



Bourbonnais Township PARK DISTRICT

Bourbonnais Township Park District Flag Football League Parent Packet

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to the 2026 Bourbonnais Township Park District's Flag Football league! We are very excited to provide a quality Flag league that you and your family will enjoy.

Our goal is to provide families in the surrounding communities the opportunity to participate in a league where sportsmanship and teamwork are the center focus. We believe it is important to develop the player as a whole, and while competition can be healthy, we will stress enjoyment and skill development over winning. Every family has their own reasons to participate in a team sport and it is our responsibility to ensure all players can enjoy their experience. Please keep in mind the BTPD values of sportsmanship and growth as we go through the season.

Our league relies on the participation of volunteer coaches, who are instrumental in providing an engaging and successful league. Please keep in mind that these coaches are donating their time to the development of our youth! Throughout the season if you have the opportunity to assist the coaches in any way, either with practices or simply making sure you communicate crucial information like missing games or practices, please do!

In this manual, you will be provided with important information about the flag season. Please take the time to read through this information, as we hope it will answer many questions you may have.

Bourbonnais Township Park District strives to provide the best experience for your family. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Lindsey Laskey with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Lindsey Laskey
Athletics Supervisor
LindseyL@btpd.org
815-802-2926

Expectations of Parents

- 1) Exhibit good sportsmanship toward all participants, coaches, referees, and other parents, both on one's own team and the opposing teams.
- 2) Communicate in a constructive way with Bourbonnais Township Park District staff, including coaches, referees, and program manager.
- 3) While we encourage parents to stay at games and practices, if you do decide to drop off your child at a practice or game, please pick your child up in a timely manner. Please show respect for your coaches by being prompt.
- 4) Make every effort to let your coach know if your child will be absent from a game.
- 5) Help coaches keep the program fun.
- 6) During practices and games, parents are encouraged to verbally support the entire team from the opposite side of the field. Parents coaching from the sidelines is not permitted.
- 7) Adhere to the Parents' Code of Ethics.

Parents' Code of Ethics

I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care, and encouragement for my child participating in youth sports activities by following this Parent's Code of Ethics:

- 1) I will encourage sportsmanship and character development by showing support for all players, coaches, and officials involved at every game and practice session.
- 2) In conjunction with the Bourbonnais Township Park District, I will place the emotional and physical well-being of the children ahead of a personal desire to win.
- 3) I will insist and help to ensure that my child and his or her team play under safe conditions at all times.
- 4) I will expect that my child's coach and team adhere to all rules of participation and competition at all times.
- 5) In an effort to aid their development, I will make every attempt to make sure that my child attends all practices/games on a timely basis.
- 6) I will do my best to actively take on any role necessary to improve the quality of my child's sports experiences.
- 7) I will remember that youth sports programs are intended for the youth of our community and I will do my best to make these experiences fun and rewarding.



Important Contact Information

LindseyLaskey,AthleticSupervisorandLeague Coordinator:
LindseyL@btpd.org
815-802-2926

District: 815-933-9905

League App for communication: GroupMe

Please join this announcement channel with this QR code for important information from the League Coordinator. All coach communication will occur within GroupMe team channels that will be shared after teams are formed.



Weather Reporting for Practices and Games

Practice cancellations will be made in collaboration by the League Coordinator and your coach. **Coaches will communicate practice changes to your team.**

Weather related game cancellations will be determined by the League Coordinator and will be sent to each team coach. **Coaches will communicate game changes to your team.**

Lightning/ severe weather:

In the event of severe weather during an active practice or game, the following protocol will be followed:

- If lightning occurs or thunder is heard, all activities must cease for at least 30 minutes after the last lightning was seen or thunder was heard.
- During this time, teams can take shelter under the dugouts or athletes may take shelter with their own parents in their cars.

Tornado:

A Tornado Warning means a tornado has been sighted. In the event of a tornado warning do the following:

- During this time, teams can take shelter under the dugouts.
- Participants should remain in a weather emergency area until the threat has passed.

Coaches will work with the site supervisor to ensure safety of all players



Important dates:

September 4- Registration deadline

September 8- Team assignments sent

September 8- **Coaches meeting 6pm**

September 9- **Uniform pickup. More information will be sent in GroupMe.**

September 10- First practice and game night

October 29- Final practice and game night

Please reference the BTPD Rules handbook for a comprehensive rules overview, spectator expectations and our behavior management policy.

Practice and Game Information

Practices

- Practices and games will be held at 315 Sports Park, 315 Champions Way, Bradley IL. The facility is located behind Kohl's. A short practice period will be held before game time at times set by age
 - 5-6 years, 5-5:20pm
 - 7-10 years old, 5-5:20pm

Games

- Will be held each week after the short practice.
 - 5-6 years, 12 minute halves with a 5 minute halftime. 5:25- 5:55pm
 - 7-10 years old, 15 min halves, 5 minute halftime 5:25-6:00pm

Equipment and Safety

Players **must** bring/wear the following to every **practice/game**

- **Water bottle-** labeled with your athletes name
- NFL Flag Jersey and flag belt (provided with registration). Home team wears dark jersey side, away wears light jersey side.
- Well fitted shorts with no pockets
- Mouthguard (provided with registration)
- Well fitting athletic shoes- Cleats not required but **metal cleats are NOT allowed**
- Athletes with glasses or sunglasses must utilize a sports band
- Players are not permitted to wear fashion jewelry, fashion accessories, hard casts, or cold weather gear (must be worn under).
- Coaches will have team footballs.



Behavior Management Policy

1. **All coaches, players, and spectators are expected and required to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. Any behaviors or actions deemed inappropriate by Bourbonnais Township Park District Staff may result in the offending party being ejected from the game, or asked to leave the playing area and/or sideline.** Anyone removed from a match/game must leave the field immediately. The referees, site supervisors or Program Manager on duty at that time, will handle all problems and have final say. Each head coach is responsible for the behavior of themselves, all assistant coaches, players, and parents, and should assist staff by discouraging inappropriate behavior by any member or spectator of the team.
2. All participants, coaches, and spectators are expected to adhere to the Bourbonnais Township Park District rules and philosophies as well as local, state and federal statutes at all times. Any individual who violates these rules will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including removal from the program.
3. Behavior contrary to the Park District policy will not be tolerated. The Park District does reserve the right to limit coach/parent/participant participation in the youth athletic programs. Violation of the above rules will result in the following:
4. Any player/coach/or spectator who is ejected from a match or removed from the sideline is subject to:
 - a. 1st Offense: Minimum 1 game suspension
 - b. 2nd Offense: Minimum 3 game suspension
 - c. The Program Manager has final say on all disciplinary decisions, and will notify the offending party (or if applicable, a parent/guardian) in writing (electronic or mail) OR telephone
5. Any coach, player, or parent removed from a game for disciplinary reasons will be required to communicate with the League Coordinator prior to reinstatement. Any individual who has been administered a disciplinary action has the right to an appeal. This appeal must be in writing and received within 24 hours of the disciplinary action. The Park District will review this appeal in a timely fashion and all disciplinary action will stay in effect while the appeal is reviewed.

a. Appeals should be directed to:

Bourbonnais Township Park District Attn: Lindsey Laskey, Recreation Supervisor

Respect of Officials

- Referee's Decisions: No Protests may be made about the referee's decisions regarding facts connected with play; such decisions are final.
- If you have a concern regarding a referee, please contact Lindsey Laskey (LindseyL@btpd.org) with the details (date, time, field, etc.). Again, please keep in mind that there is a shortage of referees and without them the Park District will not be able to provide officials for future games. Let's do our best to promote a positive atmosphere for our sports officials and athletes. Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to good sportsmanship in our community.



Frequently Asked Questions

What equipment is included with registration?

NFL Flag Football team jersey, flag belt, and mouthguard are included with registration fees.

What equipment do I need to supply/purchase for my athlete?

Well fitting shorts with no pockets, well fitting shoes or non-metal cleats, water bottle.

How do we find out what team we are on?

A roster will be posted in the GroupMe announcement channel. GroupMe links are included in this packet and will be emailed before season. Please keep in mind, the park district emails may automatically go to your spam or junk folder. The email used will be the one provided during registration.

How are practices organized?

Practices will be held right before games weekly. Coaches will use their discretion regarding practicing and competing in wet weather, and will communicate practice cancellation decisions to parents. Under no circumstances can teams play during thunderstorms or heavy rain.

How are the teams made?

Coaches are guaranteed to have their child and the child of an assistant coach on their team. No coach requests are guaranteed. One friendship request will only be considered per player if each friend requests the other (ie Billy requests Jimmy AND Jimmy requests Billy). Chaining friends (listing one friend who lists another, and so on until it forms an entire team) or listing multiple friends are not permitted.

