

NFFLA Travel Program Bylaws (2023)

I. Mission & Vision

NFFLA Mission. The mission of the National Flag Football League of Atlanta, Inc. (hereafter referred to as NFFLA) is to offer individuals of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual or aromatic (hereafter referred to as LGBTQIA+) communities and straight allies, across all genders, an opportunity to meet and compete without fear of discrimination. The NFFLA is committed to providing the opportunity for these individuals to participate in flag football competitions at the local and national level.

Travel Program Vision. The Travel Program serves as an extension of the league's mission, with an emphasis on building teams to compete at the highest level in their respective divisions. We aim to select players who represent the best of the NFFLA with teamwork, talent, sportsmanship, and inclusivity. The leaders and players embody a "One Atlanta" mindset where we work together to support the overall success of all of our travel teams.

II. Travel Team Governance Committee

II. A. Travel Team Governance Committee (TTGC). The NFFLA Travel Program is administered by the TTGC, which acts as a general manager of the travel team process by assisting teams with logistical issues, administering drafts, and communicating to the Board and NGFFL. The TTGC shall be responsible for implementing and managing the selection process of captains and players for the annual Pride Bowl and Gay Bowl tournaments.

II. B. TTGC Composition. The TCGC shall comprise of the TTGC Chair (Assistant Commissioner of NFFLA), three (3) Open Division representatives, and one (2) Women's+ Division representatives ("Divisional Representatives"). Committee members must have played or refereed in at least two (2) tournaments, one being sanctioned by the NGFFL.

II. B. 1. The Board will appoint the TTGC to serve one year, March 1 - February 28/29.

II. B. 2. The TTGC Chair shall nominate members to be appointed by the Board and serve as the liaison between the Board and TTGC.

II. B. 3. The TTGC Chair reserves the right to change the size of the TTGC and have Board members serve as advisors.

II. B. 4. The Chair will nominate additional members to be appointed by the Board.

II. C. TTGC Member Resignation. TTGC members can resign at any time by written notice to the NFFLA Commissioner and the TTGC Chair.

II. D. Member Removal. Any member of the TTGC can be removed at any time by a simple majority vote of the Board. The TTGC Chairperson will recommend to the Board a replacement to fill the vacancy. This recommendation must be made within two (2) weeks of the vacancy.

II. E. Member Voting. All members will have an equal vote. All votes pass by a simple majority. The NFFLA Commissioner will serve as a tie breaking vote. When collaborating with captains, each captain should have an equal vote.

III. Teams & Player Eligibility

III. A. Sanctioned Teams. The NFFLA Board shall determine the number of teams for each tournament - Pride Bowl & Gay Bowl. The teams will be structured so that the most competitive teams is fielded first (Team 1), followed by a second team and so on.

III. B. Additional Teams. In the event there is sufficient and sustainable interest within the NFFLA travel community for another team in any division and, contingent upon available capacity of the aforementioned tournaments, the NFFLA Board shall obtain feedback from the TTGC, before voting, on whether to sanction that team by majority rule. If approved, the TTGC Chair shall notify the greater community about the new team and its captain vacancy.

III. C. Active Member Eligibility. Any active league member in good standing is eligible to participate in the travel program. Players shall be considered an active member of the NFFLA if they have played in a minimum of four (4) games during the most current or prior NFFLA season.

III. D. Wild Cards. Wild Card players are individuals who are in good standing with the league but do NOT meet the eligibility requirements. Priority goes to players in the NFFLA within the last two (2) years, LGBTQIA+ individuals, and players who show genuine interest in playing in the league. A Wild Card player may play a maximum of two (2) tournaments with the NFFLA before joining the league.

All teams are entitled to, but not required, to one (1) Wild Card player on their roster.

The A-level team, is entitled to, but not required, to 3 Wild Cards on their roster.

All teams must attempt to complete their roster with active NFFLA players, in good standing. Wild Card options are to be used when a very specific role needs to be filled and cannot be filled from within the current list of available players. All Wild Card players must be approved by the TTGC.

III. E. Appeals. Any appeals can be made to the TTGC for consideration of special circumstances, such as injury, job movement, etc.

IV. Drafts

IV. A. Draft Schedule. The TTGC will hold two (2) drafts each year. One (1) for Pride Bowl and one (1) for Gay Bowl. All team rosters will dissolve after Pride Bowl and the draft will begin anew for Gay Bowl. A supplemental draft will be held if necessary.

IV. A. 1. The TTGC will publish all deadlines related to draft declaration, eligibility, and timing to the entire NFFLA.

IV. B. Player Declaration. Players entering the draft must indicate whether they want to enter the draft pool as a QB or Position Player. A player who submits their name for the QB draft pool but isn't selected as a QB is eligible to be selected as Position Player.

IV. C. Drafted Players. Once the draft is complete and rosters are approved by the TTGC, a player must play for the team that selected them.

A drafted player is prohibited from switching teams after the draft is complete, unless both captains of the affected teams and the TTGC approves of this change. No changes may be made within 30 days of a tournament under this provision.

IV. D. Draft Process. The TTGC will establish the draft process for each tournament. The Board will approve the process.

V. Undrafted Players

V. A. Undrafted Players. Undrafted players will go on an Undrafted Reserve List ("URL"). After all captains have filled their roster, the TTGC will determine if another team shall be formed for a tournament.

V. B. Undrafted Reserve List ("URL"). The Divisional Representatives will reach out to the players who are not initially chosen for a travel team to gauge their interest in staying involved and create an Undrafted Reserve List ("URL").

V. B. 1. The Divisional Representatives will be responsible for keeping the Undrafted Reserve List (“URL”) up-to-date and available to the TTGC.

V. C. Undrafted Player Release. Undrafted players are automatically released to play with another city of their choosing. The TTGC will determine the timing of this release and shall aim to do so in a reasonable timeframe.

VI. Roster Changes

VI. A. Player Unavailability. A player may be determined ‘unavailable’ due to season-ending injury or definite absence (i.e. moving away from Atlanta area, work conflict, etc.)

VI. A. 1. Captains may remove ‘unavailable’ players from their roster by notifying the TTGC Chair.

VI. A. 2. Players removed from a roster due to unavailability shall not re-join any other team for that tournament.

VI. B. Replacement Players. If a roster spot becomes available after the initial draft, the captain of the affected team has the right to fill that spot with any player from the URL or available Wild Card option. The captain must submit their request to the TTGC. The requests will be approved on a first-come, first-served basis and must go through the post-draft procedures established by the TTGC.

VII. Team Captains

VII. A. Captain Selection The Board shall issue an all call for captains at the beginning of each calendar year. The Board shall vet the applicants and provide the list to the TTGC. The TTGC will then select the captains through the process established by the committee.

VII. B. Captain Term. Captains are selected to serve for both Pride Bowl and Gay Bowl for that year. The term will automatically end after Gay Bowl.

VII. C. Co-captains. Captains may appoint their own co-captains or leadership group.

VII. D. Captain Review. The TTGC shall distribute a player survey to review captain performance at the end of each tournament (within two weeks of last day of tournament). The TTGC will review the surveys with each captain.

VII. E. Captain Removal. At any time, a captain may be removed by a majority vote of the TTGC. If there is a tie in the TTGC voting, the captain is retained. The

TTGC shall give great deference to team input before taking this action. Teams may also petition the TTGC to remove a captain. This petition must be signed by half of its drafted team. Mid-year removal should only be enacted for cases of gross misconduct, negligence, and/or incompetence.

VII. E. 1. Any captain who **resigns** or is removed is still eligible to remain with team as a player in that tournament, pending approval by a majority vote of the respective team.

VII. E. 2. If the team **removes** a captain from the roster, that player has the option of joining another team pending approval by that team's captain.

VII. F. Captain Replacement. The TTGC will appoint new captains. This will be done by first looking within the current team for a replacement and giving great deference to team input. If a captain cannot be selected from within the team, the Board shall issue an all-call for a replacement captain and vet the list. The TTGC will then select the new captain.

VIII. Recruitment.

The Tournament Committee will organize open tryout sessions for players interested in joining the travel program.

IX. Sponsorship.

Individuals or teams intending to solicit sponsorship funds for travel teams must obtain approval in advance from the NFFLA board to ensure no conflict of interest with existing league sponsorships.

X. Changes To Bylaws

These bylaws may be modified, altered, or added to by the TTGC. The TTGC will endeavor to drive consensus on any changes.

Changes to the bylaws require at least three-fourths vote by the TTGC members. If the case of a tie vote, the changes do not pass.

Every scenario that may arise cannot possibly have been addressed by these bylaws. If a scenario does arise that is not addressed here, The TTGC will address it in as fair a manner as possible.

Charter Updates:

Change	Date
Added new drafting processes (removed A and B in favor of Teams 1, 2, etc.)	February 2019
Changed draft process for Team 3	July 2019
Remove language around Pride Bowl being an “open” tournament	July 2019
Modified/Reorganized	January 2023
Updated Wild Card (First team gets 3, others get 1, narrowed scope of who could be a Wild Card)	July 2023
Replacement Players -added must go through post draft procedures established by TTGC	July 2023
Roster Injury - removed this section. Replaced by language in Drafted Players section. All changes must be approved by TTGC, captains of both teams, and the player involved	July 2023
TTGC service - changed from Jan - Dec to match tournament cycle (March 1 - Feb 28/29)	December 2023