



Welcome to Santa Barbara FNL FALL 2025 SEASON F.A.Q.

When is registration? May 15th until sellout. Late registration fee or a waitlist may begin on July 1st, 2025 only if spots are still available. **Please note that every season FNL sells out.**

When does the season start? Our Fall 2025 Season is scheduled to run from late August through early November, 2025. (pending final permit approvals) Practices may start in early/mid August. All teams will play 8 games before playoffs. **All games are played on Friday nights and Sundays this Fall.**

Tentative Game Dates (Fridays & Sundays) this Fall: Teams will play 8 games during the regular season: 8/22, 9/5, 9/12, 9/19, **9/21**, 9/26, **9/28**, 10/3, **10/5**, 10/10, **10/12**, 10/17, **10/19**, 10/24, **10/26**, **11/2 (Playoffs)**, 11/7 (**Championship Night**)

Where are the games? All games are played LOCALLY. Locations may include: San Marcos High School & Dos Pueblos High School, UCSB and/or City Parks. (*pending final permit approval*).

What time are the games? Games usually run about 1 hour long and start around 4:15pm on Fridays and the last round of games start around 8:50pm. Usually younger kids play earlier rounds, older kids play later. All Sunday game times run between 9am-6pm. **Every coach/team must be able to compete on Sundays. Coaches can request to play on Sundays in the morning, midday or early evening to accommodate those kids participating in multiple sports.** Teams should expect 3-4 Friday night games and 3-4 Sunday games.

Where and what time will practice be? Practice times and locations are up to each volunteer coach. We do the best we can to match you up with a team in your area/school/neighborhood but can not guarantee it. **Only 1 practice a week is allowed** and practices usually run 60-90 minutes. If your child is unable to make the designated practice schedule, FNL will do it's best to move your player to another team, or provide you with 100% refund before the season starts.

Is there a draft or are there tryouts? No. At FNL we want our players to play with their friends, neighbors and classmates. In each division, FNL does its best to have returning/experienced teams play each other, and new teams and coaches play against each other in their division. **FNL may change a teams game schedule after the first 4 weeks of the season to adjust for better competition.** After the regular season games, each division with at least 10 or more teams will be split up and re-

evaluated to have the top performing teams compete in our 'upper brackets' during playoffs and lower performing teams play each other in their own bracket during playoffs, offering better competition, more awards and more fun for the kids.

What equipment do I need? Only Cleats (No Metal Cleats) & a mouth guard (mandatory)

What is included with registration? High quality custom team jersey, FNL athletic shorts, new flags & belts. 8 season games plus playoffs. 1st place league trophies and Championship and League Runner-Up trophies or rings.

How can I volunteer to coach? Send an email to santabarbarafnl@gmail.com with the subject "Fall 2025 League Head Coach." Indicate what grade your player is in when you volunteer. Also include your cell phone and what school your player attends. You will also request to be a Head Coach during online registration. Coaches must send FNL your team roster with the players names that are on your team. (max 9 players / no exceptions)

Can I coach more than 1 team? Yes. Every season we have many coaches that coach 2 or 3 teams. FNL will schedule your games at the same field location and make sure your game times do not overlap.

Are there Community Service Hours available for older siblings? Yes. If you have a high school student looking to earn 40-60 hours this Fall of community service, please have them reach out to FNL. (santabarbarafnl@gmail.com). As a registered non-profit flag football league, they can apply to be an assistant referee, assistant coach or work during our games at the snack bar, merchandise booth or coaches table.

How many players per team? Minimum of 7 players, **maximum of 9 players** per team. (no exceptions)

Can I request to be on the same team as a friend? Yes. We try our best to honor requests, however, this is not a guarantee that this request can be granted. Groups of 3 or more friends may not be placed on the same team unless a parent or guardian is willing to be the head coach.

What is the sponsorship fee? Santa Barbara FNL is a registered non-profit youth flag football league. FNL will never require our families to volunteer to set up fields, work in the snack bar, ref a game or sell raffle tickets. We want our families to enjoy just watching their child to play! Each team is responsible for finding a local business to sponsor their team for \$295. This gives our local businesses a chance to contribute to the youth sports community while getting a 100% tax deduction and assisting with costs to run the league. The business receives promotional email blast, social media posts and is featured on the website for a minimum of 8-10 weeks. This fee also keeps your registration costs down. If the team does not find a sponsorship, each team is

responsible for splitting the cost by total number of players on the team. (approximately \$34-\$36 per family)

Can I get a refund? Please see FNL refund policy on our website.

Are there playoffs? Kindergarten division does not participate in playoffs. All other divisions in COED and Girls League (1st/2nd, 3rd/4th, 5th/6th and 7th/8th grade divisions) have a single elimination playoff tournament, immediately after the regular season ends. Please note that we can not accommodate scheduling requests for playoffs (other than coaches with two teams) and most teams will play at least 2-3 games to advance to our semi final and championship night at FNL.

When will I hear from my coach? Coaches should get their rosters in early August. Coaches will begin contacting players soon thereafter. If you haven't heard from your coach by the middle of August, please email santabarbarafnl@gmail.com for an update.

How do I sign up? You can always find open registration links on our homepage at www.santabarbarafnl.com **if space is still available**. Link for Fall registration will be 'live' on May 15th and is open until sellout.

Does every division get a participation trophy? All Kindergarten players receive participation awards or 1st place trophies. 1st/2nd, 3rd/ 4th, 5th/6th and 7th/8th grade division players receive first place trophies for the regular season and will have the opportunity to win league runner-up and league championship trophies as well during playoffs.

Can my child play if he gets injured and is wearing a cast? No.

Are dogs allowed on the fields at the games? No. All local schools do not allow dogs on their campuses. For the safety of others, DOGS ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

What is FNL Sportsmanship policy? Please see Rules & Regulations. FNL has a zero-tolerance for poor sportsmanship and have rules in place that will strictly enforce unsportsmanlike conduct by any player, coach or fan.

For additional questions, comments or concerns, please reach out to us at santabarbarafnl@gmail.com Thank you and we look forward to seeing you this Fall!