

# FAQ for Youth Flag Football Parents



## Summary

1. Registration runs August 30-September 26. Starting September 27 a \$10 late registration fee applies on any sign-ups. Youth flag football is for boys and girls ages 5-12. The fees are \$36 for members and \$49 for nonmembers. Youth flag football evaluations will be on the fields of the Y on Monday, September 27 from 5:30-6:10 pm for 5-6 year olds, 6:15-6:55 pm for 7-9 year olds, and 7:00-7:40 pm for 10-12 year olds.

## Participation and Rosters

1. How do I know what age group to sign my child up for?
  - a. Whatever your child's age is as of September 1, 2021 determines which age group he/she is in.
2. My child played last season. Will he/she go back on the same team? Do I need to come to evaluations?
  - a. Your child will go back on the same team unless he/she aged up. If he/she did age up, then your child needs to come to evaluations.
3. I have multiple children in the same age group. Will they be placed on the same team?
  - a. If you register on time and not late, siblings in the same age group will be placed on the same team.
4. My child has advanced football skills for his age. Can I register him/her for a higher age group?
  - a. Yes, your child can always play up in an age group if both you and the sports director are comfortable with that. However, your child can never play down in an age group.
5. I requested my child to be on a certain team or with another player. Can you accommodate my request?
  - a. Teams are split up as evenly and fairly as possible based on experience, age, and gender. We also take into consideration any times you listed on the registration form than you cannot practice. Any other type of request is not guaranteed to happen.
6. How do I know what team my child is on?
  - a. You should receive contact from a coach by Sunday, October 3. If you don't hear from a coach by that date, sign up for Remind, email the sports director, or call the Y.
7. Due to circumstances my child can't play anymore. What do I need to do?
  - a. Let your coach know. Call or email the sports director and let him know too.
8. Can I get a refund if my child isn't playing anymore?
  - a. Full refunds are only given prior to the first practice. After the first practice, only partial refunds may be given out. All refunds subject to a processing fee.
9. Does the Y provide trophies or awards to the players?
  - a. No, it's up to the discretion of each coach and team if they want to get trophies/awards.

## Practices

1. When does the youth flag football (5-12 year olds) season start and end?
  - a. Every team begins practice on Monday, October 4. The week of October 10 is the last week of practice. The last games are scheduled for November 11.
2. What days are youth flag football practices on?
  - a. Practices are twice a week on Monday and (Tuesday, or Thursday, or Friday) from either 5:30-6:30 pm or 6:40-7:40 pm. Once games start, teams do not practice.
3. Where are practices held and how long do they last?
  - a. Practices are held on the front or back fields of the Y. All last at most one hour.
4. Does my child's team practice on the same days, at same time, and at the same location each week?
  - a. Yes, the two practice days, times, and field locations are set before the start of the season by the coach and sports director. That is your child's team practice days, times, and field location the first half of the season. However, there are certain circumstances (inclement weather, poor field conditions, etc.) that may require a practice to be moved. Once games start, teams do no practice.
5. Are there youth and preschool practices during school fall break October 4-8?
  - a. Yes practices are still held.
6. There is threatening weather outside. Is practice cancelled? If practices are cancelled, will they be made up?
  - a. We generally don't make a decision to cancel practices due to inclement weather or poor field conditions until after 4:30 pm during the week. For practices that are on Saturday, the decision may come late Friday afternoon or early Saturday morning. In the event we do have to cancel, we will notify the coaches as soon as possible and they, in turn, will contact you. If you're unsure or haven't received any contact from a coach, check our website, check our Facebook page, or sign up for Remind. However, there may be times when it's a game time decision. We typically don't offer makeup practices due to time and field constraints.

## Games

1. When do youth (5-12 year olds) games start and what days are they on?
  - a. They are during the week on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings and start the week of October 17. The last games are scheduled for November 11. Teams play twice a week but may not always play on the same two days or at the same time. Once games start, teams do no practice.
2. How long do games last?
  - a. They last at most around one hour.
3. Are there games on Halloween?
  - a. There are no football activities October 31.
4. Where do I get a youth game schedule?
  - a. Your coach should email, text or pass them out by your second practice. You can download one from our website at [florenceymca.org](http://florenceymca.org).
5. My child won't be able to make the game. What do I need to do?
  - a. Contact your coach and let him/her know.
6. Where do spectators sit during youth games?
  - a. All spectators must sit at least 6 feet off the field (sometimes marked with a white dashed line) on the sideline opposite of the coaches and players' sideline.
7. There is threatening weather outside. Is the game cancelled? If games are cancelled, will they be made up?
  - a. See question #6 above in the practices section. We try to makeup any games that get cancelled due to the weather if we have sufficient time and space.

## Equipment

1. Do I need to get cleats for my child?
  - a. Cleats are optional but recommended.
2. Do I need to get a helmet for my child?
  - a. No, a helmet is not required.
3. Do I need to get a flag belt for my child?
  - a. No, the Y provides belts for the players at each practice and game.
4. What size ball does my child's age group play with?
  - a. Everyone plays with a pee wee sized ball. Nerf balls or any other type of foam balls are not allowed.
5. Can my child bring his/her own ball?
  - a. Yes, but please label it with his/her name.
6. When do we get uniforms?
  - a. Football shirts are tentatively scheduled to be handed out at practice the week of October 10. Your child can wear shorts or pants. Your coach may request a certain color.
7. My child's shirt is too small/big. What can we do?
  - a. If you registered on time and not late, your child's jersey size was ordered based on the size you selected on the registration form. Reordering just one jersey isn't possible. Check with other players on your team to see if a swap can be worked out.

## Youth Rules

1. How much does my child get to play?
  - a. Every child will play at least half of every game and fully participate in each practice.
2. Does my child get to play different positions?
  - a. Yes, every coach should rotate players to different positions throughout the season.
3. Can my child wear jewelry during practices or games?
  - a. No, due to safety reasons all jewelry (rings, earrings, beads, bracelets, etc.) must be removed prior to playing.

## Facilities

1. Are pets allowed at the Y?
  - a. No, they are not.
2. Is smoking allowed at the Y?
  - a. No, the Y is a tobacco free campus. E-Cigarettes and vaping are also prohibited.
3. Where is a water fountain located?
  - a. The closest one to the front fields is located in the front lobby. The closest one to the back field is located inside the building by the entrance to the outdoor pool which is near the indoor pool. Snacks and water are also sold at the desk in the front lobby.
4. Where are bathrooms located?
  - a. There will be a port-a-john located next to the shed that sits between the front fields. The closest bathrooms to the back field are the ones inside the building in the youth locker rooms which are located close to the indoor pool.
5. Can I bring my own chair to practices and games?
  - a. Yes, you are more than welcome to as we have limited seating. Please label any belongings you bring.
6. Where should I park?
  - a. Please park in the main parking lot at the front of the Y, in the side parking lot adjacent to the childcare entrance, on side of Bob Danner Ave., or the side lot next to the far front field (Field 3). Please do not park on the side of the road of YMCA Lane, Dexter Dr., or Rutherford Dr.

## Pictures

1. Do we take team/individual pictures? Where do I get a picture schedule?
  - a. Yes, each team takes individual and team pictures. The picture schedule will tell you when your pictures will be. Your coach should pass them out at your first practice. You can also download one from our website at [florenceymca.org](http://florenceymca.org).
2. Is there a form I need to fill out?
  - a. Yes, picture order forms will be handed out one week prior to picture day. They are available to day of as well.
3. How do I pay for pictures?
  - a. Quality Photo Sports takes cash or check.
4. When do I need to pay?
  - a. Payment is expected when pictures are taken.
5. When do I get pictures back?
  - a. Pictures will be returned towards the end of the season. The sports director will give your coach your pictures.
6. I haven't received my pictures yet. Whom do I need to contact?
  - a. Contact your coach to see if he/she has them. If not, then check with the sports director.
7. I have received my picture packet but I am missing some. Whom do I need to contact?
  - a. Contact Gene Robinson at Quality Photo Sports at 843-260-6744 between Mon.-Fri. 9a-5p or by email at [greatpicsinc@aol.com](mailto:greatpicsinc@aol.com).

## Contact Information:

Brent Freeman; Sports Director; Florence Family YMCA  
1700 South Rutherford Drive Florence, SC 29505  
843-665-1234; [bfreeman@florenceymca.org](mailto:bfreeman@florenceymca.org); [florenceymca.org](http://florenceymca.org)