

KELLY MCGILLIS CLASSIC 2026

INTERNATIONAL FLAG FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS
JAN 20 - 26, FULL WEEK EVENTS, 22 - 26 JUST GAMES
KEY WEST, FLORIDA



MAIN SPONSORS

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Florida Keys
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IWFFA
International Women's
Flag Football Association

AQUAPLEX

KEY WEST



Doors 10pm
Contest 10:30pm

504 ANGELA ST.
THE BIRDCAGE
CABARET



FRIDAY
JAN 23rd

HOSTED BY
BRUCEKEY

DRAG KING Contest

Register: IWFFA@IWFFA.COM



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome everyone to Key West and to the 34th Kelly McGillis Classic International Female Flag Football Championships. From January 20 - 26, 2026, we will keep you busy

with lots of events for you to learn, strengthen your flag football skills, make friends with other teams and of course to have a great time in Key West.

It is true dedication and commitment from all the teams who have traveled and afforded the travel expenses and hotels. Lot's of fundraising, time off work and then include the amount of time each team spent practicing for the competition. Teams up north, have to rent indoor space to practice. Our international teams need travel visas to come into the country. First they have to pay a fee of \$190 to make an appointment, then get a date for the appointment, and then be interviewed. Our international players may or may not be issued a travel visa. So for the commitment these competing teams have given, including our local girls, is phenomenal. And it is simply dedication to your teams and the sport. I want to thank all our athletes for being here. I want to thank parents for allowing your daughters to play, bringing them to the practices and scrimmages. And I especially want to thank our mom (and dad) coaches.

I want to welcome our international teams: Nicaragua, Honduras Panteras, Guatemala Whitedromedas, Guatemala Libelulas, Guatemala Titanes, Team Mexico and Morrocco Dragons. I also want to welcome our U.S.A. teams from: Dolphins, Blue Wave #1, First Order, Blue Wave #2, Leo's, Patti the Plumber, Rosa Diaz, Marathon Mermaids, Marathon Young Ladies, and Beards & Brew Loose Women. We will have over 55 games in 3 days, so there will be lot's of action at Wicker Field Complex.

This year we have done something extraordinary, by bringing our junior team from Nicaragua to compete in the tournament. I traveled to Nicaragua last April to teach a school of girls ages 8 - 12 yrs. flag football. After 9 days, 43 girls and 4 teams competed in a tournament. In my 40+ years coaching flag football, I never witnessed such a learning curve. These girls (who never saw or threw an American football), were calling their own plays, 8 yr olds were calling the huddles, and everyone knew how to play. I wanted to bring a team of these girls to show our local girls their talents. You

should know these young athletes live in a very poor community with no running water in their homes, nor electricity, so we had to raise it all. Starting in September, our local girls flag football players raised enough money by selling toilet paper!

We knocked on doors, walked through the streets with a wheel barrel filled with T.P. , stood outside Winn Dixie and Publix supermarkets, and we also received generous donations from businesses and individuals, thus helping us to reach our goal. So, now at this tournament you will see an exciting new team from Nicaragua playing in their very first international flag football tournament. Mind you that these girls will get on an airplane for the first time, and leave their homes for the first time. For this team, we should all feel proud and happy providing such a life experience I'm sure they will never forget. Now, these girls will go back home and teach other girls how to play flag football in Nicaragua. We are making them leaders. We will have an IWFFA Tournament April 11-12, this year in Nicaragua. If you would like to travel to compete, come play, come bring your daughter, it really is an affordable travel. Our Cuban women flag football team will also be competing for their first time in their international flag football competition at this tournament. Think about joining us.

Key West is a generous town, filled with so many persons and businesses who have supported our flag football program. You can read in this program who donated and you will read in the: Team Owner section, those businesses who sponsored our girls. We couldn't have done it without them. Thank you everyone.

I ask everyone to look at the ads in the program and know that these businesses didn't have to contribute, but they did. They wanted to be a part of this event, and support our female flag football program. Please be thoughtful and thank them as you go around key west and stock island. to patronage their businesses. Let the businesses know you are part of the Kelly McGillis Classic.

More important than winning, is to experience the excitement. Years from now, you may not remember the score, but you certainly will remember how you felt. Those are the memories you will never forget.

Play your best flag football ever, make lots of friends and have fun.

Diane Beruldsen
President / Founder IWFFA



Message From Kelly McGillis

I would like to thank and welcome all players, referees, and fans to the Kelly McGillis Classic. I also must thank Diane. Her excitement and

passion for women's Flag Football has been unwavering. It is she who really deserves the credit for this annual event. I am just a "name" but her love and devotion to making the world a bit better for female athletes around the world has made all of this possible, not only possible but an annual event! My admiration for her has grown over all these years and I am grateful I can call her a friend. My hope for those who compete in the Kelly McGillis Classic is that you not only have a great time, but also find a bit of that passion and commitment to one another and for one another, and for the sport itself. Yes this is a competitive sport, and yet it is more than that. It is an opportunity to find common interests, for new friendships, and to support one another as female athletes. You have worked hard to compete in the Classic. Acknowledge that and be proud of that. You have found a small piece of your voice by being there. Use it wisely; use it loudly; use it proudly.

And most importantly....have fun and play hard.

With great love,
respect and
deep admiration,

Kelly McGillis

IWFFA TOURNAMENT PROGRAM

Production and Graphic Design:
Rori Baldari

AA Meeting

If you'd like to attend a meeting while in Key West, call (305) 296-7888 for information. Meetings are held daily at 404 Virginia St.

Thank you to these businesses and persons who have donated to our flag football program:

Stone Soup Gallery & Frame
Sunset Watersports
Rams Head Southernmost
Banana Cafe

All the girls and their families who helped to sell Dominos Pizza Cards

To all those businesses who advertised in this program

Each team organizer who organized her team

Coaches - Ashly Roosen (Gerald Adams) - Coach Samuel (Poinciana) - Robert Wight (Basilica) - Brian Reinger (Sugarloaf) - Theresa Bass (Sugarloaf) - Kim Butler (HOB) - Robbie Bacon (HOB) - Andrew Freeman (KWHS) - Coach Laura (Somerset) - Nick Wright (Somerset) - Sara Eliana (Grace Lutheran) - Tom Junker (Big Pine Academy) - Kristie Bareika-Artigue - Emily Sikes (Sigsbee)

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WELCOME everyone to our 32nd Kelly McGillis Classic and to the beautiful island of Key West. We hope you enjoy yourself and bring home great memories for our experience. Thank you for participating we hope you will compete in all of our IWFFA tournaments throughout the year

BIENVENIDOS a nuestro Torneo #32 Kelly McGillis y a nuestra bella isla de Key West. Esperamos que disfruten y lleven a casa grandes recuerdos de sus experiencias. Gracias por participar, esperamos que puedan competir en todos los torneos de la IWFFA de este año.

MERHBA BIKOM KAMLIN l'anniversaire 32 dial Kelly McGillis Classic ou merhbq f keywest. Ntmna i3jbkom lhal ou trj3o m3akom dikrayat mn had l'expérience. Choukran 3la lmoucharak dialkom f had l'évènement ou ntmna tcharko kola 3am.

حضور همه ی شما را در سی و سومین
کلی مک گیلیس کلاسیک و کی وست زیبا را
خوش آمد می گوئیم و از همه ی شما
سپاس گذاریم. امیدواریم که لذت ببرید و
خاطرات خوشی را با خود به خانه برگردانید.
امید به اینکه امسال در تمام رقابت های
IWFFA در سراسر دنیا شرکت کنید

Yin cē raan ēbēn loor nē thāā ke 33
ke Kelly McGillis Classic ku nē thāā pieth
ke Key West. Yok a nǝǝth lon bī yīn rot yōk
ku bēēi ē kāk dīt ē pīirdu yic baai. Yin aci
yōk ke yīn cē bēēn thīn yok aa nǝǝth lon bī
yīn ya tǝ nē mēēn ē IWFFA yic ēbēn nē
ruǝn yic ku pinyinhom.

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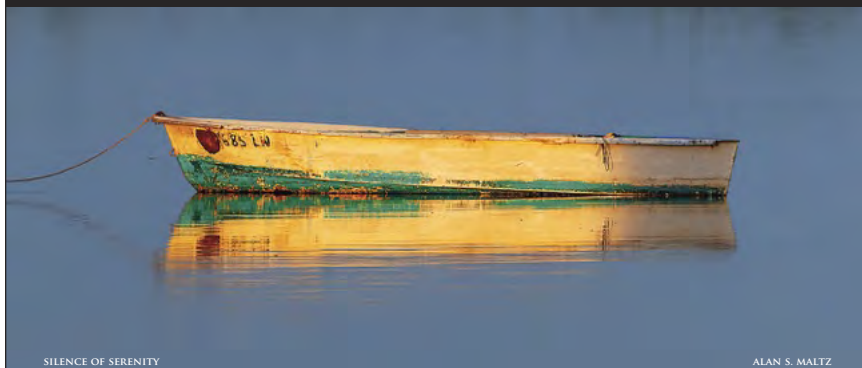
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photos: Images by Eric

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TEAM OWNERS WINNERS CIRCLE

Team Owners who will join our 2026 Winner's Circle

Once a women only tournament, the girls first started to compete in our Kelly McGillis Classic in 1998. (It was actually Kelly McGillis who said she would loan us her name, if we included girls in the tournament). For us winning is not empha-sized, but rather camaraderie, understanding the game, over coming the challenges on the field and having fun. We are a developmental program to build great leaders for our future and the well being of our communities, work place and each other to make a better world.

In 2009 we were incorporated into the Monroe County schools supported by then Monroe County School Superintendent: Randy Acevedo. Today the program continues and we thank School Superintendent Theresa Axford, the school board, and all the school principals and coaches in the Monroe County School system. Through the years the girls division had grown exponentially with over 300 girls competing. The IWFFA then had great diffi-culty to afford all the girls teams. So, we initiated the "Team Owner" program in 2010, which has opened the doors for all girls in the Florida Keys to play flag foot-ball for free. Schools from Key Largo to Key West compete in our annual tournament and it is possible through our Team Owners who support the program today. Many thanks to our 2025 Team Owners who now join our "Winners Circle" officially at the girls awards ceremony. Their name plates are displayed in our Monroe County Schools on our "Winners Circle" plaque.



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The preparation of Income statement, balance sheet and other financial statements
End of year adjustments to your general ledger and including booking your depreciation and amortization expense

Contact: 1010 KENNEDY DRIVE, KEY WEST, FL, 33040 - (305) 294-8137

INFO@PRIBRAMSKYCPA.COM



KEY WEST SUNRISE ROTARY IN THE CONCH

Team Owner since 2011
HOB Girls ages 10 - 11 yrs

Their financial support for so many causes has made the Sunrise Rotary an integral part of our Keys community. Key West Sunrise Rotary Club in the Conch Republic was started in 1988. Local Rotarians felt that it was important that Key West have a Rotary Club that welcomed women members so a group of individuals got together and chartered a new club. The first President was Roy Anderson, who later was elected District Governor for Rotary District 6990. Charter members were: Steve Hen- son, Kim Works, Rich Welter, Percy Curry, Sparky Carbonell, and Mike Horne. Thank you to this amazing group for recognizing that "Service Above Self" includes everyone both men and women!

Contact: Rotary Club of Key West Sunrise in the Conch Republic P.O. Box 2354
Key West, FL 33045
<http://keywestsunriserotary.com>



FAUSTO'S FOOD PALACE - Team Owner since 2017

Poinciana Young Girls Team #2

ages 8 - 9yrs

Fausto's Food Palace was established in 1926, making it the oldest running Key West business. We welcome you to a true Key West institution for a variety of gourmet and local products. Also, make

TEAM OWNERS WINNERS CIRCLE

sure to inquire about our home delivery!

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522 Fleming Street • 305-296-5663

1105 White Street • 305-294-5221

Key West, Florida 33040

Open Mon- Sat 7:30am-8pm, Sun 7:30am-7pm -

<http://www.faustos.com/>



FLORIDA STEAK & LOBSTER HOUSE

Team Owner since 2019

Marathon Young Ladies

Diner's Choice Award 2019.

Best place to take a date-Best fine dining - Best Bloody Mary.

A locals' favorite. We have certified Angus Beef and Fresh seafood brought in daily. In fitting with the culture of the Florida Keys, our atmosphere offers a comfortable casual yet fine dining experience.

Contact: 3660 Overseas hwy, Marathon

(305) 743-5516

<http://flkeyssteakandlobster.com>



MARATHON MERMAID CHARTER

Team Owner since 2022

Marathon Jrs. ages 12 - 15yrs.

Marathon Mermaid Charters is a sightseeing tour boat in Marathon, Florida that offers daily snorkel trips to Sombbrero Lighthouse Reef, sandbar adventures and one-of-a-kind champagne sunset cruises. We love being able to share the beautiful waters of the Middle Keys with everyone!

Contact: Angela Tizzano, Owner

Marathon Mermaid Charters - 305-842-1492

www.marathonmermaid.com



BLUE HEAVEN AND SALUTE RESTAURANT

Team Owner since 2010

HOB Young Girls - ages 8 - 9 yrs

- On September 19, 1992 Suanne the artist and Richard the writer cooked and served black beans, rice, and fish to their first lunch customers on the painted picnic tables under the tropical almond tree of their fine outdoor dining area. Before then, through the years, the property has hosted cock fighting, gambling and

Friday night boxing matches refereed by Ernest Hemingway. A dance hall, a bordello and a play-house have occupied the second floor. Today inside the Bordello Gallery above the restaurant, one can still peek through the sliding peep holes into the tiny rooms.

The restaurant has grown, just as the history and stories of the property itself, and has turned into one of the most fun, delicious and popular places to dine. Blue Heaven contributes and supports the community heavily over the years. And their owners are active citizens to better conditions for all.



SALUTE RESTAURANT

- Shares Team Owner for HOB Juniors Flag Football Team.

Sue and Rich had opened another fun restaurant in Key West called Salute ! and it's right on the beach. Volleyball, beach, salty water and a beach side café serving Italian and island style food.

Blue Heaven Restaurant - 729 Petronia St / 305-296-8666. Shares Team Owner for HOB Juniors Flag Football Team.

/ <http://www.blueheavenkw.com/>

Salute Restaurant - 1000 Atlantic Blvd / 305 292 - 1117 / <http://saluteonthebeach.com/>

Shifting Gears Automotive

SHIFTING GEARS

Team Owner since 2023

Marathon Young Ladies

If you're seeking new auto parts and accessories for your vehicle, Shifting Gears Automotive in Stock Island has you covered. If you're driving, you'll be able to use a nearby parking lot. From routine oil changes to complex auto care, Shifting Gears Automotive in Stock Island has you covered when you need them the most.

PH: 13054536247

5172 U.S. Highway 1, Key West, FL 33040

web: <https://shiftinggearskeywest.com>



PMOtraining.com

Team Owner since 2024

Gerald Adams Young Girls

Team #1 - ages 8 - 9 yrs

Dawn Mahan, PMP is Founder

of PMOtraining.com, a C-suite advisor, award-

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WHO'S WHO

► IWFFA – International Women's Flag Football Association

The IWFFA, a non-for profit organization, is an alliance of girls and women's flag football teams, leagues and individual players from around the world. An organization run by women. Our mission is to provide an opportunity for all females regardless of race, nationality, age, economic status or sexual orientation to enjoy healthy competition, have fun, develop teamwork skills, learn fair play, good sportship, standardize rules of the game, create new teams and unify exiting teams and leagues to help organize the sport. Our goal is to promote the educational process, assist our players through our tournaments, trainings and promotional tours to build self-esteem, confidence, enhance leadership skills to better compete in the business and political

world to one day have peace and to professionalize the sport of flag football for women. We are a central office and support for girls and women's flag football, rank teams internationally, offer discounts for equipment and offer education and trainings in regions of the world where the sport does/does not exist. We also offer scholarship funds to underprivileged teams so that they may compete in IWFFA tournaments.

Phone: (305) 293 - 9315 -

email: iwffa@iwffa.com - Web:

IWFFA.COM - FACEBOOK:

<https://www.facebook.com/IWFFA/>

► Key West Women's Flag Football League (KWWFFL)

Key West Women's Flag Football League

(KWWFFL) The KWWFFL started back in

continues on p. 15



1019 White Street
305 - 922 - 2177
oasiskeywest.com

We wish all the female
teams from around the
world good luck in the
tournament

Eat The Finest
Mediterranean Cuisine
at affordable prices,
Drink at our Full Bar



List of Mom (& Dads) Coaches

We thank these mom & dad coaches who have shared their time & energy for our girls and young ladies teams

And we thank ALL THE COACHES in the tournament who helped to get their teams ready for competition.

Amber Beth- Take Stock in Children

Angela Ewing-Fisher - Take Stock in Children

Charmaine Plunkett - Sigsbee Jrs.

Crist Charles - Poinciana

Daniela Reames - Sugarloaf Girls

Elizabeth LaViska - Sigsbee

Emily Sikes - Sigsbee Girls

Erica Wilson - Poinciana Girls

Erica Wilson - Poinciana Girls

Gisella Paz - HOB Young Girls

Harry - Big Pine Young girls

Hillary Laney - Sugarloaf Young Girls

Jasmine Rhaburn - Sigsbee

Katie Pape - Basilica St. Mary

Katie Riggs - Sugarloaf Young Girls

Kellee Burns - Gerald Adams

Kelly White -HOB Jrs.

Lottie Edwards - Poinciana

Marilu Johnson - Poinciana Young Girls

Monica Gronzinski - Take Stock in Children

Samantha Neighbors - Sigsbee

Sean Sayer - Marathon Jrs.

Tom Junker - Marathon Young Ladies

Tracey Tracey - Gerald Adams Girls

Youvika Dejean - Gerald Adams- Ava

Bareika-Artigue - Sugarloaf Jrs

Susanne Johnson - Sugarloaf Girls

Isabella Grodzinski - Basilica St. Mary Girls



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TEAM OWNERS WINNERS CIRCLE

winning consultant, international speaker, inventor of ProjectFlo®, author of the new best-selling book "Meet the Players in Projectland: Decide the Right Project Roles & Get People On Board" and has trained thousands of professionals around the world. Connect with her on Instagram @dawnjmahan.

Dawn Mahan, PMP

Author | International Speaker | Award-winning Consultant

215.756.1585 (mobile/text)



VFW - VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Team Owner since 2024
Gerald Adams Young Girls

- ages 8 - 9 yrs.

Southernmost VFW Post 3911, "we exist to help all Veterans in Monroe County.

No one does more for veterans".

This is the second year the VFW has sponsored the girls flag football program and the Kelly McGillis Classic. The VFW also sponsors our car wash fundraisers.

The purpose of the VFW is to speed rehabilitation of the nation's disabled and needy veterans, assist veterans' widows and orphans and the dependents of needy or disabled veterans, and promote Americanism by means of education in patriotism and by constructive service to local communities. The organization maintains both its legislative service and central office of its national rehabilitation service in Washington, D.C. The latter nationwide program serves disabled veterans of all wars, members and nonmembers alike, in matters of government compensation and pension claims, hospitalization, civil-service employment preference, etc."

Contact: 2200 N Roosevelt Blvd.

305-294-9968

Email: vfw391110@yahoo.com

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/VFW3911/about>



U.S. COAST GUARD

Team Owner since 2024

Sigsbee Girls - ages 8 - 11 yrs.

The U.S. Coast Guard is one of America's six armed forces and the only military branch in the

Department of Homeland Security. Our missions are vital to national security and global humanitarian initiatives. The Florida Keys are home to our Coast Guardsmen and -women; we are always ready to support the local community. The Coast Guard's people are its strength; their commitment to the service's core values of honor, respect, and devotion to duty are what makes the Coast Guard always ready to serve the public. Contact Information:

Phone: (954) 961-1813

Instagram: @coastguard_keywest - Website:

<https://www.gocoastguard.com/>

Facebook: US Coast Guard Sector Key WestDR.



DOUVILLE - Team Owner since 2025

Marathon Young Ladies Dr. Robert Douville Jr, MD is an ophthalmologist in Key West, FL and has over 48

years of experience in the medical field. He graduated from University of Miami Miller School of Medicine in 1976. He is affiliated with Lower Keys Medical Center. He is accepting new patients.

1111 12th St Ste 107

Key West, FL 33040

305-294-8494



SOUTHERNMOST BAR

Team Owner since 2025

HOB Jrs - ages 12 - 15 yrs.

Just steps from the Southernmost Point Buoy, you can enjoy refreshing cocktails, laid-back vibes, and daily live music at the Southernmost Point Bar at 1327 Duval Street. Happy Hour daily from 4:00-6:00 PM featuring discounted draft beer and half-price cocktails along with daily local and military discounts. Don't miss out on our frozen cocktails made with the freshest of ingredients and our fantastic local musicians! The on-site Sandy's Cafe Food Truck features a mix of Seafood and Cuban cuisine. Southernmost Point Bar

1327 Duval Street
Key West, FL 33040

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FLORIDA KEYS MEDIA IS A PROUD SPONSOR OF

THE 34th ANNUAL KELLY MCGILLIS Classic

AND WISHES ALL THE TEAMS THE BEST OF LUCK!

TUNE INTO OUR GREAT TEAM OF STATIONS WHILE IN KEY WEST AND ENJOY THIS YEAR'S INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FLAG FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION TOURNAMENT

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98.7

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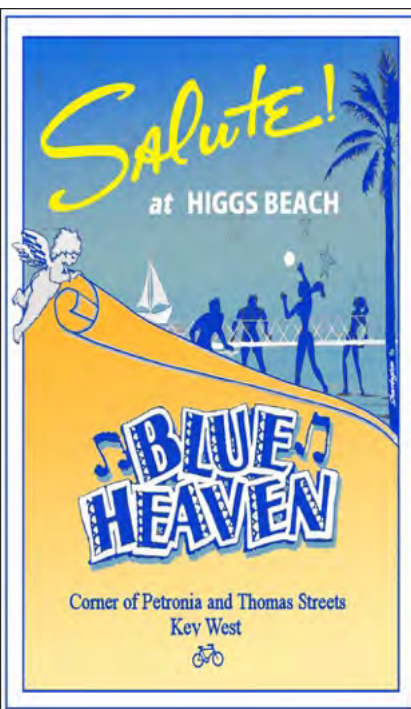
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TEAM OWNERS WINNERS CIRCLE



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Poinciana Girls #2 ages 10 - 11 yrs.

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Contact: <https://smileinstituteoflorida.com>
802 Truman Ave - (305) 990 - 2532



The Tracey Foundation

Gerald Adams Girls ages 10-11 yr.

Inclusion isn't just our mission, it's our foundation. The Tracey

Family Foundation exists to ig-

nite a culture of courageous kindness, equipping hearts and minds to stand up for others and spread compassion, one brave act at a time.



Check Electric

Basilica Girls ages

Check Electric, LLC is a trusted local electrical

subcontractor specializing in residential, commercial, and industrial electrical installations. Since our founding in 2009, we have built a reputation for delivering high-quality workmanship and reliable service. Our mission is to deliver safe, efficient, and cost-effective electrical solutions while maintaining the highest standards of quality and professionalism. We are committed to building lasting relationships with our clients, partners, and community.

Office 305-292-3369

3255 Flagler Ave #303

Key West,



Dr Howe Orthodontics

Poinciana Young Girls Team
#1 ages 8 - 9yrs

Dr. Seanica Howe received

her doctorate of dental surgery degree from the University of Missouri in Kansas City in 2000. She graduated with honors and was recognized for her academic excellence via membership in the prestigious Omicron Kappa Upsilon national dental honor society. Dr. Howe's combination of training and talents in both the sciences and the arts are what make her an exceptional orthodontist, one whose eye for esthetics is reflected in the thousands of gorgeous smiles she has created over the course of her career. However, it's her compassion and commitment to her patients that makes her who she is...a woman committed to community, excellence, and purpose. Contact: 3146B Northside Drive, Key West. info@howeortho.com <https://howeortho.com>



Alpizar Fishery

Big Pine Young Girls ages 7 - 9 yrs.

Alpizar Fishery is a Florida Keys-

based commercial fishing opera-

tion specializing in sustainably harvested stone crab and Florida spiny lobster. Rooted in knowledge of the local waters, Alpizar Fishery is committed to responsible fishing practices, premium-quality catch, and delivering the authentic taste of the Keys from trap to table.

Operating with respect for the ocean and the community, we proudly supply fresh, wild-caught seafood that reflects the heritage and hard work of the Florida Keys fishing tradition. BIG PINE KEY, FL



Cudjoe Gardens Marina

Big Pine Young Girls ages 8 - 9yrs.

Cudjoe Gardens Marina is a family run eco-friendly marina located in the lower Florida Keys on the beautiful island of Cudjoe Key, mile marker 21. An excellent place to explore the keys from, our marina is located about half way between Key West and Marathon with easy access to both the Atlantic, the Gulf of Mexico and the back country. We are well located near Sugarloaf Key, Summerland Key, Big Pine Key, Bay Point, and many other islands which offer a variety of dining and shopping opportunities.

We offer fishing, diving, kayak and boating adventures for the whole family. We have both

con't on p.19



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Women of the Moose Chapter 1810



The Big Pine Women of the Moose,
is part of the women's chapter of the Moose International Inc.,
established in 1913. There are 1600 chapters in the United States and
Canada with membership exceeding 500,000 women. The Big Pine
group of women have supported the girls flag football the past 5
years, and this year became one of the main sponsors.

Moose women understand the importance of supporting girls flag
football, and the Kelly McGillis Classic event. In unity, woman power
and support for all, we benefit greatly.

*A team of dedicated women of the Moose who are dedicated to supporting their
Moose Charities, our seniors at Moosehaven and children at Mooseheart and the
many organizations here in the Lower Keys through fundraising.*

Contact: Women of the Moose Chapter 1810
3681 Wilder Rd, Big Pine Key, FL 33043 (305) 872-4063
www.bigpinemoose.org/Loyal-Order-of-Moose-History.html

WHO'S WHO

continued from p. 9

'91 with 3 teams of women on the island. Not having more competition than that, the league decided to bring teams to the island for more competition which started this whole tournament thing! The KWWFFL is the only sports program in Key West, which does not charge any registration fee, and supplies teams with equipment and training.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/KWWFFL>

► **Actress Kelly McGillis** - Our Name Sake. Kelly had loaned her name to this event in 1999, thus giving much media and press coverage for our female athletes. It was Kelly who stipulated that in order to use her name, the tournament must include girls and have a parade*. Kelly herself had played twice for the "Loose Women's Team". given out all the awards during many of our tournaments. Kelly has been raffled off for our fundraisers, directed and guided actors during

our flag football events "So you think you can act", an "Evening of Monologues". She is an acclaimed actress starring in *Witness*, *Top Gun* and *The Accused* to name a few. Unfortunately, this year Ms. McGillis is not able to join us, but she sends her love and promises to join us for 2026.

► **Diane Beruldsen** – President / Founder of the IWFFA and KWWFFL and tournament director.

If there is anything that needs attention to during the week, come and speak to Diane. A Million Miler Traveler for women's flag football, and recently received a million miler key chain from American Airlines. :)

Diane has been organizing women's flag football since 1979. The "mother of women's flag football", Diane has grown the sport exponentially by introducing the sport in countries and starting leagues

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continues on p. 17

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The advertisement for Dawn McComish P.A. features a photo of Dawn holding a small dog. To the right is a logo for "SELL YOUR HOME FLORIDA KEYS" with a house icon. Below the photo is the text "The Singing Realtor" and a "TOP 1% PRODUCER" badge. To the right of the photo is the text "Dawn McComish P.A. As seen on HGTV's House Hunters 305-395-3300 dawn@keysdawn.com KeysDawn.com".

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As seen on HGTV's House Hunters

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"The Singing Realtor"

TOP 1% PRODUCER

continued from p. 15

and associations in the USA and around the world. One of her greatest achievements for the sport was finding a way to get 72 female Afghan flag football players and their families out of Afghanistan to Mexico where they received asylum. Her goal is to take female flag football to it's highest level while unifying women's and girls flag football teams and leagues. Her motto: "Women should rule their own sport" Contact: IWFFA@IWFFA.COM - +1 (305) 896 - 8678

► Rori Baldari - IWFFA Graphic Artist

Designer of this program, Forward Pass Magazine, IWFFA Graphic Artist who has designed all their logos, creator of the official IWFFA's 'Forward Pass'. Extraordinary to say the least. Ms. Baldari has helped promote women's flagfootball for the past 29 years offering her creative flair topograms, newsletters, advertisements and other promotional materials for the sport. Good humored, very witty, we are grateful to have Ms. Baldari with us.

► **Rachel Georgelas - IWFFA's first Benefactor** - a trailblazer and advocate for women's empowerment, has become a driving force behind the International Women's Flag Football Association (IWFFA). Her passion for equality, coupled with her dedication to promoting girls' flag football, has led her to take on the role of the benefactor for the prestigious 32nd Kelly McGillis International Female Flag Football Championships. (see more about her in this program)

► **Women Speaker Series** - Held at the Key West library managed by: Michael Nelson - We have so many international women at our Kelly McGillis Classic events, we thought it would be a wonder-

ful opportunity to hear what it's like to be a woman in their country.

► First State Bank

For years, this local bank has assisted the Kelly McGillis Classic by providing volunteers to help with the event. Their work program invites their employees to sign up for events, and then receive time off work. So, the bank is really paying their employees to be here who help us tremendously. From selling raffle tickets, food concession, information table. holding chains, etc. they are the most experience group of volunteers with big smiles on their faces. First State Bank is the Best Bank in the Florida Keys..... and the whole world.

► Georgeann Lewis - Tournament Head Official

Georgeann is in charge of all the tournament officials. Any questions you have regarding IWFFA rules, you can reach out to her. Last year, Georgeann took on the responsibility as U.S.A. Head Official. She writes for our Flag Football News section: Officials Corner, and clarifies some of the IWFFA rules for better understanding. Georgeann came to the IWFFA in 1998, originally from Rhode Island and now Massachusetts.

► **Karen Yasmin Cruz** - She is from Guatemala, and IWFFA Head Official in Central America.

Karen Will conduct the Officiating clinic during the week. Since 2015, Karen Cruz was one of the first flag football players in her country. Karen was Guatemala Women's Flag Football Leagues' first President. She has traveled to other countries as a Flag Football Trainer traveling across the United States in 2016

continues next page

WHO'S WHO

as well as Cuba in 2017, helping to develop girls and women's flag football teams. She later became a flag football and Tackle Official.

► Katrina Cook

Recipient of our KMC 33rd Golden Whistle award last year in her first year then officiating the tournament. A strong official who commands the field and she's back! Good to have you Katrina.

► Juan Carlos

Effectionately known as "JC", had officiated for the IWFFA since 2015, in El Salvador and the United States.

In 2023, JC received the most prestigious IWFFA award: Porter Wilson award.

► **Latisha (Tyree) Alce Award** - Tragically, one of our own members lost her life last year. Latisha was a touch player and caring coach. We will never forget her and so have designated a special award which goes to the best mom coach and will be presented at the Girls Awards.

► **Marcia Root Award** - Marcia passed away in 2022. She could sell anything and sold out our goods at the information table. We don't want to forget her and in honor of Marcia we will give out the Marcia Root Award which goes to the volunteer who did so much for the tournament this year.

► **Porter Wilson Award** - IWFFA's most prestigious award. Goes to the person (female or male) who has done the most for women and girls flag football. Porter Wilson invented the game of flag football we play today and also the Flag A Tag belts we use which increased the quality of the sport. Porter was our first sponsor in a time when women's sports were thought to be filled with only lesbians and companies did not want to endorse. Times have changed, thank goodness. Porter accepted everyone. he passed away in year 2000, and every year since *continues on p. 20*





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then we have given out this special award. The Recipient will receive this award at the Women's Awards ceremony.

► DJ Ja'Maree Davis (305Maree)

Ja'Maree Davis, Key West native. 5th generation conch. 29 years old and focusing on entrepreneurial endeavors. he gaban to DJ in his teens, boes by the stage name "305Maree". The name combines his local area code and an abbreviation of his first name. 305Maree will D.J. at our women's registration party and the Juniors & Young Ladies Party Saturday Night.

► Pastor Jonathon Carey - Glad Tidings Tabernacle

"Our doors are open wide to everyone, and our hearts shut to none. We are committed individuals and families. What visitors usually notice first about Glad Tidings is the tender presence of God in our worship gatherings"

► Pastor Sayda Patricia Carrero Martinez - Coach from Nicaragua who is also the Principal of the Escuela Cristian School. Pastor Sayda allowed the IWFFA to come.

To her school I April, to train the girls ages 8 - 12 yr. Old. Here at the tournament, these Junior girls from Nicaragua would not have been able to travel to Key West, Without the support, willingness and work of Pastor Sayda. She is an amazing woman, whose office at the school is a table outside in the play ground. Thank you Pastor Sayda.

► Monroe County Schools

In 2009, our IWFFA flag football program for girls, was accepted and endorsed by then Monroe County School Superintendent Randy Acevedo. Each year, the IWFFA goes into schools in the Florida Keys to offer girls flag football drills to give them a taste of the sport. If girls like flag football, they sign up and can repre-

sent their school to compete other schools and the annual Kelly McGillis Classic. Our program is free to all girls. For our program to be successful, there are many persons and pieces involved. Special thanks to: Teresa Axford - Superintendent for Monroe County Schools, Christina McPherson, and Justin Martin.

► Key West Parks & Recreation

Randy Sterling is the head man who has been with us for all the years we've had the Kelly McGillis Classic. His staff keep the fields maintained, throughout the city, year round and keep them in tip top shape. This year field #2 has been redone and you will see fresh artificial turf! Thank you to all the city of Key West employees.

► Monroe County Parks & Recreation

Many thanks to John Allen - Director of Parks & Beaches for Monroe county and all their staff. For allowing the public to use the facilities and for getting things done for the community.

► Special Volunteers

We have a dedicated women from: Sweden (Lena & Mimmi), Nini (El Salvador), Joann Local Women: Monica, Kim Barton, JoAnn Ellis and Scott Ellis, Ashly Tillet, Marilu Johnson, Callie Harris, Tatiana Weitzman, Kiley Lowe, Natali Acosta, Madelyn Kammere, sigsbee moms - who helped get bicycles from Green Hats for our Nicaragua team, who always are there for car washes and fundraisers. The Military base is such a community driven force, whose parents help our girls flag football program.

There will be more volunteers helping out the event. Key West is a wonderful island filled with generous people. We thank everyone who has helped the event in anyway, because we could not do it without you.

WHO'S WHO

► **Mark Walker** - From Rhode Island. Has officiated for the IWFFA since 2003. His regular crew of women regularly officiate our IWFFA - Provincetown tournament every fall in September. He heads one of our best crews of officials the IWFFA has ever experience and comes to the 34th Kelly McGillis Classic as possibly his "last hurrah". We are grateful Mark joins us and it's about time you came back Mark!

► **Syrilyn Tong** - All the way from Alaska! First time officiating for the IWFFA who is energetic, experience and very knowledgeable on flag football rules. Welcome Tong.

► **Lisbet Azucena Marin Arrecis** - Comes to us from Guatemala. Her focus, dedication to officiating is tremendous. We welcome Lisbet to her first Key West experience.



Thank you to these businesses and persons who have donated to our flag football program:

Glad Tiding - Pastor Jonathon / The Gardens Hotel / The Perry Hotel & Marina Key West / Siler Palm Inn / Fairfield Inn and Suites by Marriott / Goldmans Bagel / Sam Kaufman / Harpoon Harry's / Rachel Sampson Georgelas / Suzanne Washburn / Jim Novinger / Judy Blume / Anna Engley / Green Hats Bikes / Winn Dixie who allowed us to sell TP / Publix Red Tag / All the parents who Chaperoned the Girls / All the Girls who fundraised at the supermarkets, or knocked on Doors selling Toilet Paper, Jerry (my boyfriend) & George / Schooner Wharf / Stone Soup Gallery & Frame / Sunset Watersports / Rams Head Southernmost / Banana Cafe / Pastor Madeline / Thank you to Kew West United Methodist Church



2026 IWFFA TOURNAMENTS / PROMOTIONAL TOURS

Guatemala	November 15 - 16, 2025 (2 days)
34th Key West Kelly McGillis Classic	January 22 - 26, 2026 (games only) Full Week Jan. 20 - 26, 2026
Central America Promo Tour GUA-HON-EL-MEX	February 10 - April 7, 2026
IWFFA - Americas Cup Championship Nicaragua	April 11 - 12, 2026
Ada, Ohio	May 9, 2026 (one day)
Mexico, Mexico City	May 16 - 17, 2026 (2 days)
CUBA, Havana	JUNE 7, 2026
Canada, Toronto	July 3 - 5, 2026 (one day)
El Salvador	July 12 - 13 (2 days)
Boston, MA	July 25 - 26 (2 days)
Women's Flag Football World Cup - Sweden	July 28 - August 3, 2026
Ptown Classic	September 18 - 21 (2 days)
Guatemala	November 15-16 (2 days)

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EXPRESS itinerary 34th Kelly McGillis Classic

Read full description of the Itinerary on our website <https://iwffa.com/kmc-2026/>

(for those teams or individuals arriving to the island before Tuesday, please contact the IWFFA office and we will be happy to include you in our pre-tournament activities, to show you a variety of places and venues and activities)

Day 1 - Tuesday - January 20, 2026

TUE - Bike Tour Stock Island & Key West	10AM - 12PM - Meet & Southernmost Point - United & Whitehead
TUE - Flag Football Clinic - Bernstein Park	1 - 2:30PM - 6751 - 5TH AVE - Free
TUE - Kayak Tour @ Lazy Dog	3 - 4:30PM - 5114 Overseas - Stock Island - Free
TUE - Dinner - Hurricane Hole Restaurant	6 - 7:30PM - 5110 Overseas Hwy - \$
TUE - Arm Wrestling Contest-Beards & Brew	8:30PM-late - 5450 MacDonald Ave #6 - BEARDS & BREWS - \$

Day 2 - Wednesday - January 21, 2026

WED - WEOW RADIO 92.7 FM !!	7AM-8AM Radio Interview with Nicaragua Junior Team
WED - Save the Drunken Sailor	9am - 11AM Higgs Beach - 1000 Atlantic - FREE
WED - Flag Football Clinic	1-2PM WICKER FIELD - 3155 Flagler- FREE
WED - Officiating Clinic	2 - 3PM WICKER FIELD - 3155 Flagler - Register
WED - KICK BALL!	3-4PM - Wicker Field-3155 Flagler- FREE
WED - Tournament Dinner	8PM - 9PM Brady's Pub - 1900 Flagler - \$
WED - TOILET RELAY RACE	9PM - Brady's Pub - 1900 Flagler - FREE

Day 3 - Thursday - January 22, 2026

THUR - Coaching Flag Football for the Beginner	9:00AM - 10:00 - Wicker Field-3155 Flagler- Register
THUR - Officiating Review & Test / Certification	10:00AM - 10:30 AM - Wicker Field-3155 Flagler - FREE
THUR - Flag Football Scrimmage (sign up)	10:30 - 12:00PM - Wicker Field-3155 Flagler- FREE
THUR - Women Speaker Series	1-3PM - Key West Library - 700 Fleming- FREE
THUR - Opening Ceremonies	4:30 - 6PM - Half Shell Raw Bar - 231 Margaret - FREE
THUR - Kelly's Players Parade	6PM - 7PM - Begins Half Shell Raw Bar - 231 Margaret- FREE
THUR - Tournament Teams Registration	8 - 11PM - Bourbon St. Pub - 724 Duval- Free

Day 4 - Friday - January 23, 2026

FRI - Tournament Games Begins	10AM-5PM - Wicker Field - 3155 Flagler- FREE
FRI - Spirit of Independence Sunset Sail	4PM - 6:30PM- 202 William - \$45 per tix
FRI - Women's Drag King Contest & Dance	10PM - till late @ Birdcage - 504 Angela - \$

Day 5 - Saturday - January 24, 2026

SAT - Tournament Games Continues	8AM - 6PM - Wicker Field - 3155 Flagler- FREE
SAT - Girls Night Out- FREE	4:30PM - 7:30PM - Trolley-Train. Pick Up @ Wicker Field Parking Lot
	Angelas Pizzeria 208 Duval & Key Lime Pie Co. 511 Greene
SAT - Juniors Party - Shooterz Pool Hall	3 - 6 PM - 3102 Flagler - w. D.J. Ja Maree
SAT - Women's Party Ms. IWFFA Contest	9 PM till late - KAYA Muli - Bar Complex - 618 Duval - \$

DAY 6 - SUNDAY - JANUARY 25, 2026

SUN - Tournament Play-Offs & Championships	8AM - 7PM - Wicker Field - 3155 Flagler- FREE
Special Half Time Dance by all the girls teams on Main Field	
SUN - Juniors & Girls Awards	Time Approx 3PM - Wicker Field - 3155 Flagler- FREE
SUN - Women's Awards Dinner	8PM - El SIBONEY - 5501 5th St. - Stock Island- \$

Day 7 - January 26, 2026 - Monday

MON - Flag Football Try Outs Team USA	9AM-11:00AM - BERNSTEIN PARK - 6751 - 5TH AVE - Stock Island
MON - Punch Ball	11AM - 12PM - BERNSTEIN PARK - 6751 - 5TH AVE - Stock Island
MON - Flag Football Conference	12 - 1PM - BERNSTEIN PARK - 6751 - 5TH AVE - Stock Island
MON - Hurricane Hole Restaurant Lunch	2PM - 5110 Overseas Hwy- \$ - Stock Island
MON - Botanical Garden	3PM - 4PM - 5210 College Rd - Stock Island

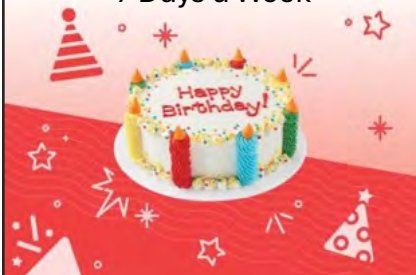
We hope you had a fantastic Kelly McGillis Classic Experience! It's not just about the games, unity, fun, making new friends and of course..... GREAT FLAG FOOTBALL. Hope to see you next year at the 35th Kelly McGillis Classic January 19 - 25, 2027



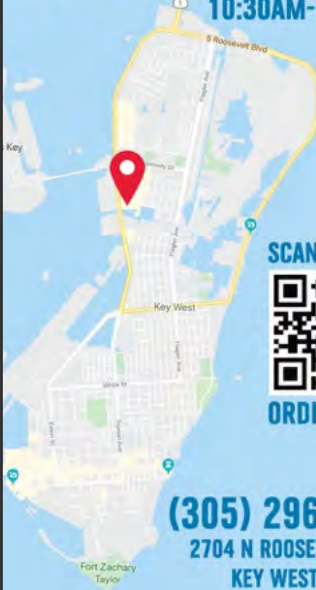


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Our IWFFA Philosophy

Winning is not emphasized, and instead we promote playing your best, help your teammates, play clean, have fun and make friends with the other teams. When the girls go on the Trolley Saturday night, their job is to: hoop and holler, have fun and make as many friends with the other teams as possible.

Throughout our flag football practices, games and other events during our flag football season, like car washes, selling toilet paper and dominos cards, etc., we work side by side with girls from other teams and are a unity of female flag football players working together.

A Community Organization

Our girls pay nothing to play. And it will always be that way. This year was interesting because I got thanks from a lot of parents who appreciated the program costing nothing. We afford the program by soliciting Team Owners to help pay for our expenses. All parents should thank the person, or company or private business who sponsored your daughter's team. We also raise money doing car washes, selling Dominos Pizza cards and this year we sold toilet paper.... one roll at a time to bring our junior team from Nicaragua.

For the community, all girls are invited to play and will not be turned away because their family cannot afford the registration fee. No girl is turned away, because she can't "make the team". All girls will play equal time on the field because there is only one way to learn to become a better flag football player and that is to be on the field playing and less time on the bench. We are powered by mom coaches, volunteers and local businesses who are working together to make a better community by empowering one flag football girl at a time.

Mom Coaches

There she is, the mom coach on the field,

every week. She comes home from work and would love to relax but has to take care of the family chores and cook dinner. Her daughter plays flag football, and the team needs a coach. She's asked to do something she has never done before. She doesn't know much about the sport, has never played, never coached, and is totally confused when she watches the Super-bowl.

Sometimes the girls are wild. Sometimes they don't move, but Mom is thoughtful and understands what the girls need. Did the girl fall and get hurt? Maybe she needs a hug. Is the girl hungry or thirsty at practice? Mom coach will bring snacks and water bottles to the next practice. Soon, Mom Coach knows what the girls need to practice for flag football and gets on with her own style.

Mom presents a coaching style that is very different from what the girls have seen from their male coaches and PE teachers. The girls have been brought up on a testosterone style of play, reinforced by men's sports that dominate the airwaves. They have seen the awards, rewards, the glory and praise these athletes receive, and assume this is the way it's supposed to be.

Mom Coach creates a new image for coaching in these girls' minds concisely and subliminally. Mom Coach is most likely not as loud, may not look so strong, perhaps seems unsure. She sees things differently and decides differently. She gives her time, her love, her patience and understanding to all the girls on the team.

Above all, the Mom coach knows that the team's purpose isn't to have the highest score, but to build strong leaders to make a better world. Instead of rewarding strong athletes who have bad behavior, she rewards athletes who show other skills like compassion, friendship and honesty. - How lucky we are to have Mom Coaches leading the way. ◀▶



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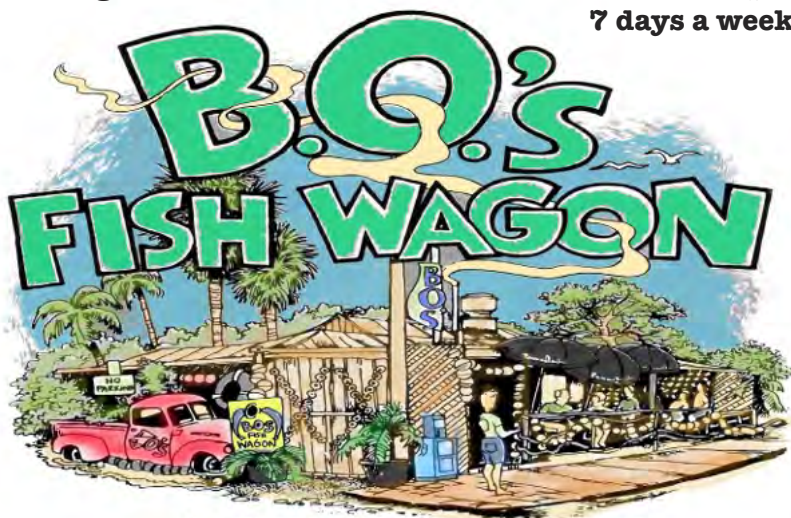
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TUESDAY 8:30PM TIL LATE**

**5450 MacDonald Ave., Unit 6
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PLAYER / TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

Tournament Director: Diane Beruldsen, President Founder of IWFFA –

Questions, or concerns, please go to Diane. Contact:
(305) 896-8678 (cell and what's app) - IWFFA@IWFFA.COM

IWFFA RULES Team Captains will be given a set of rules @ the captains meeting at the registration party, are available in Spanish, French, English and be downloaded at:
<https://iwffa.com/iwffa-rules/>

Players are allowed to Officiate - Players who are qualified officials & certified by the IWFFA are permitted and paid to officiate when their team is not playing. If you want to officiate, contact our office.

Fields - We play on 3 fields at Wicker Field Complex. Two are now artificial turf, One is grass. We suggest you bring appropriate shoes.
Wicker Field is locked up during the week. Teams who want to practice before the tournament should go to Stock Island Field: Bernstein Park - 5st & 7th ave

Pre - Tournament Game Schedule - Posted one week before the tournament on our website: <https://iwffa.com/kmc-2025/> Last minute changes can be made and announced at Thur. night registration during the Captains meeting.

Official Team Registration - Thursday, 8PM - 10PM - Bourbon St. Pub - 724 Duval - All players must attend the registration. Photo I.D., signatures will be taken. Captains meeting - go over IWFFA rules (each team captain will receive a set of printed rules) changes to tournament format may take place, teams can add 3 players to their team rosters which closes at 10PM (exception is Loose Women's team). All teams should be ready to play with a full team by Friday morning at 9 AM!

All team members need to be current IWFFA members - If you have not registered your 2024 IWFFA Membership - here is the link :
<https://iwffa.com/registration/>

Head Official – Georgeann Lewis. Any questions you have about the rules, is best to ask during Captain's Meeting during Thurs. Registration.

New This Year: "Golden Whistle Award" - The score cards, which teams turn in to the information table after their games, will be used to decide which tournament official will receive our newest award. The official with the highest ranking will receive the Golden Whistle Award.

Information Table - Each morning team captains should pick up daily tournament sheet with results and news from previous day. Return your score cards, the score board is near the info table and scores are added as they come in. Lost & Found, mouthpieces, footballs, flag a tag belts & flags can be purchased there. Tee shirts, hats, coffee cups and tournament programs. Pennies, hats, tee shirts, footballs, lost & found, rules are available. "Boxes" will be sold for each championship game.

Team Photos – Each team should report to info table 15 minutes before your 1st game to take your team photo. Women-Fridays, Girls and Juniors - Saturday.

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Nicaragua Junior Girls Flag Football Team

Nicaragua Junior Girls Flag Football Team
I travel a lot. I'm a million miler traveler who travels to dozens of countries around the world once this tournament is over, introducing the sport, starting up teams and leagues, bringing new teams to this tournament and uniting teams under one umbrella. The International Women Flag Football Association (IWFFA) is a unity of female flag football players all around the world. So, last year, I traveled to Nicaragua for the first time to put our IWFFA foot in the door and add competition to our Central America Region. I went to a school to train 43 girls ages 8 yrs to 12 yrs. These girls live in a community so poor; they have no running water in their homes, nor electricity. Needless to say, they had no cell phones of their own and were not consumed by social media. This meant I had their undivided attention. I had a woman from Guatemala join me to be my translator: Katherine Brigethe Mezarina Matzar, who I call: Kat, who was once a kindergarten school



teacher. I don't know if it was because this flag football training was for girls only (girls love when it's for girls only and no boys allowed), or because it was something new and different, be-

cause of my translator, or because it was fun, but these girls were ready!

After 9 days of training, for one hour each day, on a dirt field (garbage being burnt on the side lines), we had a tournament on the 10th day. I couldn't coach, because I had to officiate. These girls had no coaches and yet they were playing as if they had been playing for years. The quarterbacks were calling their own plays, even creating new plays, the 8 year old snappers were calling the huddles. Everyone on the team: offense, defense, kicking and receiving knew what to do. This was really special because in all my 40 years coaching flag football, I never experienced such a learning curve! I wanted to share these girls talents with our local girls.

The IWFFA had never done anything like this before. We sponsored a junior team with: passports, visas, legal fees, airline tickets, food and finding accommodations, in order to compete in our tournament. This was a huge task indeed. Our girls sold toilet paper for \$2 a roll, knocking on doors. We sold outside Winn Dixie, red tagging it at Publix. We had car washes and donations were made.

The travel and experience for our Junior Nicaragua players will not be a Joy Ride. They are now responsible to go back to Nicaragua and teach the other girls (and women) how to play IWFFA 8 on 8 flag football. These juniors will be leaders for flag football and leaders in their communities. They will continue to promote the IWFFA philosophy which is to play one's best vs. winning, to support teammates, play clean and make friends with the other teams. ■■

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9 Year Old Girl

By: Diane Beruldsen

In the fall of 1968, there was a young girl 9 years old, sitting on her friend's stoop, outside his house, waiting for him to come out to play. This was a regular routine for the girl as the two best friends developed over the past summer. And on this Saturday morning, the girl had been waiting since early morning. Now it was almost noon and suddenly, her friend's mother came outside to go shopping and asked the young girl what she was doing. The girl said she was waiting for Jackie to come out to play and the mother said " Oh, but Jackie has football practice today, he won't be home till later". The mother left, and the girl went looking for other friends to play with, only to find that they all went to football practice.

All of her friends were boys, she was the only girl in their gang of friends. At that time, there were no sports teams for girls to join. So, she went home and waited till later in the day to join her friends when they came home.

I was that girl, and I do remember those Saturday mornings and how strange it felt for me not to be playing with my friends on Saturday mornings. I was a Tomboy, who was very active, had many friends, mostly boys, and we had so much fun playing together. But I do remember the "quiet feeling" deep inside my soul, being left out, not understanding and it has stayed with me since. I think the most powerful actions, come from deep inside.

Because of my experiences as a young girl, and later as a young woman, living in a time and society, when women had to fight for their rights, equal job opportunities, not all the doors were open to females in sports and I wanted to make change. Those injustices were what fueled me to be the organizer for flag football and to give every girl and woman the opportunity to play, no matter what their skill level or

experience. While many sports have "try-outs" for sports teams, our IWFFA organization welcomes everyone onto the team. While many teams play their best players, we put all our players onto the field, for equal playing time, because that's the only way to get better... is to be on the playing field.

We are a women's and girls sport and humanitarian organization and we operate differently than most other organizations. We want to create our own style of playing flag football, because we think and act different from our male counterparts, we want to run our organization the way we design it and we travel all over the world conducting flag football clinics to train females to play, coach and officiate flag football, for free. We invite mother's to coach their daughter's, so that the young girls can see women in leadership roles. We use the sport to teach leadership skills, so that they can be transferred off the field and used in society, the work place, social settings and politics. We build female leaders for the future, one flag football player at a time and our goal is for have women to have influence in world affairs to one day have peace in the world. ◀▶



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PLAYER / TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

Flag Belts - Flag A Tag WFFVs Sonic Belts are only belts allowed. Mexico makes a cheaper version and are not acceptable because they are inconsistent with amount of force needed to pull the flag off the belts. Therefore, during player check, officials will check to make sure only Flag A Tag belts and flags are used. Teams are required to provide their own. If a team needs to purchase, they are available for \$60 a dozen at the info table.

Footballs - Tournament provides each field with official game ball: Wilson, TDJ all leather. No switching footballs. This year, girls play with softer Jr size IWFFA Football and will provide.

Pennies - Teams need to designate their 3 offensive line players - different color shirts is OK. Mesh vests are good to show player numbers. If you do not have your own, you may borrow at information table.

Score Cards - Prior to your games, each team will receive their SCORE CARDS and pen. When you have finished each game, fill out game scores, pick MVP offense and defense for your team and opposing team, rate the officials (remember this year we use the score cards to decide which official receives the Golden Whistle award). Please fill in your score cards and return immediately after each game (your votes on these cards may very well determine some MVP recipients). Thank you.

All Star Teams - 1 Coach and 1 Captain from each team will decide with all other team coaches & captains - who the Offense & Defense All Star teams will be. It is a discussion in a group, immediately after the championship game and it is an agreement. Medals are awarded to the All Stars at their Awards Presentation. Girls & Juniors will have their awards on Field #3 which is the Poinciana school field. Women & young ladies will have their awards given out at El Siboney Stock Island restaurant.

Chain Gang / Team Schedule - Every team is responsible to hold the chains when they are not playing and is included in the tournament schedule. You may switch chain times with another team, but both teams must confirm with tournament director. Penalty for failing to hold chains when your team is scheduled is 15 yd penalty in your next game and opposing team may decide when to apply.

Player Pre Check - Team Line-Up Prior to Game - 10 minutes before game time. We ask teams to come to field 10 minutes before game time, to line up on side line for player check (belts tight with flags on sides, proper flags, flags should be "out" position, non-metal cleats, no jewelry, long finger nails cut or taped, no pockets in pants or shorts and team roster check. We will check to ensure all players are registered with team and shirt numbers match roster. Please do not switch shirt numbers during tournament (to aid in player selection). If your team believes the opposing team has an illegal player competing, call time out and tell the head official who will check the roster.

Players Registering Late - Players who applied for: "late registration at field" should go to the info table BEFORE you play your first game, in order to register. Show your photo I.D., sign your team roster. You will then be checked off on your team roster which our Field Coordinators use to check players prior all games. If you are not cleared, and begin your play, you will be deemed an ineligible player and your team will forfeit that game. Also, we highly discourage late registrations and ask for all players and team participants to be present at the Registration Thursday night.

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PLAYER / TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

Food –We appreciate you giving our Food Concession Stand your business We offer food from popular restaurants around town at cheap prices! Burgers, Hot Dogs, Baby's Coffee, Harpoon Harry's Breakfast sandwiches, the #1 Cuban sandwiches on the island from Five Brothers, Jersey Mike's Subs, China Garden Fried Rice, Dunkin Donuts, Croissants from Croissant De France, popcorn, soda, Gatorade, Baked Goods, and more.

Field Press Box - Ms. Raina Orozco will announce games up in the press box. We invite others from the teams and stands to come help if you like. Just come on up to the booth to volunteer.

Field Coordinators – Will be on each field taking reports on all the games. They will check rosters and have copies of IWFFA rules, score cards, all star select picks sheets in their possession. Any protests will be noted and recorded by them. They are our “mini”-tournament directors.

Water Bottles – Water Bottles can be filled up on the field. Ice Water in 5 gallon coolers are provided on each side of the field for you to fill up your water bottle. Let us know if it's empty (go to the info table). There also is a water fountain on the side where the Food Concession stand is.

Playing against a team with same color shirts - We will loan pennies for a team to use. Pick up at info table. A coin toss will decide which team wears pinnies. It's best to bring 2nd set of team shirt with different color.

First Aid Station at field - Is minimal and located at info table. If ambulance is needed we can call for you. If there is a non-medical emergency, we can provide a driver to take you. There are medical clinics in Key West as an alternative option for players who do not have a serious injury.

Medical/Accident Insurance - The tournament provides accident/medical insurance for injuries which occur during tournament play. This is for U.S.A. players only, and we ask all our international teams to purchase travel insurance before leaving your country. Any injury must be reported & recorded immediately to the Info table.

Volunteers – If you would like to help out with the event, please do. There is always plenty to do. Come to the info table to offer your assistance in any way. We would like to thank: First State Bank, Coach Kristie, Karen, Kim, and all who help the event in any way.

Half Time Games - Women's Half Time Games - played on Friday on the main field. Girls Half Time Games - played on Saturday on the main field - prizes to all winners.

Parents Half Time Games - These games take place just before the Girls and Junior awards are given out on Field #3. Potato sack race, Piggy back races with your daughters and more fun games.

10th International Women's Flag Football Conference - takes place Monday, 11 AM-1 PM. Discussion on current flag football events in each country and league takes place and direction of the IWFFA. Please join us for this very important conference.

WE RECYCLE! - Keeping it Clean on the fields and helping with bathrooms. At the field

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PLAYER / TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

will be Cans next to each other: one for garbage and one for recyclables. Please put your garbage in the proper can.

Bathroom Updates - If you find T.P. is low, garbage full, problem in the rest rooms, report to the info table.

Security - We ask all tournament participants to be courteous and respectful of others or will be asked to leave the field. Please abide by our directors, officials, and volunteers. We expect good behavior and respect for the other team. Any unruly behavior from fans or spectators will be asked to leave the field.

Liquor on the field - We strictly enforce the law and prohibit consumption of any alcoholic beverages on the public field. Violators will be asked to leave the premises if caught drinking alcohol at field.

NO Soliciting - To make our social events successful, we ask players to patronage sponsored IWFFA events (printed in our program). Outsiders, who may "step onto our turf", and promote their goods, services, or parties outside our program, hurt us. We appreciate loyalty from our players. Solicitors will be asked to leave.

We welcome all comments regarding the tournament, and ask any criticism reported be accompanied with written suggestions to better any concerns. Email us your comments.

Sanctioned IWFFA Leagues - If you are NOT a sanctioned IWFFA league, come talk to us. There are so many benefits to sanction your league.

Hotel Discounts - This year we were successful to save teams money on their hotel bookings. Contact our office early next year so we can save you money.

Sanctioned IWFFA Tournaments - If you would like to host a sanctioned IWFFA tournament in your city, let us know and check out our 2026 list of Sanctioned IWFFA tournaments. ■■



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Move over Dad, Mom has taken over the flag football field

It was in 2000, when I traveled the Nordic Region to start new teams. I was in Finland and started a new team of women in Helsinki. There were 15 new players who were excited to play flag football and so I went to the Finnish women flag football team to ask which player wanted to coach the team. "Oh we can't coach the team, a man has to coach the team". This was profound. I can still hear the woman in my head and remember how the rest of their team listened and no one disagreed. That was that. And of all countries, Finland was one of the Nordic region, where women are suppose to have equality with the men. Wow.


In 2019, I had the idea to recruit mom coaches for their daughters flag football team. Mom coaching 101 was the name of our program and no experience was necessary. Everybody has their first day on the job. I wanted the girls to see their moms as leaders and to give moms the chance to be the leaders on our flag football field and in our organization. I want the IWFFA to develop the female style of playing flag football because everything in this world is influenced by our male counterpart (everything). We have estrogen running throughout our female bodies which guides how females behave, move and think which is very different from males. We may not be as fast or as strong as our

male counterpart, but that is not our nature to play the sport. Instead, the IWFFA thinks female style of playing flag football, should be dictated to what is natural to our bodies. Females are more cognitive, more team cooperative, more verbal (which may give officials headaches) and should play with finesses and strategy vs. brute force and speed (you are welcome to speak to me about this if you like).

So, how can we achieve this if we continue have "testosterone" coaching our girls?

Exactly, and so we have to start doing something different and that's why in 2019, I started gathering moms to coach their daughters. I coach the girls from the beginning of our program, first week in November, until tournament time when I let loose the team to their mom coaches. The moms are with me during the practices, and some moms will take over entirely like the two coaches from Sigsbee this year: Emily and Charmain. For the majority of moms, they learn from watching me. They know the players, learn the plays, team positions, how to call the plays and the goal is the tournament. We like to have two mom coaches on each team, one on the field and one on the side line for emotional support because sometimes a hug is needed to make the player whole again to return back to the field to continue to play. ■■





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continued from p. 13

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Sam Kaufman

Nicaragua Junior Team ages 12 - 15yr

Trial Attorney | Probate & Estate Planning | Criminal Defense | Family Law | Civil Litigation | 27+ Years of Legal Experience | City Commissioner | Community Advocate
Samuel J. Kaufman is a seasoned trial and litigation attorney with over 27 years of experience in Criminal Defense, Family Law, Probate and Estate Planning, Civil Litigation, and more. Sam began his legal career in Key West, Florida, in 1999 as a Public Defender. After three years as a respected advocate for the underserved, he founded his own law practice—built on reputation, results, and referrals—which has steadily grown for over two decades. Sam has represented hundreds of clients across a wide range of legal matters, including estate planning, probate administration, wills and trusts, mediation, personal injury, landlord/tenant disputes, and criminal defense. His approach is hands-on and personal: Sam is involved in every case that comes through his office, ensuring clients receive the highest quality representation and the best possible outcome. Contact: Samuel J. Kaufman, P.A.

Law Offices of Samuel J. Kaufman
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Blue Sophia Jewelry

Sigsbee Jrs ages 12 - 15 yrs
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cont'd on p.10

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Coca-Cola

Sugarloaf Young Girls ages 8 - 9 yrs

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Rachel Georgelas: Champion for Women's Empowerment in Flag Football

Rachel Georgelas, a trailblazer and advocate for women's empowerment, has become a driving force behind the International Women's Flag Football Association (IWFFA). Her passion for equality, coupled with her dedication to promoting girls' flag football, has led her to take on the role of the benefactor for the prestigious 32nd Kelly McGillis International Female Flag Football Championships.



contributing to the growth of women's flag football but also setting an example for her daughters and other

aspiring female athletes. She firmly believes that sports have the power to instill confidence, resilience, and leadership skills in young individuals. By investing in women's flag football, Rachel aims to create a space where her daughters and countless others can

thrive, compete, and excel.

Born into an athletic family that values equality and fairness, Rachel has always been inspired by the idea that everyone deserves an equal opportunity to pursue their dreams, regardless of gender. This conviction became even more pronounced with the birth of her three daughters, whom she envisions growing up in a world where they have the same opportunities as their male counterparts.

Rachel's journey into the world of women's flag football and her involvement with the IWFFA began with a desire to make a difference. Witnessing the challenges that women often face in sports, she recognized the need for a platform that not only celebrated their talents but also provided opportunities for growth and development.

As a benefactor of the IWFFA tournament, Rachel is not only con-

Rachel's commitment extends beyond just financial support; she actively engages with the IWFFA community, attending events, and connecting with players to understand their experiences and aspirations. Her dedication to fostering a sense of community and camaraderie within the women's flag football scene is reshaping the landscape of the sport.

Through her efforts, Rachel Georgelas is not only leaving a lasting impact on the IWFFA but also contributing to a broader movement towards gender equality in sports. Her vision for a world where her daughters can chase their dreams on an equal playing field is reflected in every initiative she undertakes, making her a true beacon of inspiration for aspiring female athletes everywhere.

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Date: Saturday, January 24th

Time: 9PM till late

Ms. IWFFA Contest
will take place will be at
Kaya Backyard Bar

305.395.0213

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