2026 ARPA

STATE FLAG FOOTBALL

CHAMPIONSHIPS



NOVEMBER 7-8, 2026

DOTHAN, ALABAMA

DOTHAN LEISURE SERVICES
PLAY · LEARN · GROW

VISIT DOTHAN

WIREGRASS PARK
620 6th Ave, Dothan, AL 36301

GRANDVIEW
900 6th Ave, Dothan, AL 36301

Hosted by Dothan Leisure Services

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Welcome to Dothan!

On behalf of the City of Dothan and Dothan Leisure Services, welcome to the 2026 ARPA State Flag Football Championship.

It is our privilege to welcome players, coaches, families, and supporters from across Alabama to Wiregrass Recreation Center and Grandview for a weekend of competition and sportsmanship. We are proud to host this championship and provide an opportunity for teams to represent their communities and celebrate their accomplishments this season.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the Alabama Recreation and Parks Association for entrusting Dothan with hosting this championship. We also thank the coaches, recreation departments, officials, and families whose dedication makes these opportunities possible for our young athletes.

Most importantly, we congratulate the players who have earned the opportunity to compete at the state level. We look forward to seeing your teamwork, effort, and enthusiasm on the field.

While you're in Dothan, we encourage you to experience the hospitality that makes our community special. Enjoy our local restaurants, shopping, attractions, and everything our city has to offer. For information on places to stay, dine, and explore, please visit VisitDothan.com.

Thank you for being part of the 2026 ARPA State Flag Football Championship. We wish each of you a safe, competitive, and memorable tournament.
We look forward to seeing you on the field!

Sincerely,

Billy Powell
Director, Dothan Leisure Services
City of Dothan

2026 Tournament Information

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WHEN:	Saturday - Sunday, November 7 – 8, 2026
WHERE:	Wiregrass Park, 620 6th Ave. Dothan, AL 36301 Grandview, 900 6th Ave. Dothan, AL 36301
ADMISSION:	$5.00 Daily; 6 and under free **(CASH ONLY)**
ENTRY FEE:	$150.00 per team – Entry Fee Make checks payable to: Dothan Leisure Services Mail to: Department of Leisure Services Attn: Garrett Franklin P.O. Box 2128 Dothan, AL 36302
AWARDS:	Individual and team awards will be presented to the 1st and 2nd places in each of the divisions. Also, a Sportsmanship Trophy will be awarded in each age division.
TEAM CREDENTIALS:	**Please email completed Team Credentials to gfranklin@dothan.org by October 28,2026.** Teams whose official rosters & birth certificates have not been checked because there was no District Tournament (or for any other reason) must have them reviewed by the Tournament Director prior to the start of the State Tournament. Penalty - Team ineligible to participate. [Recreation Sports Manual, page 13, Article III, Section A (2)c].
TEAM CHECK-IN:	All teams must check in at least one hour before their first game.
PROTEST:	A protest must be made by a Parks & Recreation Representative who is accompanying the team and not by the Coach or a Team Supporter.
ROSTER LIMIT:	The ARPA Official Roster limit for players is ten (10) players.
LODGING:	Each team is responsible for their own lodging.
RULES:	Tournament will be played by current rules and regulations of the NFL Flag Football with the exceptions found in the ARPA Competitive Sports Manual - pages 49-51.
TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR:	Garrett Franklin at (334) 615-3700 for additional information.

2026 Flag Football Age Chart

Age on August 1, 2026

	2020	*2019*	*2018*	*2017*	*2016*	*2015*	*2014*	*2013*	*2012*	*2011*
JAN	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	X
FEB	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	X
MAR	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	X
APR	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	X
MAY	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	X
JUN	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	X
JUL	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	X
AUG	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	X
SEP	X	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
OCT	X	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
NOV	X	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
DEC	X	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14

FACILITIES & PARKING

ARPA State Flag Football

P = Parking



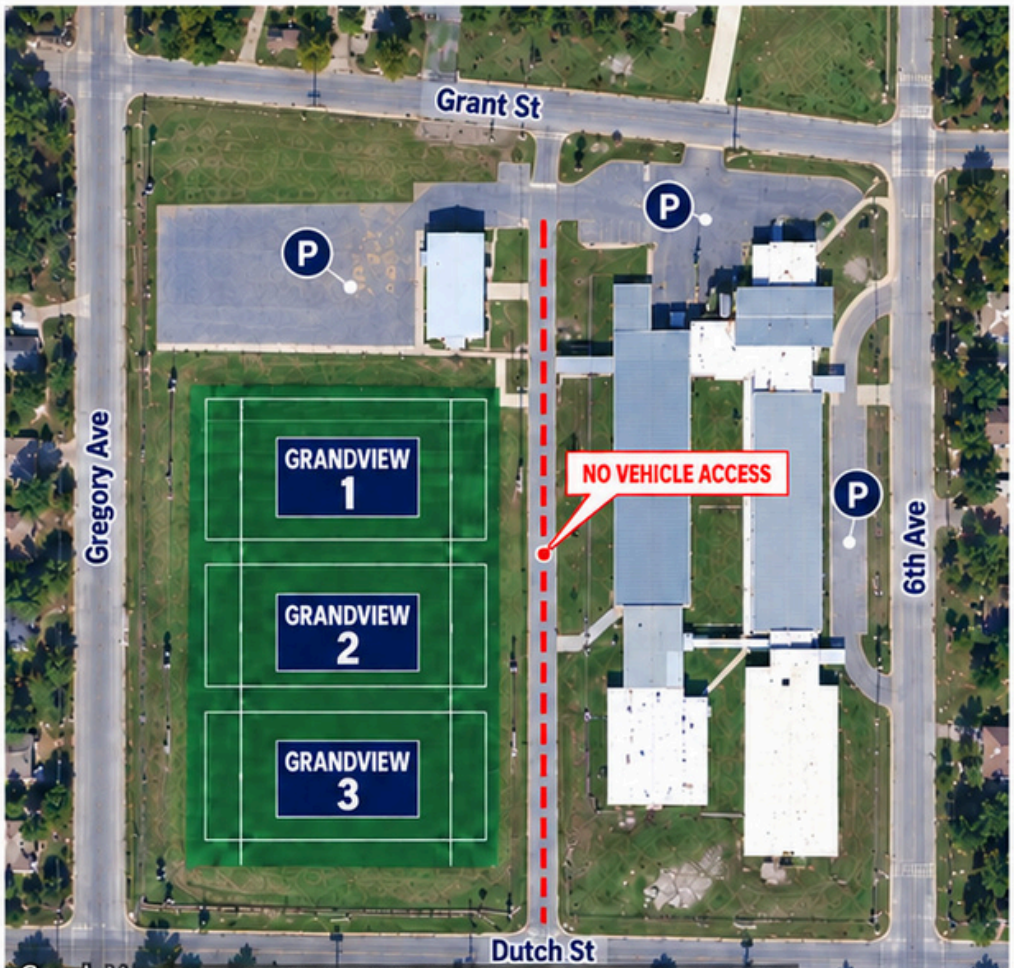
WIREGRASS PARK

620 6th Avenue, Dothan, AL 36301



GRANDVIEW

900 6th Avenue, Dothan, AL 36301



Facility Information

- Grandview has 3 artificial turf field.
- Wiregrass has 6 natural grass fields.
- Bring your own seating at both locations.

General Rules Both Facilities

- Molded cleats or athletic shoes only. No metal cleats.
- No pets inside the playing field fences.
- Keep walkways clear of chairs, wagons, tents, and coolers.
- No alcoholic beverages.
- No smoking on or near the fields.
- Dispose of trash properly and follow posted rules and staff instructions.

Grandview Turf Rules

- Parents and spectators must remain off the turf. The fan section is along the perimeter fence.
- Approved equipment only.
- No sharp objects, stakes, or anchors.
- Secure tents with turf-safe weights.
- No food, gum, seeds, or tobacco products on the turf.
- Water only. No sports drinks or other beverages.
- No bicycles on the turf.
- No vehicle access on the lane between the fields and school.

RULE XII– YOUTH FLAG FOOTBALL

ARTICLE I - ELIGIBILITY

SECTION A - AGE DIVISIONS

(1) The age control date is on or before August 1st.

(2) Divisions-

A.	8 and Under Girls	8 and Under Boys
B.	10 and Under Girls	10 and Under Boys
C.	12 and under Girls	12 and Under Boys
D.	14 and under Girls	14 and Under Boys

*Co-ed teams must play in the boys' division

(3) Teams must consist of at least five players with a maximum of 10 players.

(4) Teams must start games with a minimum of five players. In the event of an injury, a team with insufficient substitute players may play with four players on the field but no fewer than four

(5) A participant is allowed to compete in one age division only. Participants may compete in an older age division provided they remain in that same age division for all games and through all levels of NFL Flag competition.

(6) A participant may compete in the District and state level provided he or she is not in violation of any rules or regulations in this Manual. (REF: RULE 1)

SECTION B - ENTRIES

(1) At the District level, an affiliate may enter as many teams as it wishes in all divisions provided the District does not establish an entry limit.

(2) A District not conducting a District level tournament or playoff may allow one affiliate team to represent its District at the State level of competition.

(3) Only persons whose names are approved on their affiliate team's ARPA Official Roster, who meet all ARPA eligibility requirements, and who are representing an affiliate not on current suspension from NFL Flag may compete in ARPA games.

(4) The ARPA Official Roster limits are 10.

(5) State Tournament entries for each age group shall consist of up to nine teams, one representative from each District and a host Affiliate. If the entries fall below eight teams, the State Recreational Sports Committee Chairperson may add teams from other cities participating in their district tournament to insure an eight team bracket. A non-first place team's acceptance will be prioritized by their finish in their district tournament.

ARTICLE II - REGULATIONS

SECTION A - GOVERNING RULES

(1) ARPA NFL Flag Football games at the State level of play are governed by the current rules and regulations of the NFL Flag Football rules with the exceptions found in this Manual.
The current rules for NFL Flag Football. (website) - **https://nflflag.com/**

ARTICLE III - EQUIPMENT

SECTION A - APPROVED EQUIPMENT

(1) The approved football

A. 8 and Under – Blue NFL Flag Ball (Pee wee size)
B. 10 and Under – Brown NFL Flag Ball (Junior size)
C. 12 & under – Brown NFL Flag Ball (Junior size)
D. 14 & under- Brown NFL Flag Ball (Junior size)

SECTION B - UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

(1) Participants must bring their own official NFL FLAG belts and mouth guards to the tournament.
(2) All players must wear official NFL FLAG belts and mouth guards at all times while on the playing fields.
(3) NFL FLAG footballs will be provided. Team footballs are not allowed.
(4) Players must wear shoes. Cleats may not be allowed at certain locations. This will be specified in the tournament details you receive prior to the tournament. However, cleats with exposed metal are never allowed and must be removed.
(5) Players may tape their forearms, hands and fingers. Players may wear gloves, elbow pads and knee pads. Braces with exposed metals are not allowed.
(6) Players must remove all jewelry, hats and do-rags. Winter beanies are allowed.
(7) Players' jerseys must be tucked into shorts or pants if they hang below the belt line.
(8) We recommend players wear shorts or pants that do not have pockets. Shorts or pants with belt loops or pockets must be taped. Games will not be delayed for a player to tape up pockets.
   a. Flag belts cannot be the same color as shorts or pants.

SECTION C - FIELD DIMENSIONS

(1) There are two recommended field dimensions.
   a. 25 yards wide by 70 yards with two 10-yard endzones
   b. 25 yards wide by 64 yards long with two seven-yard endzones.

   Both with a midfield line to gain. No Run zones are located five yards prior to the line to gain and five yards prior to the endzone in the offense's direction.

(2) No-run zones are in place to prevent teams from conducting power run plays. While in the no-run zones (a 5-yard imaginary zone before midfield and before the end zone), teams cannot run the ball in any fashion. All plays must be passing plays, even with a handoff.
(3) Stepping on the boundary line is considered out of bounds.
(4) Each offensive team approaches only TWO no-run zones in each drive (one zone 5 yards from midfield to gain the first down, and one zone 5 yards from the goal line to score a TD).

ARTICLE IV - GAMES AND AWARDS

SECTION A - DISTRICT

(1) Each District shall have the right to conduct its own youth flag football tournament for each age division in a manner approved by the majority vote of participating District Affiliates and provided any exceptions to the rules in this Manual are approved by a District's State Recreational Sports Committee member. District or Affiliate Hosts are responsible for all District awards.

(2) District level competition in Youth NFL Flag Football is to be completed as follows:
   (a) All divisions must be completed 2 weeks before the state tournament.

SECTION B- STATE

(1) State tournament will be played the first Saturday in November

(2) The State Tournament in all divisions of youth flag football shall be divided into pool play. The teams in each pool will play a round-robin schedule. At the end of pool play the top team in the pools will advance to the final games. All teams will be guaranteed a minimum of two games in their pool play.

(3) Pairings for the State Tournaments will be determined by the State Recreational Sports Committee Chairperson and the Tournament Director.

(4) Trophies will be awarded to the Affiliates that finish first and second in each division. **A sportsmanship trophy will be awarded in each age division. The Recreational Sports Committee Representatives and the Game Officials will determine the recipients of this award.**

ARTICLE V - OFFICIALS AND PARTICIPANTS

SECTION A- HOST

(1) The Host Affiliate shall provide a Tournament Director as well as "registered" officials or above, in accordance with Rule I, Article IV, Section C, Paragraph 2; Rule II, Article IV, Section B, Paragraph 1(e).

(2) The Host Affiliate shall be responsible for proper conduct by spectators.

(3) The Host Affiliate shall be responsible for the game balls in accordance with ARPA specifications in these rules.

(4) The Host Affiliate shall be responsible for seeing that the playing field requirements meet ARPA specifications.

SECTION B - GAME OFFICIALS

(1) Either the two- or three-man referee system is permitted.

SECTION C - PLAYERS AND OTHER TEAM MEMBERS

(1) Any player, coach, manager, team scorer or assistant disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct, including abusive language is ineligible for further participation in the game in progress and may be dismissed from ARPA competition by a State Recreational Sports Committee Member, Tournament Director, or District Commissioner (at the District level only) subject to appeal by the dismissed person's affiliate.

(2) The use of ineligible players in accordance with the Rules in the Manual shall result in forfeiture (of game and tournament). Burden of proof rests with the protesting Affiliate representative person. (see Rule II).

(3) Players who are ejected from any game during ARPA State Competition will not be permitted to play in their teams next scheduled competition.

ARTICLE VI - PROTESTS AND APPEALS

Protests and appeals are authorized only under the stipulations found in Rule II, Article I, Section A of this Manual.

ARTICLE VII – FEES

(1) Districts will establish the fee schedule for their District tournaments.
   (a) In addition to the above fees, there will be a onetime charge of $10.00 per team to be paid to the State Office. Host will be responsible for collecting.

(2) Fees from ARPA State Youth Flag Tournaments are to be set at $150.00.
   (b) In addition to the above fees, there will be a onetime charge of $25.00 per team to be paid to the State Office. Host will be responsible for this fee.

Hospitality Headquarters

visitdothan.com

DINE

Explore extensive dining options, from down-home Southern favorites to global flavors and everything in between.





PLAY

Check out a mix of year-round and seasonal attractions, including outdoor adventures, museums, markets, and family-friendly fun.

DISCOVER

Our city boasts a wide scope of annual events that celebrate everything from arts and culture to food, music, and family fun.



VISIT DOTHAN

Hospitality Headquarters

See all other Hotels & RV Parks at visitdothan.com/dothan_tournaments/arpa-nfl-flag-state-championships/ or by scanning the QR Code.

Headquarter Hotels

visitdothan.com



SpringHill Suites by Marriott
4978 Montgomery Highway
(334) 579-3030
Rate: $142 per night
Deadline: Nov. 6, 2026

TownePlace Suites by Marriott
201 Retail Drive
(334) 944-6400
Rate: $139 per night
Deadline: Oct. 19, 2026

La Quinta Inn and Suites
3593 Ross Clark Circle
(334) 513-7904
Rate: $99 per night

DoubleTree by Hilton Dothan
2740 Ross Clark Circle
(334) 699-1400
Rate: $159 per night
Deadline: Oct. 9, 2026

Comfort Inn and Suites
3465 Ross Clark Circle
334-479-8900
Rate: $119 per night
Deadline: Sept. 30, 2026

VISIT DOTHAN

DIGITAL VISITORS GUIDE

Download our digital Visitors Guide and keep all that Dothan has to offer right at your fingertips-anytime, anywhere.

THANK YOU!

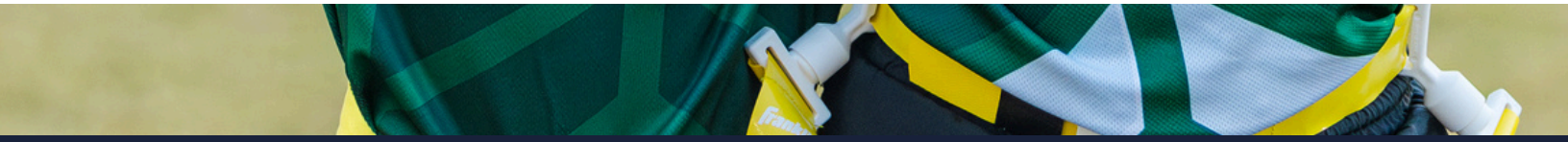
Thank you for being part of the 2026 ARPA State Flag Tournament.
Your dedication, sportsmanship, and positive energy make this event truly special.



VISIT DOTHAN

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Alabama Recreation and Parks Association

DOTHAN
LEISURE SERVICES



QUESTIONS?

Garrett Franklin | 334-615-4404 | gfranklin@dothan.org