



PLANO ADULT SPORTS

FLAG FOOTBALL BY-LAWS

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Article I. City of Plano Policies & Procedures

Section 1.01 GOVERNMENT

1. This league shall be governed by the Plano Parks & Recreation Department and assisted by an Adult Flag Football Advisory Committee.
2. The Flag Football Advisory Committee shall assist in ruling on protests, appeals, and extended disciplinary action.
3. Any rule not covered in the league By-laws will be covered under the USA Football Official Rules of Flag Football.
4. Per City Ordinance, the consumption or possession of any alcoholic beverage is prohibited in all parks located within city limits. This also includes park parking lots.
5. The officials' decision shall be final on judgment calls and on the conduct of the game. These decisions do not involve interpretation of the rules, the by-laws of the league, or the eligibility of players.

Section 1.02 REGISTRATION

1. Registration information is available on our website (www.teamsideline.com/plano) There you will need to click the dropdown "Sports We Offer", click the corresponding sport, and then click the link, directing you to the registration portal. If you would like to register over the phone you can contact us at 972-941-5275 with your payment information.
2. Special requests that are noted in the appropriate location on the registration form will try to be honored **if possible.**

Section 1.03 FEES

1. Each team shall pay a participation fee set by the Parks & Recreation Department.
2. All fees shall be paid in full by the designated due date set by the Parks & Recreation Department.
THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS.
3. There will be no refunds once the schedules have been published.

Section 1.04 ELIGIBILITY

1. **AT ALL TIMES, THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ELIGIBILITY AND CONDUCT OF PLAYERS AND SPECTATORS RESTS WITH THE MANAGER OF THE TEAM.**
2. All participants in flag football must have attained the **age of eighteen (18)** years as of September 1 of the current year.
3. No player shall be eligible who has not signed the official playing roster or player addition form.
4. Players may not play on different teams within the same league. No player will be released to play on another team in the same league. Players may play on more than one team; however, they will do so at their own risk.
5. No player may participate who has been suspended from any other affiliated Parks & Recreation activity until approved to play by the Flag Football Advisory Committee upon recommendation by the Parks & Recreation Department.
6. Teams may question eligibility of only two players per game. Whole rosters may not be questioned. Teams playing ineligible players will forfeit all games in which the ineligible persons appeared in the lineup and may forfeit all remaining games in the current season's schedule. The ineligible person will

be suspended, and no entry fees will be refunded. Managers playing ineligible or suspended players may be suspended for two (2) full calendar years from Plano Parks & Recreation Department activities.

Article II. Rules

Section 2.01 EQUIPMENT

1. Each team will furnish a leather ball for each game. Each team will also furnish its own flags. Velcro or cylinder-type flag belts are acceptable.
2. All players must wear protective mouthpieces. No player will be allowed to play without a mouthpiece.

Section 2.02 ROSTER

1. Please be mindful when picking your team name. The City of Plano Parks & Recreation leagues and facilities are family friendly. Please refrain from using suggestive, derogatory, profane, or offensive team names. The City of Plano Adult Sports department has the right to refuse any team name that may be viewed as non-family friendly.
2. Team rosters will be limited to twenty (20) players.
3. All players must sign the official team roster form or have completed a player addition form prior to playing in a game.
4. The official roster form must be completed and submitted to Adult Sports Staff by the second scheduled game. Your completed roster form is to be filled out through the Team Sideline app or e-mailed to adultsports@plano.gov.
5. In order to add a player to the team after the roster has been turned in, a player addition form must be filled out and submitted.
6. Players may not be added to your roster after the completion of the sixth game played in the season.

Section 2.03 UNIFORMS

1. All jerseys must be numbered and of similar color. A legal number of contrasting color, at least 8" inches high, and must be worn on the back of all jerseys. Numbers must be of a permanent nature. No tape is allowed. Penalty: A player must change his/her shirt, or fail to participate, if the referee deems the shirt or number unsuitable.
2. Players may NOT wear shorts or pants with pockets.
3. Players may NOT wear jewelry during league games. There will be an automatic ejection from the game if an infraction is discovered.
4. If two players wear the same number, both players may not participate in a game at the same time.
5. Players may not switch jerseys after the line-up has been submitted.
6. During cold weather, players may wear a jacket over an appropriate jersey.
7. Apparel, including uniforms worn by spectators, players, managers, and coaches, must be appropriate and not of obscene, lewd, vulgar, profane, or disruptive manner in either written or graphic format. Anyone wearing apparel as described will be considered a public nuisance and will be subject to penalties as provided in Ordinance 15-3 of the City of Plano.
8. Teams will be expected not to make a mockery of the game (i.e., wearing inappropriate attire).

Section 2.04 FORFEITS

1. Game time shall be forfeit time for all games.

2. The official score of a forfeited game due to ejection or due to lack of players at game time shall be recorded as 7-0. In the event that a team has to forfeit due to injury, the official score will be recorded as 7-0. In the case of a double forfeit, the official score shall be recorded as 0-0.
3. If neither team can produce the required number of eligible players at the stated game time, a double forfeit will occur, and the official standings shall show a loss for both teams. There shall be no opportunity to replay the game. If the forfeit is the last game of the evening, the facility will be vacated, and the lights will be turned off.
4. Before each league game is played in this league, each team must have a manager or coach present who is the official spokesman for his/her team and is the person responsible to the referee. Penalty: Forfeiture of game.
5. Forfeiture of three (3) league games will automatically suspend a team for the remainder of the season. All remaining games to be played will be forfeited and no entry fee refund will be made. The scores for all completed games will be recorded as played.
6. If a team manager knows prior to game time that his/her team will be required to forfeit the game due to lack of eligible players, he/she should verbally forfeit the game only by contacting the Adult Sports staff. Prior to 5:00 PM, please call 972-941-5275. After 5:00 PM, please call staff at the Heritage Yards softball complex office at 972-712-3930. Leave a message if necessary so that the opposing team can be notified. This forfeit will count as a forfeit toward suspension from the league.
7. A voicemail will be considered a notification if done before your team's scheduled game time.
8. Forfeited games will be rescheduled only if all games scheduled for the day and game time are canceled by the Adult Sports Staff (due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances) prior to the scheduled start time of the forfeited game.

Section 2.05 SCHEDULES

1. Teams are required to play schedules as posted. Game schedules will not be changed to accommodate individual teams. The only changes to game schedules will be made by Adult Sports Staff due to rainouts or other unforeseen administrative or facility-related circumstances.
2. All games will be played as scheduled except in the event of unavoidable conflicts in facilities or inclement weather. Any postponed game will be rescheduled by the Adult Sports Office of the Parks & Recreation Department. Decisions on cancelations of games due to inclement weather will be made by the Parks & Recreation Department on the scheduled game day. Managers can call the rain-out hotline (972-210-2936) at 4:00 PM, Monday through Thursday. Managers/players may also check teamsideline.com/plano to find field condition status updates. Any change in the decision after 4:00 PM on Monday through Thursday due to later weather conditions will be updated at the time of the call on the rain-out hotline and our website.
3. Games that are called due to rain or other unforeseen circumstances will be considered final if the game has progressed through five (5) minutes of play in the second half. All uncompleted games will be started from the beginning.
4. All make-up games will be played as time allows during and after the regular season. Make-up schedules will be available online. An effort will be made to reschedule all make-up games on each league's respective night of play, but scheduling on weekends or other week-nights may become necessary due to limited availability on a given week-night.
5. Make-up dates/times will not be changed to accommodate individual teams.

Section 2.06 PROTESTS

1. Rule Interpretation Protests:

- a. Protests will not be received or considered if they are based solely on a decision involving the accuracy of a judgment on the part of a referee.
- b. Only protests involving the **misinterpretation** of a playing rule will be allowed.
- c. Only protests that actually affect the **win-loss** outcome of the **protested game** will be considered.
- d. **Teams wishing to protest the misinterpretation of a playing rule must:**
 - i. Notify the head referee stating the reason for the protest prior to:
 1. The next down **OR**
 2. All players having left the playing field, if on the last play of a half **OR**
 3. The referee having left the playing field, if on the last play of the game
 - ii. Notify City Staff through email adultsports@plano.gov, sent by the team manager, and filed by 5:00 PM the next business day.
 - iii. Provide a \$50.00 deposit (cash) to City Staff by 5:00 PM the next business day. If the protest is upheld, the deposit will be refunded.
- e. All protests will be ruled on by City Staff and the head referee.
- f. If the protest is upheld, all penalties will be determined by City Staff and the head referee whose decision shall be final.

2. Eligibility Protests:

- a. **Teams wishing to protest the eligibility of a player must:**
 - i. Inform the head referee that the game is being played under protest and identify the person(s) in question prior to the completion of the game.
 - ii. Notify City Staff of the protest through email adultsports@plano.gov, sent by the team manager, and filed by 5:00 PM the next business day.
 - iii. Provide a \$50.00 deposit (cash) to City Staff by 5:00 PM the next business day. If the protest is upheld, the deposit will be refunded.
 - iv. The eligibility of only two (2) players per game may be challenged.
 - v. All protests will be ruled on by the City Staff and the head referee.
- b. **Protested player(s) must:**
 - i. Produce picture identification to the head referee issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety within ten (10) minutes of the completion of the game. **Failure to produce picture identification will result in an automatic forfeiture by the team using the player(s) in question.**
 - ii. City Staff will verify the identity of the player(s) in question with the referee. Rulings on player eligibility will be made within 48 hours, and City Staff will notify both team managers. **If the team roster is not on file and a player's eligibility is challenged, the game in question will be automatically forfeited.**

Section 3.06 GENERAL RULES

Article III. Coed Rules

Section 3.01 COED ROSTER

1. There is no maximum limit to the number of females that must be on the field. To ensure coed participation, a penalty will ensue if the offensive team fails to use a female as an operative player within three (3) consecutive downs.

Section 3.02 PLAY EXAMPLES

1. A pass deflected by a male and caught by a female IS a female play.
2. A pass intended for a female (in the eyes of the referee) that is deflected by a female and caught by a male COUNTS as a female play.
3. A pass thrown by a male, received by a male, and immediately pitched to a female (the “hook and ladder”) WILL NOT constitute a female play – no matter how far the female player advances with the ball after the pitch.
4. If a female pitches the ball to a male behind the line of scrimmage, this will NOT result in a female play.

Section 3.03 GENERAL COED RULES

1. The penalty for running three (3) consecutive downs without a female as an operative player will result in a dead ball, a 5-yard penalty, and a loss of down. The next play **must** be a female play.
2. Plays utilizing a female and resulting in the “loss of down” penalties will still be considered “female” plays. Plays utilizing a female resulting in a non-loss of down penalty will NOT count as a gender play. The play never existed.
3. The slate is clean for extra points. Everyone is eligible.
4. If a male is the QB on a play which could be passed/handed to either a male or female and the QB is sacked, the ball is spotted where he is sacked, the play shall stand, and shall be deemed a “Male Play”. If a team uses a male QB during an operative female play and the QB is sacked then the following play shall remain an operative female play until the requirements of the female play have been met.
5. If a female scores a touchdown, eight (8) points will be awarded to the scoring team. This counts for offensive or defensive scores (such as a returned interception with a female carrying the ball into the endzone). In order to receive eight (8) points, a female must cross the endzone with a controlled ball or a ball caught in the endzone. Passing touchdowns must be thrown by a male or female and caught by a female for eight (8) points to be awarded. In a running touchdown, eight (8) points will be awarded if a female crosses the endzone with the ball and flags on hips. In any other scenario, points will default to six (6) points upon referee’s judgment.
6. If a female scores the P.A.T., either two (2) points or four (4) points will be awarded to the scoring team based on the conversion the team elects. This counts for offensive or defensive scores (such as a returned interception with a female carrying the ball into the endzone). In order to receive two (2) points or four (4) points, the female must cross the endzone with a controlled ball or a ball caught in the endzone. Passing P.A.T. must be thrown by a male or female and caught by a female for two (2) points or four (4) points to be awarded. In a running P.A.T., two (2) points or four (4) points will be awarded if a female crosses the endzone with the ball and flags on hips. In any other scenario, points will default to one (1) point or two (2) points upon referee’s judgment.
7. Every successful operative female play (every third play) must result in positive yardage. If the QB is a female on the operative play, the play is considered normal. If QB is a male on the operative play, a female must catch and/or advance the ball “beyond” the line of scrimmage for the play to count as a female play. Otherwise, play continues as operative female play and a loss of down. It will be the judgement of the referee, during an operative female play, to determine if the intent was legitimate.

(Example; a pass being dropped or just overthrown). If the intent is ruled as such, play will count as an operative female play. SACKS do not count as female play.

8. A team may legally play with no fewer than six (6) properly equipped players. There must be a minimum of one female on the playing field at all times.
 - a. - In an effort to minimize any forfeits, teams can start the game with 1 female and 5 males. If another female arrives, she must be placed into the game. So 5 males and 2 females may be on the field. At no point can there be more than 5 males on the field.

Article IV. Discipline

Section 4.01 MANAGER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Managers will be responsible to see that all their players know and abide by the rules as stated in the City of Plano Adult Flag Football By-laws. Further, managers are responsible for their players knowing and abiding by the City of Plano Adult Sports Sportsmanship Guidelines. If a manager cannot or will not control his/her players and spectators, he/she faces league sanctions ranging from removal or ejection to forfeiture of games.
2. **Only** the manager or his designated team representative may discuss a call or decision made by the officials. The manager or designated team representative is responsible for maintaining the team's cooperation with the referees and City Staff.

Section 4.02 SPORTSMANSHIP GUIDELINES

1. Unsportsmanlike conduct is contrary to the basic principles of athletic sports. The player Sportsmanship Guidelines have been established for the protection of the participants and spectators. Violation of the Sportsmanship Guidelines is not condoned by the City of Plano Adult Sports Department.
 - a. **No Person Shall:** At any time lay a hand upon, shove, strike, harass, or threaten a referee. Referees are required to immediately remove or eject the player from further play and report the player to City Staff.
 - b. **No Person Shall:** Be guilty of objectionable demonstrations of dissent at a referee's decision.
 - c. **No Person Shall:** Refuse to abide by a referee's decision. Referees are required to immediately remove or eject the player from further play and report the player to City Staff.
 - d. **No Person Shall:** Discuss with a referee in any manner the decision reached by such referee except the manager or designated team representative.
 - e. **No Person Shall:** Be guilty of using unnecessary rough tactics in the play of the game against a person of the opposing team. Referees are required to immediately remove or eject the player from further play and report the player to City Staff.
 - f. **No Person Shall:** Be guilty of endangering a player, league referee, City Staff, or spectator.
 - g. **No Person Shall:** Be guilty of physical attack upon a player, referee, City Staff, or spectator. Referees are required to immediately remove or eject the player from further play and report the player to City Staff.
 - h. **No Person Shall:** Be guilty of an abusive verbal attack upon a player, referee, City Staff, or spectator. Referees are required to immediately remove or eject the player from further play and report the player to City Staff.
 - i. **No Person Shall:** Appear upon the field of play at any time in an intoxicated condition. Referees are required to immediately remove or eject the player from further play and report the player to City Staff.

- j. **No Person Shall:** Use profane language before, during, or after any game on City property. Referees are required to immediately remove or eject the player from further play and report the player to City Staff.
- k. **The Manager and Team Shall:** Be responsible for the conduct of their fans and supporters. If fans and supporters become abusive toward team members, referees, or City Staff, they place the team in jeopardy of forfeiting the game.

Section 4.03 PENALTIES

1. If a referee has to warn you more than once, for any offense, it will be an automatic 15 yard penalty. If he has to warn you a second time, you will be removed from the game.
2. Use of profane language and/or unsportsmanlike conduct shall be an automatic suspension. It shall not be necessary for the Adult Flag Football Advisory Committee to meet except to increase the length of a suspension.
3. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated at any time for any reason. Managers, players, coaches, and spectators may be suspended from league play for **any** violation of the Sportsmanship Guidelines before, during, or after any game on City property. The Parks & Recreation Adult Sports Supervisor will decide on the length of suspensions, but there shall be a **minimum of two games or more** for the violation of any Sportsmanship Guidelines.
 - a. **Two-Game Suspension:** The player shall immediately be ejected from the game in which he/she is playing. The player is required to leave the facility and is ineligible to play in any other game that night. The two-game suspension shall be enforced beginning with the next game in the league in which the violation occurred.
 - b. **Suspension Greater Than Two Games:** The suspension shall be effective for the number of games designated following the game in which the violation occurred. The suspended player may not return to the park and will not be allowed to participate with any team playing in a City of Plano Flag Football league game or tournament until the suspension has been fulfilled.
4. Any player **ejected** from a game **must immediately leave the park**. If the player refuses to leave the park or threatens a referee at the time of the ejection, the game will be forfeited even if there are still eight (8) players eligible to play.
5. Bye-weeks and rained out games do not count towards a suspension.
6. Players may not participate in playoffs or tournament games until the full suspension has been served.
7. Playoff games and tournament games will count as games served to fulfill a suspension.
8. The suspension will be carried over to the next season if a player does not have a sufficient number of games remaining on his/her team schedule to complete the suspension.
9. There will be an indefinite period of time for fighting (fights will be defined as intent to do harm). Any or all persons involved in a fight will be suspended. Whole teams may be suspended if the infraction is severe enough (i.e. striking a referee, mass fights, striking a City Staff member, etc.).
10. A **one-year suspension** will be warranted if a second two-game suspension is drawn. **THE MAXIMUM PENALTY APPLIED AFTER THE SECOND EJECTION MAY RESULT IN A ONE-YEAR SUSPENSION FROM PARTICIPATION IN ALL CITY OF PLANO ADULT SPORT LEAGUES AND MAY RESULT IN A ONE-YEAR SUSPENSION FROM PARTICIPATION IN ALL SPORTS IN ALL TAAF AFFILIATED LEAGUES.**
11. A **one-year or more** suspension will be issued for striking a referee or City Staff member. Suspension will be forwarded to the State Commissioner and the TAAF Suspension Review Board.
12. Referees have the option of **removing** a player for minor infractions. A removal means that the player may not play for the remainder of the game only. The player **does not have to leave the park**, and the game may continue if there are at least eight (8) players eligible for play. **The referees have the right to increase a removal to an ejection if the unsportsmanlike behavior continues.**

13. Any player(s) found on park property in possession of an alcoholic beverage will be immediately ejected from the game, which will result in an automatic two-game suspension. The game will cease, and the result will be an automatic forfeit. If a player(s) are found in possession of an alcoholic beverage on park property **before a game**, the team's scheduled game(s) that night will be an automatic forfeit. If a player(s) is found in possession of an alcoholic beverage **after a game**, the team's next scheduled game(s) will be considered a forfeit.

Section 4.04 APPEALS

1. The City of Plano Adult Flag Football Advisory Committee will accept appeals of suspension from teams or players as long as:
 - a. The length of the team or player suspension is four (4) weeks or greater.
 - b. The suspension is not connected to any pending investigations by law enforcement.
2. To file an appeal, the team or player must:
 - a. Contact the City of Plano Adult Sports Supervisor within three (3) days of being notified of the suspension.
 - b. Provide a written account of the incident that led to the suspension, stating why the suspension should be terminated or reduced. This written account must be received within 48 hours of contacting the Adult Sports Supervisor and declaring the desire to appeal the suspension.
 - c. Provide contact information for any and all witnesses to the incident.
3. The City of Plano Adult Flag Football Advisory Committee will review all written documentation provided by all parties involved including players, referees, spectators, and City Staff. Upon reviewing the written documentation, the Committee will decide the necessity of:
 - a. **A meeting** with all involved parties to gain additional information.
 - i. If the Flag Football Advisory Committee finds it necessary to meet with the individuals involved, staff will set the date, time, and location of the meeting. All involved parties will be contacted and informed of the date, time, and location of the meeting. Every effort will be made to give at least one (1) week notice of the meeting. Once a date and time for the meeting have been set, they will not be changed or rescheduled except for unforeseen circumstances.
 - b. **A suspension**
 - i. If the Flag Football Advisory Committee decides that meeting with all the involved parties is not necessary, Committee members will decide if the suspension is warranted. If the suspension is deemed to be warranted, members will decide if it should be shortened, lengthened, or remain as is.
 - c. Once The Flag Football Advisory Committee has ruled on the suspension, the team manager or player will be notified by the City of Plano Adult Sports Supervisor who will inform him/her of the Committee's ruling. All appeal rulings by the City of Plano Flag Football Advisory Committee are **FINAL** and may not be appealed a second time.

Article V. General Information

Section 5.01 DETERMINATION OF LEAGUE WINNER

1. If a tie exists for any award position, the following tiebreaker criteria will be followed:
 - a. Win-loss in head-to-head games
 - b. Fewest points allowed in head-to-head games

- c. Most points scored in head-to-head games
- d. Fewest points allowed in league play
- e. Most points scored in league play
- f. Play a tiebreaker game

Section 5.02 FREE AGENT LIST

2. A “free agent” list is maintained by the Adult Sports Staff. This list contains information regarding individuals wishing to be added to a team. It is available for team managers to access on our website at www.teamsideline.com/plano.

Section 5.03 AWARDS

1. 1st place award consisting of twelve (10) custom championship shirts for first-place winners.

Section 5.04 QUESTIONS

1. The Adult Sports office telephone number is 972-941-5275. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM.