

Coaches Orientation Meeting

2017 Season



Things you need to know
In getting started

Our Mission:

“To create an enjoyable and rewarding experience for all players, coaches and spectators.”

Our Vision:

1. To teach all players the game of flag football while stressing the meaning of sportsmanship through careful and deliberate demonstrations by those coaching as well as other volunteers.
2. To instruct our volunteer coaches that they should embrace optimism and nurturing over a “win at all cost” approach to game play. Scores and records are not kept during the regular season. Therefore, coaches temper their “drive to win” with an emphasis on utilizing all players fairly in an effort to make the games fun and enjoyable for both players and parents.

Our Core Values:

Integrity	Mentoring
Honesty	Dependability
Trust	Stewardship of Players
Positive Energy	Consistency
Role Model	Doing “good for all players” (not just the best athletes)

Coach Acknowledgement:

I understand that as a coach or volunteer I sincerely embrace the MISSION, VISION and CORE VALUES of the Parkland Flag Football organization. And I also understand that the league calls for compliance with all rules and bylaws which are available on www.parklandflag.com

I also understand that by violating any rules or bylaws I will be subject to penalties which may lead to possible suspension(s) and or removal as coach for committing these violations. (i.e. - any egregious acts and/or omissions of my duties as coach, including but not limited to actions inconsistent with Parkland Flag Football’s MISSION, VISION and VALUES.)

Any suspension or removal from the coaching duties may also lead to ineligibility for future coaching assignments. Parkland Flag Football may also report to the City of Parkland any such suspensions or removals taken against a coach which may include ineligibility for coaching in other City of Parkland sports.



Pre-season Coaches Orientation Meeting

August 21, 2017

The information points below are in random order. Their listings below are not intended to have any bearing or reflection on their order of importance.

1. Coaching Eligibility.

All head and assistant coaches must submit to the City of Parkland's background check requirement. Only those who have received clearance from the City, and us, will be permitted to coach; AND / OR assist the players in any manner, even as a volunteer. If you plan on having any assistant coaches (other than those who have been successfully background checked), please direct them to complete the consent form which link can be found on www.parklandflag.com and inform your division head accordingly.

****PLEASE LIST YOUR TWO ASSISTANT COACHES ON THE FORM PRIOR TO LEAVING THIS MEETING. THANK YOU.****

IMPORTANT: If at any time after completing a successful background check, a coach (head or assistant) is convicted of a felony, it must be immediately reported to the Parkland Flag Football Board. If it is determined that said coach becomes ineligible pursuant to City of Parkland guidelines, they **MUST** immediately cease and desist from participating in any and all coaching role(s) and function(s). It is then up to the City of Parkland regarding any future or potential reinstatements. Said coaches shall **NOT** be able to participate as coach or volunteer in any City of Parkland sports programs.

2. League Rules (Will be posted on PFFL website)

Many of these have been created for the benefit of player safety. Adherences to these rules are not optional. Sportsmanship is also written in between the lines on every rule. This applies to all coaches, players and spectators. It is your responsibility to understand these rules and support them as coaches and league participants. Please visit with your assistant coaches www.parklandflag.com for the 2017 Rules in pdf. **Please have a copy of these rules with you at all games, especially if you have to challenge a rule together with the referees.**

We have a few **rule updates for the 2017** season that will be published on our site before the regular season games begin.

- A. Updated Kickoff rule – KICKOFFS WILL ONLY OCCUR IN THE FOLLOWING DIVISIONS: 5'S, coed 6\7 AND G7\9. All kickoffs will be from mid-field.
- B. New Field – Lines to Gain replaces 10-yards for first down. For all divisions except 5'S & Coed 6/7'S and Girls 7/9.
- C. No blocking for all divisions including picks or screen blocking. Plays and tactics must be designed to employ speed and deception without contact to ensure player safety. Penalties have been updated to include blocking infractions
- D. Ball carriers hip determines ball spotting, not the foot when flag is pulled
- E. Player rotation form now required prior to kickoff. Form provided as attachment on rule book.
- F. In the 5's and 6/7 divisions defensive players must line up at least 7 yards from LOS or the first down line or goal line whichever is less
- G. During the regular season, the teams will play to even strength. All divisions will play 8-on-8 except for the Coed 12/14 and G12/14 will play 7-on-7, unless otherwise noted by the Board.
- H. Keeping score / Wins & Losses – no intentional running up the score. Could be penalized.

3. Rules Regarding Coaching

All coaches (head and assistant) must have completed and successfully passed background checks as required by the City of Parkland. Only coaches who have been cleared by the City will be allowed to participate on the field of play. All others will be required to leave the field prior to the game beginning.

Substitute coaching is permitted, however, only those who have been background checked and cleared by the City are allowed to substitute. In the event that a team does not have a coach that meets these requirements, the game and/or practice shall be forfeited / cancelled.

Make sure you have at least two assistant coaches with the understanding that some coaches may not be able to attend every game.

Public chastisement does not build a players' self esteem. So please, praise in public and admonish in private. Their experience will be greatly influenced by how they are coached. Make it a positive memorable experience in every way possible.

Coaches are permitted (one per team at a time) on the field during play in the 5, 6/7 and 8/9 divisions, and in ALL girls' divisions. However, while on the field coaches are not permitted to speak or instruct after the offensive huddle breaks. Referees get tough on this after the first few weeks of play.

4. **Officiating** It's not perfect, or even close –**all coaches are required** to “set the example” in dealing with bad calls from the referees when they happen (See handout). **No games will be played under protest.** PFFL is for recreational fun only.
5. **Board Member Authority.** Members of our Board have a protected interest to keep and manage sportsmanship and other related rules up to and including warning or suspending for a game any team player or coach. *Board Members, therefore, have the authority to have a referee eject a player or coach for cause, especially with regard to sportsmanship or egregious rule violations.* The Board will not, however, interfere with a referee's officiating. **Conflict of interest.** The board member authority does not apply if a board member is coaching, or participating in any way, in the actual game where the issue arises. I such a situation arises, the coaching board member, **must** defer to a non-participating Board member (if present), the referees calling the game and/or Freddy.
6. **Player rotation / substitution policy.** Because fairness is not apparent on some coaches, the league has implemented a player rotation policy. Please review the policy and adhere to it. If you have any questions about it please contact a league director immediately. Not understanding the rule is not an excuse. Coaches not following this rule may be penalized and or suspended. The coaches from both teams must keep each other in check and bring it to the attention of the opposing coach without delaying the game.

7. **Conduct of Coaches, Players & Spectators**

Conduct your coaching duties with respect and treat all players, coaches, referees and spectators with dignity. Being a mean or inconsiderate to a kid has sometimes had long-term consequences on their psyche. Don't ruin their fun or enthusiasm for the game. No games may be played under protest. PFFL is for recreational fun only.

8. **Sideline Rules**

Separation of teams/player/coaches from spectators (opposite sides of the field from the team). The league has found that keeping the spectators/parents on one side of the field has many advantages, all of which help you, the coach. The NFL doesn't allow fans to mingle with the players and coaches for good reason. The same holds true for our flag league. Parents can be a distraction to the coaches and players. They sometimes have a way of inciting the intensity level of the game by loudly voicing their opinions toward the refs and the coaches. This rule is mandatory. The league reserves the right to enforce a 15-yard unsportsmanlike sideline penalty if you are found not adhering to this rule. If you see someone other than one of your coaches and/or players on your side of the field, please ask them to kindly move over to the other side. Please help the league enforce this vital rule.

Important Field Boundaries and Restrictions. During the course of a game, no player and only one coach from each team can go beyond the 10-yard line marker on either side of the field. Only the personnel in charge of the down markers are permitted in this zone.

9. Safety

This is paramount for all players. The following equipment is required of all players and they will be allowed to participate ONLY IF they: wear mouth guards while on the field of play, wear their uniform as provided by the league, wear black or navy shorts with NO Stripes and NO pockets, jerseys must be tucked in while playing, and NO METAL or METAL TIPPED screw-in cleats are allowed. However, rubbers tipped screw-ins are permitted.

Lightning and Field Closings. Abide by all Park Ranger requirements. Additionally, the PFFL Board has the authority to clear the fields as it deems necessary in the interest of safety.

10. Effective this season, there will be no blocking in all age groups in Parkland Flag Football.

11. Forms and Coaches Tools

Most forms to aid you during the season can be found on our website at www.parklandflag.com. Some are: A team roster sheet; field maps; player substitution form; rules and regulations, etc.

12. Fun and Enjoyment for all Players and Spectators

Be a catalyst for fun and enjoyment. The greatest accomplishment for coaches at our level might just be to have the individual players “want to come back” next year. This will be based in large part on their experience with YOU.

13. Rained out Practices & Games

This is a frequent occurrence. **Please do not leave the park right away when the lightning alarm sounds!** Many games have begun within 20 minutes of the original game time and it is very possible that you might play the second half or better portion of the game. Keep your team close together and take cover in your vehicles until the alarm “all-clear” (three long tones) sounds or as otherwise directed by Park Rangers. If your game does start late and your team does not have enough participants, you will have forfeited the game.

With rainouts, the referees have been instructed that no game will be started after 30 minutes past the original start time. If the game is delayed it will be shortened and completed at the regularly scheduled time.

PFFL does not have make up games for weather or any other reasons. This stems from reasons beyond our control. Field availability in conjunction with other civic sports leagues makes it logistically unfeasible the City to accommodate us. No make up game or protesting games.

Text messaging is now available for notification on field / park status for practices and games. You can also call the Field Hotline (954) 757-4110 for park closings and updates due to inclement weather.

14. Practice Schedule

Teams will be assigned practice fields at predetermined sections of the field. Goal is no more than 4 teams per field to prevent overcrowding.

There are no make-up practices. So this is another reason to wait out a passing storm, especially for the pre-season practices.

Discretionary or impromptu practices (other than those scheduled by the league) are not permitted by Parkland Flag. Should a player get injured, insurance coverage may not apply.

Extended practice requirements are not permitted. The City has too few fields and those scheduled behind you cannot be held up. Same insurance argument applies here too.

15. Competition – Wins and Losses for regular season games

IN THIS FIRST YEAR OF KEEPING SCORE DURING REGULAR SEASON GAMES, THE BOARD MAKES IT EXPRESSLY CLEAR THAT RUNNING UP THE SCORE ON AN OPPONENT DOES NOT AFFECT PLAYOFF SEEDING AND IS REGARDED AS UNSPORTSMANLIKE. ADDITIONALLY, A COMMANDING LEAD IS THE COACHES OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO HAVE OTHER PLAYERS PLAY QUARTERBACK AND GIVE MORE TOUCHES TO MID AND LATE ROUND DRAFT PICKS. USE THIS OPPORTUNITY WISELY AND IN SPORTSMANSHIP-LIKE CONDUCT.

Our league is about sportsmanship, helping the kids grow & develop skills, and making it a positive experience for all. Their parents will enjoy it immensely. Run the ball instead of throwing it when you're up big. Most importantly, refrain from any action that can demoralize our players.

16. Field Condition Hotline

(954) 757-4110 – but don't swear by it. In case you haven't experienced it before, our weather conditions change by the minute. If it says the fields are closed, it may or may not be up-to-the-minute. Fields may close as you pull into the parking lot or after you begin practice. If you miss valuable pre-season practice time, you cannot get it back! So don't be fooled by clouds or a quick passing storm. Wait it out where you can. However, if the Park Rangers leave a message on the field hotline that "the fields are closed for the evening," "all league activities are cancelled", or any similar messages of these sorts; you can take that as gospel. Any messages other than effectively these leave the door open for the possibility of play. It is essential that you share this important message with all players and parents.

17. Snack Volunteers & Schedule (customarily for 5, 6/7 & 8/9 divisions)

Some moms like to take charge of this! Volunteers for each game bring an after-game snack and liquid refreshments. It's also a great way to reward the kids for a good game! Celebrate them and their accomplishments no matter how great or small.

Meeting with Parents and Players

Thing to Cover at First Practice Session

1. **Shorts** – Plain Black only without any stripes or pockets (broken fingers have resulted from getting fingers caught in pockets)
2. **Mouth guard** – Must wear at all times while playing (practice and games)
3. **Cleats** – no metal cleats permitted.
4. **Athletic supporters** – recommended
5. **Hydration** – bring extra, especially with the heat!
6. **No Jewelry** - ear rings, chains, watches, wrist bands, etc
7. **Practice jerseys** – please wear to practices to show support for our sponsors
8. **Player Conduct.** Kids should treat coaches like teachers, our subject just happens to be football instead of math (respect). Bad behavior will likely result in kids sitting on sidelines and we always need parents' help in managing kids' behavior
9. **Practices** - these are not voluntary, they are required unless your child is ill or out of town or have pre-arranged absences with the head coach.

10. **Inclement weather** – what to do - (954) 757-4110 Field Condition Hotline – generally, we play through rain, not through electrical storms. Lighting sensor indicated fields are CLOSED. Heavy rain (without lightning) is an official / referee's call
11. Home team must supply 3 adult volunteers to work the **“chains”** (ball and first down markers)
12. Refs make **bad calls** – Please don't berate the referees. Expect bad calls & “no calls” too.
13. **Sideline arrangements** for players and spectators – opposite predetermined sides of the field
14. **Sportsmanship**, is required for all players, coaches and spectators.
15. **Alternate phone numbers** (cell for mom / cell dad, additional e-mail addresses too)
16. **Snack Schedules** – optional (usually the younger divisions)

Visit our website today! Once ready, your teams' schedule will be posted on the site.



Thank you for coaching in our Parkland Flag Football League. Hopefully you will build life-long memories for and with your kids!

Please patronize our sponsors! They appreciate your business and your referrals!

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors

