

2026 FLAG FOOTBALL

Ages 5-7

<u>REGULAR REGISTRATION</u>	JUNE 15 – JULY 29	\$75 PER CHILD
<u>LATE REGISTRATION</u>	JULY 30- AUGUST 2	\$85 PER CHILD

We reserve the right to make any necessary changes or cancellations to these programs in the interest of the safety and well-being of all participants, parents, officials, coaches and staff.

INTRODUCTION

York Parks and Recreation Department is pleased to have your child as a participant in our Flag Football program. The purpose of Flag Football is to introduce ages 5-7 to the basic fundamentals of football in a non-contact setting. It is designed to provide a fun learning experience in a non-competitive atmosphere; no score or records will be kept. This information is provided to acquaint our parents with the way in which this year's program will be structured.

When you register your child, there are a number of forms in which you will be required to complete. These include:

1. Registration Form
2. Waiver of Liability Form
3. Parent's Code of Ethics

BIRTH CERTIFICATES

Effective February 1, 2010, a copy of each participant's birth certificate must be on file with York Parks and Recreation Department no later than Monday, August 3, 2026, or your child will not be placed on a team. This includes participants that have played in previous seasons and other programs sponsored by York Parks and Recreation Department.

FEES & REFUNDS

Regular registration is June 15 – July 29 and the fee is \$75 during regular registration. Late registration is July 30- August 2 and the fee is \$85 during late registration. Fees for all participants will be collected at registration. Financial assistance is available. See staff for details. Registration will be handled by York Parks and Recreation Department. Fees may be refunded less a 25% administrative cost until Monday, August 3, 2026. **There will be no refunds after Monday, August 3, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.**

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The program will consist of players ages 5-7. The age cutoff date is September 1 to coincide with our Youth Football program. To be eligible to participate in Flag Football, a child must turn five (5) years old before September 1 and cannot turn eight (8) years old before September 1. No changes will be made once registration is complete. If the registration numbers are low for a particular age group, the leagues may be combined or modified.

PACKET PICK UP – THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, FROM 4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M

Parents may pick up team assignments, schedules, rules, and jerseys on Thursday, August 13, 2026, between 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at the York Recreation Center on White Rose Lane. Coaches are needed for Flag Football. If you or someone you know is interested in coaching, please let staff know during the packet pickup.

TEAM ASSIGNMENTS

All registered participants will be assigned to a team. Returning players will return to the same team as last year, provided they are within the appropriate age group. All new participants will be placed on a team. The only requests for placement on the same team that will be accepted are brothers and sisters (within the same age group), provided that staff is made aware at the time of registration. No other requests for placement on the same team or a particular team will be accepted. Once team assignments are complete, no changes will be made.

GAMES AND PRACTICES

Practices will begin August 17 and will be scheduled by York Parks and Recreation Department. Practices will be held at York Optimist Field. Coaches may schedule additional practices by contacting York Parks and Recreation Department at 803-684-3742. All games will be held at the York Optimist Field located at 21 White Rose Lane. Games will begin in September and will end in late October. Games will be played on weekday evenings at 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Games that are cancelled due to inclement weather will be rescheduled for the next available day or at the end of the regular season.

PICTURE DAY – WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23rd @ YORK RECREATION CENTER, 21 WHITE ROSE LANE

All Flag Football teams will have pictures taken on Wednesday, September 23, at the York Recreation Center on White Rose Lane. Pictures will be taken outside at the York Recreation Center. If it rains pictures will be taken inside the York Recreation Center. An exact schedule of times will be given out later. All players must attend for the team picture regardless if you purchase any pictures. Pictures will be taken by Sport Pix. Make check payable to Sport Pix.

COACHES NEEDED

Coaches are needed for Flag Football. If you or someone you know is interested in coaching a team, please let staff know at registration or call 684-3742. If a parent is not satisfied with their child's playing time or other decisions made by the coach, parents are encouraged to first discuss these issues with the coach before or after the game or practice and not during the game or practice. York Parks and Recreation Department is also available to assist parents if there is a concern after talking with the coach.

EQUIPMENT

York Parks and Recreation Department will provide all equipment necessary for the program. Each participant will be given a jersey, which they may keep at the end of the season. Participants should wear tennis shoes or rubber cleats.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

York Parks and Recreation Department will contact the team representative only if games have been canceled and the team representative will notify the players on the team. Games that are cancelled due to inclement weather will be rescheduled for the next available day or at the end of the regular season. We will also update Facebook in the event of a cancellation.

MEDALS

York Parks and Recreation will distribute medals at the end of the season. If your team decides to provide other awards, we ask that you not distribute trophies, medals, etc. around the playing field, to avoid hurting the feelings of children from other teams. If you would like to have a team party, picnic shelters are available at no charge. The York Recreation Center is also available at no charge during certain weeknights. Please contact York Parks and Recreation Department at 684-3742 for picnic shelter availability or to reserve the York Recreation Center.

PARK RULES

Please keep several park rules in mind while at the York Optimist Field:

1. **Warning! Approach ball fields with caution and at your own risk.**
2. Coolers and similar items are not allowed in the York Recreation Complex ball field area, except for water coolers and those approved by Complex staff. Anyone wishing to distribute drinks or similar items may use the picnic shelter or the area by the ticket booth. Team drinks are available at the concession stand at a reduced rate.
3. No pets are allowed in the York Recreation Complex ball field area, except for service animals. Emotional support animals are not allowed.
4. Tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes, are prohibited on or near the playing field. Please use the Smoker Depots that are located throughout the park.
5. Children under the age of 9 must be accompanied by a responsible adult. No running, jumping, or throwing objects around the Complex tower. Climbing in trees and bushes are prohibited.
6. Please help keep the park clean. Trash receptacles are available.

York Parks and Recreation Department has adopted a "Zero Tolerance Policy." Profanity, fighting, heckling, disrespect, threats, abusive language, or alcoholic beverages will not be tolerated. Violators will be subject to suspension from all York Parks and Recreation Department sponsored programs and facilities.

York Parks and Recreation Department programs and facilities are designed to offer leisure activities for families, groups, and individuals of all ages with diversified interests. Sporting events are provided by the department as opportunities for friendly competition while promoting good sportsmanship among participants and a pleasant environment for spectators.

Participants, coaches, team representatives, spectators, and others are expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner before, during, and after an event, or within 500 feet of City of York property and playing areas.

STAFF

The staff at York Parks and Recreation Department are always accessible and available to assist parents and coaches in anyway possible. If you experience a problem or a concern that needs attention, please let staff know immediately. Or, please contact Chris White, Recreation Director, at 803-684-3742.

SUGGESTIONS/COMMENTS

York Parks and Recreation Department welcomes input from parents, coaches, and others so that we may provide a positive learning experience for everyone associated with the Flag Football program. Please share your comments and suggestions by contacting any staff member, contacting Chris White, Recreation Director, at 803-684-3742, by mail to York Parks and Recreation Department, P.O. Box 500, York, SC 29745, or e-mail at yorkrecreation@yorksc.gov.