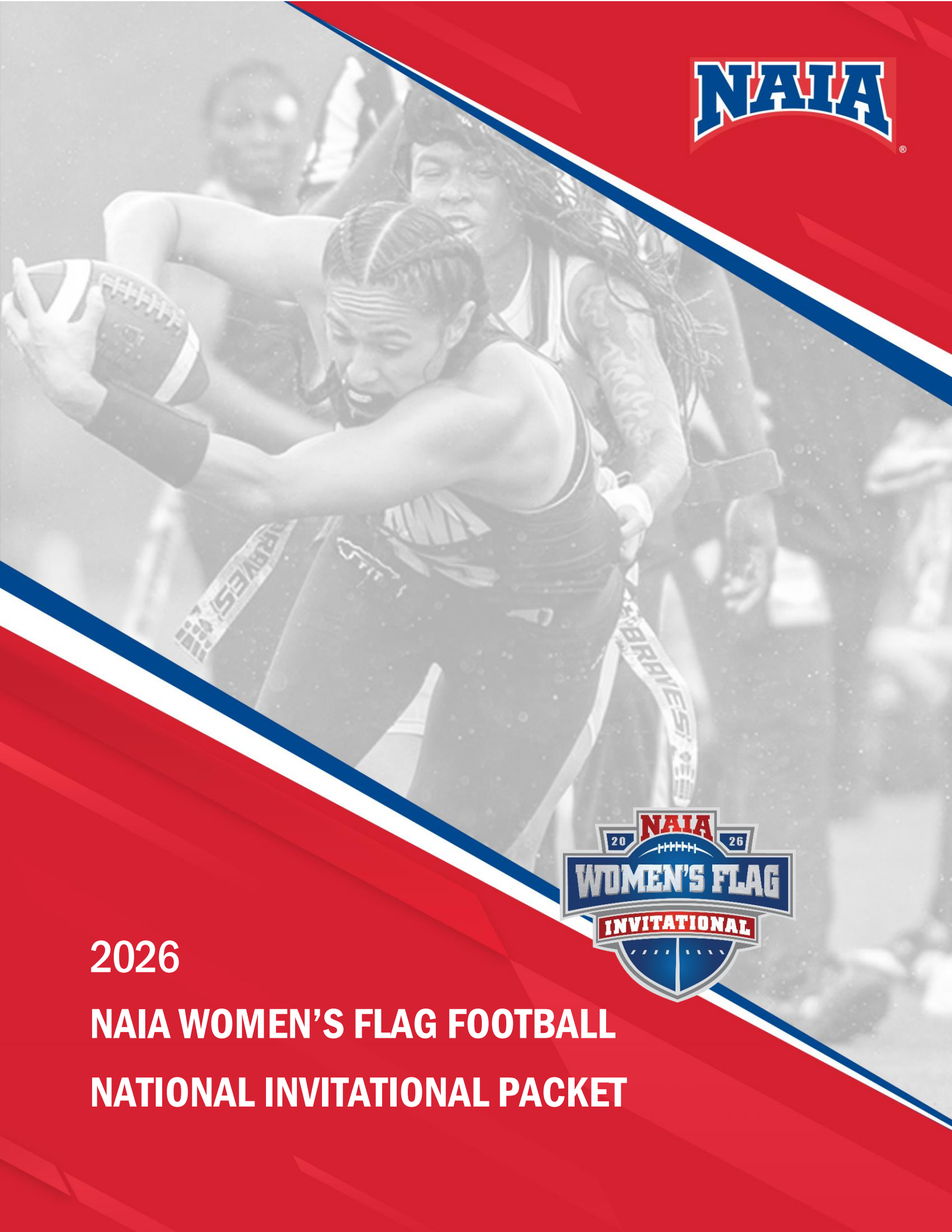




2026

**NAIA WOMEN'S FLAG FOOTBALL
NATIONAL INVITATIONAL PACKET**

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Welcome

On behalf of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) and RCX Sports, congratulations on your qualification to the 2026 NAIA Women's Flag Football National Invitational! The event will be held in Bradenton, Florida, at the IMG Academy on Wednesday, May 6th, through Saturday, May 9th, 2026. This packet will serve as an in-depth guide for the invitational.

We look forward to welcoming you to Bradenton and wish you the best of luck!

Mission Statement

The purpose of the NAIA is to promote education and development of students through intercollegiate athletic participation. Member institutions, although varied and diverse, share a common commitment to high standards and the principle that athletics serve as an integral part of education.

The NAIA embraces the concept of the student and recognizes the importance of the individuality of each member institution, the value of the conference and independent structure, and the benefits of membership in a national association. (Additional information relative to the philosophy of the NAIA can be found in the NAIA Official and Policy Handbook.)

About the NAIA

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) was founded in 1940 as the National Association of Intercollegiate Basketball (NAIB) to provide small colleges with a championship basketball tournament. In 1952, the organization expanded to include other sports and became the NAIA. The NAIA was a pioneer in college athletics, being the first to offer championships for African-American student-athletes and the first to sponsor a national championship for women's sports in 1980. Today, the NAIA supports smaller colleges and universities, emphasizing character-driven athletics and student-athlete development.

Invitational Personnel

Position	Name	Phone	Email
NAIA Championship Sport Manager	Samantha Walker	816-595-8156	swalker@naia.org
NAIA Athletic Communications Manager	Steve Wilson	816-595-8198	swilson@naia.org

Invitational Schedule

All times listed in ET unless otherwise specified

Wednesday, May 6 th		
2:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Practice Sessions and Team Check-in (refer to the practices section for assignment)	IMG Academy
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Student-Athlete Experience Opening Ceremony	Whiskey Joes Manatee River
Thursday, May 7 th		
8:00 am	Game 1: Warner vs Saint Francis	Field 9
8:00 am	Game 2: Hope International vs Baker	Field 10
10:00 am	Game 3: Ottawa vs St. Thomas	Field 9
10:00 am	Game 4: Keiser vs Kansas Wesleyan	Field 10
12:00 pm	Game 5: WG1 vs WG2	Field 9
12:00 pm	Game 6: LG1 vs LG2	Field 10
2:00 pm	Game 7: WG3 vs WG4	Field 9
2:00 pm	Game 8: LG3 vs LG4	Field 10
Friday, May 8 th		
8:00 am	Game 9: LG7 vs WG6	Field 10
10:00 am	Game 10: WG8 vs LG5	Field 10
12:00 pm	Game 11: WG9 vs WG10	Field 10
2:00 pm	Game 12: WG5 vs WG7	Field 10
4:00 pm	Game 13: LG12 vs WG11	Field 10
Saturday, May 9 th		
10:00 am	Championship Game	IMG Academy Stadium
2:00 pm	If Necessary Game	IMG Academy Stadium

Qualifier Call

An administrative Zoom call will be conducted by the NAIA National Office on Tuesday, April 28th at 11:00 am CT for all qualified Head Coaches and Athletic Directors to review the logistics and expectations for all National Invitational participants. It is mandatory that each institution's Head Coach and Athletic Director or designated administrator, other than a member of the coaching staff, participate in the Zoom call.

Zoom Link: <https://naia-org.zoom.us/j/83619438471?pwd=GyUa08IjLrQ4G9nBFXClwwP1khC29n.1>

Team Check In

Team check-in will take place at the field headquarters on Wednesday, May 6th from 2:00 to 6:00 pm. All Head Coaches are required to stop by the team check-in to verify rosters, confirm uniform colors, pickup credentials, and receive any additional information or materials. All teams should plan to arrive in Bradenton later than 2:00 pm EST on Wednesday, May 6th.

IMG Academy: 5650 Bollettieri Blvd, Bradenton, FL 34210

Practices

Practice times will be assigned to teams after qualifiers have been announced. Teams will receive 1-hour practice times from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm ET on Wednesday, May 6th. Practices will take place on the fields at IMG Academy.

IMG Academy: 5650 Bollettieri Blvd, Bradenton, FL 34210

Practice Assignments	
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Warner
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Ottawa
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Keiser
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Hope International
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Baker
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Kansas Wesleyan
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	St. Thomas
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Saint Francis

Pre-game Timeline

Teams will receive a 30-minute on-field warmup before games. Teams can use open fields or grass areas for stretching and off-field warmups. If games are running more than 30 minutes behind, the on-field warmup time will be adjusted accordingly. If games are running more than 15 minutes behind, teams will be given a 10-minute on-field warmup. The clock will start 5 minutes after the conclusion of the previous game.

Weather Policy

It is the responsibility of the host Medical Director/Head Athletic Trainer at NAIA Invitational events to determine when an event should be suspended and when it is safe to return to play as the result of severe weather. The AT is to notify the NAIA Championship Manager who, in collaboration with the appropriate personnel will implement the predetermined action for both player and spectator safety.

Participation in Functions at the National Invitational

All participating teams and individuals competing in a National Invitational must attend all functions including – Coaches Meetings, Student-Athlete Experience Event, and Champions of Character activities. Failure to comply with result in a penalty of a \$1,560 fine to the institution.

Student-Athlete Experience Event

The Student-Athlete Experience is from 7:00 to 9:00 pm ET on Wednesday, May 6th at Whisky Joes Manatee River. All participating teams are required to attend the Student-Athlete Experience Event. The event will consist of an Opening Ceremony, a meal, and guest speakers. Dress for the event is casual, no athletic wear.

Menu: Fruit and cheese displays, queso and salsa, mango pepper bruschetta, bonfire shrimp, taco bar, and beverages.

Event Address: Whiskey Joes Manatee River – 5313 19th St E, Ellenton, FL 34222

Coaches Meeting

The National Coaches and Administrators Qualifier Call will be on Tuesday, April 28th, 2026, at 11:00 am CT. Please use the Zoom link to join the call.

Zoom Link: <https://naia-org.zoom.us/j/83619438471?pwd=GyUa08IjLrQ4G9nBFXClwwP1khC29n.1>

Qualification Process

The NAIA Women's Flag Football National Invitational field consists of eight teams. Qualification to the National Invitational will be as follows:

- Conferences with 6+ teams will receive one auto berth
- Conferences with 12+ teams will receive two auto berths
- The Women's Flag Football National Selection Committee will meet to determine the remaining at-large berths to the National Invitational field.
- There are no limits to the number of at-large berths a Conference/Unaffiliated Group may receive.

Qualification allotments for the 2026 National Invitational will be four (4) automatic berths and four (4) at-large berths.

Sport Rules

Rules governing competition of NAIA Women's Flag Football competitions are specified in the [2025-26 and 2026-27 College Flag Football Rules](#).

Format

The NAIA Women's Flag Football National Invitational is an eight (8) team double-elimination tournament played Thursday through Saturday.

Seeding

After the Women's Flag Football National Selection Committee determines the at-large qualifiers, the committee will assign seeds to all eight qualified teams. The seeding will place teams into their respective games on the bracket.

Post-Championship

Awards

Team and individual awards will be presented to the Official Party of the Runner-Up and National Invitational Champion teams. Awards for the NAIA All-Tournament Team and the Invitational Most Valuable Player will also be given. There will be an official awards ceremony immediately following the final game on Saturday for the second and first-place teams and the All-Tournament Team.

NAIA All-Tournament Team and MVP

Participating coaches will nominate student-athletes for the All-Tournament team and MVP. A link will be provided the week of the invitational in the GroupMe app.

Championship Satisfaction Survey

During NAIA Championships, NAIA membership and student-athlete experience is of the utmost importance. The NAIA National Office and Championship Hosts dedicate themselves to planning the best experiences for all involved. The NAIA is committed to providing the best experience possible for its members and student-athletes and are able to provide feedback based on their experience and what improvements can be made for future NAIA Championships.

NAIA National Championship Satisfaction Survey:

<https://naiaforms.formstack.com/forms/csatsurvey>

Following the championship, coaches and administrators will receive an email containing a link to the survey and will be asked to forward the survey to student-athletes.

Invitational Deadlines

Submission Deadlines

Submission	Deadline (all times in CT)
Champions of Character	Wednesday, April 30, 2026 – 5:00 pm
Submit Official Rosters	Wednesday, April 29 th – 5:00 pm
Submit National Invitational Qualifier Form	Wednesday, April 29 th – 5:00 pm
Athletic Trainer Request Form	Monday, May 4 th – 8:00 am

Rosters

Teams are allowed up to 24 players in uniform and up to 4 support staff/bench personnel. Please use the Excel link below to fill out your official rosters. Rosters should be sent to Samantha Walker (swalker@naia.org) by 5:00 pm CT on Wednesday, April 29th.

Excel Link: <http://naia.prestosports.com/x/j8r5m>

Qualifier Survey

Teams should submit their qualifier surveys by Wednesday, April 29th, at 5:00 pm CT.

Qualifier Survey: https://naiaforms.formstack.com/forms/flag_football_qualifier_survey

Uniforms

Uniform Policy

The NAIA National Invitational will follow the College Flag Football Rules regarding uniforms. More detailed information can be found on Page RB-13.

Teams should have a dark and light colored uniform. Please bring both colored uniforms each day. Typically, the home team should wear their dark jersey, and the away team should wear their light jersey.

The top team on the bracket will be the home team. They will start the day in their dark jerseys. The bottom team on the bracket will start the day in their light jerseys.

Laundry

YoWash Laundromat

4211 59th St W

Bradenton, FL 34209

941-900-1500

SuperMatt Laundry

3106 Cortz Rd W

Bradenton, FL 34207

941-746-4414

Equipment

Official Ball

Teams will provide their own footballs. Before the game, each team should give the referees at least one game ball.

Venue Information

Official Team Entrance

Teams should enter IMG Academy Campus Entrance at 53rd Ave W and Bollettieri Blvd. There will be a campus check point as you make your way onto campus. If stopped, notify security that you are on campus for the NAIA Flag Football National Invitational. As you make your way down Bollettieri Blvd, you will drive through two parking lots to the east of the playing fields. Teams should park in these parking lots. There is an overflow parking lot to the north of the IMG Academy Stadium.

Locker Rooms

Teams will not have access to locker rooms until the championship on Saturday. Locker rooms for the championship will be locked and secured.

Facility Maps

Wednesday – Friday: https://naia.prestosports.com/coaches-corner/pdf/w-flag_football/Wed-Thur_Site_Map.pdf

Saturday: https://naia.prestosports.com/coaches-corner/pdf/w-flag_football/Saturday_Site_Map.pdf

Ticketing Information

The event is free of charge.

Parking

Wednesday through Friday, teams should park in the parking lots off Bollettieri Blvd, to the East of the fields. If these two lots are full, there is overflow parking to the North of the IMG Academy Stadium.

Saturday, the Championship games will be played in the IMG Academy Stadium. Teams should use the lot to the North of the stadium for parking on Saturday.

Each team vehicle will need a parking pass in the dash to park at IMG throughout the week. The parking pass will be shared with head coaches via email.

Team Travel & Information

Local Charter Buses

Contact Master's Transportation for all your group transportation and commercial vehicle needs.

Master's Transportation: <https://www.masterstransportation.com/masters-contact>

Phone: 800-783-3613

Email: info@masterstransportation.com

On-Site Communication

The NAIA will use the GroupMe app for all on-site communication. This is intended to be one-way communication from the NAIA to coaches and administrators. Please do not share the group with student-athletes. If you have questions, please send a direct message, email, or call the championship manager.

GroupMe Link: https://groupme.com/join_group/113905248/Jbad0ZZZ

Hotels

Team Housing

Teams are required to book hotels through the approved housing link below.

Approved Housing: https://www.teamtravelsource.com/sport_lander/rcx-flag-finals-2024/

Medical

Athletic Training

On Thursday and Friday, there will be two Athletic Training areas set up between the fields. During the Championship on Saturday, there will be one Athletic Training location in IMG Academy Stadium.

Link to Championship Emergency Action Plan:

Local Hospitals and Urgent Cares

HCA Florida Blake Hospital

2020 59th St W

Bradenton, FL 34209

941-792-6611

Distance from venue: 3.4 miles

MD Now Urgent Care

4332 Cortez Rd. W

Bradenton, FL 34210

941-277-8040

Distance from venue: 1 mile

Local Pharmacies

Walgreens Pharmacy

3425 53rd Ave W

Bradenton, FL 34210

941-752-7997

Concessions

Concessions

Food trucks will be on-site throughout the tournament. Food trucks include: Glam Slam BBQ, Smoothie King, 88 Piano Bar, and Bonnano's Bagels.

Official Roster

The Official Party should be comprised of student-athletes, coaches, managers, athletic trainers, and staff members who travel with a competing team.

Submission Process

Teams are allowed up to 24 players in uniform and up to 4 support staff/bench personnel. Please use the Excel link below to fill out your official rosters. Rosters should be sent to Samantha Walker (swalker@naia.org) by 5:00 pm CT on Wednesday, April 29th.

Official Roster Form: <http://naia.prestosports.com/x/j8r5m>

Additional Forms

All coaches and athletes on the Official Roster will need to fill out and submit both of the waivers linked below. Please print and fill out the RCX Foundation release waivers and complete them prior to check-in. All waivers can be turned in at check-in on Wednesday, May 6th. The IMG waiver can be submitted online.

RCX Foundation Release Waiver: https://naia.prestosports.com/coaches-corner/pdf/w-flag_football/RCX_Sports_Foundation- Inc. Event Player Registration Agreement.pdf

IMG Waiver: <https://forms.imgacademy.com/view.php?id=944263>

Programs and Merchandise

Program

Link to the NAIA Flag Football National Invitational Program:

Fine Designs

Official NAIA National Championship merchandise is provided exclusively by Fine Designs with an expansive list of items and customization options. Participating teams can order merchandise on-site or directly from Fine Designs prior to the national championship. Please see below for details on both options:

1. Order and Pay Onsite: A team order can be placed on-site via a team order form and working directly with a Fine Designs rep. Payments can be made by credit/debit card or cash. Merchandise will be provided on-site. Team order forms will be provided on-site at the national championship and can be accessed by visiting: Onsite Team Order Form. The Team order form must be submitted on-site and is not able to be submitted prior to the event
2. Order Direct: Fine Designs can be contacted via email or phone to place a custom order for merchandise prior to the invitational. The order can be paid by check or directly by the college. Merchandise will be shipped to the address and shipping method selected by the college. Contact Information for Fine Designs to place an order is below. Direct orders are not able to be shipped to the invitational site and will not be available for pick-up at the merchandise booth.

For any Fine Designs customer service inquiries, please contact:

Inna Kasaev, Fine Designs

inna@fdkyteam.com

(859) 241-1265

Media Relations

NAIA Sport Page

The official 2026 NAIA Women's Flag Football National Invitational website can be found by visiting: <https://www.naia.org/sports/wflag/index>

The official national championship website contains the tournament schedule and results, game box scores, official bracket, photo galleries, historical archives, ticketing information, and more.

Social Media

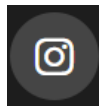
Follow the NAIA on social media for the most up-to-date information surrounding the NAIA Women's Flag Football National Invitational.



@NAIA



Play NAIA



playnaia

Invitational Results

The 2026 NAIA Women's Flag Football National Invitational official live statistics and box scores will be available by visiting:

<https://naiastats.prestosports.com/sports/flagfbal/scoreboard>

For questions regarding official live statistics or box scores, please contact:

Steve Wilson

Director of Athletics Communications

swilson@naia.org

Championship Photo and Video Requests

All media parties requesting access to photos or video highlights from the 2026 NAIA Women's Flag Football National Invitational should contact Steve Wilson at

swilson@naia.org.

Radio and TV Broadcasting Policies

All invitational games will be broadcast on BallerTV.

NAIA Drug Testing

Each academic year all eligible NAIA student-athletes must sign a consent form in which he or she consents to be tested for the use of drugs prohibited by the NAIA Banned Substance List to participate in any NAIA National Champions competitions. This consent form shall be administered and kept by each individual institution.

Each institution will be responsible for verifying a signed consent form is on file for each participating student-athlete on the DirectAthletics roster. By providing a signed roster form at check-in, each institution is officially verifying that all student-athletes on the postseason roster have completed a drug testing consent form and are thus eligible to participate in postseason competition.

NAIA Drug Testing & Education Resource: https://www.naia.org/drug-education-testing/files/Drug_Testing_Info_Sheets.pdf

NAIA Sportsmanship and Code of Conduct Policy

Ejections

An ejection is an action enforced in conjunction with competition by a meet referee consistent with the playing rules in that sport. A suspension is required by NAIA bylaws (Article 6, Section B, Item 7) as an additional consequence related to ejections in conjunction with competition.

Ejections are not subject to appeal. Some sport rules allow protests through an official process outlined in each sport rule book.

Suspensions may be appealed starting with the Conference/Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions). An institution must submit an appeal to their conference within 72 hours of the completion of contest. The conference will submit a recommendation to the national office within 72 hours of receiving the appeal from the institution. The Conduct and Ethics Committee is responsible for all appeals related to suspensions due to ejections of a coach and/or student-athlete.

Once an appeal with appropriate signatures has been submitted to the conference, the student-athlete/coach may continue to participate through the appeal process. If the appeal is not approved, then the student-athlete/coach must sit out of the next scheduled contest(s).

A suspended person cannot be in the competitive venue the day of the contest or communicate with any team personnel or game officials the day of the contest. The student-athlete/coach will be normally removed from the venue during a suspension. However, the game manager will use their best discretion on what is appropriate to risk management procedures regarding their venue.

Ejection reports must be completed by the NAIA game official ejecting a student-athlete or coach and the athletic director of the ejected student-athlete or coach. The form must be submitted to the NAIA within 48 hours after the completion of the contest.

Ejection Report Form: <https://www.naia.org/officiating/ejection-reporting>