

National Football League hosts 12 international youth flag football teams at 2024 Pro Bowl Games

NEW YORK — The National Football League announced it will host the International NFL Flag Championships as part of the 2024 Pro Bowl Games in Orlando from Feb. 2 to Feb. 3.

Young athletes from 12 countries will travel to the U.S. to compete in a multi-day flag football tournament to showcase their skills and connect with peers from around the world, before watching NFL superstars compete in the sport at the Pro Bowl Games. Fast-paced and accessible for all, flag football is one of the fastest growing sports globally with women and girls leading some of the largest growth and increased participation.

The expansion of the International NFL Flag Championships follows flag football's recent inclusion in the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games — driven by the International Federation of American Football (IFAF) and supported by the league. "With flag football's recent inclusion in the LA28 Olympic Games, this is an incredible time for young girls and boys around the world to be playing the sport and representing their countries. We look forward to welcoming players from each of the participating 12 nations to the U.S.," said Peter O'Reilly, executive vice president, club business, league events & international at

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the NFL. "In partnership with IFAF, the league is prioritizing the global growth of flag football. Competitions like the International NFL Flag Championships shine a light on the ever-increasing pathways to play the game — inspiring young athletes everywhere to participate."

"Following a truly historic year when flag football was confirmed for LA 2028, the 2024 Pro Bowl Games here in Orlando, Florida will be another amazing showcase for this growing sport. For IFAF, this is a great opportunity to demonstrate again to millions of fans and the wider Olympic and sports communities, the excitement and dynamism of flag as the global development of the sport con-

tinues to accelerate at pace," said Pierre Trochet, president, IFAF. "In particular, we are thrilled to see the expanded International NFL Flag Championships. With young girls and boys from 12 nations competing, we're proud of the inclusivity and diversity of flag, and its power to engage new, youthful audiences."

The International NFL Flag Championship will feature 11 U12 international teams of boys and girls from Australia, Bahamas, Brazil, China, France, Germany, Ghana, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand and the U.K.

This year, for the first time, team Canada will get the chance to compete in the National NFL Flag Championship against U.S. flag football teams — following their win last season of the 2023 NFL Flag International Division. All 12 teams traveling to the U.S. were crowned champions of their home countries' NFL Flag national tournaments. NFL Flag is the official flag football program of the NFL — working to bring the non-contact version of American football, played by both boys and girls, worldwide.

The 2024 Pro Bowl Games will spotlight flag football and feature a mix of live and taped skills competitions throughout the weekend.

The culminating flag football game featuring the league's best players will take place on Sunday, Feb. 4, with all international flag football teams in attendance to see AFC and NFC stars play the sport firsthand.

The full list of teams competing in the International NFL Flag Championship can be found below.

International NFL Flag Championship — 2024 Competitors

Listed by Country, Team, and Location:

Australia-Varsity College Gold Coast, Queensland

Bahamas-Kingsway Academy Nassau

Brazil-Sorocaba Braves Academy Sorocaba, São Paulo

Canada (vs U.S. teams) Bomb Squad Regina, Saskatchewan

China -Shanghai Wolves Shanghai

France- CaimansLe Mans

Germany- Realschule Taufkirchen Munich

Ghana- Nima 2 Accra
Japan -Nojima Sagamihara Rise Tokyo

Mexico - Bulls Hemingway School Coahuila, Saltillo

New Zealand- Bader Intermediate Auckland, NZ
UK Lings Primary School Northampton

For more information on the Pro Bowl Games, visit NFL.com/pro-bowl-games/event-info/.

About NFL Flag

NFL Flag - the official flag football program of the National Football League — is active across 14 international markets outside of the United States. Fast-paced and accessible for all, flag football is one of the fastest growing sports globally with women and girls leading some of the largest growth and increased participation.

The game provides a structured opportunity for youth to play the non-contact version of American football while discovering the importance of sportsmanship, teamwork, and friendship both on and off the field.

February is Black History Month

Quinerly named Top-10 candidate for Bob Cousy Award



Jahvon Quinerly

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced its Top 10 candidates for the 2024 Bob Cousy Award Monday and Memphis' Jahvon Quinerly landed a spot on the list.

Quinerly is the lone representative of the American Athletic Conference among the finalists.

The Hackensack, New Jersey product has had a big year leading the Tiger offense. He is second on the team in scoring (14.0) and leads the squad with 4.7 assists per game. He's shooting 45.7 percent overall and 81.8 percent from the free throw line. Quinerly is also second on the Tigers with 35 three-pointers made and four games of 20-plus points. He recorded his second-career double-double at Wichita State with 23 points and 11 assists (tied career high).

Fans can support their favorite players in the remaining rounds by participating in Fan Voting, presented by Dell Technologies, starting Friday, February 2, on hoopshallawards.com. The Fan Vote will count as one committee vote during the finalist selection process.

In March, five finalists will be presented to Cousy and the Hall of Fame's selection committee. The Selection Committee for the Bob Cousy Award is composed of top men's college basketball personnel, including media members, head coaches, sports information directors, and Hall of Famers.

The winner of the 2024 Bob Cousy Award will be presented on a to be determined date, along with the other four members of the Men's Starting Five. Additional awards being presented include the Jerry West Award (Shooting Guard), Julius Erving Award (Small Forward), Karl Malone (Power Forward), and the Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Award (Center), in addition to the Women's Starting Five.

2024 Bob Cousy Award Candidates*

Isaiah Stevens — Colorado State
Jamal Shead — Houston
Dajuan Harris Jr. — Kansas
Tyler Kolek — Marquette
Jahvon Quinerly — Memphis
Boo Buie — Northwestern
Zakai Zeigler — Tennessee
Max Abmas — Texas
Wade Taylor IV — Texas A&M
Tristen Newton — UConn
*Players can play their way onto and off the list at any point in the 2023-24 season.

Wellpoint and local Memphis organizations come together to host Blood Pressure World Record event on Feb. 2 at FedEx Forum when Memphis Grizzlies take on Golden State Warriors

Grizzlies attempt to break world record for completing the most blood pressure checks in an 8-hour period.

MEMPHIS, TN - Local organizations will join forces during American Heart Awareness Month to offer free blood pressure checks, before and during Grizzlies game, as they attempt to break the world record for completing the most blood pressure checks during an 8-hour period.

Wellpoint is coming together with United Clinical Research, the American Heart Association, and Concorde Career College to host the HipHop4Life Blood Pressure World Record event on February 2 at FedEx Forum as the Memphis Grizzlies take on the Golden State Warriors. The organizations hope to set the world record for complet-

ing the most blood pressure checks during an 8-hour period which coincides with Heart Health Awareness Month.

For those not attending the game, Concorde Career College will hold a blood pressure activation event on February 2 from 11 a.m. — 3 p.m. at the main plaza. The current world record was set in 2015 in India when 26,449 people received blood pressure checks during an 8-hour period. A \$1000 gift will be given to one lucky participant through a random drawing.

To blood pressure recordbreaking event will begin on February 2, 6 — 10 p.m. at the FedEx Forum, located at 191 Beale St, Memphis, TN 38103

*Blood Pressure Checks to occur before and during Memphis Grizzlies vs. Golden State Warriors basketball game — tipoff is at 7 p.m.

**Blood Pressure stations will be available throughout FedEx Forum — please see signage. February 2, 2024, 11 a.m. — 3 p.m.

Concorde Career College: 5100 Poplar Ave #132 Memphis, TN 38137

*Blood Pressure Checks to take place in the middle hall area.

February is American Heart Month, a time to raise awareness about cardiovascular health. According to the Centers for Dis-

ease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 20 million U.S. adults have heart disease. That is approximately 7 percent of the U.S. population. Early diagnosis can lead to timely treatment and prevention of serious complications, such as stroke and heart failure.

The organizations are joining forces to encourage preventive care and regular check-ups so individuals can take control of their health and to promote a healthier lifestyle. This free event will help those in the community who may not have the resources to regularly check their blood pressure or see a doctor. Local health experts will also be on-hand to offer

advice on diet, exercise, and other lifestyle changes that help maintain healthy blood pressure levels.

Public education around the dangers of high blood pressure and raising awareness about the disease's silent nature, as it typically shows no symptoms, is top of mind for the organizations as they strive to set a new world record. #KnowYourNumbers

Free and open to the community; Representatives from Wellpoint, United Clinical Research, American Heart Association, and Concorde Career College will be on hand.

2023 NFL playoffs set all-time viewership records with over 120 million tuning in for Championship Sunday

Wild Card Through Conference Championships Averaged 38.5 Million Viewers

NEW YORK — Jan. 30, 2024 — This year's NFL playoffs averaged 38.5 million viewers (TV+Digital) for the Wild Card, Divisional and Conference Championship rounds — the most-watched playoffs ever (records date back to 1988).

The 38.5 million average viewers across the NFL playoffs are up +9% versus last year. Additionally, each individual round

was up in viewership compared to last year, with the Wild Card round averaging 31.2 million (up +8%), Divisional Round averaging 40.0 million (up +7% and most-watched ever) and Championship Sunday averaging 56.1 million (up +11% and most-watched ever).

More than half of all Americans using television in NFL windows were watching NFL games with a share of 53.3% for the full playoffs — highest on record.

In total, 120.4 million viewers tuned in for Championship Sun-

"Our record-breaking viewership is driven by the incredible play on the field that only the NFL postseason can deliver and presented by the best media partners in the business," said Hans Schroeder, executive vice president of media distribution with the NFL. "All eyes now turn to Las Vegas for what will be the culmination of an unbelievable season with Super Bowl LVIII."

day — the highest total unduplicated audience since 2016-17.

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San Francisco 49ers in Super Bowl LVIII on Sunday, Feb. 11 at 6:30 p.m. ET at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas on CBS, Paramount+, Nickelodeon and Univision, and on mobile with NFL+.

Source: Nielsen and first-party digital

Email sports news and photos to MSTsports@prodigy.net.

Do You Know This About Black History?

- Rust College in Holly Springs, Mississippi and Morgan State College in Baltimore, Maryland were founded by the Methodist Episcopal Church; and Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee was founded by the American Missionary Association. All three were founded in 1866, making them among the oldest Historical Black Colleges and Universities

- (HBCUs).
- Edward G. Walker and Charles L. Mitchell, both from Massachusetts, became the first African Americans elected to a Northern state legislature in 1866.
- In 1847 Frederick Douglass published the first issue of the North Star newspaper, an anti-slavery newspaper.

- In 1941, the Atlanta Urban League won the right for Black women to be addressed as "Mrs." in predominantly white newspapers.
- Floyd McKissick becomes a director of CORE in 1966. Sigma Gamma Rho is founded in 1922 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Email your Black History Month photos and events to Blackinfohwy@prodigy.net or MSTnews@prodigy.net for The Mid-South Tribune's 29th Annual Black History Month Edition.

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