

PVDGFFL Travel Team Program



Revised: August 13, 2025

Providence Gay Flag Football League - Tournament Program and Policies

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Travel Team Mission

To assemble teams that represent PVDGFFL's values, prioritizing sportsmanship and community above all else. Exemplify the heart and values of PVDGFFL while competing at the highest level possible on the NGFFL tournament stage.

Tournament Overview

Tournaments are a great way to compete against the highest levels of competition, meet players from around the country, and represent our league on the national level. Tournament players often have significant football experience. NGFFL tournaments involve an additional level of strategy and physicality, and even additional phases of the game like kicking/punting. Tournaments also come with additional responsibilities, costs, and expectations (read below). Tournament players must represent the best of our league in front of the NGFFL community, be able to compete and protect themselves and their teammates against strong competition, cover 100% of their own expenses, and participate in service activities to give back to our league and the community. Our league therefore has minimum requirements and a collaborative selection process for those who wish to compete on our tournament teams.

Player Eligibility & Expectations

- **Interest**: All interested players must submit a player interest form, which is publicized via the Rhody Huddle and posted on our social channels in advance of each tournament.
- **Sportsmanship**: All travel players must have an average sportsmanship rating of "B" or better across their last two seasons, and may not have any board disciplinary action against them in the last year. Sportsmanship ratings are a combination of post-season ratings by a player's captain, as well as feedback at the conclusion of each season and tournament from other captains, referees, and the Board. Tournament players represent our league and are therefore expected to conduct themselves in a professional and courteous manner on and off the field. Sportsmanship includes your behavior during practices, our regular seasons, league events, and during tournaments.
 - Players may inquire about their Sportsmanship rating by emailing board@pvdgffl.org

- Eligibility Appeal: Any player with a B- average sportsmanship rating over the last two seasons may appeal their eligibility to the Board Officers by emailing board@pvdgffl.org to schedule a virtual appeal meeting. Players with a sportsmanship average below B- are not eligible for appeal.
 - The Board Officers, Director of Captains, and Director of Travel Teams will review all appeals via video conference with the player.
- Players should be fully committed to a tournament before accepting a roster spot. If a player selected to a travel roster drops from the team (for reasons other than injury) and/or fails to fulfill the attendance and volunteer requirements, the Board Officers may, at their discretion and in consultation with the team captains, rule that player to be ineligible for the next tournament. Signing up for a tournament team is a commitment, and your teammates rely on you. Dropping from a team costs a roster spot, puts strain on your teammates and captains, and incurs financial costs to both the league and your teammates.
- Any player who competes with another league for Pride Bowl or Gay Bowl due to ineligibility in our league, will, upon their return to PVDGFFL be ineligible for a minimum of one tournament (to be determined by the Board Officers). Upon completing the one tournament waiting period, a player must still fulfill the other eligibility requirements (sportsmanship, good standing, etc.) in order to be considered eligible for travel teams.
- **Attendance:** Players must attend a minimum of 50% of travel team practices.
 - Extenuating circumstances should be brought to your captain's attention as soon as possible, and will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the team captain, Director of Travel Teams, and the PVDGFFL Board Officers.
 - Players who fail to attend 50% of practices, without an approved exception, may forfeit their roster spot.
- **Competition:** Players must be able to compete at a tournament level. This includes size, speed, football knowledge, the ability to protect yourself in a very physical environment and, in the case of linemen, the ability to protect your quarterback.
Although we'd like to take all interested players, you must be able to compete at a tournament level.
- **Participation:** Players must have played, been an active supporter, or refereed in a PVDGFFL season within the last year or be registered for the upcoming season.
- **Financial Support: Tournament players must cover all of their expenses.**
- **Volunteerism:** Participating on a travel team is an honor. Players are expected to "pay it forward" by using their travel experience to give back to the league and the community. In order to be eligible for a tournament, **all players must complete at least TWO (2) of the service activities below for EACH tournament:**
 - Officiate/ref a PVDGFFL league game
 - Volunteer to work at Helmets and Heels
 - Lead or help run a Player Development Clinic
 - Volunteer to help with New Player Orientation
 - Attend a travel team volunteerism activity organized by the Director of Volunteerism (at least one travel-eligible volunteerism event will be scheduled per tournament)
 - Attend any regular-season team's volunteer event
 - Since these events may potentially take place several months before the tournament in question, it is the player's responsibility to document their participation in this event and provide evidence of participation when it comes time to complete their tournament volunteerism requirement.

- A photo of the player participating in the event, or a note from either the team captain or the Director of Volunteerism will suffice.
- All players must complete their volunteerism requirement in the same calendar year as the tournament in which they're participating.
 - If a player intends to participate in Pride Bowl and Gay Bowl, they will need to complete four volunteerism activities in total and they must complete at least two prior to Pride Bowl. The player may, if they choose, complete all four volunteerism requirements prior to Pride Bowl and two of them will count towards Gay Bowl.
- A volunteer activity may only count towards one tournament (you cannot count the same activity for Pride Bowl and Gay Bowl).
- There are some volunteerism activities that, due to their extensive time commitment, will fulfill a player's entire volunteerism requirement for the year (no additional volunteerism activities will be required). These include:
 - Captain a regular season team in the same calendar year as the tournament (e.g. for Pride Bowl, only captaining in the Spring or W+ season will qualify; for Gay Bowl, captaining for any of the three seasons that year will qualify)
 - Serve on the Board of Directors in the same calendar year as the tournament in which you're participating.
- *Players who are drafted to a team but do not complete the volunteerism requirement or fulfill the attendance requirement will forfeit their roster spot. If the tournament registration deadline has not yet closed, captains may petition the Board Officers and Director of Travel Teams to add an eligible replacement player.

Tournament Costs & Fundraising

- Tournament players must be able to cover all their own costs. As a rough estimate, tournaments can cost anywhere from \$750-\$3,000 including registration, airfare, housing, local transportation, food, entertainment, and other expenses.
- PVDGFFL will host one travel team fundraiser per year – Helmets & Heels, which is held in September. The funds from this event will cover player registration costs for Gay Bowl and jersey costs for Gay Bowl and Pride Bowl. Any additional funds will go towards indoor rental facility space for all travel teams, and/or other Board-sponsored activities to improve camaraderie between all PVDGFFL travel teams (e.g. travel team dinner for all players).
 - Pride Bowl:
 - PVDGFFL will provide one jersey per player. Players will pay for their own registration, travel, lodging, food, entertainment, and other costs.
 - Gay Bowl:
 - PVDGFFL will pay the registration fee and provide one jersey per player. Players will pay for their own travel, lodging, food, entertainment, etc.
 - If a player does not use the pre-paid registration code by the early registration deadline, they will be responsible for paying their own registration fee.
- Team fundraisers: Teams may organize and host additional fundraisers on their own, but all travel teams must be invited to participate, and all funds will be split equally among the teams that chose to participate in the fundraiser. If a team opts not to participate in a fundraiser, they do not receive any of the funds raised.
- Sponsorships: Teams may not solicit their own sponsors for travel teams. All our teams represent PVDGFFL and will be sponsored by league sponsors. All sponsor funds will be split equally among all travel teams. Please contact the [Director of Sponsorships](#) if

you know an organization or business that may be interested in sponsoring our travel teams.

Pride Bowl and Gay Bowl

- Currently, PVDGFFL will organize teams for two tournaments: Pride Bowl and Gay Bowl.
- Pride Bowl (each June in Chicago) and Gay Bowl (each September/October in rotating host cities) are the two largest NGFFL tournaments of the year. Pride Bowl draws more than 750 players and Gay Bowl draws more than 1,500. These are large events with the best competition in the country. The threshold for players who wish to compete on these tournament teams is high.
- Each year, the PVDGFFL Board Officers and Director of Travel Teams will determine which tournaments to compete in and how many teams to send to these tournaments based on factors including (but not limited to):
 - Player interest
 - Availability of viable, experienced, LGBTQIA+ captains
 - Availability of viable, experienced, tournament-level quarterbacks
 - Fundraising
 - The number of available team slots in the tournament

Captain Requirements & Selection

- Each Spring, the PVDGFFL Board Officers and Director of Travel Teams will select the leadership groups for Pride Bowl and Gay Bowl teams.
- Each team will be led by one (1) LGBTQIA+ head captain and up to three (3) assistants.
- Each leadership team will be comprised of at least two LGBTQIA+ members.
- Captains are assigned for one year.
 - The Director of Travel Teams and Board Officers will re-evaluate leadership teams each year and may choose, at their discretion, to invite back a prior captain, or award a leadership opportunity to a new captain.
 - When creating our leadership teams, the board seeks a balance of veteran leadership and aspiring future leaders. This allows us to develop the next generation of leaders under the mentorship of our veteran captains.
- Captains and Assistant Captains must:
 - Have an A- (or better) sportsmanship rating across each of the last two seasons.
 - Have previous PVDGFFL regular season captaining experience.
 - Have advanced football knowledge.
 - Embody the highest ideals of PVDGFFL.
 - Head captains should be able to design plays, strategize, create and execute practice plans, manage tournament logistics like team travel, jerseys, registration, etc. and more. Assistant captains should be able to support the head captain with these activities as needed.
 - Prior tournament coaching/playing experience will be considered.
- Tournament team leaders are expected to prepare their teams for intense competition. Additional responsibilities include (but are not limited to):
 - Organize and lead team practices.
 - Record player attendance and ensure attendance and volunteerism compliance (with Director of Travel Teams and Director of Volunteerism).
 - Facilitate healthy sportsmanship within the team and with opposing teams.
 - Foster, facilitate, and encourage camaraderie among all PVDGFFL travel teams
 - Coordinate team social events
 - Help players facilitate travel/housing arrangements.
 - Communicate clearly with players and the Director of Travel Teams.

- Communicate anticipated roles with each player immediately after the draft. This allows players to decide if they're willing to spend the time and money, and allow the team to find a replacement if the drafted player opts out.
- Support/participate in fundraising efforts and ensure your team does the same.
- Enforce PVDGFFL code of conduct and uphold team/individual sportsmanship.

Tournament Divisions

- Tournaments have different competitive "divisions." Open Divisions usually have:
 - A, Upper B, Lower B, C, and Lower C or D Division
- Women's+ divisions usually have:
 - A Division, B Division, and C Division
- Travel teams will predominantly play other teams in their same division, but may occasionally play teams at a higher level (usually on the first day of a tournament before teams are sorted into more accurate divisions).
- After the draft, the Director of Travel Teams, Board Officers, and team captains will review the team rosters and determine the appropriate division in which each team will compete.

Roster Specifics

- Each roster will have 14-20 players (the NGFFL requires a minimum of 14 players per team, and PVDGFFL caps rosters at 20 to ensure playing time for all players).
- Captains will be selected each spring to lead a team for both Pride Bowl and Gay Bowl.
- Each team can only roster five straight allies and may only play three straight allies at any time.
 - To ensure compliance with the NGFFL on this requirement, we refer to each player's self-identification on the registration for their last PVDGFFL season.
 - We recognize that gender identity and self-discovery are fluid and encourage potential tournament players to speak with our Commissioner if they wish to update their pronouns, identification, etc.
- Playing Time: Starting Roles and Bench Roles
 - Playing time is very different on tournament teams vs. our regular season. While our home league embraces the mantra of "everyone plays," in tournaments the best players usually stay on the field for the majority of the game. Tournaments are very competitive, and players will know in advance what position(s) they'll play and how much playing time they can expect. Starters may play an entire game, while others may not play in every game or only play a handful of plays. When selecting rosters, captains will tell players what role they can expect to play – it will be up to each player to decide whether they're willing to accept the role being offered. Some players are ok only playing a handful of plays, and others prefer not to spend the time/money unless they'll have a starting role. We'll respect your time and be honest about the size of the role you can expect.
- Periodically, tournament teams may include a limited number of "honorary" roster spots (beyond the 14-20 primary roster spots). These spots are nominated by the Director of Travel Teams or Commissioner and awarded by the PVDGFFL Board Officers to former PVDGFFL players who've moved away or retired but have earned the chance to represent Providence one more time, either due to their league contributions or prior tournament performance. A player may only receive the honorary designation once. Honorary players are NOT guaranteed playing time. This is mostly a symbolic recognition, though they may be given an opportunity to play a limited role at their captain's discretion and only after the rostered players are considered. Honorary players

may not start over rostered players. To be eligible for these honorary roster spots, players must have participated in a PVDGFFL regular season within the last year.

Roster Construction Addendum – Draft Notes & Practice Squad:

- Each spring, we will select captains for all our Open and W+ teams, and those captains will remain in those roles for both Pride Bowl and Gay Bowl.
 - Captains will draft Pride Bowl rosters, and players will remain on the same team for Pride Bowl and Gay Bowl (if they're able to commit to both tournaments).
 - If a rostered Pride Bowl player is unable to compete at Gay Bowl, their roster spot will be filled in a supplemental Gay Bowl draft in the summer.
- Practice Squad: Players not selected to a roster may still be invited by a team captain to participate as a practice squad member, which will give them a chance to develop their skills, build familiarity with the teams, and have a chance to be added to the roster in the case of injury or team need. Practice squad players are **not** guaranteed a roster spot, but practicing with the teams does *improve* the chances that they will be selected to a roster for the current or future tournaments.
 - Practice Squad players must still complete the practice and volunteerism requirements in order to be added, so they should participate as if they are a rostered player. The more you participate, the better your chances of being added to a roster.
- Draft schedule:
 - April/May: Draft to select Pride Bowl rosters and practice squad.
 - July: Draft to fill any vacated Pride Bowl spots for the upcoming Gay Bowl tournament and select third Open Division Gay Bowl roster (if there's sufficient interest/availability).
- The draft schedule and roster construction is dependent upon player interest. If, for example, there are only enough interested players to field a single Open Division or W+ team for Pride Bowl, but there's significantly more interest to support additional teams for Gay Bowl, the Board reserves the right to re-draft all teams for Gay Bowl. Any such decisions will be made and communicated after the interest form deadline, and after consulting with team captains.

How Are Players Selected?

- At the captain's discretion, all eligible players (see eligibility above) may practice together for two weeks. Captains can evaluate players during this time and then draft their rosters via snake draft.
- The first 12 rounds of the draft will be position-specific to ensure each team fields a competitive roster. After the first 13 rounds, captains may select players for any position for the remainder of the draft.
 - Round 1: QB
 - Round 2: WR
 - Round 3: WR
 - Round 4: WR
 - Round 5: OL
 - Round 6: OL
 - Round 7: WR/OL
 - Round 8: Any defensive position
 - Round 9: Any defensive position
 - Round 10: Any defensive position
 - Round 11: Any defensive position
 - Round 12: Any defensive position

- Round 13-20: Open draft for any position
- Captains must draft themselves in the round most appropriate to the primary position they will play in the tournament.
- Captains must select at least 14 players and no more than 20 players. If a captain opts to select fewer than 20 players, the other team's captain(s) may continue selecting players until their roster is complete.
- When selecting rosters for Gay Bowl, the first two Open Division teams (the existing Pride Bowl teams) will fill any vacancies on their team. Captains for the third team will then be able to select any player who isn't already rostered to build their team.
- Players are only eligible to play for the team to which they are drafted.
- Tournaments require a high level of athletic ability and football knowledge. Captains will draft rosters based on ability, positional need, roster flexibility, and sportsmanship.
- In many cases, travel teams are unable to take very qualified players, either because the team would exceed the five allotted straight ally player slots, or they already have sufficient depth at a particular position.
- All players who submit an interest form will be notified whether they've been drafted or not. If a player is not drafted, the Director of Travel Teams and/or the Director of Player Development will provide feedback about the particular area(s) the player should focus on to improve their chances of being selected to future tournament rosters.

Post-Draft Roster Additions:

- If a player drops or is removed from a roster before the tournament registration deadline, captains may request an eligible replacement fill that roster spot (eligible replacements are those who were eligible for the draft and not currently on another roster). Captains must inform the Director of Travel Teams of their desire to add a player to the roster – and receive approval from the Director of Travel Teams – before offering the spot.
- If all eligible players have been rostered, team captains may identify a PVDGFFL player who meets the sportsmanship and eligibility requirements and appeal to the Board Officers to roster that player. A majority of the Board Officers must approve the addition.
- No roster additions may be made after the tournament's registration deadline.

Post-Tournament: Travel Team Evaluations

- At the conclusion of each tournament, all tournament captains will be asked to evaluate the players on their team (just as we do with our regular season evaluations). These evaluations will include both the player's ability and sportsmanship (would the captains recommend this player be considered for future travel teams?).
- All travel team players will also be asked to evaluate their captains (should these individuals be considered to lead future teams?).
- All travel participants will be asked to share any feedback based on their experience in the lead-up to the tournament and at the tournament itself. They can raise any concerns, flag any player issues, suggest improvements for future tournaments, etc.

2025 Expansion:

Interest in our tournament teams continues to grow! In 2024, we had 120+ players express interest in our teams. To provide additional tournament opportunities, beginning in 2025, we added the option for a third Open Division tournament team for Gay Bowl (pending player interest and available captains/quarterbacks), **which will allow us to roster up to 50% more Open Division players**. Because Pride Bowl limits the number of teams that can compete, we expect that this third squad will only compete at Gay Bowl, and only if there is sufficient player/captain/quarterback interest. All our tournament teams will be treated equally in terms of fundraising, practice, support, etc., and all teams will equally be expected to represent

PVDGFFL with respect. This additional team is intended to accommodate the growing number of players interested in competing at tournaments, and the roster makeup will likely skew more towards players who have little or no tournament experience.

Non-Playing Supporters

Friends, family, significant others, and PVDGFFL members who aren't rostered on a team are invited and **strongly encouraged** to attend tournaments as a supporter. Most tournaments offer a special "supporter registration" option that allows you to attend tournament social events. Tournament teams often travel with an 'entourage' of supporters, and Providence's crew has steadily grown over the last few years! Supporters sometimes livestream tournament games so friends/family at home can watch the action, attend tournament social events, and demonstrate the full power of PVDGFFL's passion! Supporters must cover their own costs.

Additional Tournaments

There are additional NGFFL and non-NGFFL tournaments throughout the year. The level of competition at these tournaments is, again, notably higher than in our home league. Players often have significant football experience, there's an additional level of strategy, and even additional phases of the game like kicking/punting.

- NGFFL tournaments require that players be affiliated with a local league (e.g. PVDGFFL). For any NGFFL tournament, the PVDGFFL Board of Directors determines whether to send a team, how many teams, selects captains, and ensures player eligibility.
- Non-NGFFL tournaments (like Sunshine Cup, which is held each year in Fort Lauderdale in mid-February) are open to anyone who wishes to put together a team. PVDGFFL does not have a role in putting together teams or selecting rosters or captains for the Sunshine Cup. Players often solicit friends, siblings, co-workers, etc. who are not part of our league to participate in the Sunshine Cup. This tournament is open to all.
 - Players/teams may not use the PVDGFFL name or logo for these tournaments.
 - While not everyone can be selected for our Pride Bowl or Gay Bowl teams, Sunshine Cup is a great opportunity for anyone who wants to experience tournament play. Any individual may register a team and select their own assistant captains and rosters. If you want to experience tournament play, Sunshine Cup is for you!
 - Teams may consist of league players or non-league players, and there are no caps on straight allies per team.
 - Anyone who wants to play can find a team to join, although the league strongly recommends that players are able to compete at a higher level before participating in this tournament.
 - Players should expect to cover all costs, including tournament registration, jerseys, flight, housing, food, entertainment and more.

Code of Conduct

All players and supporters who attend a tournament – whether a sanctioned NGFFL tournament or non-NGFFL tournament – represent PVDGFFL and are expected to abide by the [Code of Conduct](#). Any incidents that occur at tournaments will be reviewed by the Board and may affect a player's ability to compete in our home league or future tournaments.

Director of Travel Teams

If you have any questions, please contact the [Director of Travel Teams](#). If the Director of Travel Teams is unavailable, or the position is vacant, please contact the Commissioner.