

Sports & Entertainment

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NFL Flag Championship presented by Toyota returns to Canton from July 17-20

All 32 NFL clubs represented by Flag teams across 12 divisions ESPN, Disney and the NFL to showcase 33 games across multiple platforms

NEW YORK — June 26, 2025 — The National Football League announced the NFL FLAG teams and players that will represent all 32 NFL clubs at the second annual NFL Flag Championships presented by Toyota, the world's premiere youth flag football tournament, from July 17-20, at ForeverLawn Park by Unrivaled Sports at the Hall of Fame Village in Canton, Ohio. The Championships, operated by RCX Sports, will feature approximately 300 NFL FLAG regional winning teams of girls and boys participating across 12 divisions, including eight international teams.

“We are thrilled to bring the NFL Flag Championships presented by Toyota back to Canton for the second consecutive year,” said Stephanie Kwok, NFL vice president, head of Flag Football. “The Championships are a strong showcase for the growth of flag football at the grassroots level across the country and around the world. Flag is inclusive and accessible for all, and we are excited to see the competition across all age groups at the 2025 NFL Flag Championships.”

ESPN, ABC, Disney and the NFL will provide coverage, spanning 33 hours from Friday, July 18, through Sunday, July 20. ESPN will showcase 15 games from the girls high school division, 15 games from the boys under-14 division and three games from the international tournament. The championship games on Sunday for the 14u boys and high school girls divisions will be available across seven platforms: ABC, ESPN+, ESPN Deportes, Disney+, Disney Channel, Disney XD and NFL+.

The NFL Flag Championships will be available in more than 125 countries, including live coverage in Mexico, Brazil, throughout Africa, Australia, New Zealand and the Caribbean. Fans in the Netherlands and the Pacific Islands will also be able to consume coverage of the event on ESPN branded networks. For more ways to watch the 2025 NFL Flag Championships, visit NFL.com

“The NFL Flag Championships

are quickly becoming the ultimate summer showcase for one of the world’s fastest growing sports,” said Julie Sobieski, ESPN senior vice president of league programming and acquisitions. “For the second consecutive year, our presentation and expansive global distribution will spotlight the exceptional talent of the young boys and girls competing, while also celebrating the inclusive, fast-paced, and accessible nature of flag football. This year’s tournament will not only build upon the tremendous success of the inaugural event, but will also add to the sport’s immense momentum in recent years.”

Toyota is the Presenting Partner of NFL Flag tournaments across the U.S — spanning the NFL Flag Championships and Regional Tournaments as well as NFL Flag League Play. At the NFL Flag Championships, Toyota will have a co-branded presence on all NFL Flag jerseys and flags, as well as signage and activation space at Fan Fest. Toyota will also sponsor ESPN and Disney’s live broadcast coverage of the top boys (14U) and girls (high school) divisions in the tournament.

“The NFL Flag Championships builds upon the continued efforts of hundreds of Toyota dealers nationwide supporting local leagues, enabling girls and boys greater access to the game of flag football,” said Dedra DeLilli, Vice President of Marketing Communications, Toyota Motor North America. “Seeing these future superstars compete on a national platform is a thrill not only for Toyota but for all those who love the game.”

Gatorade, Oakley and Visa all return as sponsors for the 2025 NFL Flag Championships while new partners this year include Jersey Mike’s and brands like Downy, Gillette, Old Spice and Tide.

New for 2025, Nike will be providing on-field uniforms and apparel, and New Era will be providing caps for players, including a Champions cap immediately postgame. Additionally, Wilson and Franklin will return providing flags and footballs.

“The NFL Flag Championships is the pinnacle event of the year for the entire flag community,” said Izell Reese, CEO of RCX

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Dain Dainja earns spot on Miami Heat’s Summer League roster

Moussa Cisse Signs Exhibit 10 Deal with Mavericks

MEMPHIS, Tenn., June 27, 2025 – After anchoring one of the most dominant Memphis teams in over a decade, two of the Tigers’ big men are now chasing the NBA dream they’ve been working toward their whole lives.

Forward Dain Dainja has officially earned a spot on the Miami Heat’s NBA Summer League roster, while fellow big man Moussa Cisse has signed an Exhibit 10 contract with the Dallas Mavericks. The announcements come on the heels of an impressive season that saw Memphis finish 29-6, capture both the American Athletic Conference regular-season and tournament titles, earn a No. 5 seed in the NCAA Tournament and finish the year ranked in the AP Top 25 for the second time in three seasons (No. 25).

Dainja, a 6-foot-9, 270-pound force in the paint, accepted the Heat’s invitation just hours after the NCAA denied his request for an additional season of eligibility. The First Team All-AAC selection averaged 14.6 points, 7.4 rebounds, 1.7 assists, and 1.3 blocks per game, anchoring Penny Hardaway’s squad on both ends of the floor.

Shooting a team-best 61.5% (209-of-340) from the field, Dainja finished with double-figures



Dain Dainja

scoring in 26 of 35 contests, recorded nine double-doubles and eclipsed 20 points nine times.

It is being reported that the Brooklyn Park, Minnesota native will join the Heat in San Francisco on July 1, where the team will compete in the California Classic Summer League at the Chase Center (July 5-8). From there, he’s slated to play in the NBA 2K26 Summer League in Las Vegas, running from July 10-20.

Shortly after Dainja’s Summer League roster spot was announced, reports confirmed that Cisse, a 6-foot-11 defensive stalwart, agreed to an Exhibit 10 contract with the Dallas Mavericks. The contract offers a potential path to a two-way deal and a spot on the Mavs’ roster with strong Summer League or training camp potential.

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Memphis Grizzlies announce 2025 full Summer League schedule presented by Pinnacle Financial Partners for fans

Grizzlies to Play in Both Salt Lake City and NBA2K26 Summer League in Las Vegas – Seven Non-Playoff Games to be Broadcast on the Grind City Media Mobile App – Grizzlies Summer League Presented by Pinnacle Financial Partners –

MEMPHIS, Tenn. June 30, 2025 – The Memphis Grizzlies announced their full Summer League schedule, spanning seven games across two cities. The Grizzlies Summer League is presented by Pinnacle Financial Partners.

Grizzlies Summer League Broadcasts will be powered by direct-to-consumer streaming company Kiswe through the Grind City Media Mobile App. All seven non-playoff games from Salt Lake City and Las Vegas will be broadcast throughout the Grizzlies TV broadcast region including Tennessee, Alabama, Kentucky, Arkansas, Missouri and Mississippi on the Grind City Media Mobile App. Grind City Media and Grizzlies Broadcast crew personalities will host the Pre & Postgame Show, said Izell Reese, CEO of RCX

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live from FedExForum and on-site in Salt Lake City and Las Vegas. All Grizzlies Summer League games will be available on the FanDuel Sports Network app. The games will also air on FanDuel Sports Network unless there is a conflict with previously scheduled live event programming.

The Grizzlies start their summer play with three games in the 2025 Salt Lake City Summer League, held at the University of Utah’s Jon M. Huntsman Center in Salt Lake City, tipping-off against the Oklahoma City Thunder on Saturday, July 5, at 6 p.m. (all times Central). The Grizzlies will play the Utah Jazz on Monday, July 7, at 8 p.m. and the Philadelphia 76ers on Tuesday, July 8, at 6 p.m.

The Grizzlies open their NBA2K26 Summer League 2025 schedule in Las Vegas against the Boston Celtics at 3

p.m. on Friday, July 11, at the Pavilion on campus at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Full schedules for both the 2025 Salt Lake City Summer League and NBA2K26 Summer League 2025 are below. The Grizzlies’ summer league roster and coaching staff will be announced at a later date.

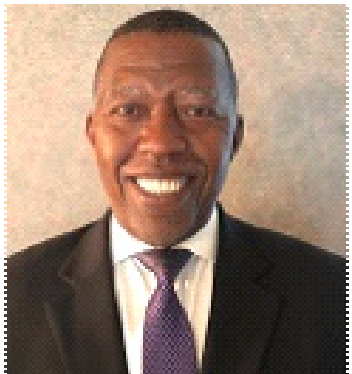
The 20th NBA 2K26 Summer League will showcase all 30 NBA teams playing five games each. After every team plays four games from July 10-20, the top four teams will advance to the playoffs, beginning with a semifinal doubleheader on July 19 on ESPN. The two winning teams from the semifinal games will meet in the championship game on July 20 on ESPN. The four playoff teams will be determined by winning percentage in each team’s first four games, with tiebreaker criteria available here.

The 26 teams that do not advance to the four-team playoffs will play a fifth game on either July 18, July 19 or July 20.

All 76 games of the 11-day competition will air live on ESPN platforms (ESPN, ESPN2, ESPNU, ESPN+ and ESPN3) or NBA TV. Every game will also

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Meet some of BIHMST Sports Correspondents



William M. Larsha, Jr.



Ashley Braun Gendek

BIHMST Travelers, join correspondents William M. Larsha, Jr. and Ashley Braun Gendek in their sports coverage of University of Memphis Tigers, Memphis Grizzlies, TN Titans, Southern Heritage Classic, FedEx St. Jude Championship, Memphis Showboats, UFL, NFL, Soccer and more on The Mid-South Tribune and the Black Information Highway at blackinformationhighway.com Welcome, Travelers!

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- Memphis Athletics Dept. Remembers Women’s Basketball Head Coach Joyce Lee-McNelis... see sports page 4 ***
- Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee Locals Celebrate Army 250th Anniversary across U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion-Baton Rouge Area see sports-Military 2 ***
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- Memphis Grizzlies Unveil Grizz Den Rec Room at Street Ministries see sports-Ent. 5 ***
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