

# Sports & Entertainment

## Flag football teams in Ghana participated in NFL Flag championship tournament



ACCRA, GHANA — Nov. 3, 2025 — The NFL hosted the fourth annual NFL FLAG Championship tournament in Ghana, bringing together top teams from across the country in the 12U Co-Ed and 14U Girls and Boys divisions.

This two-day flag football tournament was held at the University of Ghana Rugby Stadium in Accra, with Nima 1 taking the top prize in the 12U Co-Ed division, Nima 1 Basic School in the 14U Girls division, and St. Kizito Basic School in the 14U Boys division. Nima 1, the winning team in the 12U Co-Ed division, will go on to compete in the NFL FLAG Africa Championship in 2026.

Fast-paced and accessible for all, flag football is one of the fastest-growing sports globally, with more than 3.4 million athletes participating in NFL FLAG programming in NFL FLAG programing internationally. NFL FLAG is the official flag football program of the NFL, bringing the non-contact version of American football to young athletes worldwide. NFL FLAG programming launched in Ghana in 2022 in 10 schools across Accra. Since then, NFL FLAG has expanded into 30 schools across the country, with Ghanaian teams representing their country at the International NFL FLAG Tournament at the 2024 + 2023 Pro Bowl Games.

“The annual NFL FLAG National Championship tournament in Ghana has emerged as a stage for top athletes from across the country to showcase their passion for the sport in a competitive and fun environment,” said Afia Law, NFL FLAG International. “It’s been inspiring to see the rapid growth of flag football in Ghana, and we’re excited to build on this momentum by creating more opportunities for youth athletes throughout the region to play this game.”

Flag football’s popularity in Ghana has been spurred by continued support from NFL teams and players. The Philadelphia Eagles, who have marketing rights in Ghana as part of the Global Markets Program, supported this year’s NFL FLAG Championship tournament and have hosted additional flag activations and NFL game watch parties in markets across the country.

In addition, Las Vegas Raiders linebacker Brian Asamoah, who is of Ghanaian heritage, has been a key ambassador in growing flag football throughout the country. Last summer, Asamoah convened a group of NFL players and legends to host a flag football camp and ‘scouting combine’ in Ghana for local athletes to showcase their talents in front of evaluators responsible for determining who will represent Ghana’s national flag football team at the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles. Asamoah continues to be heavily involved in NFL FLAG programming in Ghana, including through his support of a youth flag football league in the country.

Earlier this year, the NFL and the International Federation of American Football (IFAF) hosted a flag football coach education and officiating clinic in Ghana. The clinic welcomed coaches and officials from 10 African countries, as well as leaders from the global flag football community, providing participants with both classroom and on-field learning to help accelerate the development and growth of the game across the country and continent.

About NFL FLAG

NFL FLAG — the official flag football program of the National Football League — is active across 12 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.

## SAF and partners file SCOTUS brief to challenge Federal ban on firearms possession by nonviolent felons from sports-military 3

*“From colonial laws targeting violent threats to founding-era ratification proposals protecting ‘peaceable citizens,’ the shared common denominator has always been danger, and no precedent exists for stripping Second Amendment rights from nonviolent felons. We urge the Court to intervene and clarify that felon bans are ‘presumptively lawful’ only when applied to dangerous individuals.”*

SAF is joined in the filing by the National Rifle Association, Firearms Policy Coalition and FPC Action Foundation.

“The Ninth Circuit’s ruling defies Heller, Bruen, and Rahimi by upholding a lifetime disarmament of someone who committed non-violent offenses, ignoring that our historical tradition only supports disarming ‘dangerous’ persons — those with a proven proclivity for violence or threats to government,” said SAF Director of Legal Research and Education Kostas Moros. “From colonial laws targeting violent threats to founding-era ratification proposals protecting ‘peaceable citizens,’ the shared common

denominator has always been danger, and no precedent exists for stripping Second Amendment rights from nonviolent felons. We urge the Court to intervene and clarify that felon bans are ‘presumptively lawful’ only when applied to dangerous individuals.”

The brief also highlights that discriminatory laws cannot establish valid analogues under Bruen and Rahimi, and post-enactment history confirms peaceable persons retained their rights.

“This case highlights the need for clarification from the High Court as millions of Americans face the permanent loss of their Second Amendment rights for nonviolent offenses long after serving their sentences,” said SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb. “Through amicus briefs and our more than 50 active lawsuits, we’re fighting to ensure lower courts faithfully apply Supreme Court precedents and protect the rights of peaceable citizens nationwide.”

For more information visit SAF.org.

The Second Amendment Foundation (saf.org) is the nation’s oldest and largest tax-exempt education, research, publishing and legal action group dedicated to safeguarding and promoting the fundamental rights of individuals enshrined.

## Key decision leads Vercillo and Frost to Yamaha Bassmaster Redfish Cup Championship win

PORT ARANSAS, Texas , November 9, 2025— Calling an audible at the line of scrimmage yielded the game-winning score for Tony Vercillo and Darren Frost, who took first place at the Yamaha Bassmaster Redfish Cup Championship presented by Skeeter at Port Aransas.

Hailing from Fort Pierce and Melbourne, respectively, Vercillo and Frost placed third on Day 1 with a two-fish limit of 15 pounds, 6 ounces and held that spot with a second-round limit of 13-5. On Championship Sunday, the winners posted 12-6 and tallied a three-day total of 41-1. Overtaking Easton Fothergill and Clark Jordan Jr., who led the first two days, by 4 1/2-pounds, Vercillo and Frost split the \$75,000 top prize.

“This is a dream come true; I’ve been doing this (redfishing) since I was 5,” Vercillo said. “We’ve worked so hard to get here.”

Frost echoed his partner’s sentiment: “It hasn’t completely hit me yet, but I was about to cry three or four times (while sitting in the hot seat). I don’t remember the last time I cried.”

For two days, Vercillo and Frost had worked a two-stage plan in which they started their mornings in areas north of the takeoff site

*For two days, Vercillo and Frost had worked a two-stage plan in which they started their mornings in areas north of the takeoff site at Fisherman’s Wharf, inside Port Aransas Municipal Boat Harbor. By late morning, they would run south to the upper Laguna Madre, where they caught their better fish.*

at Fisherman’s Wharf, inside Port Aransas Municipal Boat Harbor. By late morning, they would run south to the upper Laguna Madre, where they caught their better fish.

That plan likely would have worked again, but Day 3 saw a cold front unleash brutal conditions. With a forecast for 25- to 35-knot north-northeast winds, Vercillo and Frost discussed the option of fishing closer the night before, but Championship Sunday’s harsh reality prompted an easy decision.

“Our best fish were a good ways south and we’d have to cross Corpus Christi Bay,” Vercillo said. “Last night, we were 80/20. We were desperate to get to those fish. We could win if we got to them.”



Tony Vercillo and Darren Frost have won the 2025 Yamaha Bassmaster Redfish Cup Championship presented by Skeeter with a three-day total of 41 pounds, 1 ounce. (Photo by Dalton Tumblin/B.A.S.S.)

“This morning, it was more like 50/50 and by the time we came around the corner for check-out, I said, ‘No sir, we’re staying close.’ We both agreed. We were very much at piece; there was no argument.”

Spending their final day on the west side of Redfish Bay, north or Port Aransas, the winners targeted oyster bar habitat.

“We dedicated Wednesday’s practice to finding spots that were out of the wind,” Vercillo said. “We found two spots that were holding fish and we just let it ride. We were done by 9 o’clock. We never caught another good fish after that.”

Frost said he and Vercillo anticipated they could catch about 12 pounds in Redfish Bay, so their final-round productivity was right on point.

“That’s what we saw pre-fishing; we has a couple of low-6’s and that’s what we ended up catching,” Frost said. “We kinda knew what was there and that’s why we didn’t go there yesterday.”

Vercillo noted that similarities to their Florida home waters helped him and his partner excel in their first Port-A visit. One of the biggest was finding areas with significant mullet activity — typically considered an indication of good redfish waters.

For the first two days, Vercillo and Frost caught several of their fish on spoons. When Day 3 found the fish less willing to chase the shiny baits, they switched to more subtle presentations.

Vercillo threw a Rapala Crush City The Mayor paddletail rigged weedless on a Strike King Hack

Attack Heavy Cover Flipping Hook. His partner fished a Berkley Gulp! Shrimp.

“I rigged (the Gulp! Shrimp) weedless on a wide gap hook with a 3/16-ounce tungsten weight,” Frost said. “I added a little gold Colorado blade between the weight and the bobber stop to add a little flash.”

In its fifth year, the Redfish Cup Championship fielded 10 two-angler teams — six comprising all redfish anglers and four pairing a Progressive Bassmaster Elite Series pro with a redfish pro.

Representing the hybrid teams, Fothergill — the reigning Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Classic presented by Under Armour champion — and Jordan took the early lead with a Day 1 limit of 17-3, the event’s heaviest catch. Adding 16-8 in the second round, they held on to their lead.

Day 3 delivered an early blast with what appeared to be the day-maker, as Jordan caught an 8-pound red that measured a breath below the 28-inch maximum length.

Tournament anglers know that fish typically enter the live well slightly shorter from contracting stress, but on a day unlikely to offer many opportunities, Jordan and Fothergill decided to take their chances that the fish would remain at or under 28 inches on the tournament’s official measurement.

Unfortunately, the fish had become relaxed in the livewell so it measured just over the 28-inch mark. Weighing a single fish of 2-14, Fothergill and Jordan settled at second with 36-9.

“After we caught that big fish, we thought we had a good plan the rest of the day to catch a couple 4 1/2- to 5-pound fish and just never got bit,” Jordan said. “We pulled the plug at the last minute and came in. Easton made a good sight cast with a Berkley Gulp! Shrimp to catch that one we weighed in.”

In third place, Ryan Rickard and Patrick Marsonnek turned in weights of 15-0, 11-0 and 10-8 to finish with 36-8. The game plan, Rickard said, meant devoting three days to the Upper Laguna Madre, where he partnered with Bassmaster Elite Series pro Chris Zaldain to win the inaugural Redfish Cup Championship in 2021.

“Knowing what we had in practice, I said going into this that we just had to get bit right,” Rickard said. “I felt like if we could catch 10-12 fish a day, we would have what we needed. Unfortunately, on Day 1, we still caught 10-12 fish, we just didn’t have any great ones and that’s what bit us. “We did all we could do and it just gave us what it gave us.”

Rickard and Marsonnek caught their fish on the new 1/2-ounce gold Aqua Dream spoons.

This event was hosted by Port Aransas Fisherman’s Wharf. 2025 Redfish Cup Championship Title Sponsor: Yamaha 2025 Redfish Cup Championship Presenting Sponsor: Skeeter Boats

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## Tennessee Titans return from bye to host Houston Texans at Nissan Stadium from sports page 1



touchdown by linebacker Cody Barton, as well as six sacks by the defense. Despite the effort, the Chargers prevailed by a final score of 27-20.

Titans rookie quarterback Cam Ward started each of the team’s first nine games prior to the bye. His passing statistics for the season include 170 completions and 1,760 yards on 295 attempts with five touchdowns and six interceptions.

Ward is one of six members of the 2025 draft class who have started at least one game for the Titans. The others are wide receivers Elic Ayomanor (eight starts) and Dike (five), tight end Gunnar Helm (five), outside linebacker Oluwafemi Oladejo

(two), and safety Kevin Winston Jr. (one). Ayomanor ranks eighth in the NFL among rookies with 26 receptions, and he is sixth among rookies with 323 receiving yards. Meanwhile, Dike leads all NFL players with 1,514 all-purpose yards. Excluding the bye, this week’s contest against the Texans marks the Titans’ second of four consecutive home games. They continue the home slate with the Seattle Seahawks on Nov. 23 and the Jacksonville Jaguars on Nov. 30. Their next road game is not until a trip to Cleveland on Dec. 7.

THE TEXANS

The Texans are coming off three consecutive home games. Last week they welcomed the Jaguars to NRG Stadium and overcame a 29-10 deficit in the fourth quarter to earn a 36-29 victory. Winners of four of their past six games,

the Texans are in third place in the division behind the 8-2 Indianapolis Colts and the 5-4 Jaguars.

Head coach DeMeco Ryans , who was hired to his current post in 2023, led Houston to an AFC South title in each of his first two campaigns. The Texans had identical 10-7 records in 2023 and 2024, followed by finishes in the divisional playoff round on both occasions.

Along with Ryans, quarterback C.J. Stroud is in his third season with the club after being chosen with the second overall pick in the 2023 NFL Draft. Due to injury, he had a 27- game consecutive starts streak snapped last week, as Davis Mills started in his place.

Texans enter this week’s clash in Tennessee with the NFL’s top ranked defense in 2025, allowing 261.3 yards per game.

*Happy 250th Birthday to the U.S. A. Marines!*