: Cool Down & Pick Up



Additional Resources

- [View Full Descriptions of Summer Camp Options](#)
- [Parent Handbook](#)
- [Lunch Menu](#)
- [What to Bring](#)
- [View Refund Policy](#)

United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)

USPTO OFFICIAL NOTICE

Office Action (Official Letter) has issued
on May 11, 2024 for
U.S. Trademark Application Serial No. 97724960

A USPTO examining attorney has reviewed your trademark application and issued an Office action. You must respond to this Office action to avoid your application abandoning. Follow the steps below.

- (1) **[Read the Office action](#)**. This email is NOT the Office action.
- (2) **Respond to the Office action by the deadline** using the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS). Your response, or extension request, must be received by the USPTO on or before 11:59 p.m. **Eastern Time** of the last day of the response deadline. Otherwise, your application will be **[abandoned](#)**. See the Office action itself regarding how to respond.
- (3) **Direct general questions** about using USPTO electronic forms, the USPTO **[website](#)**, the application process, the status of your application, and whether there are outstanding deadlines to the **[Trademark Assistance Center \(TAC\)](#)**.

After reading the Office action, address any question(s) regarding the specific content to the USPTO examining attorney identified in the Office action.

GENERAL GUIDANCE

- **[Check the status of your application periodically](#)** in the **[Trademark Status & Document Retrieval \(TSDR\)](#)** database to avoid missing critical deadlines.
- **[Update your correspondence email address](#)** to ensure you receive important USPTO notices about your application.
- **[Beware of trademark-related scams](#)**. Protect yourself from people and companies that may try to take financial advantage of you. Private companies may call you and pretend to be the USPTO or may send you communications that resemble official USPTO documents to trick you. We will never request your credit card number or social security number over the phone. Verify the correspondence originated from us by using your serial number in our database, **[TSDR](#)**, to confirm that it appears under the “Documents” tab, or contact the **[Trademark Assistance Center](#)**.
- **[Hiring a U.S.-licensed attorney](#)**. If you do not have an attorney and are not required to

have one under the trademark rules, we encourage you to hire a U.S.-licensed attorney specializing in trademark law to help guide you through the registration process. The USPTO examining attorney is not your attorney and cannot give you legal advice, but rather works for and represents the USPTO in trademark matters.

7290036

USA Flag

Word Mark	USA FLAG
Goods/Services	IC 041 US 100 101 107 Arranging and conducting of sports events; Arranging and conducting youth sports programs in the field of flag football; Sport camp services.
Register	SUPPLEMENTAL
Serial Number	97367238
Filing Date	2022-04-17T00:00:00
Original Filing Basis	1a
Current Filing Basis	1a
Registration Number	7290036
Date Registered	2024-01-23
Owner	(REGISTRANT) USA Flag LLC (LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY; TEXAS, USA); 209 Trailwood Dr, Allen, TEXAS 75002, UNITED STATES
Type of Mark	SERVICE MARK
Mark Drawing Code	(4) STANDARD CHARACTER MARK
Disclaimer	"FLAG"
Live Dead Indicator	LIVE
Status	REGISTERED
Attorney of Record	Mark D. Nielsen



POP WARNER LITTLE SCHOLARS

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AGE-BASED DIVISIONS: FOOTBALL

Pop Warner offers TWO options for tackle football programs:

Option 1: Traditional age/weight schematic provides a uniform series of three basic years of age qualification for each level of play, with a fourth year of eligibility falling under more stringent weight restrictions (the "older/lighter" player).

Option 2: The age based schematic provides a 2-year age span for the younger divisions and a 3-year age span for the older divisions. No minimum or maximum weights.

** 2-point stance for all linemen must be used in the following levels of play: TM, MM, JP, PW, 6U, 7U, 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U.

** No kickoffs permitted in the following levels: TM, MM, JP, PW, 6U, 7U, 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U.

AGE-BASED: TACKLE FOOTBALL

Division	Ages	Inclusive Birthdays
(6U)	5-6	8/1/2017 - 7/31/2019
(7U)	6-7	8/1/2016 - 7/31/2018
(8U)	7-8	8/1/2015 - 7/31/2017
(9U)	7-8-9	8/1/2014 - 7/31/2017
(10U)	8-9-10	8/1/2013 - 7/31/2016
(11U)	9-10-11	8/1/2012 - 7/31/2015
(12U)	10-11-12	8/1/2011 - 7/31/2014
(13U)	11-12-13	8/1/2010 - 7/31/2013
(14U)	12-13-14	8/1/2009 - 7/31/2012

A child's age on July 31 is his/her age for the season.

Revised January 2024

FLAG FOOTBALL

Division	Age Range
Cat	5-6
Cub	5-7
Bobcat	8-10
Wildcat	11-13
Panther	14-16
Challenger	5-18



FOOTBALL MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Part of The Laboratory Center for Physical Activity and Health

Wilson LIGHT GC SADLER FLEXION

Football Divisions

USA Football offers a variety of programs for players of all ages and skill levels. From youth to college, we provide the resources and support you need to succeed on the field.

Division	Age Group	Level	Registration
USA Football	5-17	Youth	Open to all
USA Football	18-24	High School	Open to all
USA Football	25-34	College	Open to all

National Championships

Event	Location	Start Date	End Date
USA Football National Championships	Las Vegas, NV	July 15-17, 2024	July 15-17, 2024
USA Football National Championships	Las Vegas, NV	August 1-3, 2024	August 1-3, 2024
USA Football National Championships	Las Vegas, NV	August 15-17, 2024	August 15-17, 2024

Our Sponsors

Kismisssports Wilson LIGHT HELMETS SADLER

Training & Coaching Tools

Training Tools: USA Football Training Tools, USA Football Training Tools, USA Football Training Tools

Coaching Tools: USA Football Coaching Tools, USA Football Coaching Tools, USA Football Coaching Tools

GET FITTED: USA Football Get Fitted, USA Football Get Fitted, USA Football Get Fitted

AYF Camps & Clinics

AYF Football Combines



Search

ACADEMICS ATHLETICS MUSIC SPIRIT UNIFIED MEDIA POLICY

UIL Home Athletics Sports Football State Championships

FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Overview & Schedule

- Brackets
- Broadcast Information
- Spectator Information
- 2023 State Program
- Live Stats

Football Home

CHAMPIONSHIP LINKS

Football Media Information

TOURNAMENT PHOTOS & VIDEOS

State Championship Photos are available through MaxPreps
 State Championship Videos are available on the UIL Online Store

PAST RESULTS

2022-2023

- 1A Six-Man Division 1 - Westbrook
- 1A Six-Man Division 2 - Benjamin
- 2A Division 1 - Hawley
- 2A Division 2 - Albany
- 3A Division 1 - Franklin
- 3A Division 2 - Gunter
- 4A Division 1 - China
- Spring
- 4A Division 2 - Carthage
- 5A Division 1 - Aledo
- 5A Division 2 - Dallas South Oak Cliff
- 6A Division 1 - Duncanville
- 6A Division 2 - DeSoto

2021-2022

- 1A Six-Man Division 1 - Westbrook
- 1A Six-Man Division 2 - Strawn
- 2A Division 1 -
- 2A Division 2 -
- 3A Division 1 - Lorena
- 3A Division 2 - Franklin
- 4A Division 1 - Stephenville
- 4A Division 2 - China
- Spring
- 5A Division 1 - Katy Pantow
- 5A Division 2 - Dallas South Oak Cliff
- 6A Division 1 - Galena Park North Shore
- 6A Division 2 - Austin Westlake

» Full Archives

Football State Championships



1A - 6A - Wednesday, December 13th - Saturday, December 16th - 2023
 AT&T Stadium | Arlington, TX

2023-2024 Schedule

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

TICKETS \$20 - [SeatGuru](#)

Conference	Time	Teams	Result	Tournament Links
1A Six-Man Division 1	11:00 am	Westbrook (13-1) vs. Gordon (14-0)	Gordon (70-20)	Live Stats / Video / Boxscore
1A Six-Man Division 2	2:00 pm	Benjamin (14-0) vs. Oglesby (13-0)	Benjamin (82-34)	Live Stats / Video / Boxscore
2A Division 1	7:00 pm	Tolar (14-1) vs. Timpson (15-0)	Timpson (49-7)	Live Stats / Video / Boxscore

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

TICKETS \$20 - [SeatGuru](#)

Conference	Time	Teams	Result	Tournament Links
2A Division 2	11:00 am	Albany (15-0) vs. Mart (15-0)	Albany (28-10)	Live Stats / Video / Boxscore
3A Division 1	3:00 pm	Malakoff (15-0) vs. Franklin (14-1)	Malakoff (14-7)	Live Stats / Video / Boxscore
3A Division 2	7:00 pm	Gunter (15-0) vs. El Maton Tidehaven (14-0)	Gunter (30-14)	Live Stats / Video / Boxscore

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

TICKETS \$20 - [SeatGuru](#)

Conference	Time	Teams	Result	Tournament Links
4A Division 1	11:00 am	Anna (14-1) vs. Tyler Chapel Hill (13-2)	Anna (26-0)	Live Stats / Video / Boxscore
4A Division 2	3:00 pm	Gilmer (12-8) vs. Bellville (15-0)	Gilmer (28-26)	Live Stats / Video / Boxscore
5A Division 1	7:00 pm	Aledo (15-0) vs. Comal Smithson Valley (14-1)	Aledo (51-8)	Live Stats / Video / Boxscore

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

TICKETS \$20 - [SeatGuru](#)

Conference	Time	Teams	Result	Tournament Links
5A Division 2	11:00 am	Dallas South Oak Cliff (13-2) vs. Port Neches Groves (14-1)	Port Neches Groves (20-17)	Live Stats / Video / Boxscore
6A Division 1	3:00 pm	Duncanville (13-1) vs. Galena Park North Shore (15-0)	Duncanville (49-33)	Live Stats / Video / Boxscore
6A Division 2	7:00 pm	DeSoto (14-0) vs. Humble Summer Creek (14-1)	DeSoto (74-14)	Live Stats / Video / Boxscore

UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE

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1701 Manor Road, Austin, TX 78722
 Tel: (512) 471-5883 | Fax: (512) 471-5908

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The UIL and MaxPreps.com have teamed up to make results, records, team information and stats from UIL sports available using MaxPrep's sports information system.
 LEARN HOW COACHES AND FANS CAN PARTICIPATE.



About Youth Football [Learn the Game](#) [Parents](#) [Coaches](#) [NFL Way to Play](#) [Store](#) [Events](#)

[Find a League](#)



Youth and High School Football Rules

Discover the rules for football at all levels, from NFL FLAG to high school tackle football.

NFL FLAG

NFL FLAG, the league's official youth flag football program, assists youth and high school football players with developing transferable skills that set them up for success on and off the field.

With unmatched standards for player protection, education and league support, NFL FLAG leagues provide boys and girls with the opportunity to play an exciting, fast-paced, non-contact game.

[Visit the NFL FLAG rulebook](#)

Pop Warner

Pop Warner Little Scholars is a non-profit organization that promotes youth football programs for participants in several states and countries around the world.

More than 250,000 kids participated in Pop Warner-sanctioned football programs -- and those numbers continue to grow. Pop Warner programs teach fundamental values, skills and knowledge that kids will use throughout their lives.

[Visit the Pop Warner rulebook](#)

American Youth Football (AYF)

High school football is an integral part of local communities and has become a Friday night ritual across the country. The sport promotes inclusivity for all participants and offers various options to playing -- such as 6-, 8-, and 9-player football.

As one of the few scholastic sports in America, high school coaches have a critical role in impacting the lives of participants through the fundamentals, life skills, and values learned from playing the game.

[Visit the American Youth Football rulebook](#)

University Interscholastic League (Texas High School Football)

The University Interscholastic League (UIL) provides leadership and guidance for Texas high school football rules and policies.

[Visit the University Interscholastic League football rulebook](#)



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Get involved in the game! Find a league near you.

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January 05, 2023

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September 01, 2022

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Manning Brothers Join Forces with NFL Play Football
August 24, 2022

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[FLAG FOOTBALL GLOSSARY](#)

[YOUTH AND HIGH SCHOOL TACKLE FOOTBALL GLOSSARY](#)

Learn How NFL Teams Support Youth Football



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NIKE FOOTBALL SKILLS CAMPS IN WASHINGTON DC

WASHINGTON DC, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

FIND FOOTBALL CAMPS NEAR YOU:

CLINIC

CHOOSE SEASON

ENTER AGE

ENTER DISTANCE IN MILES

ENTER CITY STATE OR ZIPCODE* (REQUIRED)



Questions? Call us! 1-800-645-3226

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JONATHAN ALLEN FOOTBALL CAMP FT. MEMBERS OF THE WASHINGTON COMMANDERS

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[TRAVEL INFO](#)
[ACCOMMODATIONS](#)
[TARIFFS](#)
[SCHEDULES](#)
[SPECIALTY CLASSES](#)

OVERVIEW

CAMP DATE & LOCATION
July 10 - 15, 2024
George Mason University
Falls Church, Virginia

Join Jonathan Allen & Members of the Washington Commanders at camp July 2024!

REGISTER NOW

2024 CAMP OVERVIEW:

- Camp includes offensive & defensive instruction for athletes age 7-18
- Athletes will receive 1-on-1 instruction from elite NFL coaches
- Athletes supported by age, position, and skill level
- Camp consists of six 1-hour instructional sessions per day, a complete workout may be found by clicking [HERE](#)
- Recruiting opportunities for high school athletes. More information can be found by clicking [HERE](#)
- Athletes to coach rate will be roughly 10:1 at all times. Staff will consist of high school and college-level coaches
- Camp will include a free t-shirt
- Camp requires helmet and shoulder pads. Rentals, helmets, and pads available during registration
- ONLINE RENTAL OPTION WILL CLOSE ON JULY 2ND - QUANTITY LIMITED**
- Camp will include game film reviews by members of the Washington Commanders
- Photo and autograph opportunities with members of the Washington Commanders
- Overnight and day sessions available - all you can eat meals included
- Equipment - all high school gear available for rental on-site
- Camp stores will be available throughout camp. **Items are limited, purchase online before July 2nd to guarantee your purchase.**

For an additional half day - participants may also register for the **half-day specialty clinic** which features instruction for non-athletic position athletes and non-athletes

- Click [HERE](#) for pricing, discounts, & payment plan information
- Positions are open for all to watch!

CLICK TO DOWNLOAD THE 2024 BROCHURE

OTHER OFFERINGS NEARBY

Camp is a community opportunity for a family member to coach and provide to those something very precious and rare to their family - love together! (children as a community today) - Lamar Hunt coach

COUNSELORS NEEDED - PARENTS, CLICK TO LEARN MORE!

ABOUT SPORTS INTERNATIONAL:

Founded in 1982, we have the best training football programs in the nation having graduated over 100,000 athletes, many currently playing at the college level. This will be our 42nd successful year of football instruction. If you are an experienced football player or just starting football, our football programs are an experience you will never forget!

Athletes have been outstanding senior college and high school coaches selected for their ability to coach and teach the game of football. As our programs continue to evolve over the 42 years of instruction each day. **Players will learn individual and team techniques on both offense and defense from the best coaches available.** The entire coaching staff around each player is placed in the appropriate group to allow coaches to progressively teach fundamentals and advanced techniques at the level each group from youth to high school, college level and into our division one level and use your talent to the next level. [Learn even more about the features and benefits of our programs.](#)

For high school players, this is also an excellent opportunity to receive the best instruction available and to be seen by an outstanding group of college coaches. High school players aged 17-18 are eligible for the exclusive **Golden Era**. A limited information packet will be available at the Golden Era will be sent to over 2,000 college football coaches to help our players receive attention at the college level.

The members of the Washington Commanders really coach at camp? Not! Although we never guarantee how many will attend, high school players and former NFL players attend the camp for various reasons that will members of the Washington Commanders at camp this summer. Some of the current and former members of the Washington Commanders and other NFL players that have taught at this camp include:

[View Washington Commanders Instructors from Previous Years!](#)

CLICK HERE TO RECEIVE 2024 CAMP UPDATES

FEATURES

- AREAS OF INSTRUCTION AVAILABLE
- GENERAL INFO
- INSTRUCTORS CLINIC
- YOUTH FOOTBALL PROGRAM
- HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PROGRAM
- OUR FACILITIES
- WHAT TO BRING
- DISCOUNTS
- CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY
- GRANDS ELITE
- TESTIMONIALS

Ready to GO?

REGISTER ONLINE

Request MORE INFORMATION

ALL HOTEL, TRAVEL AND FLIGHTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

WHY WE ARE THE BEST

- Awarded
- Post-Player & Coachers (NFL)
- Content On Video Network

COACHING & INSTRUCTORS

- All Position Camps
- Facing, Reeling & 3rd Academies
- Linebacker Academies

ACCOMMODATIONS

- Detailed Brochure
- Hospital Near By
- Camp Store
- Equipment

REGISTER HERE

- Register Here
- Prices
- Find Training Near Me
- Join Our Waiting List

f t s i

Live Chat

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THE ST. JAMES

THE BEST SUMMER CAMP IN THE DMV

MEMBERS SAVE 20% ON CAMPS

WEEK 1 SPORTS & ADVENTURE CAMP

WEEK 2 SUPER AWESOME & AMAZING CAMP

WEEK 3 ULTIMATE SPORTS CAMP

WEEK 4 SPECIALTY SPORT CAMPS

WEEK 5 COUNSELORS IN TRAINING PROGRAM

WEEK 6 MARYLAND WHIPSNAKES CAMPS

WEEK 7 CHELSEA FC CAMPS

WEEK 8 OAKWOOD EDUCATIONAL CAMPS

WEEK 9 ICODE CAMP

WHY CHOOSE THE ST. JAMES?

- Restaurant Quality Lunch Included
- Before & After Care Available
- Transportation From Business Park, Designated & Very Hard
- State of the Art Indoor Facilities
- Professional Coaching Staff to help achieve goals!
- Unlimited Variety of Activity Options for Endless Fun

A Day at TS!

Example Full Day Schedule:

- 8:00 AM - 8:30 AM Registration
- 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM Breakfast
- 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Activity
- 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM Lunch
- 12:30 PM - 3:00 PM Activity
- 3:00 PM - 3:30 PM Snacks
- 3:30 PM - 4:00 PM Activity
- 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM Departure

Additional Resources

Useful Resources for Parents:

- Parent Handbook
- FAQ
- Privacy Policy
- Terms of Service

Trademark Snap Shot Amendment & Mail Processing Stylesheet

(Table presents the data on Amendment & Mail Processing Complete)

OVERVIEW

SERIAL NUMBER	97724960	FILING DATE	12/20/2022
REG NUMBER	0000000	REG DATE	N/A
REGISTER	SUPPLEMENTAL	MARK TYPE	SERVICE MARK
INTL REG #	N/A	INTL REG DATE	N/A
TM ATTORNEY	PAYABYAB, EDWARD TAN	L.O. ASSIGNED	O10-NOT FOUND

PUB INFORMATION

RUN DATE	08/12/2024		
PUB DATE	N/A		
STATUS	661-RESPONSE AFTER NON-FINAL ACTION - ENTERED		
STATUS DATE	08/12/2024		
LITERAL MARK ELEMENT	USA FLAG		
DATE ABANDONED	N/A	DATE CANCELLED	N/A
SECTION 2F	YES	SECTION 2F IN PART	NO
SECTION 8	NO	SECTION 8 IN PART	NO
SECTION 15	NO	REPub 12C	N/A
RENEWAL FILED	NO	RENEWAL DATE	N/A
DATE AMEND REG	N/A		

FILING BASIS

FILED BASIS		CURRENT BASIS		AMENDED BASIS	
1 (a)	NO	1 (a)	YES	1 (a)	NO
1 (b)	YES	1 (b)	NO	1 (b)	NO
44D	NO	44D	NO	44D	NO
44E	NO	44E	NO	44E	NO
66A	NO	66A	NO		
NO BASIS	NO	NO BASIS	NO		

MARK DATA

STANDARD CHARACTER MARK	YES
LITERAL MARK ELEMENT	USA FLAG
MARK DRAWING CODE	4-STANDARD CHARACTER MARK
COLOR DRAWING FLAG	NO

CURRENT OWNER INFORMATION

PARTY TYPE	10-ORIGINAL APPLICANT
------------	-----------------------

NAME	USA Football, Inc.
ADDRESS	45 N. Pennsylvania Street Suite 800 Indianapolis, IN 46204
ENTITY	99-non-profit corporation
CITIZENSHIP	VIRGINIA

GOODS AND SERVICES

INTERNATIONAL CLASS	041
DESCRIPTION TEXT	Educational services, namely, conducting programs, classes, seminars, conferences, workshops and exhibitions, displays, and interactive exhibits on football in the field of player safety, coaching education, officiating education, and proper techniques, and the distribution of educational materials in connection therewith, and the development and distribution of educational materials in the nature of guides in hard copy and electronic format, booklets that contain model rules in hard copy and electronic format, and printed educational materials all in connection therewith on the same topics; sports instruction services related to football; organizing, conducting and operating a football league, football tournaments, football games, and football exhibitions for entertainment purposes; sports training in the nature of player development, performance training, and player talent and ability evaluation services related to the game of football
INTERNATIONAL CLASS	042
DESCRIPTION TEXT	Development of voluntary standards in the form of model rules for football

GOODS AND SERVICES CLASSIFICATION

INTERNATIONAL CLASS	041	FIRST USE DATE	08/05/2024	FIRST USE IN COMMERCE DATE	08/05/2024	CLASS STATUS	6-ACTIVE
INTERNATIONAL CLASS	042	FIRST USE DATE	08/08/2024	FIRST USE IN COMMERCE DATE	08/08/2024	CLASS STATUS	6-ACTIVE

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION/STATEMENTS

CHANGE IN REGISTRATION	YES
OWNER OF US REG NOS	3182472 3241236 5172678

PROSECUTION HISTORY

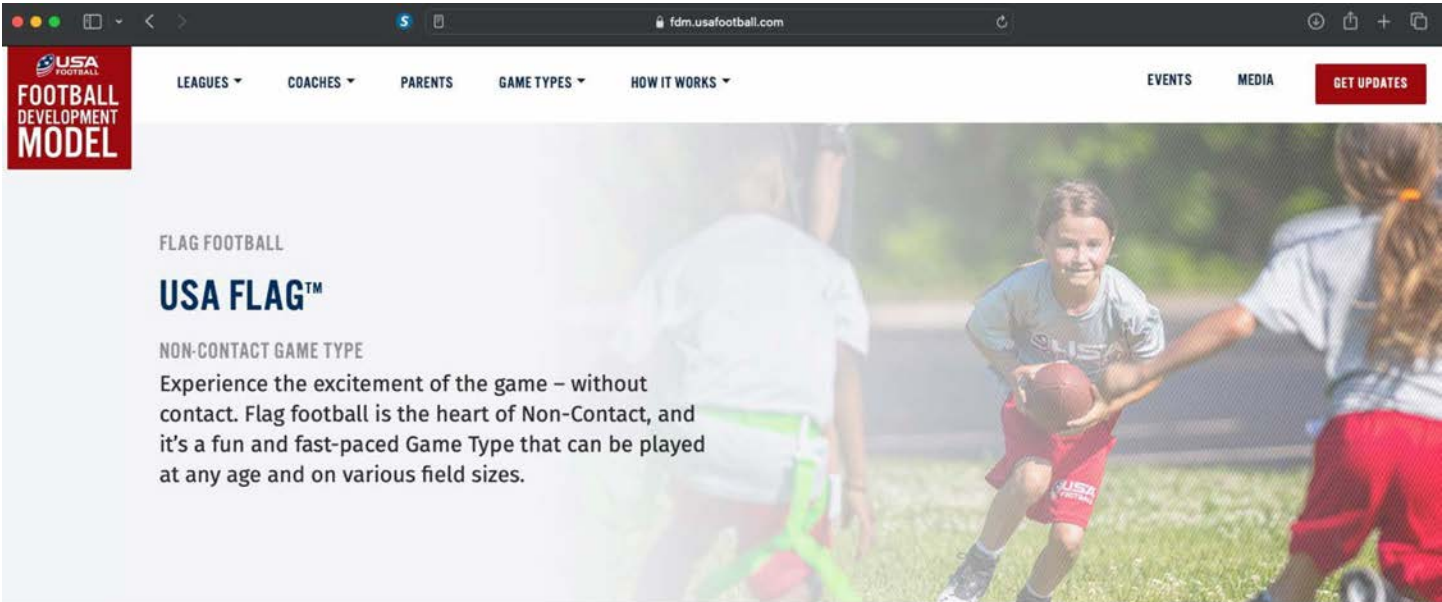
DATE	ENT CD	ENT TYPE	DESCRIPTION	ENT NUM
08/12/2024	TEME	I	TEAS/EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE ENTERED	025
08/12/2024	CRFA	I	CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN LAW OFFICE	024
08/12/2024	TROA	I	TEAS RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION RECEIVED	023
05/11/2024	GNRN	O	NOTIFICATION OF NON-FINAL ACTION E-MAILED	022
05/11/2024	GNRT	F	NON-FINAL ACTION E-MAILED	021
05/11/2024	CNRT	R	NON-FINAL ACTION WRITTEN	020
05/03/2024	EAAU	I	TEAS AMENDMENT OF USE RECEIVED	019
05/03/2024	PARI	I	TEAS VOLUNTARY AMENDMENT RECEIVED	018
03/06/2024	TEME	I	TEAS/EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE ENTERED	017
03/06/2024	CRFA	I	CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN LAW OFFICE	016

03/06/2024	TROA	I	TEAS RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION RECEIVED	015
02/21/2024	EWAF	I	TEAS WITHDRAWAL OF ATTORNEY RECEIVED-FIRM RETAINS	014
02/21/2024	TCCA	I	TEAS CHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED	013
02/21/2024	ARAA	I	ATTORNEY/DOM.REP.REVOKED AND/OR APPOINTED	012
02/21/2024	REAP	I	TEAS REVOKE/APP/CHANGE ADDR OF ATTY/DOM REP RECEIVED	011
02/21/2024	CHAN	I	APPLICANT/CORRESPONDENCE CHANGES (NON-RESPONSIVE) ENTERED	010
02/21/2024	COAR	I	TEAS CHANGE OF OWNER ADDRESS RECEIVED	009
12/06/2023	XELG	O	APPLICATION EXTENSION GRANTED/RECEIPT PROVIDED	008
12/06/2023	XELR	I	APPLICATION EXTENSION TO RESPONSE PERIOD - RECEIVED	007
09/07/2023	GNRN	O	NOTIFICATION OF NON-FINAL ACTION E-MAILED	006
09/07/2023	GNRT	F	NON-FINAL ACTION E-MAILED	005
09/07/2023	CNRT	R	NON-FINAL ACTION WRITTEN	004
08/29/2023	DOCK	D	ASSIGNED TO EXAMINER	003
01/17/2023	NWOS	I	NEW APPLICATION OFFICE SUPPLIED DATA ENTERED	002
12/23/2022	NWAP	I	NEW APPLICATION ENTERED	001

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE INFORMATION

ATTORNEY	Amie Peele
CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS	Amie Peele Peele Law Group, PC 49 Boone Village, Box 299 Zionsville, IN 46077
DOMESTIC REPRESENTATIVE	NONE

USA FLAG



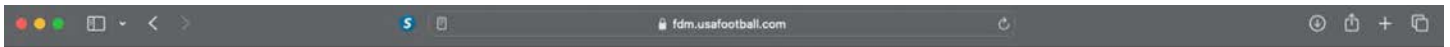
The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL fdm.usafootball.com. The navigation menu includes LEAGUES, COACHES, PARENTS, GAME TYPES, HOW IT WORKS, EVENTS, MEDIA, and a GET UPDATES button. The main content area features a background image of children playing flag football. On the left, the text reads: FLAG FOOTBALL, USA FLAG™, and NON-CONTACT GAME TYPE. Below this, a paragraph states: Experience the excitement of the game – without contact. Flag football is the heart of Non-Contact, and it's a fun and fast-paced Game Type that can be played at any age and on various field sizes.

FLAG FOOTBALL

USA FLAG™

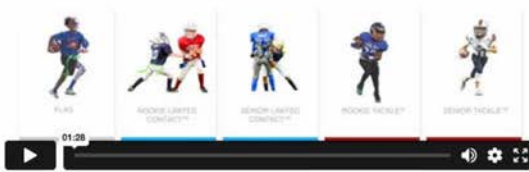
NON-CONTACT GAME TYPE

Experience the excitement of the game – without contact. Flag football is the heart of Non-Contact, and it's a fun and fast-paced Game Type that can be played at any age and on various field sizes.



GAME TYPES

NON-CONTACT | LIMITED CONTACT | CONTACT



FUN / FAST / FUNDAMENTALS

In the Football Development Model, flag football and other non-contact Game Types are the first step in the Game Type progression.

Flag is a great way to introduce foundational football skills players will use in all versions of the game like contact, as well as other sports. Some athletes decide to stay in flag forever, while others progress to contact versions of the game. The goal is to set them up for success for wherever their football journey takes them.

USA FLAG™

NON-CONTACT BRINGS NEW PEOPLE TO FOOTBALL USA FOOTBALL'S ROLE & THE GROWTH OF THE GAME

As football's governing body, USA Football is the sole US member of the International Federation of American Football (IFAF). We are recognized by the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee, and we are proud to join IFAF and the NFL to advocate for flag football's inclusion in the 2028 Olympic Games. We create and deliver best-in-class resources, standards and experiences for every football family member to pursue and enjoy America's favorite sport, from youth to elite U.S. National Teams.



USA FLAG™

NON-CONTACT BRINGS NEW PEOPLE TO FOOTBALL

USA FOOTBALL'S ROLE & THE GROWTH OF THE GAME

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<p>ON THE RISE</p> <p>25% INCREASE</p> <p>in flag participation since 2015 – an increase of 300,000 players</p>	<p>PARENTS SPEND</p> <p>62% LESS</p> <p>money on flag football than the average sport like baseball, basketball and soccer</p>	<p>GIRL POWER</p> <p>5 TIMES</p> <p>more girls play flag than tackle - showing the excitement they have for America's favorite sport</p>	<p>MORE DIVERSITY</p> <p>46% OF PLAYERS</p> <p>in flag are minorities, making this a great way to connect with everyone in your community</p>
---	--	--	---

Source:
USA Football 2019 Participation Report

Source:
2019 Aspen Institute Survey via ESPN

Source:
USA Football 2019 Participation Report

Source:
USA Football 2019 Participation Report



FOR FLAG FOOTBALL ORGANIZATIONS
TOOLS TO START & SCALE

We're here to help your whole flag football program run smooth with the free resources below.
Keep reading to see what you can unlock when you enroll your organization with USA Football.

IFAF FIVES RULES

Learn more about the rules the U.S. Flag National Teams play by for the World Games and international competition.

[Access the Rules](#)

USA FLAG™ FIVES

Learn more about 5v5 rules based on IFAF's official flag rules and designed for age-appropriate league or tournament play in the United States.

[Access the Rules](#)

USA FLAG™ SEVENS

Learn more about 7v7 rules based on IFAF's official flag rules and designed for age-appropriate league or tournament play in the United States.

[Access the Rules](#)

THE ONE FLAG CHAMPIONSHIP & SERIES

Squad up and compete in flag football's premier tournament series and championship – The One.

[Learn More](#)

[View Tournament Rulebook](#)

USA FLAG™ NON-CONTACT RESOURCE GUIDE

4 QUICK FLAG STATS

- ↑25%** Increase in flag participation in the last 5 years
- 5x** More girls are playing flag football
- ↓62%** Reduction in injuries compared to tackle football
- 46%** Increase in participation in the last 5 years



DOWNLOAD NOW

COMMISSIONER Q&A: ADDING NON-CONTACT


READY TO ADD NON-CONTACT TO YOUR LEAGUE?



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USA Football helps organizations get resources and tools for this fast growing game type that fits the Football Development Model.

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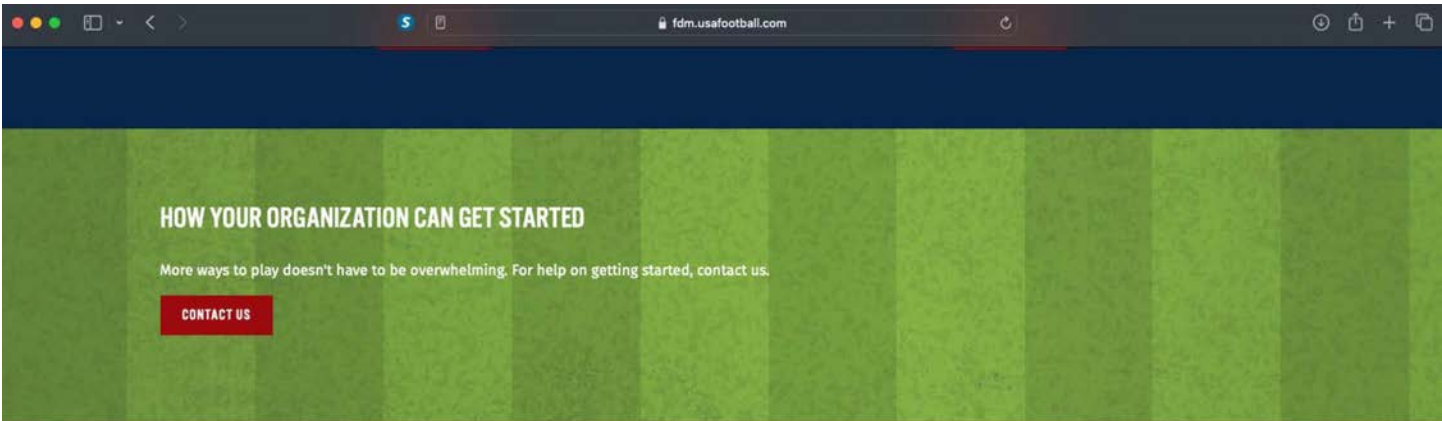
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USA FLAG™ 7'S
RULEBOOK

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Definitions

BOUNDARY LINES	The outer perimeter lines around the field. They include the sidelines and back of the end zone lines.
LINE OF SCRIMMAGE	(LOS) an imaginary line running through the point of the football and across the width of the field.
LINE-TO-GAIN	The line the offense must pass to get a first down or score.
RUSH LINE	An imaginary line running across the width of the field seven yards (into the defensive side) from the line of scrimmage.
OFFENSE	The team with possession of the ball.
DEFENSE	The team opposing the offense to prevent it from advancing the ball.
PASSER	The offensive player that throws the ball and may or may not be the quarterback.
BLITZER	The Identified Defensive Player that is at least 7 yards from the line of scrimmage assigned to rush the quarterback to prevent him/ her from passing the ball by pulling his/her flags or by blocking the pass.
RUSHER	Any player who legally crosses the line of scrimmage.
DOWNS (1-2-3-4)	The offensive team has four attempts or "downs" to advance the ball. It must cross the line to gain to get another set of downs or to score.
LIVE BALL	Refers to the period of time that the play is in action. Generally used in regard to penalties. Live ball penalties are considered part of the play and must be enforced before the down is considered complete.
DEAD BALL	Refers to the period of time immediately before or after a play.
WHISTLE	Sound made by an official using a whistle that signifies the end of the play or a stop in the action for reporting a penalty, a timeout, halftime or the end of the game.
INADVERTENT WHISTLE	Official's whistle that is performed in error.
CHARGING	An illegal movement of the ball-carrier directly at a defensive player who has established position on the field. This includes lowering the head or initiating contact with a shoulder, forearm or the chest.
FLAG GUARDING	An illegal act by the ball-carrier to prevent a defender from pulling the ball-carrier's flags by stiff arm, lowering elbow or head or by blocking access to the runner's flags with a hand or arm or ball.
SHOVEL PASS	A legal pitch attempted behind the line of scrimmage.
UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT	A rude, confrontational, physical or offensive behavior or language.
RIGHT OF PLACE (ROP)	Right of place is given to any stationary players who maintains normal player posture and make no movements in any horizontal direction to change their position. A purely vertical movement, including a lift from the ground, in order to throw or catch a pass does not mean that a previously established right of place has been lost. Right of place supersedes right of way when determining who is guilty of a foul.
RIGHT OF WAY	Right of way is given to a player according to rule who has established a direction of movement in a regular manner and does not alter that direction. A player with right of way has a higher privilege when determining who is guilty of a foul than all other players except those with right of place.

USA FLAG™ 7'S RULEBOOK

RULE 1: GAME, FIELD, BALL, AND EQUIPMENT

SECTION 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Coin Toss

- a. At the start of each game, captains from both teams meet at midfield for the coin toss to determine who starts with the ball. The visiting team calls the toss.
- b. The winner of the coin toss has the choice of offense or defense. The loser of the coin toss has the choice of direction. Possession changes to start the second half to the team that started the game on defense. Teams change direction after the first half.

Article 2. Possession and Change of Possession

- a. The offensive team takes possession of the ball at its 5-yard line and has four plays to cross midfield. Once a team crosses midfield, it has four plays to score a touchdown. Crossing midfield is the only opportunity for an offense to gain a first down within a single possession.
- b. If the offense fails to score, the ball changes possession and the new offensive team starts its drive on its own 5-yard line.
- c. If the offensive team fails to cross midfield, possession of the ball changes and the opposition starts its drive from its own 5-yard line.
- d. If the defense intercepts the ball, a defensive player can attempt to return it until down or out of bounds.
- e. All possession changes, except interceptions, start on the offense's 5-yard line.

Article 3. Coaches

- a. USA Football recommends 2-3 coaches per team.
- b. At the Youth level, one coach is allowed on the field to call plays and direct players according to need. Once the quarterback begins his or her cadence, however, coaches can no longer speak and must be behind the deepest offensive and defensive players and out of the action.
- c. At the Youth level, Coaches can assist in the alignment of their players to facilitate a fast-paced game, but coaches on the field may not provide extra instruction or make audibles to play calls once the huddle is broken. Coaches on the sidelines can provide this information to players on the field.
- d. For adult and junior games no coaches are allowed on the field

SECTION 2: ROSTERS

Article 1: Team Rosters

Teams must consist of at least seven players with a recommended maximum of 15 players.

NOTE: FLEXIBILITY IS GRANTED FOR ROSTER SIZED AT THE DISCRETION OF TOURNAMENT OPERATORS.

Article 2: Uniform Colors

Home teams wear dark color jerseys. Visiting teams wear light color jerseys.

Article 3: On Field Participants

Teams must start games with a minimum of seven players. In the event of an injury, a team with insufficient substitute players may play with six players on the field but no fewer than four.

SECTION 3: POSITIONS

Article 1. Offense

The seven players on offense consist of a center, a quarterback and five eligible receivers.

- a. **Center.** This player is responsible for snapping the ball and is eligible to go out for passes, once they have snapped the ball.
- b. **Quarterback.** The quarterback is the offensive player who first gets possession of the ball after the snap. The quarterback cannot directly run with the ball across the line of scrimmage without first handing the ball off to a teammate and then receiving a second handoff back or receiving a pass.
- c. **Receiver/back.** Any player who does not initiate the snap nor receive the snap is considered an eligible receiver/back and can either receive a handoff or catch a pass.

NOTE: LEAGUES MAY CONSIDER WAIVING THE RESTRICTION ON LINING WITHIN THREE YARDS OF THE CENTER FOR YOUNGER AGE GROUPS.

Article 2. Defense

- a. **Blitzer.** A defender who lines up with all parts of their body more than 7 yards away from the scrimmage line at the snap can establish themselves as a blitzer with a legal signal by raising one hand clearly above the head at least during the last second prior to the snap. This grants them right of way which supersedes the general right of way for the offense, because they are pursuing the runner. The rush of a blitzer shall be immediately after the snap, quick and straight towards the point where the quarterback receives the snap in order to retain the right of way. If a blitzer is rushing late, slowly, towards a different spot, changing direction during the rush or just does not rush the quarterback, the player loses the right of way but still can participate as any other defender. If a blitzer is forced to change direction due to an offensive foul (shielding), the blitzer will not lose their right of way for a further direct rush to the point where quarterback received the snap.
- b. **Rusher.** A defender who does not give a signal and legally crosses the line of scrimmage. Following a legal handoff, any member of the defense can cross the line of scrimmage.

SECTION 4. EQUIPMENT

Article 1: Flag Belts

The organization provides each player with an official flag belt and team jersey. Teams will use footballs provided by their league. See Flag Specifications section for more details.

Article 2: Footwear

Players must wear rubber soled shoes. Cleats may not be allowed at certain locations. Cleats with exposed metal are never allowed and must be removed.

Article 3: Additional Equipment

Players may tape their forearms, hands and fingers. Players may wear gloves, elbow pads and knee pads. Braces with exposed metal are not allowed. Players must remove any jewelry and head wear (acceptable head wear is determined by league officials).

Article 4: Uniform Standards

Players' jerseys must be tucked into shorts or pants if they hang below the belt line.

We recommend players wear shorts or pants that do not have pockets. Shorts or pants with belt loops or pockets must be taped. Games will not be delayed for a player to tape up pockets.

- a. **Flag belts cannot be the same color as shorts or pants.**

Article 5: Mouthguards

All players must wear mouth guards while on the playing field.

SECTION 5. THE BALL

The ball shall be made of four panels of pebble-grained leather in natural tan color with eight equally spaced lacings and new or nearly new with no alterations. The ball shall be an ellipsoid spheroid of regulation dimensions and inflated to a pressure of between 12.5 and 13.5 psi (0.85 – 0.95 bar).

Article 1. Types of Football

Dimensions	Adult	Junior	Youth
Length	11.00 to 11.50 inches (27.9 – 29.2 cm)	10.50 to 11.00 inches (26.7 – 27.9 cm)	10.25 to 10.75 inches (26.0 – 27.3 cm)
Length circumference	27.00 to 28.00 inches (68.6 – 71.1 cm)	26.00 to 27.00 inches (66.0 – 68.6 cm)	25.00 to 26.00 inches (63.5 – 66.0 cm)
Diameter	6.25 to 6.75 inches (15.9 – 17.2 cm)	6.00 to 6.50 inches (15.2 – 16.5 cm)	5.75 to 6.25 inches (14.6 – 15.9 cm)
Cross circumference	20.00 to 21.00 inches (50.8 – 53.3 cm)	19.00 to 20.00 inches (48.3 – 50.8 cm)	18.00 to 19.00 inches (45.7 – 48.3 cm)
Weight	14 to 15 ounces (400 – 425 g)	12 to 13 ounces (340 – 370 g)	11 to 12 ounces (310 – 340 g)

Article 2. Sizes

- a. For men's or co-ed games, adult size balls shall be used.
- b. For women's games, use Youth Ball dimensions. (example: USA Football Youth or Wilson TDY)
- c. For junior games aged under-17, youth sized balls shall be used. (example: USA Football Youth or Wilson TDY)
- d. For youth games aged 9-13, junior size balls shall be used. Balls need not be leather. (example: USA Football Junior or Wilson TDJ)
- e. For youth games aged under-8, peewee size balls shall be used. Balls need not be leather. (example USA Football peewee)

SECTION 6. FLAG SPECIFICATIONS**Article 1. General Provisions**

Players of a team shall wear tightly fixed flag belts with pop-sockets and 2 identical flags. Every effort shall be made to keep one flag on each hip of the player. The sockets shall be placed facing outwards and downwards. The flags shall be clearly visible, hang down freely and must not be covered in any way by the player's uniform and all colors must be contrasting with all colors on the pants. The flags and sockets may not be greased, glued or altered in any way. Any player, who deliberately manipulate their flags shall be disqualified. The flags and sockets each shall be made of the same material in the same color without sharp edges.

Article 2. Sizes

Dimensions	Measurements
The flags shall measure	2 inches (5 cm) x 15 inches (38 cm)
Flag length from socket	15 to 16 inches (38.1 – 0.6 cm).
Flag width:	1.9 to 2.1 inches (4.8 – 5.3 cm).
Brand or logo	On each flag one single color brand or logo in the upper quarter is allowed with a maximum size of 2x3 inches (5 x 7.5 cm).
Flag thickness:	maximum 0.03 inches (0.75 mm).
Flag weight	minim-um 3.5 ounces (100 g).

SECTION 7. THE FIELD**Article 1: Field Dimensions**

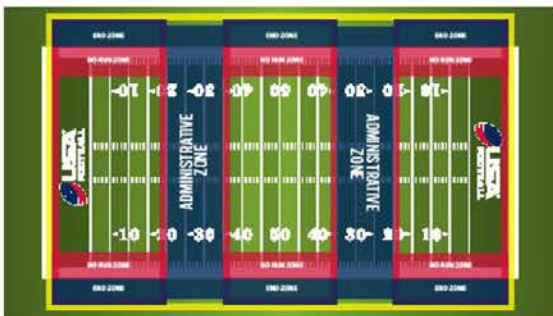
Field dimensions are 30 X 70 yards in total with two 10- yard end zones and a 50 yard field of play. No-run zones are only before the goal line. However, some locations may use smaller fields due to available field space.

Article 2: No-Run Zone's

A No-run zone is in place to prevent teams from conducting run plays. While in the No-run zones (a 5-yard imaginary zone before the end zone), teams cannot run the ball in any fashion. All plays must be pass plays, even with a handoff.

USA FOOTBALL RECOMMENDATION: THE NO-RUN ZONE MAY BE REMOVED FOR PLAYERS WHO ARE STILL LEARNING BASIC PASSING AND CATCHING SKILLS.

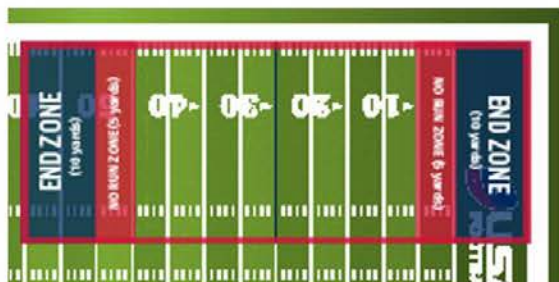
Article 3: Field Setup Diagrams



**Yellow line indicates lines of a soccer field*



**Administration zones should be 3 yards wide.*



RULE 2: LEAGUE AND TOURNAMENT PLAY

SECTION 1. LEAGUE PLAY

Article 1: Game Clock Settings

Games are played on a 40-minute continuous clock with two 20-minute halves unless one team gains a 30-point advantage at which point, the score is no longer kept. The clock stops for timeouts or injuries only, though officials can stop the clock at their discretion for injury, to stop a team from delaying or other unsportsmanlike conduct. For 18+ we recommend a pro clock last 2 min in both halves

USA FOOTBALL RECOMMENDS A RUNNING CLOCK AT THE YOUTH LEVEL (5-12 YEARS OLD), BUT IT IS UP TO THE LEAGUES DISCRETION TO USE A PRO-CLOCK INSTEAD. FOR JUNIOR ATHLETES (13-17 YEARS OLD) USA FOOTBALL RECOMMENDS THE USE OF A RUNNING CLOCK IN THE FIRST HALF AND A PRO-CLOCK IN THE SECOND HALF.

Article 2: Halftime

Halftime is five minutes.

Article 3: Delay of Game

Each time the ball is spotted, a team has 30 seconds to snap the ball. Teams will receive one warning before a delay-of-game penalty is enforced.

USA FOOTBALL RECOMMENDATION: OFFICIALS SHOULD USE DISCRETION WITH TEAMS WHO ARE STILL LEARNING BASIC FOOTBALL SKILLS AND MAY NEED MORE TIME TO LINE UP AND GET A PLAY OFF.

Article 4: Timeout's

Each team has two 30-second timeouts per half.

Article 5: Injury Stoppage

In the event of an injury, the clock will stop then restart when the injured player is removed from the field of play and both teams are lined up ready to restart the play.

Article 6. League Play Overtime

1. A coin flip will determine the team that chooses to be on offense or defense first.
 - a. If a second round of overtime must be played, the team that lost the coin toss will get to choose offense or defense for the start of the second round of overtime. This process continues with teams alternating who gets to choose to be on offense or defense to start out during every round of overtime.
 - b. The referee will determine on which end of the field the overtime will take place.
 - c. No charged team timeouts shall be granted.
2. In the first extra period, each team will have one series starting at the mid-field. On the first series, if the defense intercepts the ball and scores, then the overtime period is over.
3. Each team retains the ball during its series until it scores (including try downs for 1 or 2 points) or exhausts its series of downs. The ball remains alive after a change of team possession until it is declared dead. The series is then ended even if there is a second change of team possession during that down.
4. If after the first period (with 2 series including tries) the score is still tied, the second and following periods consist of series with each team playing a 1-point try from the 5-yard line. The overtime ends when the score after a period is no longer a tie or the defense scores during the first series of a period.
5. The team scoring the greater number of points during overtime shall be declared the winner.

SECTION 2. TOURNAMENT PLAY**Article 1: Tournament Play Clock Settings**

Level of Play	Total Length of Game	Length of Halftime	Clock Settings
Youth (5-12 years old)	Two 12-minute halves	2 minutes	Running clock
Junior (13-17 years old)	Two 15-minute halves	2 minutes	Running clock- first half Pro clock- second half
Adult (18+)	Two 20-minute halves	2 minutes	Pro clock

*Up to tournament organizer's discretion on what type of game clock setting they would like to use.

Article 2: Pro-Clock Operation**PRO-CLOCK CLOCK STOPS**

1. To award a first down, also after a change of team possession.
2. To complete a penalty.
3. When the ball or the runner goes out of bounds.
4. When a pass or fumble (forward or backward) strikes the ground.
5. When a score is made and during and after the following try and onside snap.
6. When a charged timeout is granted.

Article 3. Tournament Play Overtime

1. A coin flip will determine the team that chooses to be on offense or defense first.
 - a. If a second round of overtime must be played, the team that lost the coin toss will get to choose offense or defense for the start of the second round of overtime. This process continues with teams alternating who gets to choose to be on offense or defense to start out during every round of overtime.
 - b. The official will determine on which end of the field the overtime will take place.
2. Each team will take turns getting one (1) play from the defense's 5-yard line for one point or the

defense's 10-yard line for two points. Whether to go for one or two points is up to the offensive team. Whether or not the team that begins on offense converts, the team that started on defense gets a chance on offense to win or tie by converting a one- or two-point play of its own.

- a. Example: Team A starts on offense and chooses to go for one point from the 5-yard line and is successful. Team B is then on offense and can choose to either go for one point from the five-yard line to tie and force a second round of overtime or to go for two points from the 10-yard line for the win.
 - b. If the second team on offense in an overtime round fails to beat or match the team that went first, the team that went first wins.
3. All regulation period rules and penalties are in effect.
 4. There are no timeouts in overtime.

RULE 3: LIVE BALL / DEAD BALL

SECTION 1. LIVE BALL

Article 1: Live Ball Definition

The ball is live at the snap and remains live until an official's whistle blows the ball dead.

Article 2: Ball Spot

The official will indicate the neutral zone and line of scrimmage by spotting the ball before each play and signaling ready for play with a short whistle.

- a. It is an automatic dead ball foul if any player on defense or offense enters the neutral zone. In regard to the neutral zone, an official may give both teams a "courtesy" neutral zone notification prior to the snap to allow their players to move back behind the line of scrimmage.

Article 3: Pre-Snap Defense

The defense may not mimic the offensive team's signals by trying to confuse the offensive players while the quarterback is calling signals to start the play. This will result in an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.

Article 4: Possession

A player who gains possession of the ball is considered inbounds as long as one foot comes down in the field of play. Stepping on the boundary line is considered out of bounds.

SECTION 2. DEAD BALL

Article 1: Dead Ball Definition

Any official can whistle the play dead.

Play is ruled "dead" when:

- a. The ball hits the ground.
 - i. If the ball hits the ground as a result of a bad snap, the ball is then placed where the ball hit the ground.
- b. The ball-carrier's flag is pulled.
- c. The ball-carrier steps out of bounds.
- d. A touchdown, PAT or safety is scored.
- e. Any part of the body other than feet or hands touches the ground.
- f. The ball-carrier's flag falls out.
- g. The receiver catches the ball while in possession of one or no flag(s).
- h. An inadvertent whistle.

Article 2: Inadvertent Whistle

In the case of an inadvertent whistle, the offense has two options:

- a. Take the ball where it was when the whistle blew, and the down is consumed.
- b. Replay the down from the original line of scrimmage.

Article 3: Dead Ball Substitution

Substitutions may be made on any dead ball.

Article 4: Ruling Challenges

- a. A team is allowed to use a timeout to question an official's rule interpretation. If the official's ruling is correct, the team is charged a timeout. If the rule is interpreted incorrectly, the timeout is not charged and the proper ruling will be enforced. Officials should all agree upon any controversial call in order to give each team the full benefit of each call.
- b. A team with no timeout remaining cannot challenge a rule interpretation, though officials can come together independently and reverse a call by unanimous decision.

RULE 4: GAME PLAY

SECTION 1: SCORING

Article 1: Touchdown

Touchdown: Six 6 points

Article 2: Extra Points

PAT (point after touchdown) **1 point** (5-yard line) or **2 points** (10-yard line).

- a. Because of the No-run zone, a one point PAT is pass only; two point PAT can be run or pass.
 - i. Defense touchdown on a try - 2 points.
 - ii. Safety - 2 points
 - iii. Safety on a try - 1 point.

NOTE: AT YOUNGER LEVELS, LEAGUES SHOULD CONSIDER WAIVING THE NO-RUN ZONE FOR TOUCHDOWNS AND POINT-AFTER TRIES.

- b. A team that scores a touchdown must declare prior to the snap whether it wishes to attempt a one- or two-point conversion. Any change, once a decision is made to try for the extra point, requires a charged timeout. A decision cannot be changed after a penalty.

Article 3: Safety

2 points

- a. A safety occurs when the ball-carrier is declared down in his or her own endzone. Runners can be called down when their flags are pulled by a defensive player, a flag falls out, they step out of bounds, a knee or arm touches the ground, a fumble occurs in the endzone or if a snapped ball lands in or beyond the end zone. A penalty in the end zone (i.e. flag guarding) can also be ruled a safety.

Article 4: Mercy Rule

- a. After one team is leading by 30 points or more, the game is over and no PATs are attempted.
- b. Forfeits will be scored 30-0.

SECTION 2: RUNNING

Article 1: Spotting the Ball

The spot of the ball is the position of the ball when the flag is pulled, not the location of the hips.

Article 2: Legal Running Plays

Only direct handoffs behind the line of scrimmage are permitted. Handoffs may be in front, behind or to the side of the offensive player but must take place behind the line of scrimmage. The offense may use multiple handoffs. The quarterback cannot directly run with the ball.

- a. The “center sneak” play is not allowed as centers are ineligible to receive handoffs.
- b. Any player who receives a handoff can throw the ball from behind the line of scrimmage.
- c. Once the ball has been handed off in front, behind or to the side of the quarterback, all defensive players are eligible to rush.

Article 3: No Run Zone

No-run zone are located five yards before the end zone in the direction the offense is headed. They are designed to avoid short-yardage, power-running situations. Teams are not allowed to run in this zone.

USA FOOTBALL RECOMMENDATION: THE NO-RUN ZONE MAY BE REMOVED FOR PLAYERS WHO ARE STILL LEARNING BASIC PASSING AND CATCHING SKILLS.

Article 4: Flag Guarding

- a. Flag guarding is an attempt by the ball-carrier to obstruct the defender’s access to the flags by stiff arming, dropping the head, hand, arm or shoulder or intentionally covering the flags with the football jersey
- b. Runners may not leave their feet to advance the ball. Diving, leaping or jumping to avoid a flag pull is considered flag guarding.
- c. Spinning is allowed, but players cannot leave their feet to avoid a flag pull. Players spinning out of control will be called for flag guarding.
- d. Runners may leave their feet if there is a clear indication that he/she has done so to avoid collision with another player without a flag guarding penalty enforced.
- e. Flag obstruction – All jerseys must be tucked in before play begins. The flags must be on the player’s hips and free from obstruction. Deliberately obstructed flags will be considered flag guarding.

Article 5: Blocking / Screening

No blocking or “screening” is allowed at any time.

Article 6: Running With the Ball-Carrier

Offensive players without the ball must stop their motion once the ball has crossed the line of scrimmage. There is no running with the ball-carrier.

SECTION 3: PASSING

Article 1: Forward Pass

A pass is considered a forward pass if the ball first touches anything beyond the spot where the ball is released. All other passes are backward passes, even if it is lateral (parallel to the scrimmage line).

- a. The quarterback may throw the ball away to avoid a sack. The pass must go beyond the line of scrimmage and be in the vicinity of a receiver.
- b. Quarterbacks cannot spike the ball dead unless the ball travels beyond the line of scrimmage and is in the vicinity of a teammate.
- c. Any player who has received a legal handoff can throw the ball forward as long as they are still behind the line of scrimmage.

USA FOOTBALL RECOMMENDATION: FOR TEAMS THAT ARE STILL LEARNING BASIC FOOTBALL SKILLS, OFFICIALS SHOULD USE THEIR DISCRETION FOR BALLS THAT DO NOT REACH THE LINE OF SCRIMMAGE AS LONG AS THE PLAYER MADE AN HONEST EFFORT TO MAKE IT THERE.

Article 2: Shovel Pass

Shovel passes are allowed but must be received beyond the line of scrimmage.

Article 3: Seven Second Clock

A seven-second pass clock begins upon the snap and continues until there is a handoff or pass. If the seven-second clock expires while the quarterback still has the ball, the play is blown dead, a down is lost and the ball is returned to the line of scrimmage as if an incomplete pass occurred.

SECTION 4: RECEIVING

Article 1: Eligible Receivers

All players – are eligible to receive passes.

Article 2: Legal Reception

A player must have at least one foot inbounds to make a legal reception.

Article 3: Simultaneous Possession

In the case of simultaneous possession by both an offensive and defensive player, possession is awarded to the offense.

Article 4: Interceptions

Interceptions are returnable and are the only changes of possession that do not result with starting on the 5-yard line.

SECTION 5: BLITZER AND RUSHER

Article 1: Blitzzer

All Blitzzers must be a minimum of seven yards behind the line of scrimmage when the ball is snapped and must declare themselves by raising their hand. Players not blitzing the quarterback can defend on the line of scrimmage. No more than two players may establish themselves as Blitzzers on a given play.

USA FOOTBALL RECOMMENDATION: FOR TEAMS STILL LEARNING BASIC FOOTBALL SKILLS, ELIMINATE PASS BLITZERS TO ALLOW PLAYERS THE FULL SEVEN SECONDS TO THROW THE BALL WITHOUT PRESSURE.

Article 2: Rusher

Once the ball is handed off, the 7-yard rule no longer is in effect, and all defenders may go behind the line of scrimmage. At this point players crossing the line of scrimmage are Rushers.

Article 3: Legal Blitzing

A marker, or the official, will designate a rush line seven yards from the line of scrimmage. Defensive players should verify they are in the correct position and identify themselves before every play.

- a. A legal blitz is:
 - i. Any rush from a point 7 yards from the defensive line of scrimmage.
 - ii. If a blitzzer leaves the rush line early (breaks the 7-yard area), they may return to the rush line, reset and then legally rush the quarterback.
 - iii. If a blitzzer leaves the rush line early and the ball is handed off before he/she crosses the line of scrimmage, he/she may legally rush the second receiver.
- b. A penalty may be called if:
 - i. The Blitzzer leaves the rush line before the snap crosses the line of scrimmage before a handoff or pass – illegal rush (5 yards from the line of scrimmage and first down).
 - ii. Any defensive player crosses the line of scrimmage before the ball is snapped – offsides (5 yards from line of scrimmage and first down).
 - iii. Any defensive player not lined up at the rush line or declared crosses the line of scrimmage before the ball is passed or handed off – illegal rush (5 yards from the line of scrimmage and first down).
 - iv. A maximum of 2 players may establish themselves as a blitzzer. If a player who signals is less than 7 yards from the line of scrimmage or if a player is giving an invalid signal or if more than 2 players simultaneously keep their hand raised after the snapper has touched the ball, it's a foul for illegal signal. Foul - 5 yards from the line of scrimmage.

c. Special circumstances:

- i. Teams are not required to rush the quarterback with the seven second clock in effect.
- ii. Teams are required to identify their Blitzter before the play.

Article 4: Roughing the Passer

Players blitzing the quarterback may attempt to block a pass; however, NO contact can be made with the quarterback in any way. Blocking the pass or attempting to block the pass and then making contact with the passer will result in a roughing the passer penalty.

Article 5: Impeding the Blitzter

The offense cannot impede the Blitzter in any way. The Blitzters have the right to a clear path to the quarterback, regardless of where they line up prior to the snap. If the "path or line" is occupied by a moving offensive player, then it is the offense's responsibility to avoid the Blitzter. Any disruption to the Blitzter's path and/or contact will result in an impeding the blitzter penalty. If the offensive player does not move after the snap, then it is the Blitzter's responsibility to go around the offensive player and to avoid contact.

Article 6: Quarterback Sack

A sack occurs if the quarterback's flag are pulled behind the line of scrimmage. The ball is placed where the quarterback's feet are when flag is pulled.

- a. A safety is awarded if the sack takes place in the offensive team's end zone.

SECTION 6. HOLDING, SHIELDING, CONTACT AND AIMING

Article 1: Holding

Holding is grasping an opponent or their equipment, not releasing immediately and impacting the opponent.

Article 2: Shielding

Shielding is obstructing an opponent without contact by moving into their path. A moving player without right of way who impedes an opponent from running a pass route, getting to the runner or impedes a legal blitzter is guilty of shielding. A player standing still (with the right of place) is not shielding, even if the player is obstructing an opponent.

Article 3: Contact

Contact is touching an opponent with impact. Touching with no impact is not a foul.

Article 4: Aiming

Aiming is to target and initiate contact with an opponent or to run into an opponent on purpose, even with right of way. Aiming is any deliberate or avoidable contact with excessive force, even in an attempted flag pull or while playing the ball during a pass. Aiming is to attack a ball in possession or take away the ball from the runner.

SECTION 7. FLAG PULLING

Article 1: Legal Flag Pull

A legal flag pull takes place when the ball-carrier is in full possession of the ball.

Article 2: Diving and Holding

Defenders can dive to pull flags but cannot tackle, hold or run through the ball-carrier when pulling flags.

Article 3: Stripping

It is illegal to attempt to strip or pull the ball from the ball-carrier's possession at any time.

Article 4: Inadvertent Loss of Flag

If a player's flag inadvertently falls off during the play, the player is down immediately upon possession of the ball and the play ends. The ball is placed where the flag lands.

Article 5: Illegal Flag Pull

A defensive player may not intentionally pull the flags off of a player who is not in possession of the ball.

- a. If a defender makes a good-faith flag pull while a receiver bobbles or juggles what will be a completed catch, the ball is down where possession is made.

SECTION 8. FORMATIONS

Article 1: Offensive Formations

Offenses must have a minimum of one player on the line of scrimmage (the center) and any number of players on the line of scrimmage. The quarterback must be off the line of scrimmage.

- a. One player at a time may go in motion 1 yard behind and parallel to the line of scrimmage.
EXAMPLE: An offensive player lined up 3 yards deep in the backfield can never go in motion. A player in motion must either start from a set position on the line of scrimmage or 1 yard off to adhere to the rule.
- b. No motion is allowed toward the line of scrimmage.

Article 2: False Start

Movement by a player who is set or a player who runs toward the line of scrimmage while in motion is considered a false start.

Article 3: Legal Snap

The center must snap the ball with a rapid and continuous motion between his/her legs to a player in the backfield, and the ball must completely leave his/her hands.

SECTION 9. UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

Article 1: Intentional Contact

If the field monitor or official witnesses any acts of intentional tackling, elbowing, cheap shots, blocking or any unsportsmanlike act, the game will be stopped and the player will be ejected from the game. The decision is made at the referee's discretion. No appeals will be considered. FOUL PLAY WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!

- a. Players may not physically or verbally abuse any opponent, coach or official.
- b. Ball-carriers MUST make an effort to avoid defenders with an established position.
- c. Defenders are not allowed to run through the ball-carrier when pulling flags.

USA FOOTBALL RECOMMENDATION: FOR TEAMS STILL LEARNING BASIC FOOTBALL SKILLS, REMOVE ANY PLAYER WHO COMMITS AN UNSPORTSMANLIKE OR DANGEROUS ACT FROM THE FIELD TO RECEIVE INSTRUCTION FROM A COACH AND A COOLING OFF PERIODS. OFFICIALS CAN EJECT THE PLAYER AT THEIR DISCRETION IF THERE ARE CONTINUED INFRACTIONS THAT ARE DEEMED INTENTIONAL.

Article 2: Offensive Language

Offensive or confrontational language is not allowed. Officials have the right to determine offensive language. If offensive or confrontational language occurs, the referee will give one warning. If it continues, the player or players will be ejected from the game.

Article 3: Spectator Conduct

Fans must also adhere to good sportsmanship as well:

- a. Yell to cheer on your players, not to harass officials or other teams.
- b. Keep comments clean and profanity free.
- c. Compliment ALL players, not just one child or team.

Article 4: Field Safety

Fans are required to keep fields safe and kid-friendly:

- a. Keep younger kids and equipment such as coolers, chairs and tents a minimum of 10 yards off the field in the end zone area.
- b. Stay in the end zone area, not between fields. The Administrative Zone is reserved for league administration, game officials, medical personnel, coaches and players only.
- c. Dispose of ALL trash in designated trash cans.

Article 5: Unsportsmanlike Conduct Penalty

Unsportsmanlike conduct penalties:

- a. Defense + 10 yards from line of scrimmage and automatic first down
- b. Offense - 10 yards from line of scrimmage and loss of down

RULE 5: OFFICIAL DUTIES

SECTION 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1: Jurisdiction of Officials

Jurisdiction of Officials - The officials' jurisdiction begins with the coin toss and ends when the Referee declares the score final.

Article 2: Number of Officials

Number of Officials - The game shall be played under the supervision of 2 (R and FJ), 3 (R, DJ and FJ) or 4 (R, DJ, FJ and SJ) officials.

- a. If officiating crews contain 2 or 3 officials, the other job responsibilities are to be split accordingly.

SECTION 2. REFEREE

Article 1: Position

The initial position of the Referee is behind and to the side of the FJ in the offensive backfield. On a 2-man crew, the Referee is positioned and working like Down Judge.

Article 2: Basic Responsibilities

Basic Responsibilities:

- a. The Referee has general oversight and control of the game, has final authority for the score and their decisions upon rules and other matters pertaining to the game are final.
- b. The Referee shall inspect the field and report any irregularities to game management, coaches and other officials.
- c. The Referee has jurisdiction over player equipment.
- d. The Referee shall indicate that the ball is ready for play, award new series of downs and administer penalties.
- e. The Referee shall notify both head coaches of any disqualifications.
- f. After the snap, the Referee shall be responsible for ruling on the play behind the scrimmage line around the ball.
- g. The Referee is responsible for coverage of the quarterback.

SECTION 3. DOWN JUDGE

Article 1: Position

The initial position of the Down Judge is on the scrimmage line at the side line with the down indicator.

Article 2: Basic Responsibilities

Basic Responsibilities:

- a. The Down Judge is responsible for the operation of the down indicator.
- b. The Down Judge shall keep count of the downs.
- c. The Down Judge has jurisdiction over the scrimmage line and their side line.
- d. Once the ball has crossed the scrimmage line, the Down Judge shall be responsible for ruling on the play around the ball and forward progress on their side of the field.

SECTION 4. FIELD JUDGE

Article 1: Position

The initial position of the Field Judge is 7 yards deep at the side line opposite to the down indicator.

Article 2: Basic Responsibilities

Basic Responsibilities:

- a. On a 2 or 3-man crew the Field Judge is responsible for timing the game or supervising the game clock operator.
- b. The Field Judge has jurisdiction over their side line.
- c. Once the ball has crossed the scrimmage line, the Field Judge shall be responsible for ruling on the play around the ball and forward progress on their side of the field.

SECTION 5. SIDE JUDGE

Article 1: Position

The initial position of the Side Judge is 7 or more yards deep at the side line with the down indicator.

Article 2: Basic Responsibilities

Basic Responsibilities:

- a. The Side Judge is responsible for timing the game or supervising the game clock operator.
- b. The Side Judge shall be responsible for observing receivers on deep routes for ruling on long passes and the status of the ball and forward progress in their area.

RULE 6: PENALTIES**SECTION 1.****General Provisions**

The officials will call all penalties.
Game officials determine incidental contact that may result from normal run of play.
All penalties will be assessed from the line of scrimmage, except as noted (spot fouls).
Only the team captain or head coach may ask the referee questions about rule clarification and interpretations. Players may not question calls.
Games may not end on a defensive penalty unless the offense declines it.
Penalties are assessed live ball then dead ball. Live ball penalties must be assessed before play is considered complete.
Penalties will be assessed half the distance to the goal yardage when the penalty yardage is more than half the distance to the goal.

SECTION 2.**Defensive Spot Fouls**

Holding	Automatic first down
Stripping	+10 yards and automatic first down
Illegal flag pull (Before the receiver has the ball)	+5 Yards From the Spot.
Illegal Equipment	+5 from the spot. *Further infractions may result in unsportsmanlike conduct up to ejection.

SECTION 3.**Offensive Spot Fouls**

Screening, blocking or running with the ball	-10 yards and loss of down
Charging	-10 yards and loss of down
Flag guarding	-5 yards and loss of down
Illegal Equipment	-5 yards from the spot of the foul. *Further infractions may result in unsportsmanlike conduct up to ejection

SECTION 4.**Defensive Penalties**

Defensive pass interference	+10 yards from the line of scrimmage and automatic first down
Defensive unnecessary roughness	+10 yards from the line of scrimmage and automatic first down
Defensive unsportsmanlike conduct	+10 yards from the line of scrimmage and automatic first down
Offsides	+5 yards from line of scrimmage
Illegal rush (Starting rush from inside 7-yard marker)	+5 yards from line of scrimmage
Illegal Signal	+5 yards from the line of scrimmage. Live ball foul
Roughing the passer	+5 yards from line of scrimmage and automatic first down
Taunting	+5 yards & automatic first down

SECTION 5.**Offensive Penalties**

Offensive unnecessary roughness	-10 yards from the line of scrimmage and loss of down
Offensive unsportsmanlike conduct	-10 yards from the line of scrimmage and loss of down
Offsides / false start	-5 yards from line of scrimmage
Delay of game	-5 yards from line of scrimmage
Illegal forward pass (Any pass received or lands behind the line of scrimmage or throwing a pass after crossing the line of scrimmage)	-5 yards from line of scrimmage and loss of down
Offensive pass interference	-10 yards from line of scrimmage and loss of down
Illegal motion (More than one person moving)	-5 yards from line of scrimmage and loss of down
Impeding the Blitz	-5 yards from line of scrimmage and loss of down
Taunting	-5 yards and loss of down
Center Sneak	-5 yards from the line of scrimmage and loss of down
Backwards pass	-5 yards from the line of scrimmage and loss of down

SECTION 6. OFFICIALS SIGNALS



Ready for play



Stop the clock



Touchdown



Safety



First down



Loss of down



Incomplete pass



End of period



Offside
Illegal blitz



False start
Illegal procedure



Delay of game
Delay of pass



Illegal participation
Illegal substitution



Unsportsmanlike
conduct



Pass interference



Illegal forward pass or
backward pass



Illegal contact



Shielding



Disqualification



Jumping



Diving



Flag guarding
Illegal flag pull

THIS REPRESENTS PRACTICE AND IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES BASED ON OUR CURRENT LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE. RECOMMENDATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS MORE RESEARCH AND INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE.



USA FLAG™ 7'S
RULEBOOK

usafootball.com

PTO-1957

Approved for use through 01/31/2027. OMB 0651-0050

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number

Response to Office Action

The table below presents the data as entered.

Input Field	Entered
SERIAL NUMBER	97724960
MARK SECTION	
MARK	mark
LITERAL ELEMENT	USA FLAG
STANDARD CHARACTERS	YES
USPTO-GENERATED IMAGE	YES
MARK STATEMENT	The mark consists of standard characters, without claim to any particular font style, size or color.
EVIDENCE SECTION	
EVIDENCE FILE NAME(S)	
ORIGINAL PDF FILE	evi_2607fb90d91a129f38fc7_5f654459c08-20240812080310051183_ . Office Action Response USA FLAG Ser. No. 97724960.pdf
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DESCRIPTION OF EVIDENCE FILE	Arguments in response to the Office's non-final action issued on May 11, 2024, are attached hereto.
GOODS AND/OR SERVICES SECTION (041) (current)	
INTERNATIONAL CLASS	041
DESCRIPTION	
Educational services, namely, conducting programs, classes, seminars, conferences, workshops and exhibitions, displays, and interactive exhibits on football in the field of player safety, coaching education, officiating education, and proper techniques, and the distribution of educational materials in connection therewith, and the development and distribution of educational materials in the nature of guides in hard copy and electronic format, booklets that contain model rules in hard copy and electronic format, and printed educational materials all in connection therewith on the same topics; sports instruction services related to football; organizing, conducting and operating a football league, football tournaments, football games, and football exhibitions; sports training in the nature of player development, performance training, physical wellness training, and player talent and ability evaluation services related to the game of football	
FIRST USE ANYWHERE DATE	At least as early as 04/02/2024
FIRST USE IN COMMERCE DATE	At least as early as 04/02/2024
FILING BASIS	Section 1(b)
GOODS AND/OR SERVICES SECTION (041) (proposed)	
INTERNATIONAL CLASS	041
TRACKED TEXT DESCRIPTION	
Educational services, namely, conducting programs, classes, seminars, conferences, workshops and exhibitions, displays, and interactive exhibits on football in the field of player safety, coaching education, officiating education, and proper techniques, and the distribution of educational materials in connection therewith, and the development and distribution of educational materials in the nature of guides in hard	

copy and electronic format, booklets that contain model rules in hard copy and electronic format, and printed educational materials all in connection therewith on the same topics; sports instruction services related to football; ~~organizing, conducting and operating a football league, football tournaments, football games, and football exhibitions;~~ organizing, conducting and operating a football league, football tournaments, football games, and football exhibitions for entertainment purposes; ~~sports training in the nature of player development, performance training, physical wellness training, and player talent and ability evaluation services related to the game of football;~~ sports training in the nature of player development, performance training, and player talent and ability evaluation services related to the game of football

FINAL DESCRIPTION

Educational services, namely, conducting programs, classes, seminars, conferences, workshops and exhibitions, displays, and interactive exhibits on football in the field of player safety, coaching education, officiating education, and proper techniques, and the distribution of educational materials in connection therewith, and the development and distribution of educational materials in the nature of guides in hard copy and electronic format, booklets that contain model rules in hard copy and electronic format, and printed educational materials all in connection therewith on the same topics; sports instruction services related to football; organizing, conducting and operating a football league, football tournaments, football games, and football exhibitions for entertainment purposes; sports training in the nature of player development, performance training, and player talent and ability evaluation services related to the game of football

FIRST USE ANYWHERE DATE	At least as early as 08/05/2024
FIRST USE IN COMMERCE DATE	At least as early as 08/05/2024
STATEMENT TYPE	"The substitute (or new, or originally submitted, if appropriate) specimen(s) was/were in use in commerce at least as early as the filing date of the application" [for an application based on Section 1(a), Use in Commerce] OR "The substitute (or new, or originally submitted, if appropriate) specimen(s) was/were in use in commerce prior either to the filing of the Amendment to Allege Use or expiration of the filing deadline for filing a Statement of Use" [for an application based on Section 1(b) Intent-to-Use]. OR "The attached specimen is a true copy of the specimen that was originally submitted with the application, amendment to allege use, or statement of use" [for an illegible specimen].
SPECIMEN FILE NAME(S)	
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SPECIMEN DESCRIPTION	the Applicant's website depicting the mark in connection with the listed goods and services
WEBPAGE URL	https://fdm.usafootball.com/game-types/non-contact
WEBPAGE DATE OF ACCESS	08/05/2024
DELETED FILING BASIS	1(b)
GOODS AND/OR SERVICES SECTION (042) (current)	
INTERNATIONAL CLASS	042
DESCRIPTION	

Development of voluntary standards in the form of model rules for football	
FIRST USE ANYWHERE DATE	At least as early as 04/02/2024
FIRST USE IN COMMERCE DATE	At least as early as 04/02/2024
FILING BASIS	Section 1(b)
GOODS AND/OR SERVICES SECTION (042) (proposed)	
INTERNATIONAL CLASS	042
DESCRIPTION	
Development of voluntary standards in the form of model rules for football	
FIRST USE ANYWHERE DATE	At least as early as 08/08/2024
FIRST USE IN COMMERCE DATE	At least as early as 08/08/2024
STATEMENT TYPE	"The substitute (or new, or originally submitted, if appropriate) specimen(s) was/were in use in commerce at least as early as the filing date of the application" [for an application based on Section 1(a), Use in Commerce] OR "The substitute (or new, or originally submitted, if appropriate) specimen(s) was/were in use in commerce prior either to the filing of the Amendment to Allege Use or expiration of the filing deadline for filing a Statement of Use" [for an application based on Section 1(b) Intent-to-Use]. OR "The attached specimen is a true copy of the specimen that was originally submitted with the application, amendment to allege use, or statement of use" [for an illegible specimen].
SPECIMEN FILE NAME(S)	
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SPECIMEN DESCRIPTION	an electronic copy of the Applicant's rulebook for USA FLAG football
WEBPAGE URL	https://fdm.usafootball.com/docs/default-source/default-document-library/usa-flag-7's-rulebook.pdf
WEBPAGE DATE OF ACCESS	08/08/2024
DELETED FILING BASIS	1(b)
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DOCKET/REFERENCE NUMBER	20011.00129
SIGNATURE SECTION	
DECLARATION SIGNATURE	/Jamie Riley/
SIGNATORY'S NAME	Jamie Riley
SIGNATORY'S POSITION	Chief Operating Officer
SIGNATORY'S PHONE NUMBER	3175139876
DATE SIGNED	08/12/2024
SIGNATURE METHOD	Sent to third party for signature
RESPONSE SIGNATURE	/ashleyhodges/
SIGNATORY'S NAME	Ashley Hodges
SIGNATORY'S POSITION	Attorney of Record
DATE SIGNED	08/12/2024
ROLE OF AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY	Authorized U.S.-Licensed Attorney
SIGNATURE METHOD	Sent to third party for signature
FILING INFORMATION SECTION	
SUBMIT DATE	Mon Aug 12 11:31:44 ET 2024
TEAS STAMP	USPTO/ROA-XXXX:XXXX:XXXX: XXXX:XXXX:XXXX:XXXX:XXXX- 20240812113144638374-9772 4960-85061485313cb465ad47 dcd6a8192d1de74f82f3746ed cf2c8073e08421340a436-N/A -N/A-20240812080310051183

PTO- 1957

Approved for use through 01/31/2027. OMB 0651-0050

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number

Response to Office Action

To the Commissioner for Trademarks:

Application serial no. **97724960** USA FLAG(Standard Characters, see <https://tmng-al.uspto.gov/resting2/api/img/97724960/large>) has been amended as follows:

EVIDENCE

Evidence has been attached: Arguments in response to the Office's non-final action issued on May 11, 2024, are attached hereto.

Original PDF file:

evi_2607fb90d91a129f38fc75f654459c08-20240812080310051183_.Office_Action_Response_USA_FLAG_Ser_No_97724960.pdf

Converted PDF file(s) (2 pages) [Evidence-1Evidence-2](#)

CLASSIFICATION AND LISTING OF GOODS/SERVICES

Applicant proposes to amend the following:

Current:

Class 041 for Educational services, namely, conducting programs, classes, seminars, conferences, workshops and exhibitions, displays, and interactive exhibits on football in the field of player safety, coaching education, officiating education, and proper techniques, and the distribution of educational materials in connection therewith, and the development and distribution of educational materials in the nature of guides in hard copy and electronic format, booklets that contain model rules in hard copy and electronic format, and printed educational materials all in connection therewith on the same topics; sports instruction services related to football; organizing, conducting and operating a football league, football tournaments, football games, and football exhibitions; sports training in the nature of player development, performance training, physical wellness training, and player talent and ability evaluation services related to the game of football

Filing Basis: Section 1(b), Intent to Use: For a trademark or service mark application: The applicant believes the applicant is entitled to use the mark in commerce on or in connection with the goods or services specified in the application; the applicant has a bona fide intention to use the mark in commerce and had a bona fide intention to use the mark in commerce as of the application filing date. **For a collective trademark, collective service mark, collective membership mark, or certification mark application:** The applicant has a bona fide intention, and is entitled, to exercise legitimate control over the use of the mark in commerce and had a bona fide intention, and was entitled, to exercise legitimate control over the use of the mark in commerce as of the application filing date. **For a certification mark application:** The applicant will not engage in the production or marketing of the goods/services to which the mark is applied, except to advertise or promote recognition of the certification program or of the goods/services that meet the certification standards of the applicant.

In International Class 041, the mark was first used at least as early as 04/02/2024 and first used in commerce at least as early as 04/02/2024.

Proposed:

Tracked Text Description: Educational services, namely, conducting programs, classes, seminars, conferences, workshops and exhibitions, displays, and interactive exhibits on football in the field of player safety, coaching education, officiating education, and proper techniques, and the distribution of educational materials in connection therewith, and the development and distribution of educational materials in the nature of guides in hard copy and electronic format, booklets that contain model rules in hard copy and electronic format, and printed educational materials all in connection therewith on the same topics; sports instruction services related to football; ~~organizing, conducting and operating a football league, football tournaments, football games, and football exhibitions;~~ [organizing, conducting and operating a football league, football tournaments, football games, and football exhibitions for entertainment purposes;](#) ~~sports training in the nature of player development, performance training, physical wellness training, and player talent and ability evaluation services related to the game of football;~~ [sports training in the nature of player development, performance training, and player talent and ability evaluation services related to the game of football](#)

Class 041 for Educational services, namely, conducting programs, classes, seminars, conferences, workshops and exhibitions, displays, and interactive exhibits on football in the field of player safety, coaching education, officiating education, and proper techniques, and the distribution of educational materials in connection therewith, and the development and distribution of educational materials in the nature of guides in hard copy and electronic format, booklets that contain model rules in hard copy and electronic format, and printed educational materials all in

connection therewith on the same topics; sports instruction services related to football; organizing, conducting and operating a football league, football tournaments, football games, and football exhibitions for entertainment purposes; sports training in the nature of player development, performance training, and player talent and ability evaluation services related to the game of football

Deleted Filing Basis: 1(b)

In International Class 041, the mark was first used at least as early as 08/05/2024 . and first used in commerce at least as early as 08/05/2024 .

Applicant hereby submits one(or more) specimen(s) for Class 041. The specimen(s) submitted consists of the Applicant's website depicting the mark in connection with the listed goods and services.

"The substitute (or new, or originally submitted, if appropriate) specimen(s) was/were in use in commerce at least as early as the filing date of the application" [for an application based on Section 1(a), Use in Commerce] OR **"The substitute (or new, or originally submitted, if appropriate) specimen(s) was/were in use in commerce prior either to the filing of the Amendment to Allege Use or expiration of the filing deadline for filing a Statement of Use"** [for an application based on Section 1(b) Intent-to-Use]. OR **"The attached specimen is a true copy of the specimen that was originally submitted with the application, amendment to allege use, or statement of use"** [for an illegible specimen].

Original PDF file:

[SPU0-2607fb90d91a129f38fc 75f654459c08-202408120803 10051183 . USA_FLAG_Specimen_Class_41_Final.pdf](#)

Converted PDF file(s) (9 pages) [Specimen File1Specimen File2Specimen File3Specimen File4Specimen File5Specimen File6Specimen File7Specimen File8Specimen File9](#)

Webpage URL: <https://fdm.usafootball.com/game-types/non-contact>

Webpage Date of Access: 08/05/2024

Applicant proposes to amend the following:

Current:

Class 042 for Development of voluntary standards in the form of model rules for football

Filing Basis: Section 1(b), Intent to Use: For a trademark or service mark application: The applicant believes the applicant is entitled to use the mark in commerce on or in connection with the goods or services specified in the application; the applicant has a bona fide intention to use the mark in commerce and had a bona fide intention to use the mark in commerce as of the application filing date. **For a collective trademark, collective service mark, collective membership mark, or certification mark application:** The applicant has a bona fide intention, and is entitled, to exercise legitimate control over the use of the mark in commerce and had a bona fide intention, and was entitled, to exercise legitimate control over the use of the mark in commerce as of the application filing date. **For a certification mark application:** The applicant will not engage in the production or marketing of the goods/services to which the mark is applied, except to advertise or promote recognition of the certification program or of the goods/services that meet the certification standards of the applicant.

In International Class 042, the mark was first used at least as early as 04/02/2024 and first used in commerce at least as early as 04/02/2024.

Proposed:

Class 042 for Development of voluntary standards in the form of model rules for football

Deleted Filing Basis: 1(b)

In International Class 042, the mark was first used at least as early as 08/08/2024 . and first used in commerce at least as early as 08/08/2024 .

Applicant hereby submits one(or more) specimen(s) for Class 042. The specimen(s) submitted consists of an electronic copy of the Applicant's rulebook for USA FLAG football.

"The substitute (or new, or originally submitted, if appropriate) specimen(s) was/were in use in commerce at least as early as the filing date of the application" [for an application based on Section 1(a), Use in Commerce] OR **"The substitute (or new, or originally submitted, if appropriate) specimen(s) was/were in use in commerce prior either to the filing of the Amendment to Allege Use or expiration of the filing deadline for filing a Statement of Use"** [for an application based on Section 1(b) Intent-to-Use]. OR **"The attached specimen is a true copy of the specimen that was originally submitted with the application, amendment to allege use, or statement of use"** [for an illegible specimen].

Original PDF file:

[SPU1-2607fb90d91a129f38fc 75f654459c08-202408120803 10051183 . USA_FLAG_Specimen_Class_42.pdf](#)

Converted PDF file(s) (26 pages) [Specimen File1Specimen File2Specimen File3Specimen File4Specimen File5Specimen File6Specimen File7Specimen File8Specimen File9Specimen File10Specimen File11Specimen File12Specimen File13Specimen File14Specimen File15Specimen File16Specimen File17Specimen File18Specimen File19Specimen File20Specimen File21Specimen File22Specimen File23Specimen File24Specimen File25Specimen File26](#)

Webpage URL: <https://fdm.usafootball.com/docs/default-source/default-document-library/usa-flag-7's-rulebook.pdf>
Webpage Date of Access: 08/08/2024

Correspondence Information

Amie Peele
PRIMARY EMAIL FOR CORRESPONDENCE: apeele@peeelawgroup.com
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docketing@peeelawgroup.com; aricchiuto@peeelawgroup.com

The docket/reference number is 20011.00129.

Requirement for Email and Electronic Filing: I understand that a valid email address must be maintained by the owner/holder and the owner's/holder's attorney, if appointed, and that all official trademark correspondence must be submitted via the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS).

SIGNATURE(S)

Declaration Signature

DECLARATION: The signatory being warned that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. § 1001, and that such willful false statements and the like may jeopardize the validity of the application or submission or any registration resulting therefrom, declares that, if the applicant submitted the application or allegation of use (AOU) unsigned, all statements in the application or AOU and this submission based on the signatory's own knowledge are true, and all statements in the application or AOU and this submission made on information and belief are believed to be true.

STATEMENTS FOR UNSIGNED SECTION 1(a) APPLICATION/AOU: If the applicant filed an unsigned application under 15 U.S.C. §1051(a) or AOU under 15 U.S.C. §1051(c), the signatory additionally believes that: the applicant is the owner of the mark sought to be registered; the mark is in use in commerce and was in use in commerce as of the filing date of the application or AOU on or in connection with the goods/services/collective membership organization in the application or AOU; the original specimen(s), if applicable, shows the mark in use in commerce as of the filing date of the application or AOU on or in connection with the goods/services/collective membership organization in the application or AOU; **for a collective trademark, collective service mark, collective membership mark application, or certification mark application**, the applicant is exercising legitimate control over the use of the mark in commerce and was exercising legitimate control over the use of the mark in commerce as of the filing date of the application or AOU; **for a certification mark application**, the applicant is not engaged in the production or marketing of the goods/services to which the mark is applied, except to advertise or promote recognition of the certification program or of the goods/services that meet the certification standards of the applicant. **To the best of the signatory's knowledge and belief, no other persons, except, if applicable, authorized users, members, and/or concurrent users, have the right to use the mark in commerce, either in the identical form or in such near resemblance as to be likely, when used on or in connection with the goods/services/collective membership organization of such other persons, to cause confusion or mistake, or to deceive.**

STATEMENTS FOR UNSIGNED SECTION 1(b)/SECTION 44 APPLICATION AND FOR SECTION 66(a)

COLLECTIVE/CERTIFICATION MARK APPLICATION: If the applicant filed an unsigned application under 15 U.S.C. §§ 1051(b), 1126(d), and/or 1126(e), or filed a collective/certification mark application under 15 U.S.C. §1141f(a), the signatory additionally believes that: **for a trademark or service mark application**, the applicant is entitled to use the mark in commerce on or in connection with the goods/services specified in the application; the applicant has a bona fide intention to use the mark in commerce and had a bona fide intention to use the mark in commerce as of the application filing date; **for a collective trademark, collective service mark, collective membership mark, or certification mark application**, the applicant has a bona fide intention, and is entitled, to exercise legitimate control over the use of the mark in commerce and had a bona fide intention, and was entitled, to exercise legitimate control over the use of the mark in commerce as of the application filing date; the signatory is properly authorized to execute the declaration on behalf of the applicant; **for a certification mark application**, the applicant will not engage in the production or marketing of the goods/services to which the mark is applied, except to advertise or promote recognition of the certification program or of the goods/services that meet the certification standards of the applicant. **To the best of the signatory's knowledge and belief, no other persons, except, if applicable, authorized users, members, and/or concurrent users, have the right to use the mark in commerce, either in the identical form or in such near resemblance as to be likely, when used on or in connection with the goods/services/collective membership organization of such other persons, to cause confusion or mistake, or to deceive.**

Signature: /Jamie Riley/ Date: 08/12/2024
Signatory's Name: Jamie Riley
Signatory's Position: Chief Operating Officer

Signatory's Phone Number: 3175139876

Signature method: Sent to third party for signature

Response Signature

Signature: /ashleyhodes/ Date: 08/12/2024

Signatory's Name: Ashley Hodges

Signatory's Position: Attorney of Record

Signature method: Sent to third party for signature

The signatory has confirmed that he/she is a U.S.-licensed attorney who is an active member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of a U.S. state (including the District of Columbia and any U.S. Commonwealth or territory); and he/she is currently the owner's/holder's attorney or an associate thereof; and to the best of his/her knowledge, if prior to his/her appointment another U.S.-licensed attorney not currently associated with his/her company/firm previously represented the owner/holder in this matter: the owner/holder has revoked their power of attorney by a signed revocation or substitute power of attorney with the USPTO; the USPTO has granted that attorney's withdrawal request; the owner/holder has filed a power of attorney appointing him/her in this matter; or the owner's/holder's appointed U.S.-licensed attorney has filed a power of attorney appointing him/her as an associate attorney in this matter.

Mailing Address: Amie Peele
Peele Law Group, PC

49 Boone Village, Box 299
Zionsville, Indiana 46077

Mailing Address: Amie Peele
Peele Law Group, PC
49 Boone Village, Box 299
Zionsville, Indiana 46077

Serial Number: 97724960

Internet Transmission Date: Mon Aug 12 11:31:44 ET 2024

TEAS Stamp: USPTO/ROA-XXXX:XXXX:XXXX:XXXX:XXXX:XXXX:

XXXX:XXXX-20240812113144638374-97724960-

85061485313cb465ad47dcd6a8192d1de74f82f3

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812080310051183

Applicant: USA FOOTBALL, Inc.
MARK: USA FLAG
App Ser. No. 97724960

Edward Payabyab
Trademark Examining Attorney
Law Office 128
(571) 272-0021
edward.payabyab@uspto.gov

Response to Non-Final Office Action

The Office issued a non-final action on May 11, 2024, in which the Office cited four issues: likelihood of confusion, failure to function for International Class 041, specimen unacceptable for International Class 042 and identification of goods and services. Applicant respectfully submits the following remarks in response to the Office's non-final action.

Likelihood of Confusion

Applicant maintains its request to suspend the application pending the outcome of Civil Action 4:23-cv-00465-ALM that involves Applicant's and Registrant's marks.

Failure to Function

Applicant submits a new specimen where the Office's concerns have been addressed. The Office will note that new specimen shows the Mark set apart in a different color than the text around it, a larger font size than the text around it, and accompanied by the trademark symbol to let consumers know the Applicant is claiming as its mark.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully asks the Office to accept the new specimen and withdraw its refusal on the basis of failure to function for International Class 041.

Specimen Unacceptable

Applicant has submitted a new specimen showing the Mark on an official rulebook meeting the requirements for a specimen for International Class 042.

Applicant respectfully asks the Office to accept the new specimen and withdraw its refusal on the basis of an unacceptable specimen for International Class 041.

Identification of Goods and Services

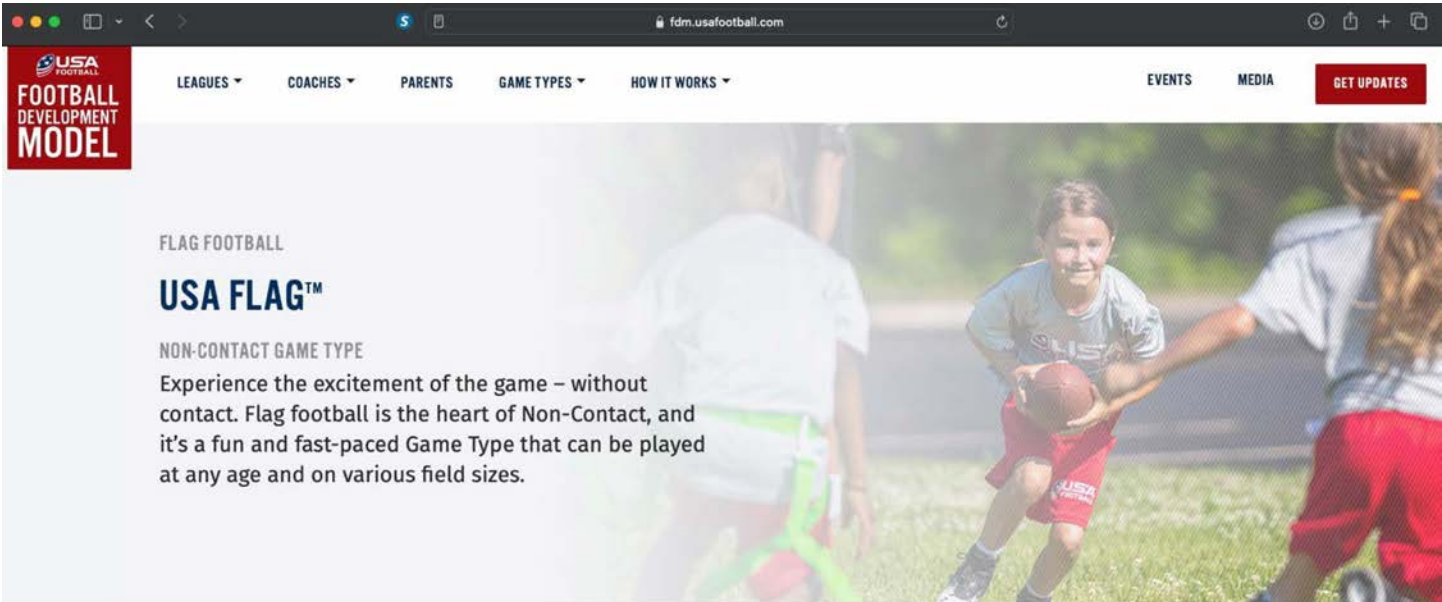
Applicant amends its good and services as follows:

International Class 041: Educational services, namely, conducting programs, classes, seminars, conferences, workshops and exhibitions, displays, and interactive exhibits on football in the field of player safety, coaching education, officiating education, and proper techniques, and the distribution of educational materials in connection therewith, and the development and distribution of educational materials in the nature of guides in hard copy and electronic format, booklets that contain model rules in hard

copy and electronic format, and printed educational materials all in connection therewith on the same topics; sports instruction services related to football; organizing, conducting and operating a football league, football tournaments, football games, and football exhibitions **for entertainment purposes**; sports training in the nature of player development, performance training, ~~physical wellness training~~, and player talent and ability evaluation services related to the game of football

Conclusion

In conclusion, Applicant requests that the Office rescind its rejections based on its claims of failure to function, unacceptable specimen and identification of goods and services of Applicant's trademark registration application and suspend the application pending the outcome of the aforementioned litigation.

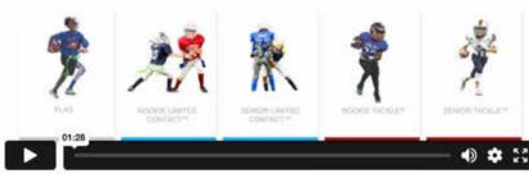


The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL fdm.usafootball.com. The navigation menu includes: LEAGUES, COACHES, PARENTS, GAME TYPES, HOW IT WORKS, EVENTS, MEDIA, and a red button labeled GET UPDATES. The main content area features a large background image of children playing flag football. On the left side of this area, the text reads: FLAG FOOTBALL, USA FLAG™, and NON-CONTACT GAME TYPE. Below this, a paragraph states: Experience the excitement of the game – without contact. Flag football is the heart of Non-Contact, and it's a fun and fast-paced Game Type that can be played at any age and on various field sizes.



GAME TYPES

NON-CONTACT | LIMITED CONTACT | CONTACT



FUN / FAST / FUNDAMENTALS

In the Football Development Model, flag football and other non-contact Game Types are the first step in the Game Type progression.

Flag is a great way to introduce foundational football skills players will use in all versions of the game like contact, as well as other sports. Some athletes decide to stay in flag forever, while others progress to contact versions of the game. The goal is to set them up for success for wherever their football journey takes them.

USA FLAG™

NON-CONTACT BRINGS NEW PEOPLE TO FOOTBALL USA FOOTBALL'S ROLE & THE GROWTH OF THE GAME

As football's governing body, USA Football is the sole US member of the International Federation of American Football (IFAF). We are recognized by the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee, and we are proud to join IFAF and the NFL to advocate for flag football's inclusion in the 2028 Olympic Games. We create and deliver best-in-class resources, standards and experiences for every football family member to pursue and enjoy America's favorite sport, from youth to elite U.S. National Teams.



USA FLAG™
NON-CONTACT BRINGS NEW PEOPLE TO FOOTBALL
USA FOOTBALL'S ROLE & THE GROWTH OF THE GAME

As football's governing body, USA Football is the sole US member of the International Federation of American Football (IFAF). We are recognized by the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee, and we are proud to join IFAF and the NFL to advocate for flag football's inclusion in the 2028 Olympic Games. We create and deliver best-in-class resources, standards and experiences for every football family member to pursue and enjoy America's favorite sport, from youth to elite U.S. National Teams.

<p>ON THE RISE</p> <p>25% INCREASE</p> <p>in flag participation since 2015 – an increase of 300,000 players</p>	<p>PARENTS SPEND</p> <p>62% LESS</p> <p>money on flag football than the average sport like baseball, basketball and soccer</p>	<p>GIRL POWER</p> <p>5 TIMES</p> <p>more girls play flag than tackle - showing the excitement they have for America's favorite sport</p>	<p>MORE DIVERSITY</p> <p>46% OF PLAYERS</p> <p>in flag are minorities, making this a great way to connect with everyone in your community</p>
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Source:
USA Football 2019 Participation Report

Source:
2019 Aspen Institute Survey via ESPN

Source:
USA Football 2019 Participation Report

Source:
USA Football 2019 Participation Report



FOR FLAG FOOTBALL ORGANIZATIONS
TOOLS TO START & SCALE

We're here to help your whole flag football program run smooth with the free resources below.
Keep reading to see what you can unlock when you enroll your organization with USA Football.

IFAF FIVES RULES

Learn more about the rules the U.S. Flag National Teams play by for the World Games and international competition.

[Access the Rules](#)

USA FLAG™ FIVES

Learn more about 5v5 rules based on IFAF's official flag rules and designed for age-appropriate league or tournament play in the United States.

[Access the Rules](#)

USA FLAG™ SEVENS

Learn more about 7v7 rules based on IFAF's official flag rules and designed for age-appropriate league or tournament play in the United States.

[Access the Rules](#)

THE ONE FLAG CHAMPIONSHIP & SERIES

Squad up and compete in flag football's premier tournament series and championship – The One.

[Learn More](#)

[View Tournament Rulebook](#)

USA FLAG™ NON-CONTACT RESOURCE GUIDE

4 QUICK FLAG STATS

- ↑25%** Increase in flag participation in the last 5 years
- 5x** More participation in flag football than in tackle football
- ↓62%** Reduction in concussions in flag football compared to tackle football
- 46%** Increase in flag participation in the last 5 years



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COMMISSIONER Q&A: ADDING NON-CONTACT


READY TO LEARN HOW TO ADD NON-CONTACT TO YOUR LEAGUE?



READ NOW

IMPLEMENTATION PREVIEW: ADDING NON-CONTACT

ADOPTING NON CONTACT INTO YOUR LEAGUE



ACCESS NOW

PARENT PERSPECTIVE: FLAG IS A GREAT ENTRY POINT



COACH PLANNER APP SKILLS & DRILLS



WEBINAR: FLAG SKILLS, DRILLS & OPERATIONS



WHY FLAG?

- Early introduction to the football pathway
- Part of a coefficient approach aimed to help players learn and enjoy the game of football
- Growing popularity around the country (US Soccer Development)
- Fast & Fun

PARENT PERSPECTIVE: FLAG IS A GREAT ENTRY POINT



[READ THE ARTICLE](#)

COACH PLANNER APP SKILLS & DRILLS



[LEARN MORE](#)

WEBINAR: FLAG SKILLS, DRILLS & OPERATIONS



WHY FLAG?

- Early introduction to the football pathway
- Part of a well-rounded approach aimed to help players learn and enjoy the game of football
- Building consistency around the country (US Youth Championships)
- Fun & Fast

[WATCH THE RECORDING](#)

**NON-CONTACT FLAG FOOTBALL PLAYBOOKS, EQUIPMENT & MORE
GET EVEN MORE TOOLS TO SUCCEED**

**ENROLLMENT RESOURCES
EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO PLAY**



Enroll to get tools and insights that make it easy to start playing flag.

**FLAG EQUIPMENT
LOOK GOOD, PLAY GOOD**



No flag football experience would be complete without the equipment.

**FLAG TOURNAMENT
USA FOOTBALL'S THE ONE**



Bring your best and get ready for the biggest test your team has ever had to face.



USA FLAG™

NON-CONTACT INSIGHTS



CHASE YOUNG
ON HIS FLAG EXPERIENCE



JOE THOMAS
ON FLAG & CONTACT



P.J. FLECK
ON FLAG AS FOOTBALL


FINDING THE RIGHT LEAGUE PARTNER

NON-CONTACT ORGANIZATIONS

As the sport's national governing body, we're here to help you find the right groups to work with to help your organization achieve success. Whether you work with us directly or one of these organizations, you'll find success with Non-Contact.


FINDING THE RIGHT LEAGUE PARTNER
NON-CONTACT ORGANIZATIONS

As the sport's national governing body, we're here to help you find the right groups to work with to help your organization achieve success. Whether you work with us directly or one of these organizations, you'll find success with Non-Contact.




USA Football helps organizations get resources and tools for this fast growing game type that fits the Football Development Model.

[CONTACT US](#)




With 1,600 locally operated leagues and over 500,000 youth athletes, NFL FLAG is the only place where flag players wear official NFL gear.

[LEARN MORE](#)



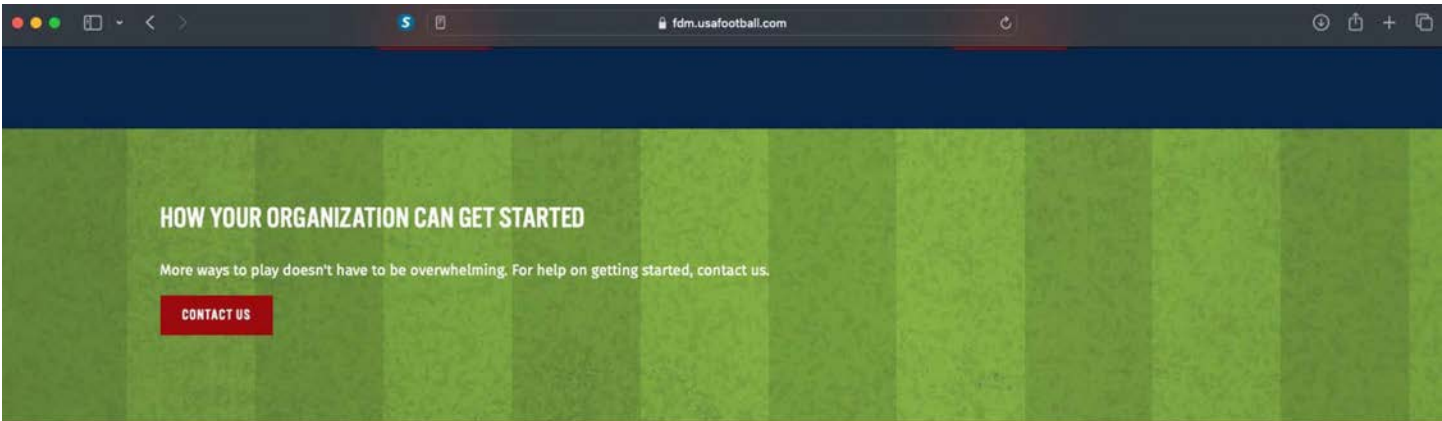
i9 Sports® offers youth flag football leagues in communities across the nation. They offer youth sports leagues, camps and clinics for kids 3 and up.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Football 'N' America (FNA) is a non-contact youth co-ed flag football league for children in grades K-10, co-founded by quarterback Drew Brees.

[LEARN MORE](#)



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Receive updates and more information on the future of football.

GET UPDATES



The Football Development Model is USA Football's adoption of the American Development Model



COACHES

LEAGUES

HOW IT WORKS

THE COUNCIL

MEDIA

USAFOOTBALL.COM



USA[®]
FOOTBALL

USA FLAG[™] 7'S
RULEBOOK

The image shows the USA Football logo, which consists of a stylized American flag (stars and stripes) on the left, followed by the text "USA" in a large, bold, sans-serif font with a registered trademark symbol, and "FOOTBALL" in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font below it. Below the logo, the text "USA FLAG 7'S" is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font, with a trademark symbol, and "RULEBOOK" is written in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font below it. The entire logo and text are centered on a dark blue background.

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Definitions

BOUNDARY LINES	The outer perimeter lines around the field. They include the sidelines and back of the end zone lines.
LINE OF SCRIMMAGE	(LOS) an imaginary line running through the point of the football and across the width of the field.
LINE-TO-GAIN	The line the offense must pass to get a first down or score.
RUSH LINE	An imaginary line running across the width of the field seven yards (into the defensive side) from the line of scrimmage.
OFFENSE	The team with possession of the ball.
DEFENSE	The team opposing the offense to prevent it from advancing the ball.
PASSER	The offensive player that throws the ball and may or may not be the quarterback.
BLITZER	The Identified Defensive Player that is at least 7 yards from the line of scrimmage assigned to rush the quarterback to prevent him/ her from passing the ball by pulling his/her flags or by blocking the pass.
RUSHER	Any player who legally crosses the line of scrimmage.
DOWNS (1-2-3-4)	The offensive team has four attempts or "downs" to advance the ball. It must cross the line to gain to get another set of downs or to score.
LIVE BALL	Refers to the period of time that the play is in action. Generally used in regard to penalties. Live ball penalties are considered part of the play and must be enforced before the down is considered complete.
DEAD BALL	Refers to the period of time immediately before or after a play.
WHISTLE	Sound made by an official using a whistle that signifies the end of the play or a stop in the action for reporting a penalty, a timeout, halftime or the end of the game.
INADVERTENT WHISTLE	Official's whistle that is performed in error.
CHARGING	An illegal movement of the ball-carrier directly at a defensive player who has established position on the field. This includes lowering the head or initiating contact with a shoulder, forearm or the chest.
FLAG GUARDING	An illegal act by the ball-carrier to prevent a defender from pulling the ball-carrier's flags by stiff arm, lowering elbow or head or by blocking access to the runner's flags with a hand or arm or ball.
SHOVEL PASS	A legal pitch attempted behind the line of scrimmage.
UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT	A rude, confrontational, physical or offensive behavior or language.
RIGHT OF PLACE (ROP)	Right of place is given to any stationary players who maintains normal player posture and make no movements in any horizontal direction to change their position. A purely vertical movement, including a lift from the ground, in order to throw or catch a pass does not mean that a previously established right of place has been lost. Right of place supersedes right of way when determining who is guilty of a foul.
RIGHT OF WAY	Right of way is given to a player according to rule who has established a direction of movement in a regular manner and does not alter that direction. A player with right of way has a higher privilege when determining who is guilty of a foul than all other players except those with right of place.

USA FLAG™ 7'S RULEBOOK

RULE 1: GAME, FIELD, BALL, AND EQUIPMENT

SECTION 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Coin Toss

- a. At the start of each game, captains from both teams meet at midfield for the coin toss to determine who starts with the ball. The visiting team calls the toss.
- b. The winner of the coin toss has the choice of offense or defense. The loser of the coin toss has the choice of direction. Possession changes to start the second half to the team that started the game on defense. Teams change direction after the first half.

Article 2. Possession and Change of Possession

- a. The offensive team takes possession of the ball at its 5-yard line and has four plays to cross midfield. Once a team crosses midfield, it has four plays to score a touchdown. Crossing midfield is the only opportunity for an offense to gain a first down within a single possession.
- b. If the offense fails to score, the ball changes possession and the new offensive team starts its drive on its own 5-yard line.
- c. If the offensive team fails to cross midfield, possession of the ball changes and the opposition starts its drive from its own 5-yard line.
- d. If the defense intercepts the ball, a defensive player can attempt to return it until down or out of bounds.
- e. All possession changes, except interceptions, start on the offense's 5-yard line.

Article 3. Coaches

- a. USA Football recommends 2-3 coaches per team.
- b. At the Youth level, one coach is allowed on the field to call plays and direct players according to need. Once the quarterback begins his or her cadence, however, coaches can no longer speak and must be behind the deepest offensive and defensive players and out of the action.
- c. At the Youth level, Coaches can assist in the alignment of their players to facilitate a fast-paced game, but coaches on the field may not provide extra instruction or make audibles to play calls once the huddle is broken. Coaches on the sidelines can provide this information to players on the field.
- d. For adult and junior games no coaches are allowed on the field

SECTION 2: ROSTERS

Article 1: Team Rosters

Teams must consist of at least seven players with a recommended maximum of 15 players.

NOTE: FLEXIBILITY IS GRANTED FOR ROSTER SIZED AT THE DISCRETION OF TOURNAMENT OPERATORS.

Article 2: Uniform Colors

Home teams wear dark color jerseys. Visiting teams wear light color jerseys.

Article 3: On Field Participants

Teams must start games with a minimum of seven players. In the event of an injury, a team with insufficient substitute players may play with six players on the field but no fewer than four.

SECTION 3: POSITIONS

Article 1. Offense

The seven players on offense consist of a center, a quarterback and five eligible receivers.

- a. **Center.** This player is responsible for snapping the ball and is eligible to go out for passes, once they have snapped the ball.
- b. **Quarterback.** The quarterback is the offensive player who first gets possession of the ball after the snap. The quarterback cannot directly run with the ball across the line of scrimmage without first handing the ball off to a teammate and then receiving a second handoff back or receiving a pass.
- c. **Receiver/back.** Any player who does not initiate the snap nor receive the snap is considered an eligible receiver/back and can either receive a handoff or catch a pass.

NOTE: LEAGUES MAY CONSIDER WAIVING THE RESTRICTION ON LINING WITHIN THREE YARDS OF THE CENTER FOR YOUNGER AGE GROUPS.

Article 2. Defense

- a. **Blitzer.** A defender who lines up with all parts of their body more than 7 yards away from the scrimmage line at the snap can establish themselves as a blitzer with a legal signal by raising one hand clearly above the head at least during the last second prior to the snap. This grants them right of way which supersedes the general right of way for the offense, because they are pursuing the runner. The rush of a blitzer shall be immediately after the snap, quick and straight towards the point where the quarterback receives the snap in order to retain the right of way. If a blitzer is rushing late, slowly, towards a different spot, changing direction during the rush or just does not rush the quarterback, the player loses the right of way but still can participate as any other defender. If a blitzer is forced to change direction due to an offensive foul (shielding), the blitzer will not lose their right of way for a further direct rush to the point where quarterback received the snap.
- b. **Rusher.** A defender who does not give a signal and legally crosses the line of scrimmage. Following a legal handoff, any member of the defense can cross the line of scrimmage.

SECTION 4. EQUIPMENT

Article 1: Flag Belts

The organization provides each player with an official flag belt and team jersey. Teams will use footballs provided by their league. See Flag Specifications section for more details.

Article 2: Footwear

Players must wear rubber soled shoes. Cleats may not be allowed at certain locations. Cleats with exposed metal are never allowed and must be removed.

Article 3: Additional Equipment

Players may tape their forearms, hands and fingers. Players may wear gloves, elbow pads and knee pads. Braces with exposed metal are not allowed. Players must remove any jewelry and head wear (acceptable head wear is determined by league officials).

Article 4: Uniform Standards

Players' jerseys must be tucked into shorts or pants if they hang below the belt line.

We recommend players wear shorts or pants that do not have pockets. Shorts or pants with belt loops or pockets must be taped. Games will not be delayed for a player to tape up pockets.

- a. **Flag belts cannot be the same color as shorts or pants.**

Article 5: Mouthguards

All players must wear mouth guards while on the playing field.

SECTION 5. THE BALL

The ball shall be made of four panels of pebble-grained leather in natural tan color with eight equally spaced lacings and new or nearly new with no alterations. The ball shall be an ellipsoid spheroid of regulation dimensions and inflated to a pressure of between 12.5 and 13.5 psi (0.85 – 0.95 bar).

Article 1. Types of Football

Dimensions	Adult	Junior	Youth
Length	11.00 to 11.50 inches (27.9 – 29.2 cm)	10.50 to 11.00 inches (26.7 – 27.9 cm)	10.25 to 10.75 inches (26.0 – 27.3 cm)
Length circumference	27.00 to 28.00 inches (68.6 – 71.1 cm)	26.00 to 27.00 inches (66.0 – 68.6 cm)	25.00 to 26.00 inches (63.5 – 66.0 cm)
Diameter	6.25 to 6.75 inches (15.9 – 17.2 cm)	6.00 to 6.50 inches (15.2 – 16.5 cm)	5.75 to 6.25 inches (14.6 – 15.9 cm)
Cross circumference	20.00 to 21.00 inches (50.8 – 53.3 cm)	19.00 to 20.00 inches (48.3 – 50.8 cm)	18.00 to 19.00 inches (45.7 – 48.3 cm)
Weight	14 to 15 ounces (400 – 425 g)	12 to 13 ounces (340 – 370 g)	11 to 12 ounces (310 – 340 g)

Article 2. Sizes

- a. For men's or co-ed games, adult size balls shall be used.
- b. For women's games, use Youth Ball dimensions. (example: USA Football Youth or Wilson TDY)
- c. For junior games aged under-17, youth sized balls shall be used. (example: USA Football Youth or Wilson TDY)
- d. For youth games aged 9-13, junior size balls shall be used. Balls need not be leather. (example: USA Football Junior or Wilson TDJ)
- e. For youth games aged under-8, peewee size balls shall be used. Balls need not be leather. (example USA Football peewee)

SECTION 6. FLAG SPECIFICATIONS**Article 1. General Provisions**

Players of a team shall wear tightly fixed flag belts with pop-sockets and 2 identical flags. Every effort shall be made to keep one flag on each hip of the player. The sockets shall be placed facing outwards and downwards. The flags shall be clearly visible, hang down freely and must not be covered in any way by the player's uniform and all colors must be contrasting with all colors on the pants. The flags and sockets may not be greased, glued or altered in any way. Any player, who deliberately manipulate their flags shall be disqualified. The flags and sockets each shall be made of the same material in the same color without sharp edges.

Article 2. Sizes

Dimensions	Measurements
The flags shall measure	2 inches (5 cm) x 15 inches (38 cm)
Flag length from socket	15 to 16 inches (38.1 – 0.6 cm).
Flag width:	1.9 to 2.1 inches (4.8 – 5.3 cm).
Brand or logo	On each flag one single color brand or logo in the upper quarter is allowed with a maximum size of 2x3 inches (5 x 7.5 cm).
Flag thickness:	maximum 0.03 inches (0.75 mm).
Flag weight	minim-um 3.5 ounces (100 g).

SECTION 7. THE FIELD**Article 1: Field Dimensions**

Field dimensions are 30 X 70 yards in total with two 10- yard end zones and a 50 yard field of play. No-run zones are only before the goal line. However, some locations may use smaller fields due to available field space.

Article 2: No-Run Zone's

A No-run zone is in place to prevent teams from conducting run plays. While in the No-run zones (a 5-yard imaginary zone before the end zone), teams cannot run the ball in any fashion. All plays must be pass plays, even with a handoff.

USA FOOTBALL RECOMMENDATION: THE NO-RUN ZONE MAY BE REMOVED FOR PLAYERS WHO ARE STILL LEARNING BASIC PASSING AND CATCHING SKILLS.

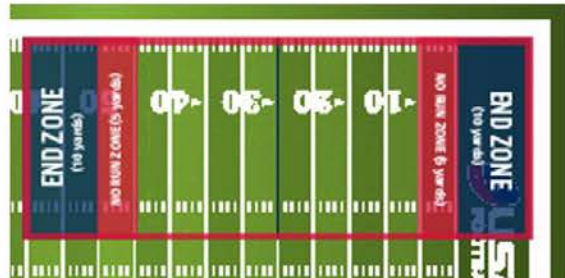
Article 3: Field Setup Diagrams



**Yellow line indicates lines of a soccer field*



**Administration zones should be 3 yards wide.*



RULE 2: LEAGUE AND TOURNAMENT PLAY

SECTION 1. LEAGUE PLAY

Article 1: Game Clock Settings

Games are played on a 40-minute continuous clock with two 20-minute halves unless one team gains a 30-point advantage at which point, the score is no longer kept. The clock stops for timeouts or injuries only, though officials can stop the clock at their discretion for injury, to stop a team from delaying or other unsportsmanlike conduct. For 18+ we recommend a pro clock last 2 min in both halves

USA FOOTBALL RECOMMENDS A RUNNING CLOCK AT THE YOUTH LEVEL (5-12 YEARS OLD), BUT IT IS UP TO THE LEAGUES DISCRETION TO USE A PRO-CLOCK INSTEAD. FOR JUNIOR ATHLETES (13-17 YEARS OLD) USA FOOTBALL RECOMMENDS THE USE OF A RUNNING CLOCK IN THE FIRST HALF AND A PRO-CLOCK IN THE SECOND HALF.

Article 2: Halftime

Halftime is five minutes.

Article 3: Delay of Game

Each time the ball is spotted, a team has 30 seconds to snap the ball. Teams will receive one warning before a delay-of-game penalty is enforced.

USA FOOTBALL RECOMMENDATION: OFFICIALS SHOULD USE DISCRETION WITH TEAMS WHO ARE STILL LEARNING BASIC FOOTBALL SKILLS AND MAY NEED MORE TIME TO LINE UP AND GET A PLAY OFF.

Article 4: Timeout's

Each team has two 30-second timeouts per half.

Article 5: Injury Stoppage

In the event of an injury, the clock will stop then restart when the injured player is removed from the field of play and both teams are lined up ready to restart the play.

Article 6. League Play Overtime

1. A coin flip will determine the team that chooses to be on offense or defense first.
 - a. If a second round of overtime must be played, the team that lost the coin toss will get to choose offense or defense for the start of the second round of overtime. This process continues with teams alternating who gets to choose to be on offense or defense to start out during every round of overtime.
 - b. The referee will determine on which end of the field the overtime will take place.
 - c. No charged team timeouts shall be granted.
2. In the first extra period, each team will have one series starting at the mid-field. On the first series, if the defense intercepts the ball and scores, then the overtime period is over.
3. Each team retains the ball during its series until it scores (including try downs for 1 or 2 points) or exhausts its series of downs. The ball remains alive after a change of team possession until it is declared dead. The series is then ended even if there is a second change of team possession during that down.
4. If after the first period (with 2 series including tries) the score is still tied, the second and following periods consist of series with each team playing a 1-point try from the 5-yard line. The overtime ends when the score after a period is no longer a tie or the defense scores during the first series of a period.
5. The team scoring the greater number of points during overtime shall be declared the winner.

SECTION 2. TOURNAMENT PLAY

Article 1: Tournament Play Clock Settings

Level of Play	Total Length of Game	Length of Halftime	Clock Settings
Youth (5-12 years old)	Two 12-minute halves	2 minutes	Running clock
Junior (13-17 years old)	Two 15-minute halves	2 minutes	Running clock- first half Pro clock- second half
Adult (18+)	Two 20-minute halves	2 minutes	Pro clock

*Up to tournament organizer’s discretion on what type of game clock setting they would like to use.

Article 2: Pro-Clock Operation

PRO-CLOCK CLOCK STOPS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To award a first down, also after a change of team possession. 2. To complete a penalty. 3. When the ball or the runner goes out of bounds. 4. When a pass or fumble (forward or backward) strikes the ground. 5. When a score is made and during and after the following try and onside snap. 6. When a charged timeout is granted.

Article 3. Tournament Play Overtime

1. A coin flip will determine the team that chooses to be on offense or defense first.
 - a. If a second round of overtime must be played, the team that lost the coin toss will get to choose offense or defense for the start of the second round of overtime. This process continues with teams alternating who gets to choose to be on offense or defense to start out during every round of overtime.
 - b. The official will determine on which end of the field the overtime will take place.
2. Each team will take turns getting one (1) play from the defense’s 5-yard line for one point or the

defense's 10-yard line for two points. Whether to go for one or two points is up to the offensive team. Whether or not the team that begins on offense converts, the team that started on defense gets a chance on offense to win or tie by converting a one- or two-point play of its own.

- a. Example: Team A starts on offense and chooses to go for one point from the 5-yard line and is successful. Team B is then on offense and can choose to either go for one point from the five-yard line to tie and force a second round of overtime or to go for two points from the 10-yard line for the win.
 - b. If the second team on offense in an overtime round fails to beat or match the team that went first, the team that went first wins.
3. All regulation period rules and penalties are in effect.
 4. There are no timeouts in overtime.

RULE 3: LIVE BALL / DEAD BALL

SECTION 1. LIVE BALL

Article 1: Live Ball Definition

The ball is live at the snap and remains live until an official's whistle blows the ball dead.

Article 2: Ball Spot

The official will indicate the neutral zone and line of scrimmage by spotting the ball before each play and signaling ready for play with a short whistle.

- a. It is an automatic dead ball foul if any player on defense or offense enters the neutral zone. In regard to the neutral zone, an official may give both teams a "courtesy" neutral zone notification prior to the snap to allow their players to move back behind the line of scrimmage.

Article 3: Pre-Snap Defense

The defense may not mimic the offensive team's signals by trying to confuse the offensive players while the quarterback is calling signals to start the play. This will result in an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.

Article 4: Possession

A player who gains possession of the ball is considered inbounds as long as one foot comes down in the field of play. Stepping on the boundary line is considered out of bounds.

SECTION 2. DEAD BALL

Article 1: Dead Ball Definition

Any official can whistle the play dead.

Play is ruled "dead" when:

- a. The ball hits the ground.
 - i. If the ball hits the ground as a result of a bad snap, the ball is then placed where the ball hit the ground.
- b. The ball-carrier's flag is pulled.
- c. The ball-carrier steps out of bounds.
- d. A touchdown, PAT or safety is scored.
- e. Any part of the body other than feet or hands touches the ground.
- f. The ball-carrier's flag falls out.
- g. The receiver catches the ball while in possession of one or no flag(s).
- h. An inadvertent whistle.

Article 2: Inadvertent Whistle

In the case of an inadvertent whistle, the offense has two options:

- a. Take the ball where it was when the whistle blew, and the down is consumed.
- b. Replay the down from the original line of scrimmage.

Article 3: Dead Ball Substitution

Substitutions may be made on any dead ball.

Article 4: Ruling Challenges

- a. A team is allowed to use a timeout to question an official's rule interpretation. If the official's ruling is correct, the team is charged a timeout. If the rule is interpreted incorrectly, the timeout is not charged and the proper ruling will be enforced. Officials should all agree upon any controversial call in order to give each team the full benefit of each call.
- b. A team with no timeout remaining cannot challenge a rule interpretation, though officials can come together independently and reverse a call by unanimous decision.

RULE 4: GAME PLAY

SECTION 1: SCORING

Article 1: Touchdown

Touchdown: Six 6 points

Article 2: Extra Points

PAT (point after touchdown) **1 point** (5-yard line) or **2 points** (10-yard line).

- a. Because of the No-run zone, a one point PAT is pass only; two point PAT can be run or pass.
 - i. Defense touchdown on a try - 2 points.
 - ii. Safety - 2 points
 - iii. Safety on a try - 1 point.

NOTE: AT YOUNGER LEVELS, LEAGUES SHOULD CONSIDER WAIVING THE NO-RUN ZONE FOR TOUCHDOWNS AND POINT-AFTER TRIES.

- b. A team that scores a touchdown must declare prior to the snap whether it wishes to attempt a one- or two-point conversion. Any change, once a decision is made to try for the extra point, requires a charged timeout. A decision cannot be changed after a penalty.

Article 3: Safety

2 points

- a. A safety occurs when the ball-carrier is declared down in his or her own endzone. Runners can be called down when their flags are pulled by a defensive player, a flag falls out, they step out of bounds, a knee or arm touches the ground, a fumble occurs in the endzone or if a snapped ball lands in or beyond the end zone. A penalty in the end zone (i.e. flag guarding) can also be ruled a safety.

Article 4: Mercy Rule

- a. After one team is leading by 30 points or more, the game is over and no PATs are attempted.
- b. Forfeits will be scored 30-0.

SECTION 2: RUNNING

Article 1: Spotting the Ball

The spot of the ball is the position of the ball when the flag is pulled, not the location of the hips.

Article 2: Legal Running Plays

Only direct handoffs behind the line of scrimmage are permitted. Handoffs may be in front, behind or to the side of the offensive player but must take place behind the line of scrimmage. The offense may use multiple handoffs. The quarterback cannot directly run with the ball.

- a. The “center sneak” play is not allowed as centers are ineligible to receive handoffs.
- b. Any player who receives a handoff can throw the ball from behind the line of scrimmage.
- c. Once the ball has been handed off in front, behind or to the side of the quarterback, all defensive players are eligible to rush.

Article 3: No Run Zone

No-run zone are located five yards before the end zone in the direction the offense is headed. They are designed to avoid short-yardage, power-running situations. Teams are not allowed to run in this zone.

USA FOOTBALL RECOMMENDATION: THE NO-RUN ZONE MAY BE REMOVED FOR PLAYERS WHO ARE STILL LEARNING BASIC PASSING AND CATCHING SKILLS.

Article 4: Flag Guarding

- a. Flag guarding is an attempt by the ball-carrier to obstruct the defender’s access to the flags by stiff arming, dropping the head, hand, arm or shoulder or intentionally covering the flags with the football jersey
- b. Runners may not leave their feet to advance the ball. Diving, leaping or jumping to avoid a flag pull is considered flag guarding.
- c. Spinning is allowed, but players cannot leave their feet to avoid a flag pull. Players spinning out of control will be called for flag guarding.
- d. Runners may leave their feet if there is a clear indication that he/she has done so to avoid collision with another player without a flag guarding penalty enforced.
- e. Flag obstruction – All jerseys must be tucked in before play begins. The flags must be on the player’s hips and free from obstruction. Deliberately obstructed flags will be considered flag guarding.

Article 5: Blocking / Screening

No blocking or “screening” is allowed at any time.

Article 6: Running With the Ball-Carrier

Offensive players without the ball must stop their motion once the ball has crossed the line of scrimmage. There is no running with the ball-carrier.

SECTION 3: PASSING

Article 1: Forward Pass

A pass is considered a forward pass if the ball first touches anything beyond the spot where the ball is released. All other passes are backward passes, even if it is lateral (parallel to the scrimmage line).

- a. The quarterback may throw the ball away to avoid a sack. The pass must go beyond the line of scrimmage and be in the vicinity of a receiver.
- b. Quarterbacks cannot spike the ball dead unless the ball travels beyond the line of scrimmage and is in the vicinity of a teammate.
- c. Any player who has received a legal handoff can throw the ball forward as long as they are still behind the line of scrimmage.

USA FOOTBALL RECOMMENDATION: FOR TEAMS THAT ARE STILL LEARNING BASIC FOOTBALL SKILLS, OFFICIALS SHOULD USE THEIR DISCRETION FOR BALLS THAT DO NOT REACH THE LINE OF SCRIMMAGE AS LONG AS THE PLAYER MADE AN HONEST EFFORT TO MAKE IT THERE.

Article 2: Shovel Pass

Shovel passes are allowed but must be received beyond the line of scrimmage.

Article 3: Seven Second Clock

A seven-second pass clock begins upon the snap and continues until there is a handoff or pass. If the seven-second clock expires while the quarterback still has the ball, the play is blown dead, a down is lost and the ball is returned to the line of scrimmage as if an incomplete pass occurred.

SECTION 4: RECEIVING

Article 1: Eligible Receivers

All players – are eligible to receive passes.

Article 2: Legal Reception

A player must have at least one foot inbounds to make a legal reception.

Article 3: Simultaneous Possession

In the case of simultaneous possession by both an offensive and defensive player, possession is awarded to the offense.

Article 4: Interceptions

Interceptions are returnable and are the only changes of possession that do not result with starting on the 5-yard line.

SECTION 5: BLITZER AND RUSHER

Article 1: Blitzzer

All Blitzzers must be a minimum of seven yards behind the line of scrimmage when the ball is snapped and must declare themselves by raising their hand. Players not blitzing the quarterback can defend on the line of scrimmage. No more than two players may establish themselves as Blitzzers on a given play.

USA FOOTBALL RECOMMENDATION: FOR TEAMS STILL LEARNING BASIC FOOTBALL SKILLS, ELIMINATE PASS BLITZERS TO ALLOW PLAYERS THE FULL SEVEN SECONDS TO THROW THE BALL WITHOUT PRESSURE.

Article 2: Rusher

Once the ball is handed off, the 7-yard rule no longer is in effect, and all defenders may go behind the line of scrimmage. At this point players crossing the line of scrimmage are Rushers.

Article 3: Legal Blitzing

A marker, or the official, will designate a rush line seven yards from the line of scrimmage. Defensive players should verify they are in the correct position and identify themselves before every play.

- a. A legal blitz is:
 - i. Any rush from a point 7 yards from the defensive line of scrimmage.
 - ii. If a blitzzer leaves the rush line early (breaks the 7-yard area), they may return to the rush line, reset and then legally rush the quarterback.
 - iii. If a blitzzer leaves the rush line early and the ball is handed off before he/she crosses the line of scrimmage, he/she may legally rush the second receiver.
- b. A penalty may be called if:
 - i. The Blitzzer leaves the rush line before the snap crosses the line of scrimmage before a handoff or pass – illegal rush (5 yards from the line of scrimmage and first down).
 - ii. Any defensive player crosses the line of scrimmage before the ball is snapped – offsides (5 yards from line of scrimmage and first down).
 - iii. Any defensive player not lined up at the rush line or declared crosses the line of scrimmage before the ball is passed or handed off – illegal rush (5 yards from the line of scrimmage and first down).
 - iv. A maximum of 2 players may establish themselves as a blitzzer. If a player who signals is less than 7 yards from the line of scrimmage or if a player is giving an invalid signal or if more than 2 players simultaneously keep their hand raised after the snapper has touched the ball, it's a foul for illegal signal. Foul - 5 yards from the line of scrimmage.

c. Special circumstances:

- i. Teams are not required to rush the quarterback with the seven second clock in effect.
- ii. Teams are required to identify their Blitzter before the play.

Article 4: Roughing the Passer

Players blitzing the quarterback may attempt to block a pass; however, NO contact can be made with the quarterback in any way. Blocking the pass or attempting to block the pass and then making contact with the passer will result in a roughing the passer penalty.

Article 5: Impeding the Blitzter

The offense cannot impede the Blitzter in any way. The Blitzters have the right to a clear path to the quarterback, regardless of where they line up prior to the snap. If the "path or line" is occupied by a moving offensive player, then it is the offense's responsibility to avoid the Blitzter. Any disruption to the Blitzter's path and/or contact will result in an impeding the blitzter penalty. If the offensive player does not move after the snap, then it is the Blitzter's responsibility to go around the offensive player and to avoid contact.

Article 6: Quarterback Sack

A sack occurs if the quarterback's flag are pulled behind the line of scrimmage. The ball is placed where the quarterback's feet are when flag is pulled.

- a. A safety is awarded if the sack takes place in the offensive team's end zone.

SECTION 6. HOLDING, SHIELDING, CONTACT AND AIMING

Article 1: Holding

Holding is grasping an opponent or their equipment, not releasing immediately and impacting the opponent.

Article 2: Shielding

Shielding is obstructing an opponent without contact by moving into their path. A moving player without right of way who impedes an opponent from running a pass route, getting to the runner or impedes a legal blitzter is guilty of shielding. A player standing still (with the right of place) is not shielding, even if the player is obstructing an opponent.

Article 3: Contact

Contact is touching an opponent with impact. Touching with no impact is not a foul.

Article 4: Aiming

Aiming is to target and initiate contact with an opponent or to run into an opponent on purpose, even with right of way. Aiming is any deliberate or avoidable contact with excessive force, even in an attempted flag pull or while playing the ball during a pass. Aiming is to attack a ball in possession or take away the ball from the runner.

SECTION 7. FLAG PULLING

Article 1: Legal Flag Pull

A legal flag pull takes place when the ball-carrier is in full possession of the ball.

Article 2: Diving and Holding

Defenders can dive to pull flags but cannot tackle, hold or run through the ball-carrier when pulling flags.

Article 3: Stripping

It is illegal to attempt to strip or pull the ball from the ball-carrier's possession at any time.

Article 4: Inadvertent Loss of Flag

If a player's flag inadvertently falls off during the play, the player is down immediately upon possession of the ball and the play ends. The ball is placed where the flag lands.

Article 5: Illegal Flag Pull

A defensive player may not intentionally pull the flags off of a player who is not in possession of the ball.

- a. If a defender makes a good-faith flag pull while a receiver bobbles or juggles what will be a completed catch, the ball is down where possession is made.

SECTION 8. FORMATIONS

Article 1: Offensive Formations

Offenses must have a minimum of one player on the line of scrimmage (the center) and any number of players on the line of scrimmage. The quarterback must be off the line of scrimmage.

- a. One player at a time may go in motion 1 yard behind and parallel to the line of scrimmage.
EXAMPLE: An offensive player lined up 3 yards deep in the backfield can never go in motion. A player in motion must either start from a set position on the line of scrimmage or 1 yard off to adhere to the rule.
- b. No motion is allowed toward the line of scrimmage.

Article 2: False Start

Movement by a player who is set or a player who runs toward the line of scrimmage while in motion is considered a false start.

Article 3: Legal Snap

The center must snap the ball with a rapid and continuous motion between his/her legs to a player in the backfield, and the ball must completely leave his/her hands.

SECTION 9. UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

Article 1: Intentional Contact

If the field monitor or official witnesses any acts of intentional tackling, elbowing, cheap shots, blocking or any unsportsmanlike act, the game will be stopped and the player will be ejected from the game. The decision is made at the referee's discretion. No appeals will be considered. FOUL PLAY WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!

- a. Players may not physically or verbally abuse any opponent, coach or official.
- b. Ball-carriers MUST make an effort to avoid defenders with an established position.
- c. Defenders are not allowed to run through the ball-carrier when pulling flags.

USA FOOTBALL RECOMMENDATION: FOR TEAMS STILL LEARNING BASIC FOOTBALL SKILLS, REMOVE ANY PLAYER WHO COMMITS AN UNSPORTSMANLIKE OR DANGEROUS ACT FROM THE FIELD TO RECEIVE INSTRUCTION FROM A COACH AND A COOLING OFF PERIODS. OFFICIALS CAN EJECT THE PLAYER AT THEIR DISCRETION IF THERE ARE CONTINUED INFRACTIONS THAT ARE DEEMED INTENTIONAL.

Article 2: Offensive Language

Offensive or confrontational language is not allowed. Officials have the right to determine offensive language. If offensive or confrontational language occurs, the referee will give one warning. If it continues, the player or players will be ejected from the game.

Article 3: Spectator Conduct

Fans must also adhere to good sportsmanship as well:

- a. Yell to cheer on your players, not to harass officials or other teams.
- b. Keep comments clean and profanity free.
- c. Compliment ALL players, not just one child or team.

Article 4: Field Safety

Fans are required to keep fields safe and kid-friendly:

- a. Keep younger kids and equipment such as coolers, chairs and tents a minimum of 10 yards off the field in the end zone area.
- b. Stay in the end zone area, not between fields. The Administrative Zone is reserved for league administration, game officials, medical personnel, coaches and players only.
- c. Dispose of ALL trash in designated trash cans.

Article 5: Unsportsmanlike Conduct Penalty

Unsportsmanlike conduct penalties:

- a. Defense + 10 yards from line of scrimmage and automatic first down
- b. Offense - 10 yards from line of scrimmage and loss of down

RULE 5: OFFICIAL DUTIES

SECTION 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1: Jurisdiction of Officials

Jurisdiction of Officials - The officials' jurisdiction begins with the coin toss and ends when the Referee declares the score final.

Article 2: Number of Officials

Number of Officials - The game shall be played under the supervision of 2 (R and FJ), 3 (R, DJ and FJ) or 4 (R, DJ, FJ and SJ) officials.

- a. If officiating crews contain 2 or 3 officials, the other job responsibilities are to be split accordingly.

SECTION 2. REFEREE

Article 1: Position

The initial position of the Referee is behind and to the side of the FJ in the offensive backfield. On a 2-man crew, the Referee is positioned and working like Down Judge.

Article 2: Basic Responsibilities

Basic Responsibilities:

- a. The Referee has general oversight and control of the game, has final authority for the score and their decisions upon rules and other matters pertaining to the game are final.
- b. The Referee shall inspect the field and report any irregularities to game management, coaches and other officials.
- c. The Referee has jurisdiction over player equipment.
- d. The Referee shall indicate that the ball is ready for play, award new series of downs and administer penalties.
- e. The Referee shall notify both head coaches of any disqualifications.
- f. After the snap, the Referee shall be responsible for ruling on the play behind the scrimmage line around the ball.
- g. The Referee is responsible for coverage of the quarterback.

SECTION 3. DOWN JUDGE

Article 1: Position

The initial position of the Down Judge is on the scrimmage line at the side line with the down indicator.

Article 2: Basic Responsibilities

Basic Responsibilities:

- a. The Down Judge is responsible for the operation of the down indicator.
- b. The Down Judge shall keep count of the downs.
- c. The Down Judge has jurisdiction over the scrimmage line and their side line.
- d. Once the ball has crossed the scrimmage line, the Down Judge shall be responsible for ruling on the play around the ball and forward progress on their side of the field.

SECTION 4. FIELD JUDGE

Article 1: Position

The initial position of the Field Judge is 7 yards deep at the side line opposite to the down indicator.

Article 2: Basic Responsibilities

Basic Responsibilities:

- a. On a 2 or 3-man crew the Field Judge is responsible for timing the game or supervising the game clock operator.
- b. The Field Judge has jurisdiction over their side line.
- c. Once the ball has crossed the scrimmage line, the Field Judge shall be responsible for ruling on the play around the ball and forward progress on their side of the field.

SECTION 5. SIDE JUDGE

Article 1: Position

The initial position of the Side Judge is 7 or more yards deep at the side line with the down indicator.

Article 2: Basic Responsibilities

Basic Responsibilities:

- a. The Side Judge is responsible for timing the game or supervising the game clock operator.
- b. The Side Judge shall be responsible for observing receivers on deep routes for ruling on long passes and the status of the ball and forward progress in their area.

RULE 6: PENALTIES**SECTION 1.****General Provisions**

The officials will call all penalties.
Game officials determine incidental contact that may result from normal run of play.
All penalties will be assessed from the line of scrimmage, except as noted (spot fouls).
Only the team captain or head coach may ask the referee questions about rule clarification and interpretations. Players may not question calls.
Games may not end on a defensive penalty unless the offense declines it.
Penalties are assessed live ball then dead ball. Live ball penalties must be assessed before play is considered complete.
Penalties will be assessed half the distance to the goal yardage when the penalty yardage is more than half the distance to the goal.

SECTION 2.**Defensive Spot Fouls**

Holding	Automatic first down
Stripping	+10 yards and automatic first down
Illegal flag pull (Before the receiver has the ball)	+5 Yards From the Spot.
Illegal Equipment	+5 from the spot. *Further infractions may result in unsportsmanlike conduct up to ejection.

SECTION 3.**Offensive Spot Fouls**

Screening, blocking or running with the ball	-10 yards and loss of down
Charging	-10 yards and loss of down
Flag guarding	-5 yards and loss of down
Illegal Equipment	-5 yards from the spot of the foul. *Further infractions may result in unsportsmanlike conduct up to ejection

SECTION 4.**Defensive Penalties**

Defensive pass interference	+10 yards from the line of scrimmage and automatic first down
Defensive unnecessary roughness	+10 yards from the line of scrimmage and automatic first down
Defensive unsportsmanlike conduct	+10 yards from the line of scrimmage and automatic first down
Offsides	+5 yards from line of scrimmage
Illegal rush (Starting rush from inside 7-yard marker)	+5 yards from line of scrimmage
Illegal Signal	+5 yards from the line of scrimmage. Live ball foul
Roughing the passer	+5 yards from line of scrimmage and automatic first down
Taunting	+5 yards & automatic first down

SECTION 5.**Offensive Penalties**

Offensive unnecessary roughness	-10 yards from the line of scrimmage and loss of down
Offensive unsportsmanlike conduct	-10 yards from the line of scrimmage and loss of down
Offsides / false start	-5 yards from line of scrimmage
Delay of game	-5 yards from line of scrimmage
Illegal forward pass (Any pass received or lands behind the line of scrimmage or throwing a pass after crossing the line of scrimmage)	-5 yards from line of scrimmage and loss of down
Offensive pass interference	-10 yards from line of scrimmage and loss of down
Illegal motion (More than one person moving)	-5 yards from line of scrimmage and loss of down
Impeding the Blitz	-5 yards from line of scrimmage and loss of down
Taunting	-5 yards and loss of down
Center Sneak	-5 yards from the line of scrimmage and loss of down
Backwards pass	-5 yards from the line of scrimmage and loss of down

SECTION 6. OFFICIALS SIGNALS



Ready for play



Stop the clock



Touchdown



Safety



First down



Loss of down



Incomplete pass



End of period



Offside
Illegal blitz



False start
Illegal procedure



Delay of game
Delay of pass



Illegal participation
Illegal substitution



Unsportsmanlike
conduct



Pass interference



Illegal forward pass or
backward pass



Illegal contact



Shielding



Disqualification



Jumping



Diving



Flag guarding
Illegal flag pull

THIS REPRESENTS PRACTICE AND IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES BASED ON OUR CURRENT LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE. RECOMMENDATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS MORE RESEARCH AND INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE.



USA[®]
FOOTBALL

USA FLAG[™] 7'S
RULEBOOK

To: Amie Peele(apeele@peeelawgroup.com)
Subject: U.S. Trademark Application Serial No. 97724960 - USA FLAG - -
20011.00129
Sent: October 04, 2024 08:32:44 PM EDT
Sent As: tmng.notices@uspto.gov

Attachments

**United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)
Office Action (Official Letter) About Applicant's Trademark Application**

U.S. Application Serial No. 97724960

Mark: USA FLAG

Correspondence Address:

Amie Peele
Peele Law Group, PC
49 Boone Village, Box 299
Zionsville IN 46077
United States

Applicant: USA Football, Inc.

Reference/Docket No. 20011.00129

Correspondence Email Address: apeele@peeelawgroup.com

**SUSPENSION NOTICE
No Response Required**

Issue date: October 4, 2024

The application is suspended for the reason(s) specified below. *See* 37 C.F.R. §2.67; TMEP §§716 *et seq.*

Application suspended until legal proceeding(s) involving the applied-for mark is resolved. The legal proceeding(s) below involves (1) a registered mark that conflicts with applicant's mark under Trademark Act Section 2(d), (2) a mark in a pending application(s) that could conflict with applicant's mark under Section 2(d) if it registers, and/or (3) the registrability of applicant's mark. 15 U.S.C. §1052; *see* 37 C.F.R. §2.83; TMEP §§716.02(a), (c)-(d), 1208 *et seq.* Because the outcome of this proceeding(s) could directly affect whether applicant's mark can register, action on this application is suspended until the proceeding(s) is resolved. *See* 37 C.F.R. §2.67; TMEP §§716.02(a), (c)-(d).

Civil Action No(s). 4:23-cv-00465-ALM

Refusal(s) and/or requirement(s) resolved and maintained and continued. The following refusal(s) and/or requirement(s) are satisfied:

- FAILURE TO FUNCTION
- SPECIMEN UNACCEPTABLE
- IDENTIFICATION UNACCEPTABLE

See TMEP §713.02.

The following refusal(s) and/or requirement(s) is/are maintained and continued:

- SECTION 2(d) REFUSAL -- LIKELIHOOD OF CONFUSION

See id. These refusal(s) and/or requirement(s) will be made final once this application is removed from suspension, unless a new issue arises. *See* TMEP §716.01.

Suspension process. The USPTO will periodically check this application to determine if it should remain suspended. *See* TMEP §716.04. As needed, the trademark examining attorney will issue a letter to applicant to inquire about the status of the reason for the suspension. TMEP §716.05.

No response required. Applicant may [file a response](#), but is not required to do so.

/Edward Payabyab/
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United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)

USPTO OFFICIAL NOTICE

Office Action (Official Letter) has issued
on October 4, 2024 for
U.S. Trademark Application Serial No. 97724960

A USPTO examining attorney has reviewed your trademark application and issued an Office action. You may be required to respond to this Office action. Follow the steps below.

- (1) **Read the Office action.** This email is NOT the Office action.
- (2) **Respond to the Office action, if a response is required.** Respond by deadline using the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS). Your response must be received by the USPTO on or before 11:59 p.m. **Eastern Time** of the last day of the response period. Otherwise, your application will be **abandoned**. See the Office action itself regarding how to respond.
- (3) **Direct general questions** about using USPTO electronic forms, the USPTO [website](#), the application process, the status of your application, and whether there are outstanding deadlines to the [Trademark Assistance Center \(TAC\)](#).

After reading the Office action, address any question(s) regarding the specific content to the USPTO examining attorney identified in the Office action.

GENERAL GUIDANCE

- **Check the status of your application periodically** in the [Trademark Status & Document Retrieval \(TSDR\)](#) database to avoid missing critical deadlines.
- **Update your correspondence email address** to ensure you receive important USPTO notices about your application.
- **Beware of trademark-related scams.** Protect yourself from people and companies that may try to take financial advantage of you. Private companies may call you and pretend to be the USPTO or may send you communications that resemble official USPTO documents to trick you. We will never request your credit card number or social security number over the phone. Verify the correspondence originated from us by using your Serial Number in our database, [TSDR](#), to confirm that it appears under the “Documents” tab, or contact the [Trademark Assistance Center](#).
- **Hiring a U.S.-licensed attorney.** If you do not have an attorney and are not required to

have one under the trademark rules, we encourage you to hire a U.S.-licensed attorney specializing in trademark law to help guide you through the registration process. The USPTO examining attorney is not your attorney and cannot give you legal advice, but rather works for and represents the USPTO in trademark matters.