

Hello Coaches & Parents for our **2021 Chiefs Flag Football League**.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with as much quality information as I can so everyone is well-informed and well-prepared.

There is a lot of information to know, so I have broken it down into the various topics below:

New League Perks:

This league (formerly called NFL Flag Football) is now named Chiefs Flag Football. JC Parks has partnered with the The Kansas City Chiefs to provide a new and exciting league with the same structure but more perks, like [official Chiefs gear](#), including a reversible (red & white) jersey, medal, backpack, headband, water bottle, & car decal. All of these items are included in your registration at no extra cost.

Participants in the league will also get special opportunities throughout the year, like:

- Chiefs Game Day inclusion
- Virtual engagements & Chiefs special guest' appearances
- Chiefs Training Camp/Skills Clinics
- Coaching education & support
- And much more at: chiefs.com/chiefsflag

League Formation:

Grade	*Evening
1 st Grade Rec	Tues.
2 nd Grade Rec	Mon.
3 rd Grade Rec	Thur.
4 th Grade Rec	Wed.
5 th -6 th Grade Rec	Wed.
3rd Grade Modified	Tues
4th Grade Modified	Tues.

*Game nights are tentative and subject to change.

[League Website Information:](#)

I assume you have already received all the info. you need from our league website (linked above). If not, please refer back to it or let me know if you have questions.

Coach's Registration/Background Checks:

All Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches must register (if you haven't already) at [this link](#). Click on "Volunteer" and submit your information. As part of the Coach's Registration, we also require all Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches to submit their information for an online criminal background check. If you have coached before and still have an active account (good for 2 years) it may detect a duplicate Social Security Number and not allow you to proceed. Coaches must also register in order to receive a coaches shirt if the budget allows.

Team Sites:

Once all teams are formed, I will publish your team sites via TeamSideline (our software vendor). Head Coaches can see the players on their roster, the parents, and their contact information. Parents can only see player's names. You will receive an automatic email with a link to your team site from TeamSideline, once I publish your team site. To ensure delivery to your inbox, please add no-reply@teamsideline.com to your address book and check your junk mail in case it went there. If any information is incorrect on your team site (especially your contact information) please let me know ASAP.

Team Names:

All teams will have red & white reversible Chiefs jerseys. During your coaches registration you will submit 3 team names related to the Chiefs. Be creative and have fun with it. For example, Mahomes' Maniacs, Reed's Renegades, The Warpaint, Hill Steppers, Arrow Heads, etc. Preference on team names will be given to the head coaches who registered first.

Team Rosters:

Each team will have 1 Head Coach and 1-3 Assistant Coaches. We prefer rosters to be around 8 players but the range is 7-12. The league format is 5 vs. 5.

For modified teams that are formed by the Head Coach:

- First, the Head Coach will email me a roster including grade/division and player's names at sschellman@jeffcitymo.org.
- Second, parents must call in to register & pay at 573-634-6482. They cannot register online for modified.

For recreation teams that are formed by buddy request and school:

- Parents may register & pay online or call in.

Communications:

Head Coaches, please contact all of your team's parents immediately after your team site is published to introduce yourself, let them know they are on your team, inform them of upcoming practices, verify their contact information, etc. You can use your team site via TeamSideline to do this or there are also many free apps available for team communication like GroupMe, Team Snap, Remind, etc.

Parent Meeting:

Head Coaches, please set up a Parent Meeting so they can meet you and so you can go over your expectations, goals, etc. This can just be a quick meeting for 5-10 minutes before your first practice.

Sample Goals:

- Have fun
- Get better
- Use good sportsmanship

Coaches Meeting:

All Head Coaches must attend the pre-season coaches meeting on **Wed. Aug. 4 (new date) at 6:00 PM at The LINC (1299 Lafayette St.) in the President's Suite (2nd Floor, East side)**. The meeting should last about 1 hour. If the Head Coach cannot attend, please send an Assistant Coach. We will discuss many important topics and everyone's attendance is required and appreciated. Due to space limits, only 1-2 coaches per team can attend.

Google Drive:

In addition to the league website, we use an online Google Drive to share resources with our coaches. Please visit this link above for forms, coach's information, and many important resources. This is the Google Drive for **Flag Football Coaches**. Please pay special attention to the safety information.

Indemnification Forms:

Each parent must fill out an Indemnification Form (linked above) and return it to the Head Coach at the Parent Meeting/1st practice. This form includes important information including indemnification, treatment authorization, emergency contact information, and medical conditions. Head Coaches, please collect these forms and keep them until the season is over. Please do not submit these forms to me.

Certification Course:

We certify all of our Head Coaches through an online course from the National Alliance for Youth Sports (NAYS). Assistant Coaches do not need to take the certification course.

If you are a new coach to our programs, you will need to take the **Coaching Youth Sports Intro. course** (about an hour) and the **Flag Football course** (about an hour). There is no charge for this. It can be done online at your leisure, but please allow 2-3 hours for this. **You must complete your certification before your first game.** Once all coaches are selected, I will send an automatic email to all Head Coaches, through NAYS, with a link to the course.

After completion of the Coach Training, coaches become full members of NAYS. As members, coaches receive \$1,000,000 excess liability insurance coverage in case he/she becomes liable for an occurrence while coaching. Coaches also gain access to a members-only section of the NAYS website, with coaching resources and additional training opportunities. These include a Resource Library, Coach Rating System, Skills and Drills section, and a Coaching Forum. Coaches have the ability to complete several additional trainings at no cost as well.

If you are a returning coach who has taken both course before, but within the last two years, you are good to go.

If you have taken the general intro. course, but not the flag football course, I will add that for you.

If your membership has expired, I will renew it for you.

If you are certified through another organization (USA Football, etc.) please email me your membership card for verification purposes and then you are exempt.

Game Schedules:

All teams will play 6 games. Games are once a week unless we need to do doubleheaders and/or bye weeks because we have an odd number of teams in a division. Games will begin the week of **Aug 23** and go until Sept. 30. Please keep October 4 – 28 open on your calendar for bye weeks and rain make-ups.

Game schedules will be released on TeamSideline at: teamsideline.com/jeffersoncity about 1-2 weeks before the season starts and are subject to change. **Head Coaches, if there are any dates your entire team is not able to play, please let me know ASAP.** I will try to accommodate, but can't make any guarantees.

Game Times/Locations:

Games will start at either 5:30, 6:30, & 7:30 PM or 6:00 & 7:00 PM.

Games are 40 minutes each with two 20-minute halves, a running clock and a 2-minute halftime. Teams change sides at halftime. Games are scheduled 60 minutes apart. You can practice/warm-up in the out-of-bounds areas 30 minutes prior to each game. Game Fields/Locations are still to be determined.

Practices:

Head Coaches, you can start practicing as soon as your team sites have been published and I have given you the go-ahead. Practice dates, times, and locations are up to the Head Coach. We will offer our North Jeff Rugby fields (904 4th St. Jefferson City, MO 65101) free for all teams to use for practices. Our ball field crew will paint lines for 4 full flag football fields or 8 half fields. Head Coaches, please call the front desk at The Linc at 573-634-6482 to reserve a half field (1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 3A, 3B, 4A, & 4B). Times available on weeknights are 5:00-6:30 & 6:30-8:00. Weekends are available from 8 AM-8 PM. To allow equal time, teams are only allowed 1 practice per week on these fields. We will have a portable restroom there and restrooms are also available at the North Jeff Pavilion. Please park in the lot next to the Rugby Field. Of course, you are free to practice at any other church or school fields you have access to as well.

League Rules:

The field layout is 70 x 25 yards (all grades)

- Note the No Running Zones (Pass Only)

Home team provides someone to operate the portable, tabletop scoreboard.

Away team provides the volunteer to operate the down marker.

Only the Head Coach and up to 3 Assistant Coaches are allowed.

- 1 coach is allowed to roam the length of field.
- 1 coach per team can be on the field at all times (offense/defense).
- All other coaches and players must remain in the designated sideline box.
- **New rule in 2019:** Players are allowed to have shorts with pockets.
 - Shorts cannot be the same color as their flag (bright yellow or green).
 - Shorts cannot have a stripe down the side that is the same color as the flag.

Field Diagram:

Linked above is a field diagram that illustrates field dimensions, end zones, no running zones, the coaches/players box, and where cones, pylons, and yard markers are placed.

Score/Standings & Awards:

Score is kept but standings are not for 1st- 2nd grades. Score and standings are kept for 3rd -6th grade. All players will receive an award (i.e. medal) at the end of the season.

Team Equipment:

Equipment provided:

- 1-2 new & 2-3 used footballs per team
 - All footballs must be returned at the end of the season
- Flag Belts
 - These belong to the players – any donated flags at the end of the season will be greatly appreciated
 - I recommend the coaches label and keep these during the season
 - Trim the excess length so not mistaken for a flag

Individual Equipment/Gear:

- All Players must wear a mouth piece.
 - JC Parks will also have extra mouth pieces for sale at the Concession Stand for \$2.
- Cleats or tennis shoes recommended.
 - No metal spikes
- All players must wear their NFL Flag belt.
 - The flags and sockets on the belts cannot be altered in any way.

Jerseys/Flags/Chiefs gear:

Each participant receives a Chiefs-replica jersey and NFL flag belt. Jerseys are reversible. Home team will wear red side out. Away team will wear white side out. All jerseys must be tucked in at all times. Sizes will be based on what the parents ordered. I will let the Head Coaches know when everything comes in so they can pick them up at the LINC and distribute them to their teams.

Coach's Shirts:

Coaches who register through TeamSideline may receive a coach's shirt if the budget allows. If not, please introduce yourself to the officials before each game so they know who the Head Coaches & Assistant Coaches are.

Sportsmanship:

Everyone must always use good sportsmanship and conduct themselves in a professional and respectful manner. This includes all coaches, players, parents, and fans. Head Coaches are responsible for the behavior of everyone associated with their team. We have a zero tolerance policy and will not tolerate bad sportsmanship from anyone. Consequences will include ejections, suspensions, removal from the league and any means necessary to ensure the kids have a safe, fun, and enjoyable youth sports experience.

Head Coaches, please also respect your opponent and do not run up the score. If you are up by 3-4 touchdowns, please sub different kids in at various positions to help keep the score more competitive.

Playing Time:

Equal playing time is required in Rec leagues unless disciplinary action is needed, in which case I & the parents need to be informed.

All players must have the **same amount of playing time on offense and defense**. For example, half the season on offense/half the season on defense, or first half of the game on offense/second half of the game on defense (or vice versa).

All players must play a **minimum of four positions** throughout the season (minimum: two offense, two defense). They must play at least 20 minutes at each of these four positions during the season.

Weather Policies/Cancellation Text Alerts:

In case of inclement weather, please [sign up](#) to receive text alerts from JC Parks via TeamSideline. An email will also be sent to coaches & parents. We usually decide on cancellations at about 3 PM. Please do not contact us, this will delay our ability to notify you in a timely manner. We will let you know as soon as possible if games are canceled. No news means play ball. We will play football in the rain, but not if it is storming or lightning or if it will cause excessive damage to our fields. After about 5:00 PM, or once games have already begun for the night, the decision to cancel or delay games will be up to the Facility Supervisors & Flag Football Officials/Referees who are on-site. Please know that we take these decision seriously and will do the best we can for everyone involved.

Officials/Facility Supervisors:

We provide 2 Officials for each game & a Facility Supervisor for each park. If you need any assistance, please talk to them. Please report all emergencies, accidents, incidents, etc. to them ASAP. Please be considerate and respectful in all dealing with the Officials & Facility Supervisors.

Team Pictures:

Teams can make arrangements themselves for team pictures. JC Parks does not hire or provide a photographer for this. Head Coaches, please discuss this with your team parents as it is important to many.

Survey:

At the end of each season, we will email a brief (3-5 minute) online survey to all coaches and parents. Please take the time to offer us constructive feedback so we can continue to improve all aspect of our operations and service.

Thanks:

I hope this information has been helpful and has answered all of your questions.

Please let me know if you have additional questions or need any assistance at any time.

Thanks for coaching and participating in Chiefs Flag Football league with JC Parks.

Thanks for your time and efforts as we all work together to provide a safe, fun, and enjoyable youth sports experience for the kids in our community.

Sincerely,

Steve Schellman

JC Parks

Program Manager of Youth Sports

Certified Youth Sports Administrator (CYSA)

573-634-6493

sschellman@jeffcitymo.org



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Program Manager of Youth Sports

E sschellman@jeffcitymo.org

T (573) 634-6493 W jeffersoncitymo.gov/parks