



2026-27

WOMEN'S FLAG FOOTBALL COACHES MANUAL



TABLE OF CONTENTS

NAIA WOMEN'S FLAG FOOTBALL — IMPORTANT DATES	3
2026-27 WOMEN'S FLAG FOOTBALL SPORT CALENDAR	3
FIVE-YEAR CHAMPIONSHIP CALENDAR	3
PLAYING RULES AND REGULATIONS	4
CONDUCT IN COMPETITION	4
POST-SEASON COMPETITION	5
RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS	5
AFFILIATED CONFERENCE/CAC/UNAFFILIATED GROUP MEETS	6
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP	7
TRAVEL	9
NAIA POLICY HANDBOOK INFORMATION	10
SUNDAY POLICY PLAY	10
DRUG TESTING	10
REPORTING RESULTS AND STATISTICS	11
AWARDS	11
COACHES ASSOCIATION	15
NAIA WOMEN'S FLAG FOOTBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS	15

**For National Championship Selection/Coaches Association/Event Administration contact –
Championship Sport Manager**

Samantha Walker
swalker@naia.org
816.595.8156

**For Polls and Athletic Communication Inquiries contact –
Director of Athletic Communications**

Steve Wilson
swilson@naia.org
816.595.8198

The NAIA Women's Flag Football Coaches Manual is published annually by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. The name National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, initials NAIA, logo, and other NAIA symbols and insignia are registered in the United States Patent and Trademarks Office. The name, initials, and marks are fully protected and are the exclusive property of the Association. Expressed, written approval by the NAIA President/CEO is required for the use of the NAIA initials, name, or marks in connection with any items offered for commercial sale, awards, or promotion, including such use at NAIA events.

The NAIA Women's Flag Football Championship is under the direct control and supervision of the NAIA.



NAIA WOMEN'S FLAG FOOTBALL — IMPORTANT DATES

2026-27 WOMEN'S FLAG FOOTBALL SPORT CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 1	START – Practices, scrimmages, exhibitions, & fall competitions
JANUARY 28	START – Spring Competitions
JANUARY 20	RELEASE – National Coaches Poll Release <i>Dates: Jan. 20 (Preseason), Feb. 17, Marc. 3</i>
FEBRUARY 23	START – Player of the Week <i>Dates: Feb. 23, Mar. 2, Mar. 9, Mar. 16, Mar. 23, Mar. 30, Apr. 6, Apr. 13, Apr. 20</i>
MARCH 17	START – Area Ranking Committee Ranking Release <i>Dates: Mar. 17, Mar. 31, Apr. 14, Apr. 26</i>
MARCH 17	START – National Selection Committee Polls Release <i>Dates: Mar. 17, Mar. 31, Apr. 14</i>
MARCH 27	DEADLINE – Undeclare from Postseason
APRIL 15	DEADLINE – Submitting NAIA Scholar-Athletes DEADLINE – Submitting Champions of Character Individual Award Nominations
APRIL 24	DEADLINE – Completion of Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated tournaments
APRIL 26	RELEASE – National Championship Qualifiers, Field, and Matchups at www.naia.org
APRIL 27	DEADLINE – Conference/Independent Chairs to send All-Conference/Independent teams to the NAIA National Office
APRIL 28	DEADLINE – Submitting Postseason Roster
MAY 5-8	NAIA Women's Flag Football National Championship <i>Location to be announced</i>
MAY 12	NAIA-WFFCA Business Meeting <i>Held virtually via Zoom</i>
MAY 13	RELEASE – NAIA Coach of the Year, NAIA Women's Flag Football All-America Teams, and NAIA Player of the Year
JUNE 30	DEADLINE – Submitting Scholar Team Award Nominations
JULY 15	DEADLINE – Submitting Hall of Fame Nominations to NAIA National Office

FIVE-YEAR CHAMPIONSHIP CALENDAR

	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Conference Tournament Deadline	Apr. 24	Apr. 29	Apr. 28	Apr. 27	Apr. 26
National Championship	May 5-8	May 10-13	May 9-12	May 8-11	May 7-10

Women's Flag Football National Championship Website – [Click Here](#)



PLAYING RULES AND REGULATIONS

RULEBOOK

NAIA Women's Flag Football will use the College Flag Football Rule book. The rule book can be found [HERE](#).

GAME OFFICIALS

The outcome of all games is under the jurisdiction of game officials and all disputes, protests, etc., must be settled directly with the officials. Decisions of game officials are final and NOT subject to appeal.

OFFICIAL BALL

The official ball for NAIA postseason competition is the Big Game. Teams are required to use Big Game during the National Championship. The NAIA strongly recommends the use of the Big Game footballs for regular-season and Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Grouping tournament play.

SEASON RECORDS

Win-loss records for all member institutions participating in Women's Flag Football shall include only those games played against accredited, upper-level, four-year degree-granting institutions, and shall not include games against junior college, club, foreign (Canada excluded), or military teams.

Competition against institutions holding associate membership in the NAIA or members of the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) shall be considered as satisfying this requirement. To verify countable vs. non-countable opponents, [click here](#).

CONDUCT IN COMPETITION

EJECTIONS AND SUSPENSIONS

An ejection is an action enforced in conjunction with competition by an official 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.

Ejection reports must be completed by the NAIA game official ejecting a student-athlete or coach. The form must be submitted to the NAIA within 48 hours after the completion of the contest. [Ejection Report Form](#).

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 the 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 or coach may continue to participate through the appeal process. If the appeal is not approved, then the student-athlete or 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 or 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.



POST-SEASON COMPETITION

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

OFFICIAL PARTY INFORMATION

OFFICIAL PARTY

The official party for each team participating in postseason play is 24 players allowed in uniform and up to 4 support staff. Each team will receive a maximum number of 28 credentials, 24 student-athlete credentials and 4 official party credentials.

MEDICAL PERSONNEL

Each team is allowed up to two athletic training/medical personnel on the team sideline. One of which must be an ATC, MD, or DO. A licensed health care provider's license information/number must be submitted in the application in order to receive any medical/athletic training credentials for your team. Applications will close 72 hours before the event starts. Medical personnel credentials can be picked up during team check-in/registration only with a photo ID.

Please apply here for medical personnel credential: [LINK](#)

SPORTS INFORMATION/MEDIA PERSONNEL

All SIDs/Media personnel will need to apply for a credential for the final site. Applications will close 72 hours before the event starts. Media Credentials can be picked up at team check-in or by contacting the host media coordinator if arriving outside of the check-in window, only with a phone ID. Media credentials will NOT be included in the team packets at coaches pick up.

Please apply here for SID/Photographer and Media Credential: [LINK](#)

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

All Presidents and Athletic Directors from qualifying teams will each receive two credentials. These credentials can be picked up at the box office. All other administrators will receive free admission with their NAIA membership card when presented at the box office.

POSTSEASON ROSTER FORMS

Official Postseason Roster Forms will be filled out via NAIA Connect (<https://www.naiacconnect.org/s/login>). If you do not have a login account, please contact naiacconnectsupport@naia.org. Once you login, please follow these [instructions](#).

Postseason rosters (and ejection disclosures) will be processed electronically, and the administrator completing the roster will sign electronically.

If you have trouble with the online roster form, please contact **Steve Wilson** (swilson@naia.org) of the NAIA Athletics Communications Department. For any other general questions related to the official postseason rosters, please contact the NAIA Championship Sport Manager.

The list of up to 24 eligible players (Official Postseason Roster and Entry Form) must be submitted at the time of the institution's selection into NAIA postseason play. Only players on the official postseason roster may be in uniform. If a team is discovered using a player not on the Official Postseason Roster at any time during the postseason tournament, that team will be immediately disqualified from further postseason play that year. From the point of first infraction by a team using a player not on the Official Postseason Roster, all subsequent games shall be forfeited by the offending team.

A copy of this roster form MUST also be hand-carried to the site of the Affiliated Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group qualifying tournament and National Championship and be presented to the respective Championship Site Supervisor prior to that institution's participation in the tournament.

The deadline for certifying the Official Roster of 24 players is 30 minutes prior to the first game of any conference tournament or National Championship game.

Once the National Championship begins, no player may play who is not on the official roster.



ROSTER CHANGES

A player may be replaced on the official roster between the conference tournament and the NAIA National Championship by any eligible player whose name is included on the NAIA Official Eligibility Form for the current season. Any change made to the roster must be reported to the NAIA. An updated roster notification should be emailed to swalker@naia.org and swilson@naia.org. Again, the coach will need to hand-carry a copy of the eligibility form to each tournament if a roster change is necessary.

For Unaffiliated Group qualifying tournament plans that call for preliminary competition between conference teams, roster changes cannot be made once this preliminary competition begins. Unaffiliated group tournaments will follow the same roster change policies used for Affiliated Conference/CAC tournaments.

UNIFORMS

Teams must have both white and dark colored jerseys. The home team shall wear jerseys that are of a dark color, and the visiting team shall wear white jerseys; however, the home team may wear white jerseys if agreed to in writing prior to the game.

EXPENSES

Each participating team shall be responsible for its own expenses on the route to, during, and from all post-season events.

COACHES RESPONSIBILITY

The coach or designated person for each participating team must be in attendance and is responsible for their team at all times while at the site of the National Championship. This person shall accept the responsibility for the conduct of his student-athletes at the National Championship site, during the Championship, and at all activities connected with the team's participation. In case of property damage, the offending institution shall be held financially responsible.

INSURANCE

Each participating team shall provide its own medical, hospitalization, travel, and accident insurance for all members of its official party.

REPORTING SCORES

Scores from all games of the Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group tournaments must be reported to the NAIA scoreboard via Presto Stats within 24 hours of the contest.

AFFILIATED CONFERENCE/CAC/UNAFFILIATED GROUP MEETS

The Affiliated Conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions)/Unaffiliated Group Cross Country tournaments are planned and administered by the Affiliated Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group Cross Country Committee under the leadership of their respective Cross Country chair and subject to approval of all standards and conditions as may be prescribed by the Affiliated Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group Executive Committee/Commissioner.

Affiliated Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group tournament plans for all spring sports must be submitted to the National Office no later than **February 1** of each year. Plans must include a weather contingency plan. The tournament deadline **will not** be extended for weather delays.

DATES AND SITES

The dates and sites of the Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated group qualifying tournaments shall be determined by their executive committees. The deadline for completion of all 2026-27 NAIA Women's Flag Football Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated group qualifying tournaments is **Saturday, April 24, 2027**.

TEAM QUALIFICATION AND SELECTION

To qualify for a postseason tournament, teams must play at least 10 games against countable opponents.

Consideration may be given to any one or combination of the following criteria in selection teams for the postseason tournaments:

1. An approved rating system
2. Regular-season overall win-loss record
3. Overall win-loss record against NAIA teams within the conference and/or
4. Any system approved by the NAIA Championships Department



ADMINISTRATION

If available, the Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group flag football chairs will serve as administrators for their respective national qualifying tournament in cooperation with the host site Athletics Director. When not available, the host Athletics Director, or a designated person, may serve in this capacity. All national qualifying games must determine a winner. Games tied after regulation must utilize the tiebreaker procedures outlined in the [College Flag Football Rule Book](#).

FINANCES

The host site for all Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group qualifying tournament games is responsible for the following:

1. Compensation of game officials
2. Ordering Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group awards, if applicable (See General Information, Section IV, I of this handbook for information on officially approved awards)
3. Administrative expenses, including security, ticket personnel, and public address announcer, scorer, timer, etc.
4. Expenses of game administrator, if applicable

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

DATES AND SITES

The 2027 NAIA Women's Flag Football National Championship will be May 5-8, 2027. The location is yet to be determined.

NEW for 2026-27 Season:

Flag Football will move from a National Invitational to a National Championship. The championship will be a 12-team single-elimination tournament. Seeds 5 through 12 will play a total of four games on Wednesday. The winners will play seeds 1 through 4 in four total games on Thursday. The two semifinal games will be held on Friday, with the championship game on Saturday.

ADMINISTRATION

The NAIA Women's Flag Football National Championship is under the direct control and supervision of the NAIA and the Women's Flag Football Championship Committee. The championship tournament committee is responsible for the management of tournament games and the general welfare of participating teams and coaches. They conduct championship coaches' meetings and coordinate both pre- and post-championship ceremonies.

All National Championship Champions should be determined in competition, with National Championships played to conclusion. Playability should be determined by the on-site Committee in consultation with the National Office, making every effort to conclude on schedule. The committee should make every possible effort to finish in the timeliest fashion possible.

QUALIFICATION

The 12 teams that will compete in the 2027 NAIA Women's Flag Football National Championship will be determined using the 2026-27 NAIA Women's Flag Football Qualification Plan approved by the NAC, found in [NAIA Connect](#).

Each Conference/Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions)/Unaffiliated Grouping with six teams competing shall automatically qualify one representative to the National Championship. Conferences/CAC/Unaffiliated Groupings with 12 or more teams shall automatically qualify two representatives to the National Championship.

In addition to the automatic berths granted to each Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Grouping, there are no limits to the number of at-large berths a Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Grouping may receive.

SELECTION AND SEEDING

The 12 teams in the National Championship will be a combination of Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Grouping automatic qualifiers and at-large qualifiers determined by the Women's Flag Football National Selection Committee. The 12-team field will be seeded by the Women's Flag Football National Selection Committee.

**FORMAT**

The NAIA Women's Flag Football National Championship is a 12-team single-elimination tournament. The tournament will last four days. Day one and day two consist of 4 games each, with seeds 1-4 receiving a first-day bye. Day three will hold the two semifinal games, with the championship game on Saturday.

CHAMPIONSHIP SELECTION APPEALS PROCESS

If there is a misapplication of NAIA policy and procedures regarding tournament selection, an institution may appeal to the NAIA National Office.

Criteria for filing an appeal –

1. A written appeal citing the specific NAIA policies and/or procedures that have been misapplied must be submitted to the NAIA National Office within 24 hours from the time the tournament field has been released.
2. Once an appeal has been submitted a response will be provided within 24 hours from receipt of appeal.
3. Appeals must be submitted and signed by the Athletics Director and President of the institution.

NOTE – The NAC sport liaison will be included in the selection meeting to listen to the discussion of the Selection Committee. The NAC liaison will report any concerns to the NAIA National Office immediately following the conclusion of the selection.

GAME TIMES

The host organization, the NAIA Championships Department, and the Tournament Committee jointly determine match times for all games.

At the National Championship, teams traveling from the East and Central time zones should not play the last game of the day when having to change more than one time zone. Teams traveling from Mountain and Pacific time zones should not be scheduled in the early morning session when changing more than one time zone.

Once the National Championship bracket is determined, game times shall be assigned. Game times are tentative and are subject to change by the Tournament Committee, host organization, and/or the Championship Sport Manager.

TEAM HOUSING

All participating teams must stay at one of the hotels designated by the host. Failure to do so could make a team **INELIGIBLE** for participation. Teams are responsible for paying all room tax and incidental charges.

PARTICIPATION IN FUNCTIONS AT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

All participating teams and individuals competing in a National Championship must attend all functions, including, but not limited to – Parade of Champions, coaches' meetings, Teaming Up for Character event, and Student-Athlete Experience event. Failure to comply will result in a penalty of a \$1,500 fine to the institution.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

If inclement weather should cause travel delays for any team(s) competing in the National Championship, it will be up to the discretion of the NAIA Championship Sport Manager and the Tournament Committee to make changes to the National Championship bracket to accommodate such delays.

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

OFFICIALS

Officials will be selected to work the NAIA Women's Flag Football National Championship by a Supervisor of Officials, as approved by the NAIA. Throughout the National Championship, officials will work in 4-person crews. The College Flag Football Rule Book is utilized for all games.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Prior to the National Championship, an information packet will be posted on the NAIA Coaches Corner for all potential qualifiers, which will include specific instructions regarding transportation, housing, practices, and all responsibilities upon qualification. Please handle these responsibilities as early as possible.

Team Statistics – Team statistics must be submitted to the National Office for inclusion in the media press book.

Team Check-in – Upon arrival at the National Championship, teams must check in prior to the coaches' meeting the day prior to the beginning of the tournament. NAIA personnel will be at check-in to greet all teams, provide informational materials, credentials, and answer questions.

Coaches Meeting – There will be a pre-tournament meeting of all participating coaches prior to the National Championship. This meeting shall serve as an informational forum and will include a briefing by a representative of the match officials. Head coaches are required to attend this meeting.

Student-Athlete Experience Event – The opening event will be held the evening prior to the national championship. All teams and individual qualifiers must attend this event.

Teaming Up for Character™ – The Teaming Up for Character™ event will be held in conjunction with the host community. One representative from your team or all athletes may be required to participate in this event.

Awards – Team trophies and plaques are presented to the champion and runner-up teams.

Radio and Television Rights Fees – The broadcast of any postseason contest is governed by NAIA broadcast policies as printed in the NAIA Policy Handbook. Below are the rights fees for NAIA Women's Flag Football:

	RADIO	TELEVISION	WEB BLOGGING**
Commercial	\$150	\$300/day (live or delayed) + \$100 per*	\$75
Non-Commercial	\$100	\$300/day (live or delayed) + \$100 per*	\$50

**Extra charge associated with an additional radio stations that pick up a school's feed. This does not include when one team posts/advertises its opponent's internet broadcast.*

***Web-blogging is any form of live updates by typing on the computer in a public forum where anyone with internet has access.*

All rights fees must be paid prior to the start of each match at the National Championship. If you have any questions regarding broadcasting or streaming, please contact Steve Wilson (swilson@naia.org) of the NAIA Athletic Communications Department.

TRAVEL

SHORTS TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

Qualifying institutions are responsible for making their own travel arrangements to the National Championship.

The Official Travel partner of the NAIA is Short's Travel Management. Please contact **Short's Travel (816-323-6405)** to book your travel arrangements.

Short's Travel has contacts with charter air travel as well as charter buses for ground travel.

NATIONAL CAR RENTAL

National Car Rental/Enterprise Rent-a-Car is offering special rates for the NAIA National Championship. Teams will be able to access these special rates by providing the special NAIA contract ID #XZ05146.

Click [here](#) for account setup and instructions to use the code.

MASTER'S TRANSPORTATION

Master's Transportation is the official provider of all shuttles/buses for your sale, lease, and rental needs. Please contact Maria Duran at (816) 979-3493 or mduran@masterstransportation.com for more information.

NAIA POLICY HANDBOOK INFORMATION

The NAIA Policy Handbook can be found at [HERE](#). Please refer directly to the NAIA Policy Handbook for the following –

Competition

- A. Declaration of Intent to Participate – Bylaws, Article I, Section L
- B. Frequency of Play and Scheduling – Bylaws, Article I, Section F
- C. Criteria for Countable Contests – National Administrative Council, Article XXV, Section A, Item 12
- D. Reporting Results – National Administrative Council, Article XXV, Section A
- E. Forfeits – National Administrative Council, Article XI
- F. Conduct in Competition Guidelines – National Administrative Council, Article IV
- G. Ejection Policy – Bylaws, Article VI Section B Item 7
- H. Drug Testing and Reinstatement Procedures – Bylaws, Article VIII

Eligibility

- A. Definitions for Eligibility – Bylaws, Article V, Section B
- B. Eligibility Requirements – Bylaws, Article V, Section C
- C. Transfer Rules – Bylaws, Article V, Sections F-H
- D. Amateur Rules and Reinstatement – Bylaws, Article VII

Recruiting & Financial Aid

- A. Recruitment – Bylaws, Article II, Section D
- B. Campus Visitations and Tryouts of Prospective Students – Bylaws, Article II, Section C
- C. Financial Assistance – Bylaws, Article II, Section B
- D. Financial Aid Limits – Council of Presidents, Article XII

SUNDAY POLICY PLAY

As a matter of policy, NAIA Opening Round and National Championship competition will not be scheduled on Sunday. See NAIA Policy Handbook, National Administrative Council, Article XXIII for additional information.

DRUG TESTING

Drug testing may be done at any randomly selected NAIA National Championship competition for performance enhancing drugs. In accordance with the guidelines set forth by the National Drug Testing and Education Committee, the National Office will select which championships will incorporate drug testing each year. Student-athletes may be tested before, during, and/or after NAIA National Championships.

For more information regarding championship drug testing, the [National Administrative Council Drug Testing Policy Manual](#), the safety of supplements and over-the-counter medications and resources to increase awareness on your campus, please visit – www.naia.org/wellness

DRUG TESTING CONSENT FORM

Each academic year all eligible NAIA student-athletes must sign a [Drug Testing 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 Championship competitions. This consent form shall be administered by the institution.

To ensure all student-athletes participating in NAIA National Championship competitions have signed a consent form and such form is on record with the institution, a representative of each institution participating in any NAIA National Championship competition must sign an [Official Certification of Student-Athlete Consent Form](#) at check-in.

It is recommended that before the season begins that an institution has all student-athletes complete the form to minimize the possibility of issues occurring when the post-season roster is submitted at a NAIA National Championship.

MEDICAL EXEMPTION FORM

The NAIA recognizes that some banned substances are used for legitimate medical purposes. Accordingly, the NAIA allows exemptions to be made for those student-athletes with a documented medical history demonstrating the need for regular use of such a drug. Exemptions may be granted for substances included in the following classes of banned drugs – Stimulants, anabolic agents, beta blockers, diuretics, peptide hormones, anti-estrogens, and beta-2 agonists.

[Medical Exemption Form](#)

REPORTING RESULTS AND STATISTICS

REPORTING RESULTS/STATISTICS & SUBMITTING SCORES

Mandated by the NAC, all contest results must be reported to the NAIA Stats site (via Presto Stats) within 24 hours of completion and final statistics within 72 hours in order to be eligible for team and/or individual weekly polls and honors. Institutions failing to report statistics and/or results any **two consecutive weeks, or a total of four weeks**, during the reporting period will not be eligible to be included in the national statistical website or leaderboards.

Institutions failing to report statistics for two consecutive weeks or four total weeks during the season will be subject to a monetary penalty. The first violation will continue to be a warning. Any second violation (first penalty), will be a \$500 fine. The third violation will be a \$1,000 fine and a loss of postseason awards. The fourth violation will be a \$1,000 fine and will be dealt with at the discretion of membership services. Fines will be due within 30 days of notification.

STATISTICS

National statistics are available online at naiastats.prestosports.com throughout the year. Only statistics from games against varsity teams from upper-level, degree-granting institutions should be submitted. Categories will be determined on a sport-by-sport basis and by the NAIA Athletics Communication Department. Statistical minimums for all leaderboards are set by the NAIA National Office in consultation with the NAIA Sports Information Directors Association.

The host institution is responsible for recording both teams' official statistics. The home team must notify the opposing team at least 72 hours prior to the contest if official stats will not be provided. The opposing team can file an appeal if they feel an error was made in the official stats up to 72 hours after the conclusion of the contest. The appeal must be filed with the home team up to 72 hours after the contest and both teams must change the stats. To view the full NAC policy on NAIA Statistics, please click [HERE](#).

It is vital that sport records maintain a certain level of integrity and accuracy. The NAIA urges the official statistician for every sport to become familiar and have a working knowledge of the statistical manual.

AWARDS

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Players of the Week

All NAIA member institutions are encouraged to nominate candidates for Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group Players of the Week honors for all sports in which they declare for the NAIA postseason.

National Player of the Week

All NAIA member institutions are permitted to nominate candidates for National Players of the Week for all sports in which they declare for NAIA postseason. Nominations from the Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group Sports Information Director or their designated representative must be received by the NAIA Department of Athletics Communications by 5:00 pm CT each Monday. The nomination process is handled through the [NAIA Awards Platform](#). There will be both an Offensive and Defensive Player of the Week Award. Release of the National Players of the Week will be made weekly on Tuesdays during the season. National Players of the Week are selected from the pool of Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Grouping Players of the Week.

ALL-CONFERENCE TEAMS

Each Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group is entitled to select a 17-member All-Conference team. A Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group has the option to recognize additional players (i.e. second team, honorable mention, etc.) for local recognition only. Additional selections do not advance for All-America consideration.



It is recommended that each Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group selection committee convenes via conference call (set up by the Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group) to select the All-Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group team. All-Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group teams must be sent to the National Office by **April 27, 2027**.

The Women's Flag Football Coaches Association strongly recommends the process be by consensus, rather than a ballot rating, to ensure proper recognition order of the athletes. Athletes are considered for further recognition in the rank order given on the form. The following factors should be considered in the selection process –

- a. Observed performance
- b. Statistics as appropriate
- c. Relative strength of schedule
- d. Team performance
- e. Exhibits behavior consistent with "Champions of Character" philosophy

Note – these criteria will also be used in the All-America selection process.

ALL-AMERICA

All-America awards are annually bestowed on the most outstanding athletes in the NAIA. Criteria for the awards and the procedures for selection and implementation are established by the Awards & Statistics subcommittee of the National Administrative Council (NAC). Please note that some sports recognize All-America status by order of finish, and others require submission of materials and selection at the Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group levels.

The NAIA Women's Flag Football All-America teams are selected by the All-America Committee prior to the NAIA National Championship. The pool of candidates comes from the All-Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group Teams. The official All-Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group form is sent separately by the National Office to the Conference/CAC commissioners. Players must be listed in descending rank order, starting with the Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Player of the Year and working downward in order. Any Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Player of the Year that was not selected for the first All-America team will be added to the second team.

The All-America Committee shall select a first and second team consisting of 17 members.

The Women's Flag Football Coaches Association strongly recommends the process be by consensus, rather than a ballot rating, to ensure proper recognition order of the athletes. Athletes are considered for further recognition in the rank order given on the form. The following factors should be considered in the selection process –

- a. Observed performance
- b. Statistics as appropriate
- c. Relative strength of schedule
- d. Team performance
- e. Exhibits behavior consistent with the "Champions of Character" philosophy

The NAIA Athletics Communications Department will release the NAIA Women's Flag Football All-America teams after the National Championship.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

The All-America Committee will select the NAIA Women's Flag Football Player of the Year after the All-America teams are selected. The recipient must be a member of the All-America First Team.

COACH OF THE YEAR

Conference Coach of the Year

Each Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group selects a Coach of the Year using its own method of determination. Each Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group will share its Coach of the Year with the National Office.

National Coach of the Year



The National Coach of the Year is determined by the All-America Committee. The ballot includes all Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group Coach of the Year submissions and all head coaches at the National Championship.

CHAMPIONS OF CHARACTER INDIVIDUAL STUDENT AWARD

Each participating team shall nominate one student-athlete who has shown a documented display of exemplary character and sportsmanship during competition, on campus, and in the community that exemplifies the core values of Integrity, Respect, Responsibility, Sportsmanship, and Servant Leadership.

The deadline for Champions of Character nominations is **April 15** and can be completed [here](#).

NAIA SCHOLAR-ATHLETE

Criteria for the NAIA Scholar-Athlete Award are as follows:

1. Nominee must be a sophomore or above in academic standing;
2. Nominee must have been in attendance at the nominating institution one full academic year at the time of the nomination deadline (April 15)
3. Nominee has a minimum grade point average of 3.50 (on a 4.0 scale) at the time of the nomination deadline (for transfer students the GPA is only at current NAIA institution).
4. Nominee has been certified as eligible and is listed on the eligibility certificate submitted to conference eligibility chair.
5. Nomination form is complete and submitted through NAIA Connect.
6. All the above information is to be received by April 15 to be eligible for national press release/website, certificate and honors database – All criteria must be met by this date.

NOTE – There are no statistical/playing requirements needed to receive this award. NAIA Scholar-Athlete nominations will be filled out via NAIA Connect.

If you do not have an account, please sign up and create your own. Access will be granted (usually) within 24 hours. Nominations will be processed entirely electronically. To complete a nomination, the student-athlete must have approved and signed a release of their cumulative grade point average for nominating purposes. If you or your sports information office does not have a signed release form from the nominated student-athlete on file, a blank document (PDF) will be available for download.

This release form does not need to be turned into the NAIA National Office. You are asked to retain it for your institutional records. The administrator nominating the student-athlete will sign electronically. To be eligible for listing on website or honors database, forms must be submitted by **April 15**. Late nominations will not be accepted.

To download a template to create an award certificate for your student-athletes that have earned this honor, [CLICK HERE](#).

NAIA RED BANNER SCHOLAR AWARD

NEW FOR 2026-27:

The Red Banner Scholar Award recognizes the highest level of academic achievement among student-athletes competing at each NAIA National Championship Final Site. The award celebrates the NAIA's commitment to developing champions in the classroom, character, and competition by honoring the student-athlete(s) with the highest cumulative institutional grade point average participating in the national championship.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for the Red Banner Scholar Award, a student-athlete must:

1. Be listed on the official active championship roster (team sports) or be an official qualifier and active participant (individual sports) at the NAIA National Championship Final Site.
2. Be recognized as an NAIA Scholar-Athlete for the applicable academic year.
3. Meet all established NAIA Scholar-Athlete eligibility requirements and be submitted through the official NAIA Scholar-Athlete nomination process by the applicable sport deadline.

Selection Process

The NAIA National Office will determine the recipient(s) using approved NAIA Scholar-Athlete data.

- The eligible student-athlete with the highest cumulative institutional GPA at the national championship final site will receive the Red Banner Scholar Award.



- In the event of a tie for the highest GPA, all tied student-athletes will be recognized as co-recipients.
- No additional nomination is required beyond the NAIA Scholar-Athlete submission process.

SCHOLAR TEAM AWARD

In recognition of academic achievement, the NAIA names a Scholar Team for all sports in which Scholar-Athletes are recognized. Based on a cumulative 3.0 season GPA for the current academic year on a 4.0 scale, all members of the team who appear on the eligibility certificate will be included in the GPA compilation.

The deadline for Scholar Team nominations is **June 30**. Scholar Team nominations may only be submitted via NAIA Connect. Honorees will be announced annually on NAIA National Awards Day.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS

The NAIA maintains a standardized awards program for its national Championship, with awards provided to the official party of the National Championship Champion team. National Championship trophies and plaques are presented to the official parties (maximum 24) of the top two teams. The National Championship Champion team will also receive a red banner. A 14-member All-Tournament Team, including the Most Valuable Player, is selected by members of the tournament committee.

ORDERING AWARDS

Appropriate conference tournament awards are to be ordered by the conference chair and are the financial responsibility of the conference or the conference tournament host institution. Official NAIA awards **MUST** be ordered from:

Collegiate Awards

18081 E. Trafficway, Springfield, MO 65802

Contact – Brad Stout – brads@collegiateawards.com



COACHES ASSOCIATION

NAIA-WFFCA WOMEN'S FLAG FOOTBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION

The NAIA-WFFCA is an association of Women's Flag Football coaches whose institutions are members in good standing. This body can affect policy relative to the NAIA Women's Flag Football championships through membership approval with the ultimate approval of the NAC.

The NAIA-WFFCA elects officers who serve a one-year term and provide leadership for the Association. The NAIA-WFFCA studies and makes recommendations on all issues affecting the organization and administration of the NAIA women's flag football program. Important standing committees of the NAIA-WFFCA include tournament committees, which are directly responsible for the administration of the national tournaments.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING & SPORT MOTIONS

The Annual Business meeting for the NAIA-WFFCA will take place **virtually on May 12th, 2027**. Refer to the NAIA-WFFCA Constitution and Bylaws for the organization of the Annual Business meeting.

Coaches are able to submit sport motions to the NAIA-WFFCA President and Sport Manager prior to the Annual Business meeting. All sport motions from the coaches' body affecting the NAIA Women's Flag Football National Championship will be distributed to all head coaches 1 week prior to the Annual Business meeting.

NAIA-WFFCA VOTING

NAIA Coaches Associations must have a quorum (at least 50% of eligible voters) in order for a sport motion to be heard by the National Administrative Council (NAC). Motions and discussion will be presented at the Annual Business meeting. Voting will also take place in person at the Annual Business meeting.

NAIA-WFFCA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Officers

Each officer will serve in their position for one year before progressing to the next position.

President	Steven Miller	Cumberland University (Tenn.)	smiller@cumberland.edu
1st Vice President	Zack Desmarais	Life University (Ga.)	zack.desmarais@life.edu
2nd Vice President	Samantha Harris	Keiser University (Fla.)	samantha.harris@keiseruniversity.edu
Secretary	Brian Winstead	Benedictine University, Mesa (Ariz.)	bwinstead@ben.edu
Past President	VACANT		
NAC Liaison	Dr. Kiki Baker Barnes	HBCU Athletic Conference	commissioner@hbcuac.org

COMMITTEES

Rules and Competition Committee

Zack Desmarais	Life University (Ga.)	Chair
Chris Raggard	Lindsey Wilson University (Ky.)	At-large
Abby Brown	Ottawa University (Kan.)	At-large
Michael Maccagnano	Arizona Christian University	At-large
VACANT		At-large

NAIA WOMEN'S FLAG FOOTBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this association shall be the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Women's Flag Football Coaches Association (NAIA-WFFCA).

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

Section 1 – The membership of this association is composed of women's Flag Football coaches whose institutions are current members of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. The NAIA-WFFCA is charged with the responsibility of carrying out programs beneficial to the game of Flag Football and to the NAIA member coaches of this sport. The activities of this section shall be in accordance with the aims and objectives of NAIA and under the guidance of the National Administrative Council (NAC).

Section 2 – The NAIA-WFFCA shall submit to the NAIA-NAC statements governing the NAIA-WFFCA plays and practices for approval and in every way cooperate with the NAC in furthering the stated aims and objectives of this parent organization.

ARTICLE III – AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The NAIA-WFFCA shall supervise and conduct programs utilizing the guidance of the NAC, which will foster and promote interest and enthusiasm in flag football programs. This, in turn, will produce national, conference, and independent recognition for teams, players, and coaches.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

Active membership in NAIA-WFFCA will be open to any women's flag football coach who is a current member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.

ARTICLE V – VOTING POWER

Section 1 – Current membership of NAIA-WFFCA entitles the member to one vote in all democratic action held in open assembly of the Association.

Section 2 – NAIA Coaches Associations must have a quorum (at least 50% of eligible voters) in order for a sports motion to be heard by the National Administrative Council. If a quorum (at least 50%) is not met at the business meeting, voting will be sent out using an online process following the business meeting in order to reach a quorum. If at least 50% of eligible voters are not in attendance at the business meeting, motions will still be presented and discussed, and if desired, a "straw poll" can be taken by those present to determine if a motion will be opened for a vote to the full coaches association. NAIA Coaches Associations must have a quorum (at least 50-percent of eligible voters) in order for a sports motion to be heard by the National Administrative Council. All voting will be completed using an online process following the business meeting in order to ensure all head coaches have an opportunity to vote. Motions will still be presented and discussed at the Annual Business meeting. If desired, a "straw poll" can be taken by those present to determine if a motion will be opened for vote to the full coaches association.

ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS

Section 1 – Officers shall be elected from the active membership of the Association at the annual meeting as follows: President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, and Secretary. Such elected officers shall be from institutions that are in good standing in the NAIA.

Section 2 – Terms of office of the president, first vice president, second vice president, and secretary shall be for one year.

Section 3 – The progression in office shall be from secretary to second vice president to first vice president to president. Each office will be held for one year from August 1 to July 31. In the event of a vacancy, the normal progression from second vice president to president will be accelerated to fill the vacant office, and the NAIA-WFFCA Executive Committee is empowered to appoint members from the membership at large to fill the remaining vacant position. Such appointees will not succeed in the normal progression of offices unless duly elected by the membership at the next annual election.

ARTICLE VII – DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

Section 1 – The duties of the president are to afford leadership and guidance to the NAIA-WFFCA through all possible channels and to direct his/her efforts specifically to conducting the annual meeting of the association, as well as conducting committee meetings and clinics. The president is the executive officer of all appointed and standing committees of the association.

Section 2 – The duties of the first vice president are to assume the leadership at all meetings unattended by the president. The first vice president acts as the chair of the nominating committee and as chair of the clinics committee.

Section 3 – The second vice president assumes the leadership designated to the president or first vice president in the event neither is available to assume their proper roles.

Section 4 – The secretary shall make an annual report to the NAIA-WFFCA Executive Committee, supervise the association correspondence, maintain the roster, notify members of meetings, and perform other such duties as are incidental to the office.

ARTICLE VII – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee of NAIA-WFFCA is composed of six members: the officers of the association, the association's immediate past president, and the appointed NAIA-NAC liaison (ex officio).

ARTICLE IX – MEETINGS

Section 1 – The annual business meeting of the association shall be held virtually. The day and time set by the NAIA-WFFCA officers and the National Office.

Section 2 – Voting on all issues shall be by voice vote or hand in executive sessions or in open meetings of the association.

Section 3 – Usual order of business at the open business meetings:

1. Reading of Minutes
2. Reports of Officers
3. Committee Reports
4. Old Business
5. New Business
6. Adjournment

ARTICLE X – CONSTITUTION CHANGE

A proposed constitutional amendment shall be presented in writing to the president of the NAIA-WFFCA for NAIA-WFFCA Officer action. Upon approval of the NAIA-WFFCA Officers, the amendment must win two-thirds approval vote of current members of the NAIA-WFFCA present at the annual business meeting before amending of the constitution will occur. Final approval must be given by the NAIA-WFFCA board, NAIA-Council of Athletics Administrators, and the NAIA National Administrative Council (NAC).

ARTICLE XI – STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1 – The president of the NAIA-WFFCA is empowered to appoint committees which will assist in programs designed to produce national, conference, and regional recognition for teams, players, and coaches. The president is also encouraged to appoint competent NAIA-WFFCA members who will assist in any and all ways to foster the aims and objectives of NAIA as they relate to the sport of flag football, the participants, the coaches, the spectators, and the institutions represented by these groups.

Section 2 – The NAIA-WFFCA has 2 standing committees. Following is a list of those committees and their duties:

All-America Committee: The NAIA-WFFCA Officers and up to 11 other elected representatives shall act as the All-America Committee for Women's Flag Football. The chairperson and committee members are appointed. The committee shall review and determine the All-America recipients in addition to Coach of the Year and Player of the Year awards. They shall also review the award system for women's flag football and make recommendations when necessary. Committee composition includes the Executive Committee, a representative from each ARC, and the remaining at-large positions will be filled through nomination and Executive Committee approval. The chair of the committee is the 2nd Vice President of the Executive Committee.

Rules and Competition Committee: This committee will review current rules and help vet potential rule changes. This committee shall report to the Executive Committee. This will be a 5-member committee. The chair will be the 1st Vice President of the Executive Committee. The 4 additional at-large positions will be filled through nomination and vote at the business meeting. Committee members will serve 1-year terms with no term limit.