



*Welcome to*

# SANTA BARBARA FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

## FNL Fall 2021 F.A.Q.

### **When does the season start?**

Fall 2021 Season is set to run from Friday, September 10th - Friday, November 5th. Every team will play 6-8 games plus playoffs. (All teams will also participate in our single-elimination playoff tournament except teams in our Kinder division)

**When are the games?** 9/10, 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/3\*, 10/8, 10/15, 10/17\*, 10/22, 10/29 (playoffs), 11/5 (championship games). Not every team will play each night! Most games will be played on Friday nights. (2 selected Sunday game-days have been scheduled to help with additional games, make up games, field closures, rainouts, city and/or school conflicts.

**What time are the games:** 4:30pm-8:30pm. In general, the younger divisions play earlier and the older kids play later. First round of games may start at 4:15pm. Games run about an hour.

**When will my child have practice?** Most teams will only have 2-3 practices before opening night. Practice day/time is completely up to your coach. However each team may only practice once a week, usually for about an hour. Most practices start between 4:00 and 6:00 pm and take place at local school fields, parks and public/open spaces.

### **Where are the games?**

This fall, ALL games are played at Santa Barbara Junior High School. 721 E. Cota Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

### **What equipment do I need?**

Cleats, mouth guard, solid colored shorts (same as the rest of the team) with no pockets or stripes/designs. Optional FNL shorts (\$22) are available for purchase through your coach!

### **Can I volunteer to coach or be an assistant coach?**

Yes. Just email your contact information to [santabarbarafnl@gmail.com](mailto:santabarbarafnl@gmail.com). FNL may offer player discounts for head coaches and will provide practice drills and game plays to any new coach. Coaching at FNL is a low time commitment with only 1 practice a week that the coach can decide time and place of practice. Coaches will also have 1 game on Friday nights.

**Coach Requests:** All FNL Coaches are able to submit their 'coach requests' as long as they are received by August 27th! Coaches may request early or later game times, blackout game date or 'bye' requests, double-header back-to-back games or 1 hour break in-between...etc. All teams must field a minimum of 5 players to play, so if teams have school travel conflicts or another Friday night conflicts, coaches can request a bye.

### **Can I request a friend to be on my team?**

You may request as many friends as you would like, however, friend requests are not guaranteed. Requests of 4 or more kids must have a volunteer coach.

### **Can I request a coach?**

Yes but as with requesting friends, again there are no guarantees. We will always do our best to honor all requests. If you request to be on a specific coaches team, your player must be confirmed on the head coaches roster.

### **How does our Kindergarten division work?**

As part of our new, very FUN kinder division, all teams will only play against other kinder teams. Kinder teams will have a min of 5 and max of 8 players all enrolled in Kindergarten in Fall 2021. Complete teams must have a head coach upon registration. All kindergarten teams must have a team sponsor confirmed by September 5th. Kinder division will play 8 min. quarters and play 6-8 league games. Games will be played during early, first rounds on Friday night. (May have 1 or 2 Sunday games). Individual kindergartners may sign up and request to play with friends and classmates as long as they have a parent/coach volunteer.

### **Is the uniform provided?**

Yes, each player will receive a FNL Jersey, belt and flags.

### **Are there playoffs?**

Yes, immediately following the regular season. Playoffs will take place on Friday, October 29th. Semi Final and Championship games will take place on Friday, November 5th! Kindergarten teams do not participate in playoffs. All other divisions participate in our single elimination playoff tournament right after the regular season concludes.

### **When will I hear from my coach?**

Coaches will get their rosters the week of August 16th and players will hear from their coach by August 23rd. If you haven't heard from your coach by August 30th, please email [santabarbarafnl@gmail.com](mailto:santabarbarafnl@gmail.com)

### **Can my child play if he gets injured and is wearing a cast?**

No.

### **What is the required \$275 team sponsorship fee?**

Instead of raising the cost of registration, our business sponsors help offset the numerous expenses of running the league. FNL will never require parents to sell raffle tickets, referee a game, work in the snack bar, donate to a silent auction or set up and breakdown all of the fields. Instead, FNL hires people to do this and pays every referee and other staff. All we want our FNL parents to do is pull up a chair and watch their kid play flag football on Friday nights. Every team in FNL is required to secure a team sponsor. Coaches will ask all of the team parents to reach out to at least 1 or 2 local business or vendors to sponsor the team. FNL is a registered non profit and provides the sponsor with a TAX ID # that will provide a 100% tax deduction. If no one on the team wishes to secure a sponsor, then the families can together sponsor the team and split the \$275, which would cost approximately \$30 per family. We always want to keep our registration costs low and our parent requirements to a minimum.

### **How are sponsors recognized?**

Sponsors are recognized on our website for a minimum of 6-8 weeks and we put out an all-league email listing all sponsors and asking for league members to patronize them. Sponsors also get social media posts through Instagram and Facebook. On site and additional online opportunities are available on our website. FNL sponsors will also receive an optional plaque at the end of the season from their team! Banners may also be displayed on Friday nights at all fields. (Banners must be provided by team or sponsor)

Is your business interested in becoming the title sponsor for Santa Barbara Friday Night Lights? There are only a couple of opportunities available each year for businesses that would like more exposure to our FNL families & events. Our youth sports audience is available throughout the Spring, Summer and Fall. Onsite sampling & couponing, social media marketing, naming rights, field signage and exposure to over 6,200+ FNL friends and families from Goleta to Montecito. For more information, email us at [santabarbarafnl@gmail.com](mailto:santabarbarafnl@gmail.com)