



FORWARD PASS

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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FLAG FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1** Letter from the president
- 3** And now a word from our philosopher
- 4** I wasn't the last person picked.
I was the only one left
- 5** Afghanistan women flag football.
How it all started
- 21** A new team from Guatemala.
Titanes
- 22** A new team from Honduras.
- 23** The power of a mom coach
- 25** Lets talk flag football.
How to run the ball
- 27** My most unforgettable moment
- 29** Fenix nightmare
- 30** IWFFA Promotional tour
- 38** IWFFA Flag football festival Sweden 2023
- 39** IWFFA Kelly McGillis woman international championship
- 42** I am Suraya Avesta
- 44** IWFFA Team Rankings 2022
- 56** IWFFA Awards
- 57** IWFFA Cartoon
- 58** 2023 IWFFA Tournaments



Afghanistan women flag football. How it all started

5



Letter from the President

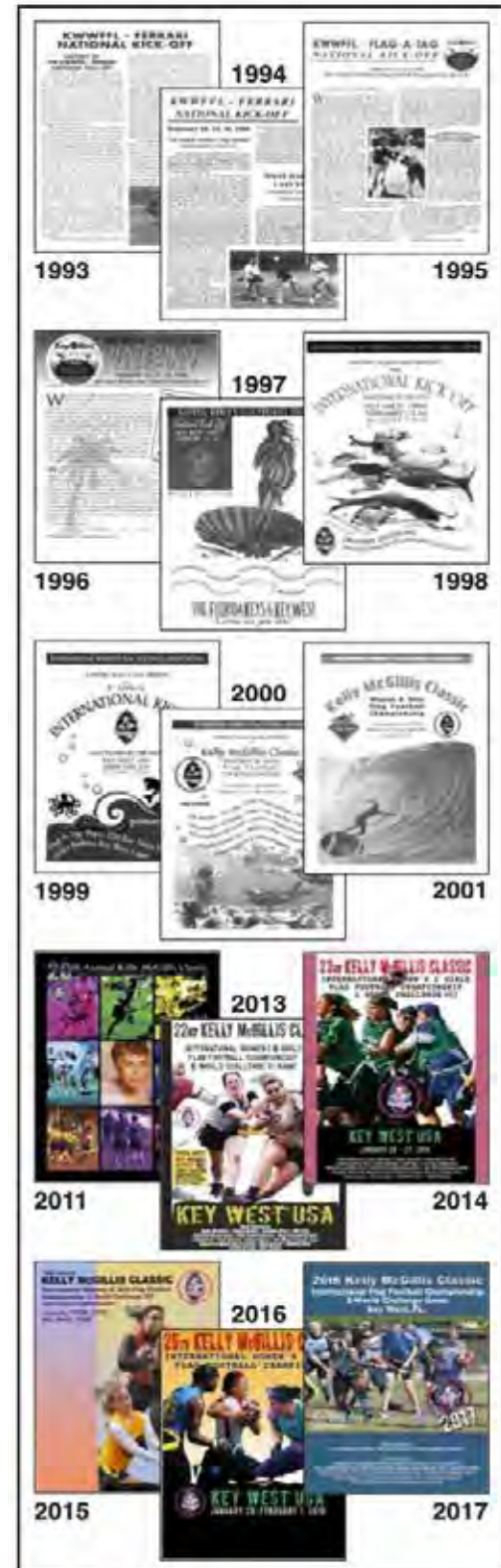
“To all female flag football players around the world, ask not what the IWFFA will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of all.”

This year's issue of the Forward Pass Magazine has lot's of stories and pages of information. In this issue, you will see the 2022 team rankings, all stars and MVP's. We've included lot's of photos and spent months preparing this issue. There are interesting stories from other women and teams. I think very interesting is our IWFFA Flag Football Festivals, stories from our Afghans and our 2022 promotional tour. I thank Nini Salinas Caceres for translating these pages into Spanish, putting the magazine together and doing a great job on our IWFFA social media.



Through the year's we have evolved. First our organization was tournament oriented and now we've clearly defined ourselves as a woman's organization. As we continue to grow and develop it is not only with our U.S. women, but our family includes women and girls from: Scandinavia, Latin America, Asia, Middle East, Europe and Africa. I am the most fortunate, because I meet most of these women, learn from their way of doing things, their style of play, their suggestions and input. We grow because of our members, and as I am aging, I look forward to the day the IWFFA gets a new president to lead the way for the IWFFA. It will always be an organization run by women for women and girls.

“Through the year's we have evolved. First our organization was tournament oriented and now we've clearly defined ourselves as a woman's organization”.





The quality of flag football for females is most important to the IWFFA, because this was why we first got organized. In the early days of the 70's, women were not respected for a sport deemed fit only for our male counterpart. We were ridiculed and not treated fairly. To get a field for example, we were the lowest on the totem pole. First came the boys, then men, then girls and last women. In tournaments which had a majority of male teams, women usually got the worst officials, worst fields, worst prizes and so we got tired of being second class citizens, and decided to start our own women's flag football tournaments and women leagues.

Women today continue to be treated like second class citizens in subtle ways and in more grievous ways. Our Afghan flag footballers, whose lives were in danger because they broke Taliban law for playing flag football, had to hide for 2 years. It was the IWFFA who started the work to get our Afghan flag footballers asylum in Mexico. We partnered with other women and groups and made it happen. You need to read the full story in this issue of the Forward Pass Magazine to learn of the important groups involved and how strong we women are when united and work together.



For those women who are now of the age to retire from the sport, please do not hang up your cleats. The sport needs female officials and female coaches and we want our young girls to see women as leaders so they can aspire to lead the way when they get older. I hope you read all the stories and become incentivized to get more involved in your IWFFA organization. We were the first national women's flag football association in the United States, the first international women's flag football association, and we lead the way for all females. You can be a part of making history. To all female flag football players around the world, ask not what the IWFFA will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of all.

Enjoy this issue. Many thanks to all the women who contributed to the magazine and to the International Women's Flag Football Association and let's celebrate all female flag football around the world and support for one another.

Sincerely,
Diane Beruldsen
President / Founder IWFFA

AND NOW A WORD FROM OUR PHILOSOPHER



SIDNEY ANDREWS

I would like to introduce you to myself, on the left, and my partner Kate of 48 years; married for six. She has a daughter and I have two sons and a daughter. Life threw us an unexpected curve back in 1973 when we met at a prayer meeting. That was the beginning of a new awareness, knowledge and understanding of ourselves, each other and life with all its twists and turns. Our path was bumpy at times; yet never without love and at 80 and 85 amazing years our journey, that continues to surprise us as we pause and take stock of the years before and lessons learned. What I share with you are the lessons gleaned and learned from the unfolding of our lives, as written in my memoir "A Fall to New Heights."

Kate and I discovered the soul purpose for living an authentic life, as women, gives us the grand opportunity of tapping into the energy, strength, love and power of our inner spirit, present to each of us in and under all circumstances, especially in relationships with one another, what ever form that might take. Women are beginning to know and appreciate their value and what we have to offer or contribute to the world outside our eyes; finally we are standing up and saying, I am woman and claiming my right to equality on and off the field that dreams are made of.

Life is, at times, going to throw us an unexpected curve when our vision is clouded by circumstances and doubts; this is when we need to know that within us is the strength, power and yes, vulnerability and just as important, having other women poised and willing to step in and support us, where we are, knowing it takes a team to win a game because together we are stronger, and able to get through the rough patches and on to the score board.

I leave you with a final thought that ***"living your authentic truth, by daring to be vulnerable, will open wide a path that welcomes your footsteps to living your best life!"***

Have an amazing year filled with blessings too numerous to count!

- Sidney Andrews

I WASN'T THE LAST PERSON PICKED... I WAS THE ONLY ONE LEFT

By Maria Broadbent

Growing up when it came to sports, I wasn't the last person picked. I was the only one left but I was always willing to play. I was quiet and scrawny. At 57, I kinda still am.

My friend June Maloney sent me the Facebook post about the 16th IWFFA Ptown Classic and said to sign us up. I thought it was just a drop-in game on Saturday. I had no idea what she was getting me into. My initial text to Diane Beruldsen read "I'm sure you probably have enough folks faster and younger than I am, but I wouldn't mind coming to watch." Diane's reply was **"We really would love for you to play. We just want to play and have fun."** Before I knew it, I was on the Loose Women team.



When I showed up on Saturday and saw how athletic all the players were, I thought I had made a mistake. At 5 feet tall, many of the women seemed like giants. I hadn't played flag football since junior high. With a half hour before our first game, Diane was teaching us plays. Even numbers go one way, odd numbers go the other way...I had no idea what she was talking about and she knew it.

But I played and it was a blast! I was the 9th player so I got to catch my breath while the offense was on the field, most of the time. At one point Diane put me in as a running back and made sure to call passing plays. I don't weigh much and I took a hard block in one of the games. I got back up and I played. I wasn't very good but I knew my job was to try to get to the quarterback. My team cheered for my one sack of the day.

Besides June, I had never met anyone on the Loose Women team, but I'm so glad I did. They are amazingly talented athletes, and some of the most fun, welcoming gals you'll ever meet. I made friends I will have for life. June got an All-Star medal but I got to keep our team's Fourth Place plaque. And Diane picked me to play on next year's Loose Women team. Thank you, Diane. Once a Loose Woman...always a Loose Woman.

Footnote: Maria Broadbent is the Assistant Town Manager for Coventry, Rhode Island, where she hopes to work with the IWFFA to establish a flag football league.

AFGHANISTAN WOMEN FLAG FOOTBALL HOW IT ALL STARTED

By: Diane Beruldsen - President / Founder IWFFA



I traveled to India in 2018 to train a group of Afghan women - flag football. At that time U.S. troops occupied Afghanistan. The American government used sport programs to empower the Afghan women in order to counter: their culture, the submissiveness of females, dominance of men and the Taliban in their country. Many sports were offered and encouraged for the Afghan women to join.

The International Women Flag Football Association (IWFFA) was contacted in 2017 requesting the IWFFA teach the Afghan women flag football. This is what our organization does, the IWFFA will travel to countries where flag football does not exist, then train and teach the women to develop the sport in their country putting the women as the leaders because women should rule their own sport. However in this case being asked to teach the Afghan women flag football, was much more than introducing the sport to their country. This situation was the essence of our organization. The IWFFA is a woman's organization who uses flag football to develop leaders, to empower females and this opportunity was very important to us which we were careful to succeed. A lot of planning, money and hard work would go into this effort.

On June 15, 2018, I fly into New Delhi India (33 hour travel from Key West, Florida), and was met by India coach: Andray Benjamin. We then took a four hour bus ride to Jaipur. The Afghans have not arrived yet because they're waiting to get their visas. As soon as I arrive I am given a traditional Indian welcome, introduced to everyone and next day I start training 35 Indian women. The Indians have played 5 on 5, no contact flag football for the past two years. The president of their league: Mohit Singh Rajawat, thinks 5 on 5 is boring and he wants something more exciting for the women, so he wanted the IWFFA come to India to train the women 8 on 8. IWFFA flag football rules include many skills such as: blocking, kicking, punting, field goals, fake kicks, flag grab, rushing, etc. The game should be played with strategy and finesse vs. brute force and this style of flag football provides a position for every female body type so we can include all women & girls in the game and in our organization.





Elite Football League of India (EFLI), now known as Elite Sports of India (ESI) and Jaipur Pournima University who sponsored the trainings were very professional and organized. The Indian women were very disciplined, focused, strong athletes and a coach's dream to coach. They gave 100% in temperatures 110 degrees °F and twice a day for 2.5 hours each training. We continued in classroom during the day time in the middle of the day with no air conditioning to learn the rules and how to officiate. Trainings for the Indians were going extremely well, however there is delay for the Afghans arrival and at this time, we do not know if they will get their visas to make the trip to India.

Trainings for the Indians were extended, and we wait more days for the Afghans to arrive. This was the main purpose for the IWFFA, to train the Afghans, so they could bring the sport back to Afghanistan, and I'm feeling extremely stressed. Finally, after almost a week, we get word that the Afghans have received their visas, and will arrive on Saturday, June 23. However, there are more delays during their travel and it was not until next day, June 24 at 7:25 am when the Afghans arrived to Jaipur.



First time I saw the Afghan women was a profound moment and an image I will never forget. It was during morning practice with the Indian women, when all of a sudden everyone stopped. I turned my head to see what everyone was looking at, and at a distance were the Afghan women standing in a perfect row looking at us. They made it, and I felt like crying. The Afghans came to us and we all said hello, but we had to continue our training, and they had to sleep. They had been traveling all day and night and were extremely exhausted physically and mentally. We would begin our first training next day, and so today was my last day training the Indian women. EFLI male coaches would take over the Indian women's flag football teams and our goal at that moment was to get the two teams ready for the 1st international women's flag football match in India to be played on July 1, 2018.

I began the same training with the Afghans as I had with the Indians, however coaching the Afghans would be different. The Afghans were looking at a football for the first time. They never threw or caught this type of ball. They would have their first competition in a week and they had to learn as much about flag football so they could bring the sport to Afghanistan to coach and train other Afghan girls and women and to develop their flag football league. These women were made clear of their responsibilities, and there was a deeper desire to learn. The Indian women were more physical, and the Afghan women were more perceptual during their training.

I had done this before and trained women in countries who never saw a football. In 1997 I traveled to Denmark and remember how amazed the Danish women were to see it's shape, and when they picked up the ball to hold and touch, they did this slowly and were laughing. I showed the Scandinavian women how to throw and catch and they taught me another way to kick the ball for field goals and long kicks. The women from Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Iceland had a different style, which I was concerned with at first because I grew up in United States and was influenced by men's tackle football. These women looked awkward, like beginners playing flag football, but when the Scandinavians played their flag football games they were successful. They just looked different catching, throwing and running with the ball. The Scandinavians learned the game by reading the rules and to this day, on our IWFFA rules committee sits a Swedish woman who knows the rules better than myself. The Scandinavians taught also, that women's flag football should have it's own style and tackle football should not be our role model. Women need to develop our own style and strategy. And when it came to the country Afghanistan, there would be no man or boy who would play flag football, it would be only the women and girls playing flag football. So at this moment in India, for me a woman to train the Afghan women, then the Afghan women train other females who never have been influenced by a man's style, was indeed a great opportunity. I could not wait for the first generation of Afghan female flag football players to develop. This was a dream for the IWFFA to come true.



“At the same time the Afghans were learning how to throw, catch and kick a football, they were learning the rules, how to call penalties and the philosophy of the IWFFA which was: more important than winning, is understanding one's position so that during the game you can make the best decisions. When you play your best, and your team plays their best, that's when the magic happens and that's when you win, no matter what the numbers are on the score board.”

The trainings seemed slow for when I spoke, my English had to be translated into the Persian language (same for the Indians when we entered the classroom. We needed a translator to translate to the Hindi language). But the Afghans were a smaller group, only 8 vs. the 35 Indians, and so these Afghan trainings were much more manageable. We did progress quickly. At the same time the Afghans were learning how to throw, catch and kick a football, they were learning the rules, how to call penalties and the philosophy of the IWFFA which was: more important than winning, is understanding one's position so that during the game you can make the best decisions. When you play your best, and your team plays their best, that's when the magic happens and that's when you win, no matter what the numbers are on the score board. The Indian female athletes did not take in this philosophy. I shared it with them, but they wanted to win and would play hard to win in the Friendship Game.

The Afghan team worked very hard and we needed a break. I suggested we take a camel ride, just as we did with the Indian women. One day we went into town to ride the camels, walk around and see the sights. It was GREAT. There were cows roaming the streets, and goats crossing the roads. A young boy came up to our group to share his talent as a magician, and everyone came to me to tell me to hold on to my wallet. It was a great day.

I shared my room with Sabria Mahboobi, who would become the IWFFA Ambassador for Afghanistan. We talked late many nights and I listened to her stories of what it was like to be a woman in Afghanistan. It's really hard to understand why the men would suppress and prohibit women from living their lives to such extremes. Women were not allowed to watch T.V., nor use the internet, could not go to school, could not play sports and could not leave the house if the man refused the woman to go outside. Not just husbands, but brothers and other male relatives had the right to control the women. There are also child marriages that takes place. This is the life for women outside Kabul. These Afghan women who came to India, were lucky to be living in Kabul, occupied by U.S. troops. The rest of Afghanistan was still run by other militias and the Taliban. I thought as I listened to these stories (and more personal ones), how important flag football is for these Afghan women here in India. To exercise their bodies, build their muscles, strengthen their lungs, play together as a team of women, socialize, have a goal on the field and working together, and unity of women. Whether they win or loose, this experience to play against the Indians in their Friendship Game, would serve as a huge benefit and a greater purpose.



***"That was when I got a text message:
MADAME CAN YOU HELP US!"***

At the end of the Afghan training, on July 1, 2018, the Afghan women would have their first ever flag football competition with the Indians, in a competition that was broadcast and highlighted as India women's first international flag football competition. There was TV and radio media, a crowd of over 300 standing on the side lines to watch the game.

Afghanistan scored first in the game, but India would come back with four touch downs to win 24 - 6. Awards were given out, speeches were made, that night after the awards the Afghans would leave India and go back home to Afghanistan.

We afforded the equipment given the Afghans, which they needed to develop the sport in Afghanistan, by fundraising "Ice Bucket" contests. I got a few Afghan women and an Indian woman to participate (see You Tube links at end of this story). As soon as the Afghan women got back home, they coached the women and girls and started the: Afghanistan Women Flag Football Federation. The women coached, officiated and played flag football until end of August 2021 when the U.S. took their troops out of Afghanistan and the Taliban took control of the country. **That was when I got a text message: "Madame can you help us"**.

The Talaban put harsh and brutal restrictions on women and now that they have complete control in

Afghanistan, they began looking and searching for women who participated in sports because they broke Taliban law and must be punished. Mahjabin Hakimi, a player on the Kabul Municipality Volleyball Club (photo right) , was beheaded in the capital city of Kabul by Taliban troops. All our flag football players had to go into hiding because if they were found, they too could be killed. And it's not just the women in danger, but their families who allowed our flag footballers to play.



As soon as I read this text message, I thought of all the women who traveled to India. I knew these women personally. Then I thought of all the women and girls who joined the flag football sport in Afghanistan: "If the IWFFA did not go to India, would these Afghan flag footballers have been involved in another sport?, did we put their lives in danger, and what the hell did we do?" The responsibility was mounting terribly and the guilt overbearing. Normally the IWFFA would travel to a country to help develop the sport... not get the women killed. And of course, I rationalized all this, that it's not our fault to bring flag football to Afghanistan, but I did feel some responsibility and I had to do all that I could to get our flag footballers out of Afghanistan.

We were text messaging frequently after that message and the Afghans asked me to write a letter to the U.S. State Department which I did. Then I was asked to write to a certain congressman which I did. "Please madam, write to this Senator"... I then did. Whatever they asked me to do, I did. But nothing was happening with these letters and I was trying to find other ways I could help.

It was then when I got this text message: "Madam can you get us a lawyer" when I became distraught. Anyone living in the U.S., knows how expensive lawyers are, and at that moment I really didn't think we could help our Afghans if we had to go in this direction. I phoned several lawyers, and the cheapest one would do the work to get our Afghans out of Afghanistan for \$1,500 per person. Humm.... but that was not a guarantee and at some point, I knew this lawyer would come back and say it will cost more because it's taking more time.

In the early days, soon after the Taliban took over Afghanistan, groups from other countries were evacuating Afghans through the Kabul airport. The Australia Women's Soccer and FIFA were successful to get many of the female Afghan soccer players out. This gave us hope. And at that time, scenes at the airport were shown on mass media, and you could see the hysteria and chaos as people were desperately trying to get into the airport and on a plane to anywhere.

U.S. troops were still stationed at the airport, and I was asked if I knew any soldiers stationed there because I live in a military town. I called up all my friends and parents of children in the military asking if their son or daughter was stationed inside Kabul airport. We wanted to find someone inside the airport to open a locked gate to let our flag football players in. The soldiers had cell phones, and a simple phone call might just work. But I didn't find a soldier inside the airport, and our Afghan flag football women would go on their own. And then that day, on August 26, a bomb went off killing 60 Afghans and 12 U.S. soldiers, and I didn't know if our flag football players were injured or even alive. I waited for hours until we were contacted by our Afghan leader who told me that all the women were fine. They had a meeting that night to discuss if they would make another attempt the next day to get into the airport, very concerned for what a huge risk this would be. At the end of their meeting, they decided they would try again. But next day when they went to the airport, it was hopeless and soon in the coming days, there were no more U.S. troops left in Afghanistan, and there was no chance to fly out this way. Everyone had to go into hiding. Now I'm really scared.



The IWFFA was started in 1997 and with over ten thousand flag football women, I thought maybe we could get help from our flag football players. On September 23, 2021, I put out an email to all IWFFA flag football players asking if anyone knew of a lawyer who would work pro bono to help us.




**Help Get Our Afghanistan Women's
Flag Football Association Members
Out of Afghanistan!!!!!!**

We need your help!

It's simple

Do you know a lawyer

who would be willing to help us get the
Afghanistan Women's Flag Football
Association Members - Out of Afghanistan?



**WOULD YOU
DONATE
ANY AMOUNT OF
MONEY
TO OUR LEGAL
FUND**

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE
ANY AMOUNT OF MONEY
TO HELP OUR LEGAL
FUND](#)

Within hours, I received an email from Bridget Cambridge:

On Sep 23, 2021, at 2:17 PM, Bridget Cambria
<bridget.cambria@cambriaklinelaw.com> wrote:

Hey! I am a former women's football player and IWFFA player. My name is Bridget Cambria. I am also an immigration lawyer and have a nonprofit working on some of these cases. My organization is called Aldea (aldeapjc.org).

Please give me your contact information and we will call and help you all with requests to parole these players. I am putting Sahar on this email, she is a lawyer working on our Afghan cases who can help communications and works with us and Adriana who facilitates our pro bono program.

And NOW the ball is ROLLING!



Bridget is co-founder of: ALDEA - The People's Justice Center, and they would fight for our flag football women, pro bono. We zoomed every Friday afternoon from October 2021 till November 2022 (few exceptions) and lawyer Sahar Jalili would interpret the language with our Afghan leaders who would represent the families.

Our plan was to get asylum for all our Afghans in the United States. My job was to find work and a place to live for all our Afghans. We didn't want our Afghans getting asylum and then getting stuck at a military base for months. We wanted them to have jobs and housing, making it easier for them to start their new lives. Key West, is also a tourist town and I found two hotels who would meet with me. After sharing our story, Casa Marina and Ocean Key Resort hotels were happy to hire the majority of our Afghans and provide housing. Other businesses and individuals in Key West and also Provincetown, MA would hire other women or take them into their homes. We had them all covered. In all, we were fighting for 70 Afghan flag football players and their families. Now, we had to figure out how to physically bring them over to the United States.

To purchase airline tickets would be expensive, maybe we could hire a plane and pilot to bring them over. We contacted a local pilot who flies cargo all over the world. He is willing to fly the plane, but we have to find out if he can get a passenger plane because you can't fly passengers in a cargo plane. It was a week later, we found out this would not be possible and so we ditch this idea.

GT GreenbergTraurig



As we waited for the paperwork to be accepted and approved for the asylum case in the United States, the IWFFA had it's Mexican Women's Flag Football Tournament coming up at the end of May 2022. We invited our Afghan flag footballers to the competition. In that way, at least, they would be out of Afghanistan. To do this, they needed tourist visas to enter Mexico. But those papers would not come on time and it was taking too long. Our Friday meetings were not so happy as there was no news or updates. The only good thing that was going our way was that our case before the U.S. Government was not thrown out yet which gave us a bit of hope. At this point ALDEA contacted with the Mexico City Office of Greenberg Traurig and, boy, are we lucky! They came up with an idea for our Afghans to seek asylum in Mexico! For weeks the Mexican Greenberg Traurig lawyers worked hard. Elba Gutiérrez was the leader together with Daniela Reyes and Karla Copka, they coordinated the work with many other attorneys at their firm. They thought there was a good chance they could succeed and now it was up to our Afghans to decide if they would like to change course and start their new lives in Mexico.



I thought this was a no brainer: get out of Afghanistan in any way you can. But these Afghans had heard stories about Mexico being a dangerous place. I explained to them I grew up in New York and at one time New York City had a terrible reputation for crime which was just an exaggeration. I shared that I traveled to Mexico four times, that my opinion was Mexico was a beautiful country and Mexicans are sweet people. I liked their culture very much and felt safe every time I visited. One family decided not to go. .

These lawyers negotiated with the Mexican Government for the team to be granted political asylum. And then, the day came: we announced at our Friday zoom meeting that the Mexican Government had agreed to welcome our Afghans and grant them asylum! Elba, the attorney, explained to the Afghans that Greenberg, their firm, had partnered with Programa Casa a Refugiados, one of the most important non profits in Mexico working with refugees. Programa Casa Refugiados would provide housing, and assist with some food, help them to enroll into the educational system, help them to look for jobs and a flag football field A Flag Football Field! I was crying. Many thanks to Jose Luis and the Catholic Church for helping to arrange the field.

Mexico agreed take in our Afghan women and their families. I told you Mexico was a beautiful country. By this time, some families were living in Afghanistan, some others made it out to Iran and some more made it out to Pakistan. Now, we had to coordinate their travel and buy their airline tickets. We decided to split our Afghans into two groups: those with passports and those without

It was those with passports that made it into the first group who would arrive to Mexico first. The second group would work on getting their passports. The day came, when we started to purchase airline tickets. Some families could afford their own tickets, some tickets were purchased by the IWFFA, and some tickets were purchased through our fundraisers which raised \$13,000. We are currently working on getting money to buy the second group's airline tickets. Tickets cost between \$1,200 - \$1,650 U.S. dollar and you can donate any amount of money here as the fundraiser is still going on <https://gofund.me/607f586d>



Chaos in Afghanistan @ airport



There was a 17 year old girl who was being forced to marry a much older man.

There was a 17 year old girl who was being forced to marry a much older man. IWFFA Ambassador to Afghanistan asked if the IWFFA could buy a ticket for her, and yes we did. FIFA was fantastic in that they would purchase 12 tickets for one of the families. There was such excitement that day, because we felt we were really doing this and it was really happening. When each person received their airplane ticket, it made it real. Unfortunately for one family who was to be in the first group, our flag football player was pregnant and the baby was to be born before the day set for everyone's departure. The baby would need a passport and there was not enough time to get a passport. This made me cry. This family would have to wait for our second group to leave. Everyone would leave either on November 14 or 15 and everyone would arrive in Mexico City on November 16, first connecting through Istanbul, Turkey then Mexico City. It was a very specific flight pattern which we had to use. There were special documents everyone had to carry with them. This seemed to take forever, and the families were getting nervous. The time to travel was approaching and these papers were CRUCIAL. We just had to wait and be patient.

It was a huge effort to coordinate everything. Our legal team, Elba, Daniela, Karla, Bridget and Sahar, were awake for more than two days straight beginning when the first family started their journey. Each family had to take two planes and a lot could go wrong along the way. Our lawyers would give each family last minute instructions the day before they traveled. Turkey had been notified by the Mexican government that these Afghans would be traveling to Mexico. Each of them had their own documents on their person: their own passport, legal documents prepared by the Mexican attorneys in case they were detained, contact e-mails for the Mexican lawyers, instructions in written. Phone numbers and special contacts were shared. "Be patient, don't get upset, we will help you. There might be moments where some authority gives you a hard time - you might be detained - keep cool - be prepared for these things to happen", the lawyers said.





It was in Pakistan, where one of our families was held back. They were at the gate, and an immigration officer did not allow them to go through. We started to get lots of text messages in our coordination WhatsApp group. Lawyers were communicating with each other: "Did they pay all their fines?" - YES, "They don't need those papers", "The Ministry was notified", "How much time is left before they need to board?" - 1 hour. "This dude probably wants a bribe", "They asked for bribe and then put stamp on their papers", "We've got 20 minutes", "Tell them to get ahead on line", "They should be boarding now... tell them to run, run", "Did they make it?", "We don't know". Then, silence. Text messages from this family stopped and we all assumed they made it on to the plane, otherwise we would have heard from them. But that moment was intense. Reading their messages was like a scary movie, and then not knowing what had happened left a very strange feeling which I can't describe. But this is real life, with people's lives, it's not a movie, it's real life.

Then in Iran, we had more trouble. The airline was skeptical about the letter our Afghans were carrying with them. More back and forth. "Madam, they are holding us and will not let us go on the plane" The lawyers contacted the Ministry and asked them to send the papers immediately to immigration at airport, but the office is not open and we have to wait till they are open. Two Afghan families are waiting "We are all here waiting for permission". Finally, the airline accepted the papers. Yes!. And for two nights and days, all the lawyers were monitoring the phones for all the families travel. This was the most harrowing experience. As all our Afghans were flying the last plane from Istanbul, Turkey to Mexico City, our lawyers got a chance to get some sleep. I myself flew to Mexico City, leaving on the 15th and arriving on the 16th at 12:15 AM. I slept on the airport floor until they arrived.



November 16, 2022 at 8.30AM, the plane landed in Mexico City airport which brought 37 Afghans. This would be the largest group of refugees Mexico received through the work of Greenberg Traurig office in Mexico.

Mexican lawyers Elba, Daniela and Karla were at the gate and organized media coverage so there were a TV camera and reporters. These lawyers had all legal papers on them prepared in case there was trouble with immigration or any other crises that could arise, so their job was not over. The IWFFA Mexico Women's Flag Football League had representatives: Itzel and Rodrigo to greet everyone. Another group from Mexico at the airport, who would further support our Afghans were: Cristina, Jose, and Carlos from Programa Casa Refugiados. Greenberg had hired a a bus to take the team from the airport to their new temporary home in a beautiful part of Mexico City.

I thought it was important for me to be there when the Afghans arrived. For them to see a friendly face, and I wanted to be there to see our Afghan flag football players and their families, after 15 months of hard work. I just had to see for myself this first group to make it. This moment and this experience I should cherish for the rest of my life. And when the families started coming out of the gate, I felt very happy for them, very proud and thought how lucky we were to have all the players on our team, for without anyone of them, who knows if we would have been successful.

In our first group of 37 Afghans, twenty-two were women, eighteen were flag football players and all of the Afghans, women, girls, men and boys, were members of the IWFFA. In our second group we have 33 Afghans, who we work to raise money for their airline tickets.

If you would like to be a hero - please make a donation to the fundraiser: <https://gofund.me/607f586d>



Casa Refugiados

MANY THANKS TO THESE ORGANIZATIONS BELOW WHO MADE US SUCCESSFUL

Greenberg Traurig - <https://www.gtlaw.com/en/>

Leader Elba Gutierrez, Daniela Reyes, Karla Copka, Jose Raz Guzman, Caroline J. Heller, Luis Cortes, Victor Felipe Callarisa Rivera and Diana Cortes. The Mexican law firm branch for Greenberg Traurig, who did the legal work in Mexico to gain asylum and who continues to work with PCR to support the Afghans.

Casa Refugiados is a non-profit, non-partisan and secular civil association that collaborates with different allies from the public, social and private sectors, such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and with other institutions, with the aim of providing humanitarian assistance and access to basic services and the exercise of the rights of displaced persons, access to employment, health and housing. Casa Refugiados promotes rights of the people on the move (POM), refugees, asylum seekers, displaced persons, and migrants, with emphasis on their local integration through the creation of spaces of solidarity and respect, and activities for a culture of peace.

The Misioneros del Espíritu Santo de la Provincia de México México (Missionaries of the Holy Spirit of the Province of Mexico) seek to promote processes for integral human development and in a defined commitment to solidarity with others, especially with people in vulnerable situations, they begin a collaborative relationship with Programa Casa Refugiados with the opening of the CEAHPAZ space. A joint effort that responds to the objective of generating relationships of inclusion and equity in the service of others.

CEAHPAZ Casa de Encuentro para el Acompañamiento Humanitario y Construcción de Paz (Meeting House for Humanitarian Accompaniment and Peacebuilding) Operate as a physical and virtual space to strengthen, scale and replicate collaborative efforts around humanitarian accompaniment from a peacebuilding approach, within the framework of the "Red Abriendo Puertas" and in the face of the challenge of responding to the growing impact of violence.

Aldea - The People's Justice Center - <https://aldeapjc.org>

Leader Bridget Cambria, Sahar Jalili, Jackie Kline and other legal supporters worked on the USA side. Did extraordinary work, contacted all our flag footballers and families.

International Women Flag Football Association (IWFFA) - <https://iwffa.com/> President & Founder Diane Beruldsen - trained the Afghans in India 2018 and was contacted by the Afghans in 2021 to get them out of Afghanistan who then contacted Bridget Cambria.

EFLI / Elite Sports of India - <http://www.efli.com>

President Mohit Singh Rajawat, coach: Andray Benjamin. Their organization made it possible for the Afghans to travel to India for flag football training in India in 2018

Poornima University - <https://www.poornima.edu.in>

Rahul Singhi - Director of Poornima University in 2018 who sponsored the trainings for the Afghans and Indians

You Tube videos for the 2018 IWFFA Promotional Tour in

India <https://youtu.be/NFEAC0DRmb8>

<https://youtu.be/7YRPvpSRjw8> <https://youtu.be/4VaYHjfd-vl>

<https://youtu.be/9lvvCBGXt2l>

<https://youtu.be/fgBhMkqHhXk>



**Donate Now to the Afghanistan Fundraiser. We have
33 more Afghans to bring to Mexico
<https://gofund.me/607f586d>**

Help resettle Afghan women's flag football team!



Julie Schwiert Collazo is organizing this fundraiser on behalf of Diane Beruldsen.

\$3,000 raised of
\$100,000 goal

43 donations

Share

Donate now



Leslie Wallin

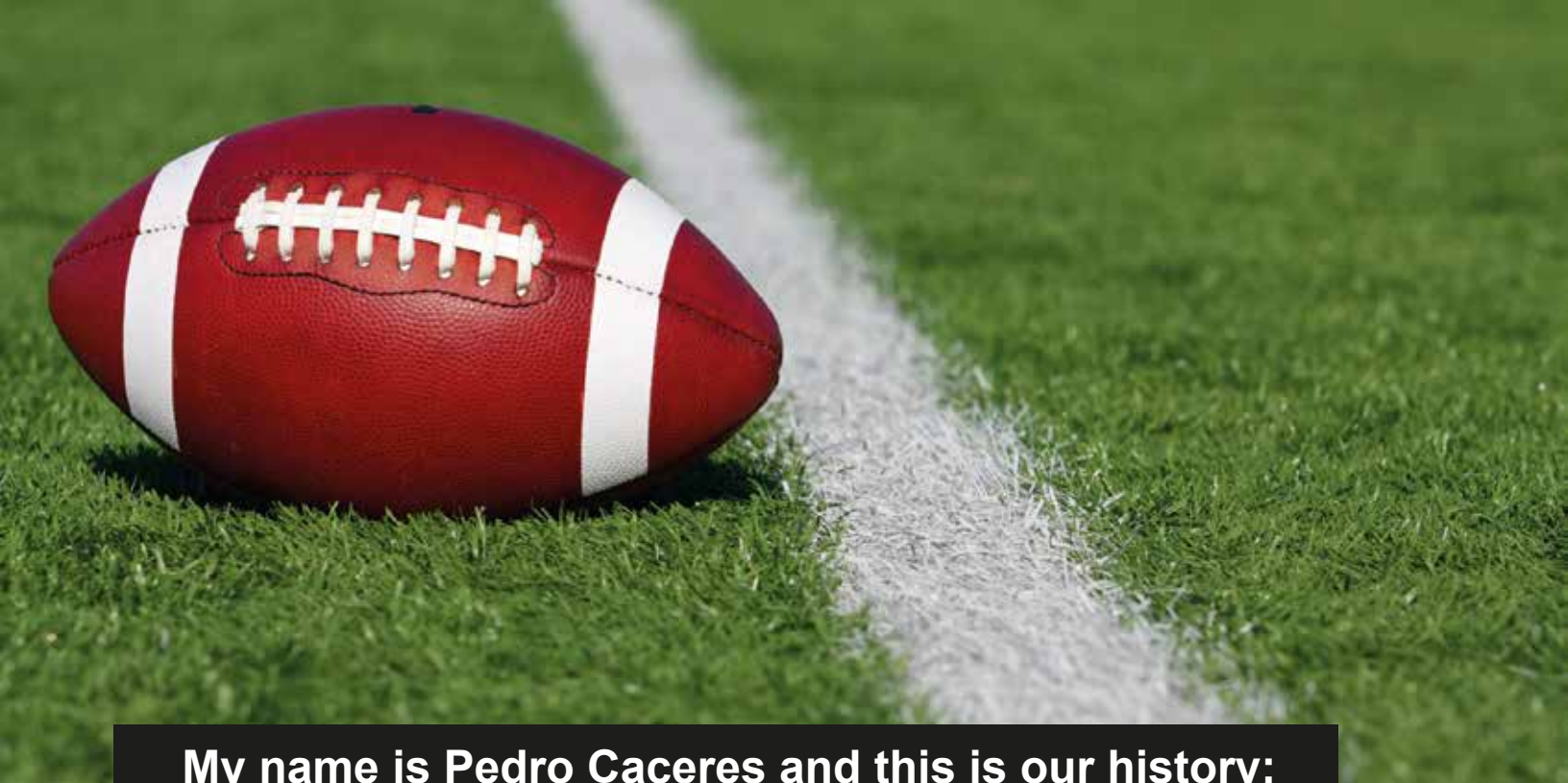
**Many thanks to all of those persons
who have donated the Afghanistan
fund**

A new team.. TITANES from Guatemala

My name is Paula Rojas from Capitana de Titanes Flag 8 Guatemala, I want to tell you how we created our team.

I started playing Flag 8 in the Phoenix team, at the invitation of my best friend, at first I did not understand what the sport was about I only knew that I was at a time in my life from which I wanted to escape and so it was, I started training and knowing the sport but in the end I ran into a group of friends, they were not a simple team and that was when I fell in love with the sport, it was different since it was a union of women who changed my life, over the years the initial group of which I was part was dissolving and changed the people I used to call friends some were absent and finally I decided to make my own team with my best friend and current partner Gabriela who was the one who invited me to be part of flag, and that's when Titanes was born, my new group of friends who are again changing my life and helping me grow as a person.





My name is Pedro Caceres and this is our history:

A year and a half ago my wife and I started a sports after school program in a community called El Doradito, somewhere in the middle of some sugarcane plantations. Every afternoon the students come and do cross training. It has been quite an experience for them and as well for us. We've seen them growing physically, emotionally and spiritually.

A month ago we were looking back and debriefing what we have done so far and as mentioned we have seen changes, good changes. Now they belong to "El Gym" (the gym) but we decided to give them something more to belong to, so we just started putting together a Flag Football Team for the girls and Cross Country Team for the boys, and the boys are a little jealous about it!

We strongly believe how sports shape one's life and this time we have the opportunity to present a very different sport to the girls. Why Flag Football? Well I always liked the semantics of the game, how good it is to show them life lessons while they play it and also is something unknown for them and even for me, so we are getting out of our comfort zones.

I just started last week, I have 10 girls for the moment, they are fit but you know for our countries girls don't run or play games like the boys so they are no as good as running but they will learn, I hope so, We did a Full Value Contract yesterday and they are committed to be a team and support each other.

Too long of an email. Well just letting you know that we are super stoked about it and a friend from Tegucigalpa has been a great support in giving me info about the game and getting some equipment too. Looking forward to joining you ladies one day in a championship if God's will!

The Power of a Mom Coach

By Coach Kristen Smouse



I'll never forget the day my daughter came home and said, "I'm going to be on the flag football team!" I love sports, however football was the one sport I had never played. I was nervous about how I could help her off the field. When the time arrived for her first practice, we were in need of coaches. To the surprise of my daughter, I **accepted the challenge**. A challenge that even I was unsure about. How could I be a coach, when I knew very little about this sport?

Now I am in my second year of coaching. Together my daughter and I have grown to love the sport. Together we've learned about the positions, plays, rules, and the excitement of it all. But that's not even the best part. Those are the physical aspects, but the mental and emotional skills we have developed along the way have improved our quality of life. We have watched each other grow. She has witnessed a positive growth change in me. In the very beginning I was unsure of myself, and constantly questioning my techniques and advice. I was forced to change quickly, because the team needed me. My daughter has seen me develop into an assertive human, and understand that I have value. In return, my daughter's confidence has also grown. She's witnessed that with hard work and perseverance, she can overcome her fears. Now she doesn't hesitate, because she knows she has worth, and can overcome adversity.

Coaching flag football has helped our relationship become even stronger. She looks at me with a new light. I never expected coaching flag football could have such an impact on our lives. What a great experience this has been! I wouldn't change it for the world!



All in the family

Meet some Mom & daughter flag footballers

Eyana & Mom Tatiana



Aria & Mom Kayla



Eva & Mom Stephanie



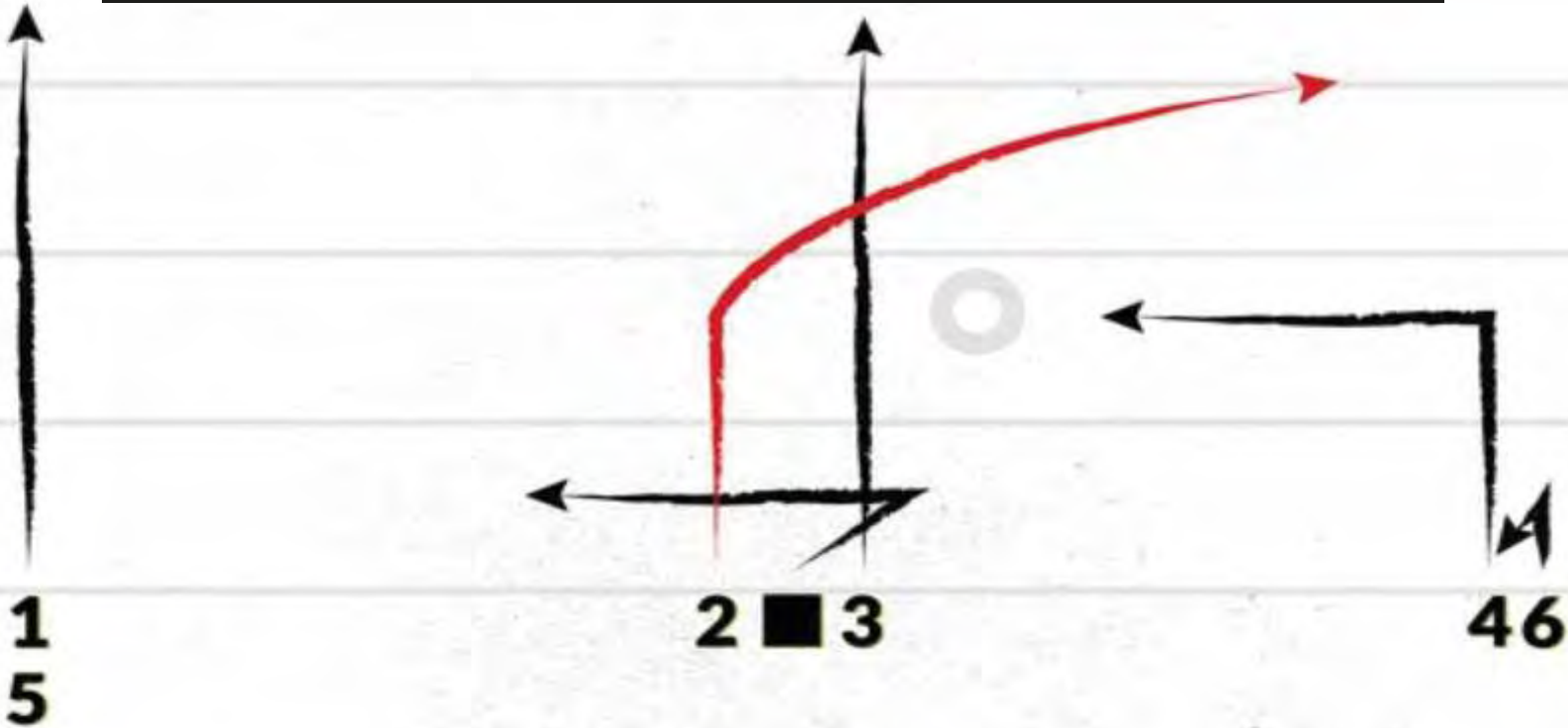
Baily & Mom Dee



LET'S TALK FLAG FOOTBALL

By Head Coach: Alison Wood

HOW TO RUN THE BALL



How to run the ball? Blocking. Oh it helps if you have a fast running back but that is not what allows you to run the ball. Every running back we had eventually said they could not run the ball without blocking, that is when they became a running back. Remember, just because you can catch that doesn't make you a receiver, just because you can throw that doesn't make you a quarterback, and just because you can run that doesn't make you a running back. There is so much more to each position.

Running the ball depends on blocking and NOT from the offensive line. They will be involved but not as much as your receivers. The best way to block for the run is man-to-man or assignment blocking. I've seen too many teams (the few who do try to block for the run) try to create "a wall" or zone block. Two major flaws with zone blocking, you allow the defense to come to you and two people can often block one player while another is untouched.

You must first teach everyone, and I do mean EVERYONE, on the team how to block. With IWFFA rules of down field blocking everyone must be able to do this, it is as important as catching and throwing (or at least it's a close second). To effectively block you must take control of the other player, it does NOT mean getting in their way or pushing them. You need to get your hand in their up-field (closer to the end zone you are going toward) armpit (or shoulder) and hopefully have a downfield hand on them too. You need to push harder on the up field shoulder and move them back. Use your legs. We spent practice after practice just going over this (and how to counteract it). Each person has to be able to set and hold their block.

Second, you need to have a play to run. The running back needs to have a "path" they are going to follow so the receivers know where to set the blocks in addition to who to block. Sweeps are the most effective running play in flag football. The middle is too hard to block, closes fast, and both flags are vulnerable. Sweeps are runs to the outside of the field where only one flag is exposed.

Third, the running back must be able to follow the blocks and be patient. A fast player becomes a running back when they follow their blocks, are patient for the play to develop, and can help set the block. If the running back takes off as fast as she can run she will "overrun" or out run the blocks. The saying goes "Slow to the hole, explode through". Also, if a receiver is square to the line of scrimmage (she is not facing toward the inside or outside of the field) the block isn't set. The defense can come off either way and make a play. That is why correct blocking is so important. Running to the outside of the field means we want to block the defense to the inside of the field (with one exception we will get to that later). If the blocker is square to the line of scrimmage the running back must fake to the inside to move the defense so the receiver can set the block correctly. To recap, your running back must follow the play (sweep), must wait for the blocks, must follow the blocks, and if needs be help set the block. Speed helps so much but they need to be able to do these three things, or there is no run.

Your receivers must be good blockers. They are the bottom line to being able to run the ball. If you have a good running game you will run at least half the time if not more and your receivers need to be on board with this. It helps if they understand that it helps you to win but also it will help them get open in the passing game because of the play action (faking the run).

The exception to blocking the defense to the inside of the field is the safety, here we are referring to the "strong side" safety (or the safety on the side we are running the ball). The guard (the offensive line players to either side of the center) will be responsible for the safety. It would be impossible coming from the inside of the field (guards are just off the ball) and block someone to the inside so the guard should block the safety out of bounds, just guide her the way she is already running. A sweep right - the right guard blocks the safety and vice versa. If everyone else sets their blocks and the guard doesn't you'll still get 4 to 5 yards, if they do you'll get twenty or possibly a touchdown.

We run the ball with trips, three receivers on one side of the ball. The inside receiver is responsible for the strong side (side we are running to) defensive rusher (we call them defensive ends). The second receiver is responsible for the defender in the middle of the field (we call them a linebacker). The outside receiver is responsible for the closest outside defender (we call them corners, the NFL calls them defensive backs or DBs). Everyone else has assignments but these are the most important and consistent.

If the middle and outside receivers can set their block you will consistently get three yards, if the inside receiver sets there's you will get four to five consistently. This is so important for an offense to be able to reliably be able to pick up yards. There are no incompletes, no danger of a turnover. Get that NO turnover.

Strategy of the run; always run the ball near your own endzone (no turnover means you won't give them the ball in scoring position), running on first or second down is preferable, if you have been running on first down the play action, running near their goal (TD area) is much tougher (the defense is compacted), running against a man-to-man is impossible. The MOST important strategy is - if you don't get three to five yards and the blocks are set, someone on defense is cheating! Play action!!!! Eventually, with running the ball so much the defense will predict the run and they will try to stop it and since they haven't been able to, someone will leave their position to "help". For example, the weak side (the side we are NOT running the ball to) defender in the middle (linebacker) will move over and they will start running to where they think the play will go too soon (as soon as the ball is snapped or after the fake hand off). Send a receiver into that area and they will be all alone. Easy, easy completion. Quick story to prove my point, playing NYWAL we ran the ball for twenty five yards, then fifteen. Then we lost two yards. Why? The safety rushed through and got the flag and at that moment I knew we won the game. If the safety is going to come up to the line to stop the ball I'll play action and throw completions all day long. We only ran the ball two or three times after that, but we threw the ball all over the place! As the saying goes, "the run opens up the pass". Try it, you'll like it!

My Most Unforgettable Moment

People dream of many things...
the stars,
the moon,
their lives.

Some dream of becoming millionaires

some dream of having a happy family

or a huge house on a plot of land with a white picket fence.

Many dreams
for many different people.

I dream
of the pass I will throw
in a football game.
It would be the one
to score the winning touch down.

The one
where every spectator
would be sitting on the edge of their seats.

The pass the NFL would film in slow motion,
and sports casters would replay on the news
over and over again.

I dream it would be the pass
that makes people realize
how great and exciting female athletes really are.
That we are just as exciting to see
as the men.

I dream that some pro-football manager would see this beautiful pass,
and decide he wants me to play pro football
he is so amazed by this throw
that he wants to put an all woman football team together
and professionalize football for female athletes.

We're in the huddle,
I call the play.
It is 4th down,

45 yards to go for a touch down
and there's only 15 seconds left in the entire game.

It's gotta be a long pass,
but the defense is gonna push through our offensive line
as if we were butter.
They're coming on strong,
like a tractor trailer on an ant hill.

But I'm the quarterback
the team leader,
if I can't get this pass off...
I've let my team down,
and the game will be over and we will have lost the game.

"T" formation,
roll right
right end down and out
and left end... Long...
your the one.
I'm looking for you.
If I get into trouble

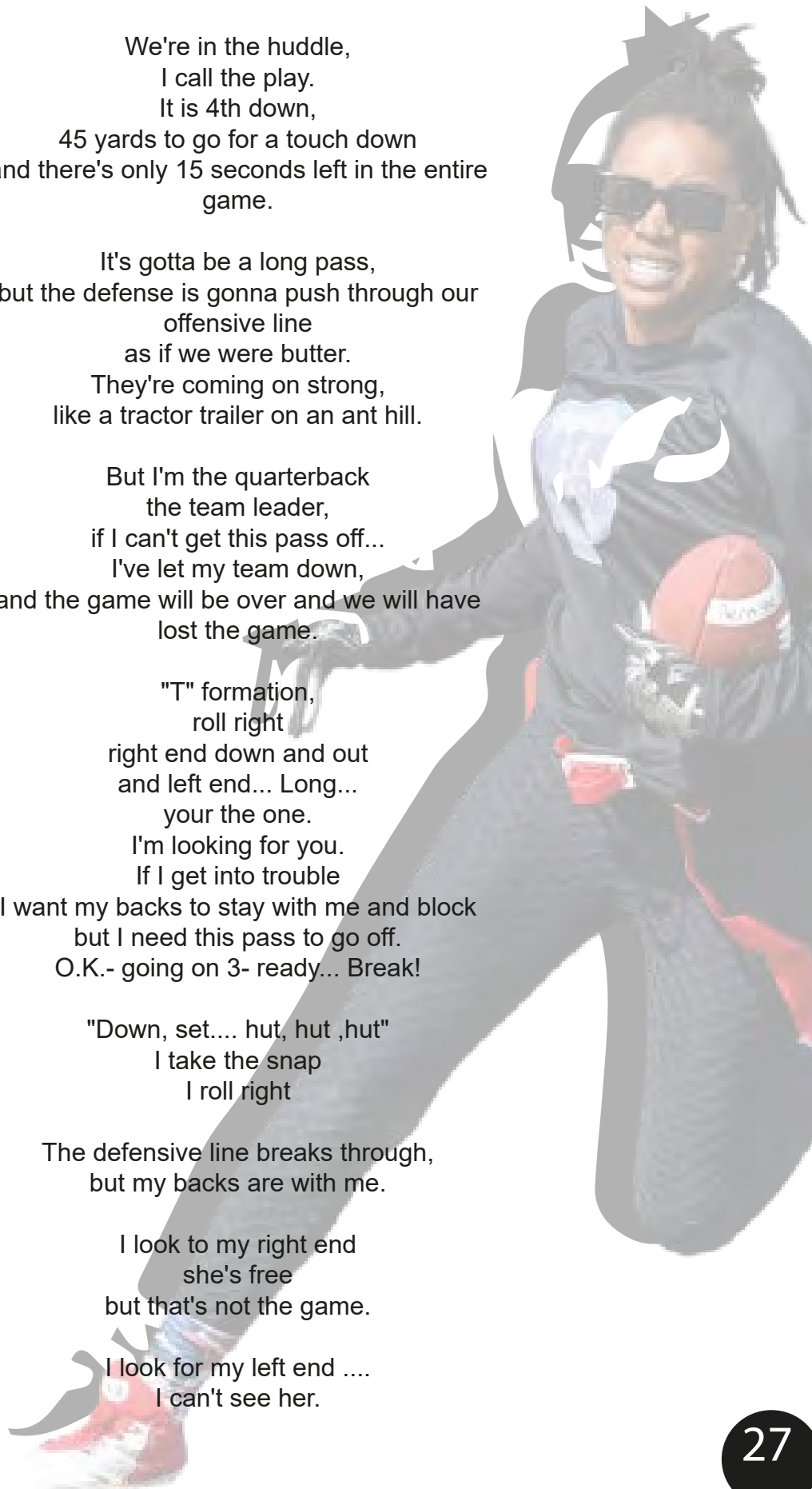
I want my backs to stay with me and block
but I need this pass to go off.
O.K.- going on 3- ready... Break!

"Down, set... hut, hut ,hut"
I take the snap
I roll right

The defensive line breaks through,
but my backs are with me.

I look to my right end
she's free
but that's not the game.

I look for my left end
I can't see her.



I feel a rush,
I'm almost scared.
My breaths are fast and heavy.
Everything is surreal.

I scramble.
"Roll left!" I yell to my backs,
and suddenly we are dancing,
synchronized, together
as if our 3 bodies were just one
flowing movement.

Just then, one of the defenders
breaks through!
I know she's gonna get me
I know she's gonna get me...
that's it,
that's the game...
This is it-
I've gotta let it go-
and I let it fly...

this ball that creates my dreams.
This ball that has so much power
over my life
This ball that I let loose off my finger-
tips,
with a strong push from my palms,
elbow, biceps, shoulders, torso, hips,
legs, feet... toes.
My whole body goes into this throw
and it's off.

Like a beautiful bird
flying serene in the air.
The strings- it's wings
are somehow guiding this ball.

I stand there - as the defender gets
me....

Then fall to the ground
I sit up from the floor
as my eyes are glued on the bird.

Bird, Bird- oh please beautiful bird...
make my dreams come true.

Oh bird, bird, beautiful bird
please land in the grateful hands
of my receiver,

Make her dreams come true too,
as well as all my other teammates...
for they have dreams too.
Oh bird, bird, beautiful bird
please find those hands that are
reaching for your skin-
reaching to grasp and make true all of
our dreams

Screams burst out,
players are jumping wildly on the field

my eyes are in disbelief
and my body frozen
breathing in another dimension of this
world
someplace I have never been before.

My teammates jump on the receiver,
my teammates carry me on their
shoulders....
I've done it.
I've made this dream come true.

I brought that beautiful bird,
beautiful bird,
beautiful bird,
into my receiver's hands,
under pressure,
under stress.
I did my job
and I've done it well.

The referee raises his hands and
shouts
"Touch Down".
The clock runs out
It's official...
we've won this game
and it's hard for anyone to believe.

I have thrown passes like this before,
I have made that beautiful bird fly
gracefully in the air
I have won games
and I have felt this excitement.

But I still dream of that manager
from a professional NFL football team
approaching me
and deciding it's time to make
women's football a professional sport.

I dream of being a professional
football player
I dream
I dream
I dream.

I don't want a big home,
or a million dollars....
I dream,
I dream,
I dream.

Written June 27, 1996
by Diane Beruldsen
President & Founder of the IWFFA

IWFFA professionalizes women's flag
football in year 2025
Any woman wanting to play profes-
sional flag football
needs to play in IWFFA tournaments
so we can recognize your talents.

FENIX NIGHTMARE



I have to share my story, everything was against us, my car broke during the trip, we had to wait 2 hours for a crane to tow my car, then we were trying to find a bus or a car, finally we found a friend or a friend who charged us a lot due to the timeframe, we started our trip 11 pm, we arrived to the border of El Salvador at 2 am and they said: you have to wait until 5 am, we're closed now, so we waited 3 hours in the bus waiting, then when they finally opened, one of our players had an issue with her ID (somehow it was gone, it disappeared) these guys were asking for money to let us in, eventually we negotiated, our game started at 9 am, and we arrived to the field at 8:50 am, my trip group was so physically tired and I was begging for a miracle even though we didn't sleep for over 26 hours, the game started and we won that match!

Just wanted to let you know that we have girls that are in love with the flag football and despite the inconveniences we never gave up!

Our group trip was Sariah Mendoza, (offensive line) Gladys López (offensive line), Vivian Maldonado (offensive line), Quetza Gomez (primary defense line) and I (QB).

We had no time to cry, just win!

IWFFA

2022

PROMOTIONAL TOUR

A whirlwind of a tour

Our promotional tours are what distinguish the International Women Flag Football Association (IWFFA) from other sports organizations.

Besides focusing on girls and women only, we travel to cities across the U.S.A. and other countries in order to help, support, develop and create teams and leagues for females. This can be through our trainings and clinics teaching how to: play flag football, coach and officiate the sport.

In 2022, the IWFFA had a very busy year around the world.

We were able to travel to most of the countries we had planned, unfortunately we had to postpone our trip to Pakistan in February due to Covid, and Honduras in March. Everything else that followed was full steam ahead.

As you read this story, you will see we had a last minute trip added, which was to Mexico City in November. The purpose was to train our Afghan flag football players, who just arrived to Mexico with asylum to start their new lives. This effort, to get our Afghan flag football players out of Afghanistan and into a safe country, is one of our proudest.

Whether your a member because you competed in one of our IWFFA tournaments, or you play in a sanctioned league or your a fan who joined the IWFFA to support us, know that your membership dues has an effect around the world for the good of women and girls.

There's more work to be done and we're doing it.





March 10
Bklyn, New York

Speaking Engagement at Fort Hamilton High School, in Brooklyn, New York

Many thanks to: Coach Lynn Milano

EL SALVADOR



March 10 - 17, 2022 - IWFFA Flag Football Festival - Colon, El Salvador, Hosted by El Salvador Women's Flag Football League ASFA. We held our first ever women's flag football festival in Central America: Colon, El Salvador. For women only, it was a week filled with camping, women workshops, cooking, eating together, singing at night and dancing, meditations and two hours of flag football trainings every day.

We focused on specific positions: QB, Receiver, Running Back, Guards, Center, Primary and Secondary Defense, Kicking then ended the week to play the Friendship Games. The women bonded and experienced something quite different which was the purpose.

It was the first time we gathered as friends and family instead of competitive teams. Women from Honduras, Guatemala, United States and El Salvador joined. Next year, 2023, we bring the IWFFA flag football festival across the ocean to a different region: Sweden for a week of womanhood and flag football.

Many thanks to organizers: Briseida Beltran, Leticia Irene De Mendoza, Daniela Beatriz Cruz Pineda, Elisa Montalvan, Karen Montalvan, Jennifer Alabi Amaya, Saydy Flores Leal, Katia ~~Maria Orellana~~ Diaz and Juan Carlos

- Click here to download the Event Program: <https://iwffa.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/iwffa-womens-festival-PROGRAM.pdf>

- Click here for website: <https://iwffa.com/iwffa-womens-flag-football-festival-2022/>

MEXICO



May 23 - 29, 2022 - 1st IWFFA-Mexico Women's Flag Football Tournament & Clinics, Hosted by IWFFA - Mexico Women's Flag Football League. Mexico City, was filled with a week of flag football trainings from May 24 till 27th. The IWFFA Mexico Women's Flag Football League hosted the 1st annual IWFFA-Mexico Women's Flag Football tournament May 28 - 29. In Mexico, 5 on 5, and 7 on 7 style flag football are very popular, and the IWFFA 8 on 8 game is fairly new. Originally, our Afghan women's flag football team were to travel to compete in Mexico, then travel to United States where they would have asylum, but this was delayed and our Afghans were not able to travel at the time. We had full week of flag football clinics, and all female officials officiating the tournament. The Mexico Linces took the championship, with Mexico Loose Women second and Vaqueros third.

Many thanks to the organizers: President Alexa Cermeño, Maria del Rocio Garcia, Brenda Gutiérrez Aguilar, and Eduardo Lopez, Elisa Montalvan, Paola Coello.

Click here

for website: <https://iwffa.com/game-schedule-mexico/>



MOROCCO

We traveled to Morocco,
July 15 - 28, 2022 –

1st IWFFA - Morocco Women's
Flag Football Tournament & Clinics.

For Morocco, we started our officiating clinic before our travels on July 11, for all the Moroccans who would become certified flag football officials. The two hour seminar and officiating test would prepare them to officiate flag football in Morocco. Diane Beruldsen, trainer for the IWFFA arrives to Morocco on July 15 along with Aisha Qazi from Pakistan, who joined the Moroccan tour to learn as much flag football from the trainings and tournament competition in order to take here experience back to her country to continue IWFFA promotions in Pakistan. This was because Covid prevented the IWFFA from traveling to Pakistan for the past 2 years and there is are teams of women in Pakistan wanting to compete flag football.

In Morocco we had intense trainings for each team, teaching how to block, huddle, conduct running plays and 8 on 8 vs their previous 5 on 5 flag football. The Moroccan Dragons brought the IWFFA to their country, after competing in the 30th Key West Kelly McGillis Classic. Their desire to change their style from 5 on 5 to 8 on 8 came into fruition immediately following the 1st IWFFA-Morocco Women's Flag Football Tournament. It was then when each team brought a representative to the table to begin the IWFFA - Morocco 8 on 8 women's flag football league. History in the making! Welcome representatives for the new league: President Salma El Azaoui, Aouane Fatima Zahra Kiitchopa, Doha Kharbouch, Kaoutar Rachidi, Safae Ait Aichte, Mziguir Sabrine and Imane Kaiss. Africa region now has a new head official: Salma Zanati. We received great media coverage thru TV, radio and podcast broadcasts. Thank you 2M TV and Cap24.

Many thanks to the great organizers: Salma El Azaoui and Fatima Zahra Aouane. Thanks also for her hard work: Aisha Qazi. Tournament results and

click here for website: <https://iwffa.com/morocco-2022/>



SWEDEN

We traveled to Sweden JULY 26 - AUGUST 8. The main purpose of our trip to Sweden was to find a venue for our: Pro Women's Flag Football League and also our flag football festival. We searched a variety of places and found a perfect venue in Hacksvick, Sweden where we will host our 2023 Flag Football Festival (see description in this issue of Forward Pass Magazine) and the perfect location for our: IWFFA Professional Women's Flag Football League starting in year 2025.

We also promoted IWFFA flag football in several cities:

Gothenburg, Hacksvick, Stromstad and Stockholm. Our clinics and trainings included players between ages 14 and 67 yr. We traveled to these cities and ended the promotions in Stockholm with flag football training and marching in the Stockholm Pride Parade.

Many thanks to: Lena Johansson, Eva Hammer, Karianne Hammer, Jona Salo, Lone Olesen and Susanne Elofsson.

click here for website:

<https://iwffa.com/sweden-2022/>



SPAIN

We traveled to Spain August 8 – 22

The IWFFA was asked in 2021, by Martha Patricia Turcios an avid flag footballer originally from El Salvador, to introduce the 8 on 8 style of flag football in Spain where 5 on 5 is their popular style. We were introduced to Raquel Gracia Laborda, who started the first all female flag football team and is president of the Zaragoza Sparrows. Her partner (and soon to be wife): Laura Bardají Rodrigo, organized a radio interview where we spoke about women's flag football in Latin America, the IWFFA and our plans for Spain. Then we met for several zoom sessions planning our 2022 trip to Spain, so it was in the making for almost a year. Our goal was to create women's 8 on 8 flag football league and end with a Friendship game. The IWFFA brought Claudia Merino Gonzalez, who played on the Sparrows team, to our 2021 Jamaica promo tour to learn as much about 8 on 8 as she could. She would bring her knowledge back to Spain and the IWFFA would then travel to Spain in 2022. I was joined by Sabria Mahboobi, one of the original Afghanistan flag football players who traveled to India in 2018, and now resides in Switzerland. There were two goals: develop Sabria as a future IWFFA trainer and start a Switzerland women's flag football team.

Our hosts Raquel and Laura kept us busy every day. We traveled to many cities and gave flag football trainings in: Madrid, Zaragoza and Sueca. Flag football teams who joined us were: Camioneros, Raptors, Mercenarios femenino and Sparrows Zaragoza. Flag Football players who joined us were: Tamara, Katey, Natasha, Jass, Alba, Helena, Angela, Aura Cristina Gomez, Natalia, Nagalia, Virginia, Jasmin, Cathryn and Cis. It was truly team work! We worked hard and took breaks by going to the beach, playing miniature golf, bowling, having picnics and really enjoying. There long drives (thanks to Laura) and lot's of hard work and our efforts were worth it as it would bring a new country to the IWFFA. We held our first Friendship Game on August 20, we had a day of half time games, and we continue to promote 8 on 8 in Spain. Plans for IWFFA-Spain Women's Flag Football Tournament are underway and set for May 20 - 21, 2023.

Many thanks to: Raquel Gracia Laborda, Laura Bardají Rodrigo, Sabria Mahboobi , Martha Patricia Turcios and all the women on the Sparrows and in Spain who joined our promotions.

click here for website: <https://iwffa.com/spain-2022/>



CAMPUS Y TORNEO ESPAÑOL DE FLAG FOOTBALL FEMENINO 8vs8

CAMPUS: AGOSTO, 18-19, 2022
TORNEO: AGOSTO, 20-21, 2022

ZONA DEPORTIVA MUNICIPAL, Carretera de la Sierra, 77
43020 Torredembarra, Tarragona

EQUIPOS FEMENINOS Y MUJERES POR INDIVIDUAL
INVITADAS A APUNTARSE: +34 915 84 52 03

MEXICO (2nd X)



Traveling to Mexico City, Mexico, November 15 - 18, 2022, was not a planned trip. But our Afghan flag football women received asylum, in Mexico, and the IWFFA traveled to greet them when they arrived in Mexico and offer flag football training. Eighteen of the thirty-seven Afghans who traveled were our flag football players, some who were part of the 2018 IWFFA India promotional tour, some who joined once the Afghan women's flag football federation was started in Afghanistan.

The women could not play for over two years because of the situation in Afghanistan. They were in hiding and not allowed to go outside. The especially were not able to play flag football, they could be killed for breaking Taliban law. On November 17, we had a 3 hour training. We had warm -ups, flag football drills, exercises and ran some pass and running plays. The women will continue to train with president of the IWFFA-Mexico womens flag football league: Alexandra Cermeño, and plans were discussed to compete in the 2023 IWFFA-Mexico women's flag football tournament May 27 - 28, 2023, to bring the Afghan team to the IWFFA Sweden Flag Football Festival 2023, and also the Key West, Kelly McGillis Classic tournament in 2024. The Afghan women will also travel to a variety of schools to play flag football and also share their stories.

Many thanks to: Greenberg Traurig - Elba Bethel Gutierrez Castillo, Daniela Reyes Rodriguez, Karla Alejandra Pena Copka, ALDEA – The People’s Justice Center - Bridget Cambria, Sahar Jalili, Programa Casa Refugiados, CEAHPAZ, Jose Luis Loera, Maria Cristina Loera Sanchez, Director Gerardo



IWFFA Flag Football Festival #2

SWEDEN HERE WE COME!

July 31 - August 6, 2023 - HACKSVIK, SWEDEN

This year we hold our Flag Football Festival in Sweden!

In a beautiful little town called: Hacksvik.

Very safe and clean and affordable.

Something completely different for our female flag football players

Women only from around the world

A week filled with unity, empowerment, fun and adventure

Fresh air, camping, hiking, canoeing, women workshops, singing, dancing, mediation

and flag football every day!

Once you arrive, you have choice to pitch a tent, or sleep indoors

Food - Lodging - All Activities Included w. your Registration

We have a busy schedule the entire week, for you to choose

if you would like to join, or you can do your own thing

7AM	Early Bird Walk
7:30	Breathing
8-9	Breakfast
10 - 11	Flag Football
11-12Noon	Workshop 1
12-1pm	Lunch
1PM -2:30	Workshop 2
2:45 - 4pm	Workshop 3
4:15 - 5:30	Flag Football
5:30 - 6:30	Dinner
6:30 - 8PM	Cafe
8PM	Women's Music
10PM	Firepit

Come join us for an experience of a lifetime

TO REGISTER:

IWFFA@IWFFA.COM

\$350 for the full week / \$60 per day

**31 ST KELLY MC GILLIS
WOMEN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
SIGN UP NOW: IWFFA@IWFFA.COM**

IWFFA

**31 ST KELLY MC GILLIS
WOMEN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
JAN 24-30 | FULL WEEK EVENT | JAN 26-30 | GAME ONLY**

TEAM FROM



IWFFA

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN
FLAG FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

**USA-SWEDEN-MOROCCO-PAKISTAN
JAMAICA-HONDURAS-SPAIN-EL SALVADOR-MÉXICO**

The Florida Keys
Key West
Close To Perfect - Far From Normal

Check out the itinerary



EXPRESS ITINERARY KMC 2023 - #31 GAMES - JAN. 27 - 28 - 29 - FRI - SAT - SUN @ WICKER FIELD COMPLEX - 3 FIELDS

TUES - PLAYERS CLINIC @ WICKER FIELD PARK - 9AM- 12 NOON
TUES - COACHING CLINIC @ WICKER FIELD PARK - 1 - 3PM
TUES - SAVE THE DRUNKN SAILOR @ HIGGS BCH - 3:30-5PM
TUES - LIVE MUSIC - DRINKS - FOOD @ GARBOS & HANKS SALOON - 409 CAROLINE - 6-8PM
TUES - GOLDEN ARM WRESTLING CONTEST @ DURTY HARRYS - 202 DUVAL - 8:30PM

WED - PLAYERS CLINIC @ WICKER FIELD PARK - 9AM- 12 NOON
WED - OFFICIATING CLINIC @ WICKER FIELD PARK - 1 - 3PM
WED - MEET KELLY MCGILLIS @ SOUTH BEACH - 4-5PM
WED - "SING" @ SIDEBAR - 504 ANGELA - 6-8PM
WED - TOILET RELAY RACE @ SHANNA KEY - 1900 FLAGLER - 9PM

THUR - PLAYERS CLINIC @ WICKER FIELD PARK - 9AM- 11AM
THUR - OFFICIATING CLINIC / CERTIFICATION @ WICKER FIELD PARK - 11-12 NOON
THUR - WOMEN SPEAKER SERIES @ LIBRARY - 700 FLEMMING - 1-3 PM
THUR - OPENING CEREMONIES @ HALF SHELL RAW BAR - 231 MARGARET - 4:30 - 6PM
THUR - KELLY'S PLAYERS PARADE - DUVAL ST - 6PM - DEPART HALF SHELL RAW BAR
THUR - REGISTRATION PARTY @ BOURBON ST PUB - 724 DUVAL - 8PM

FRI - GAMES @ WICKER FIELD COMPLEX (3 FIELDS) 8AM-5PM
FRI - FRIDAY NIGHT PARTY @ AQUA PLEX - 711 DUVAL - 8PM

SAT - GAMES @ WICKER FIELD COMPLEX (3 FIELDS) 8 AM - 6PM
SAT - Messi Burger Eating Contest - Hard Rock Cafe 7AM
SAT - SATURDAY NIGHT PARTY @ ROCK HOUSE LIVE - 135 DUVAL - 8PM

SUN - GAMES - PLAY OFFS - CHAMPIONSHIPS & WORLD CHALLENGE
SUN - AWARDS @ EL SIBONAY - 5501 5TH AVE - APPROX 8PM

MON - TRAINERS CLINIC / CERTIFICATION - 9AM - 12 NOON
MON - SPLASH POOL PARTY - NEW ORLEANS HOUSE - 12 NOON
MON - BIKE TOUR @ KEY WEST TRUMAN ANNEX - 2-4PM
MON - MONDAY TOURNAMENT DINNER @ HALF SHELL RAW BAR - 231 MARGARET - 6PM



**Sign up your team or as
a loose women
CONTACT US:
IWFFA@IWFFA.COM**

'The sun in Kabul, like many in the city, has faded.'



I am Suraya Avesta from Takhar province of Afghanistan

I became interested in sports when I used to watch sports programs on TV, and especially when I read the benefits of sports at school, I became much interested to play a sport. But unfortunately, there were no women's sports clubs in the province where we lived, because women's sports were considered a disadvantage in culture and contrary to our religious belief. After I graduated from 12th class, I came to Kabul to get higher education. At the same time I was looking for a sport, so that I could find a sports club for myself. Contrary to the traditional expectations of a girl, I started Taekwondo. After practicing for some times, the trainer told me, "Your physique is very weak. You have to work out for a while to strengthen your bones. Then come and start Taekwondo, as you do not get results from this type of exercise and you will harm yourself." As per the advice of Trainer, I left Taekwondo and started fitness until one day in the stadium inside the university I saw that the girls were training a team game, I went closer and watched the game, I liked it very much, at the end of the game, I asked the team manager What is the name of this sport and what are the conditions for participating in it? The manager replied with a smile that, "It's called Women's Flag Football, it's an American Game, its International Women Flag Football Association is in USA. He added that if you are interested, there are no difficult conditions to start this game. He gave me a mobile number, the next day I called, he sent me a form, and I filled it and then became a member of the Afghanistan women's football association.

We used to practice at Kabul University stadium on weekends. I was very happy that I had started my favorite sport. Practicing football flag was removing all the tiredness and discomfort of the week. I wanted to become a coach and willingly go and teach this sport to other girls in my province, so that they could also connect with the world through this sport, help each other, and be ready to fight against the traditional society.



I wanted to participate in international competitions and raise the tricolor flag of my country.

Unfortunately, after the fall of Kabul to the Taliban, all my dreams were dashed. Because women's sports clubs have been closed across Afghanistan, women athletes have been living in secret since the fall of the provinces. "The day the Taliban entered Kabul, I was very scared. The morning I woke up, I felt, 'The sun in Kabul, like many in the city, has faded.' But I told myself that when I went to practice, my mood would improve again. The 11 a.m. Kabul time signaled the sudden arrival of Taliban fighters in the city, and I, in a hurry, had to cancel my appointment with the girls to practice football and said goodbye to them. I came home and packed my important and necessary items and moved to another area of Kabul. Now I live secretly out of the sight of those who know me. Now that the Taliban has come, it has taken everything I want from me, and that is very painful. We cry every day. We hate. I can't exercise like I used to, I can't continue my studies, and I can't work like I used to. In addition to sports, I have studied dentistry and computer science. Lately, in addition to sports and classes, I had been working in one of the offices and as the eldest daughter of the family, I have always encouraged and modeled my sisters, but now that my sisters ask me, will schools open again? Can we go to university? Can we work? I have no answer to them and I spend my day and night in an unknown and stressful situation.

Suraya was one of the lucky ones, she was part of our first group of flag football players to arrive to Mexico City on November 16, 2022.

And now she can begin her new life.



IWFFA TEAM RANKINGS 2022

30 KELLY MCGILLIS CLASSIC RESULTS WOMEN'S HIGHER DIVISION

MVPS

TEAM	OFFENSE	DEFENSE
1ST CAT 5	BELINDA ALFONSO	ASHLEY TEGGART
2ND BLUE WAVE	MORGAN LINDBERG	AMANDA
3RD ST LOUIS LOGOS	KILEY LEWIS	JONEL CULEMAN
4TH LADY EAGLES	#0	MALIKA MOODY
5TH HONDURAS AQUA	KENIA GARCIA	GABY MURILLO
6TH BT ALL STARS	BRITNEY POPE	ERIN DIETTE

ALL STARS

OFFENSE

POSITION	PLAYER	TEAM
QB	BELINDA ALFONSO	CAT 5
RB	JONEL CULEMAN	BLUE WAVE
RB	ERIN DIETTE	BT ALL STARS
RC	KHARA HARMON	ST LOUIS LOGOS
RC	KENIA GARCIA	HONDURAS AQUA
OL	MARCY	ST LOUIS LOGOS
OL	#77	ST LOUIS LOGOS
CENTER	ERIN #69	BLUE WAVE
PUNTER	ANA RAMOS	HONDURAS AQUA

POSITION	PLAYER	TEAM
PRIMARY	JOYA GREENWOOD	LADY EAGLES
PRIMARY	#25	BLUE WAVE
PRIMARY	GABRIELA MURILLO	HONDURAS AQUA
SECONDARY	KAYLA BENOIT	ST LOUIS LOGOS
SECONDARY	MELISSA SEARLE	ST LOUIS LOGOS
SECONDARY	MARIA JOSE AGUIGURE	HONDURAS AQUA
SAFETY	ANGIE #23	ST LOUIS LOGOS
SAFETY	AMANDA	BLUE WAVE
KICKER	NO KICKER	NO KICKER

DEFENSE



WOMEN'S LOWER DIVISION

MVPS

TEAM	OFFENSE	DEFENSE
1ST FIRST ORDER	ALEXA RIVERA	HANNA CURTIS
2ND RFTN SOSA	CAMISHA	KARENY ESCOBAR
3RD LOOSE WOMEN FAIRVILLA	NAOMI POWELL	DANA-JEAN PATTERSON
4TH MOROCCO DRAGONS	AMINA SOUR	NAZEK
5TH KEY WEST	LUCY	REBECCA NEWTON
6TH BIG PINE WOMEN	VALERIA	TANIA

ALL STARS

OFFENSE

POSITION	PLAYER	TEAM
QB	DENY BARBOSA	FIRST ORDER
RB	NAOMI POWELL	LOOSE WOMEN
RB	THANIA	BIG PINE
RC	GISSELLE QUINTERO	RFTN SOSA
RC	ALEXA RIVERA	FIRST ORDER
OL	DEVONEICIA MCDONALD	LOOSE WOMEN
OL	REBECCA NEWTON	KEY WEST LEOS
CENTER	EL HASSANIA BOUJRAD	MOROCCO DRAGONS
PUNTER	FELICIA ALTHOUSE	FIRST ORDER

POSITION	PLAYER	TEAM
PRIMARY	AMOY GREEN	LOOSE WOMEN
PRIMARY	KARENY ESCOBAR	RFTN SOSA
PRIMARY	MELISSA DUNNE	FIRST ORDER
SECONDARY	AMINA SOUR	MOROCCO DRAGONS
SECONDARY	LAMESHA POITER	RFTN SOSA
SECONDARY	ABIGAIL BARRET	BIG PINE WOMEN
SAFETY	DANA-JEAN PATTERSON	LOOSE WOMEN
SAFETY	FATIMA AOUANE	MOROCCO DRAGONS
KICKER	MAJDA MANSOURI	MOROCCO DRAGON

DEFENSE



JUNIOR'S DIVISION

MVPS

TEAM	OFFENSE	DEFENSE
1ST MARATHON FL. LOBSTER &	ELANA EUBANKS	KAYSHA CHRISTIAN
2ND HOB 1 FAUSTOS	KEILY CARDONA-QUICHE	JAELYNN AYVIS MORGAN
3RD KWHS PRIBRAMSKY & CO	GABBY PINC	DORCELIE JUSTE
4TH HOB 2 GARY'S PLUMBING	MARIEL NOEL	MARY ELLEN SEARCY
5TH SUGARLOAF BERKSHIRE	AVA ARTIGUE	JANISE OLSEN
6TH KEY LARGO H.S.	ADRIANA URBAY	RACHEL DE LA OSA

ALL STARS

OFFENSE

POSITION	PLAYER	TEAM
QB	ELANA EUBANKS	MARATHON FL. LOBSTER & BARNES
RUNNING BACK	DAKOTA LETTIE	SUGARLOAF BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
RUNNING BACK	EMILY CANO	HOB 2 GARY'S PLUMBING
RECEIVER	JAYLA HICKS	HOB 1 FAUSTOS
RECEIVER	PAYTON JUNKER	MARATHON FL. LOBSTER & BARNES
CENTER	CHLEYKA SINE	KWHS
GUARD	GABBY PINC	KWHS
GUARD	JAYONNA RUIZ	HOB 1 FAUSTOS
PUNTER	SCARLETT CHMIELEWSKI	KEY LARGO

POSITION	PLAYER	TEAM
PRIMARY	PYPER WINEMILLER	SUGARLOAF BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
PRIMARY	AIVY NGUYEN	MARATHON FL. LOBSTER & BARNES
PRIMARY	SAMANTHA MESA	KEY LARGO
SECONDARY	DORCELIE JUSTE	KWHS
SECONDARY	KEILY CARDONA-QUICHE	HOB 1 FAUSTOS
SECONDARY	KENDALL JULIANA	SUGARLOAF BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
SAFETY	MARY ELLEN SEARCY	HOB 2 GARY'S PLUMBING
SAFETY	LONDON ATKINS	KEY LARGO
KICKER	CONNER BOURGAULT	HOB 2 GARY'S PLUMBING

DEFENSE



GIRLS DIVISION

MVPS

TEAM	OFFENSE	DEFENSE
1ST MARATHON MERMAIDS	SUTTON SAYER	ASHLEY STRAMA
2ND SUGARLOAF SPARK CHASER	JOURNEY LAMB	JAYCEE THRELKELD
3RD POINCIANA THURSDAY PIT	ALANSHA CAMELUS	NEDJY LOUIS
4TH SIGSBEE - MIX ISLE SMILE	MIRIUM MCMANUS	VIOLET EVANS
5TH GERALD ADAMS 8 AM	ALIYAH MORALES	ROSE PEREZ
6TH PO 2 TERMINIX	EMMA ANTON	GABRIELLA PICHARDO
7TH PO 1 SUNRISE ROTARY	BERLYNSA BERSON	GENESIS RODRIGUEZ
8TH BIG PINE GIRLS JRC	MACI SEASTRAND-STONE	KATELYN CHOJNOWSKI
9TH GERALD ADAMS 10AM DOC	FRESNICA PIERRE LOUIS	CHRIST CHARLES



ALL STARS



OFFENSE

POSITION	PLAYER	TEAM
QB	SUTTON SAYER	MARATHON MERMAIDS
RUNNING BACK	EMMA ANTON	PO 2 TERMINIX
RUNNING BACK	CARLEY GIRON	MARATHON MERMAIDS
RECEIVER	LILLY THRELKELD	SUGARLOAF SPARK CHASER
RECEIVER	SHAINA ROBINSON	MARATHON MERMAIDS
CENTER	DIANE PIERRE	GERALD ADAMS 10AM DOC GUZMAN
GUARD	ALANSHA CAMELUS	PO THUR PIT STOP
GUARD	GRACE GILBERT	SIGBEE MIX ISLE SMILE
PUNTER	BERLYNSA BERSON	PO 1 SUNRISE ROTARY

POSITION	PLAYER	TEAM
PRIMARY	GABBY PICHARDO	PO 1 SUNRISE ROTARY
RIMARY	GENESIS RODRIGUEZ	PO 1 SUNRISE ROTARY
RIMARY	ARYANA FERNANDEZ	MARATHON MERMAIDS
SECONDARY	JAYCEE THRELKELD	SUGARLOAF SPARK CHASER
SECONDARY	MIRIAM MCMANUS	SIGBEE MIX ISLE SMILE
SECONDARY	MACI SEASTRAND-STONE	BIG PINE GIRLS JRC
SAFETY	AVERIE KOVACH	PO 2 TERMINIX
SAFETY	NADIA LOUIS	GA 10 AM DOC GUZMAN
KICKER	JOURNEY LAMB	SUGARLOAF SPARK CHASER

DEFENSE



1ST MEXICO TOURNAMENT

MVPS

TEAM	OFFENSE	DEFENSE
1ST LINCES	ALEXA CERMENO	PAOLA SILVEIRA
2ND LOOSE WOMEN	TANIA GASCON	REGINA CABRERA
3RD VAQUEROS	XIADIANI SORIANO	GABRIELA RANGEL

ALL STARS

OFFENSE

POSITION	PLAYER	TEAM
QB	ALEXA CERMENO	LINCES
RUNNING BACK	MARTINA GONZALEZ	MEXICO LOOSE WOMEN
RUNNING BACK	XIADIANI SORIANO	VAQUEROS XOCHIMILCO
RECEIVER	MARGARITA TELLES	LINCES
RECEIVER	GEORGINA LLANAS	LINCES
GUARD	PAOLA COELLO	MEXICO LOOSE WOMEN
GUARD	KARLA RODRIGUEZ	MEXICO LOOSE WOMEN
CENTER	GUADALUPE RAMIREZ	VAQUEROS XOCHIMILCO
PUNTER	PAOLA AYALA	MEXICO LOOSE WOMEN



POSITION	PLAYER	TEAM
PRIMARY	ELISA CHAVEZ	MEXICO LOOSE WOMEN
PRIMARY	ARIADNA REYES	LINCES
PRIMARY	ITZEL RIVAS	LINCES
SECONDARY	REGINA CABRERA	MEXICO LOOSE WOMEN
SECONDARY	FRIDA RAMIREZ	VAQUEROS XOCHIMILCO
SECONDARY	LIZETH GONZALEZ	VAQUEROS XOCHIMILCO
SAFETY	TANIA GASCON	MEXICO LOOSE WOMEN
SAFETY	PAOLA SILVEIRA	LINCES
KICKER	ISABELLA GUTIERREZ	MEXICO LOOSE WOMEN

DEFENSE



5TH EL SALVADOR TOURNAMENT

MVPS

TEAM	OFFENSE	DEFENSE
1ST HONDURAS DOLPHINS	IVETTE MARIANA FUNEZ	PAOLA COELLO
2ND HONDURAS EAGLES	KENSSY FAVIOLA	ARLETH LARISSA REYES
3RD EL SALVADOR BARBARIANS	OLGA MARIA RODRIGUEZ	NINI GABRIELA SALINAS
4TH HONDURAS PANTERAS	SARAH MIKAELA	ANA CELESTE CASTRO
5TH GUATEMALA LIBELULAS	ALEJANDRA MICHEL	CINTIA DESSIREE CRUZ
6TH GUATEMALA FENIX	WENDY MELISSA CRUZ	RAQUEL GOMEZ
7TH GUATEMALA TITANES	ASTRID GABRIELA	LIZY MARLENY WOC
8TH EL SALVADOR CUSTALECAS	KATIA MARIA ORELLANA	KATY GARCIA

ALL STARS

OFFENSE

POSITION	PLAYER	TEAM
QUARTERBACK	CAMILA JESUS ZELAYA	EAGLES
RUNNING BACK	IVETTE MARIANA FUNES	DOLPHINS
RUNNING BACK	FABIOLA RAMOS RAUDALES	EAGLES
GUARD	JANNY CAROLINA GARCIA	PANTERAS
GUARD	MARTHA MARISOL MEZA	EAGLES
CENTER	YOJHANA PACHECO CASTRO	DOLPHINS
RECEIVER	MELANIE JOHANA FERRERA	PANTERAS
RECEIVER	KATERINE LISBETH HERRERA	BARBARIANS
PUNTER	KATERINE LISBETH HERRERA	BARBARIANS

POSITION	PLAYER	TEAM
PRIMARY	RAQUEL QUETZALY GOMEZ	FENIX
PRIMARY	ARLETH LARISSA REYES	EAGLES
PRIMARY	LOREN YELENA MATUTE	DOLPHINS
SECONDARY	PARIS JUDITH GODOY	PANTERAS
SECONDARY	DELI RUTH CAMPOS CORTEZ	BARBARIANS
SECONDARY	SOANNY HERNANDEZ	EAGLES
SAFETY	KATY GARCIA ECHEVERRÍA	CUSCATLECAS
SAFETY	CAMILA JESUS ZELAYA	EAGLES
KICKER	WENDY MELISSA CRUZ	FENIX

DEFENSE



1ST MOROCCO TOURNAMENT

MVPS

TEAM	OFFENSE	DEFENSE
1ST DRAGONS & BLACK MAMAS	AMINA SOUR	IMANE ELMEJDOUB
2ND PHOENIX	AIT AICHTE SAFAE	BOUCHRA LAMGHARI
3RD MAVERICKS & HAWKS	CHADIA IDRISSE	DOHA KHARBOUCH
4TH TITANS - LIONS - BULLS	SALWA BOUROUIHIYA	KAOUTAR RACHIDI

ALL STARS

OFFENSE

POSITION	PLAYER	TEAM
QB	IMANE ELMEJDOUB	DRAGONS & BLACK MAMAS
RUNNING BACK	BOUCHRA LAMGHARI	PHOENIX
RUNNING BACK	AMINA SOUR	DRAGONS & BLACK MAMAS
RECEIVER	MALAK BENTOUJJA	DRAGONS & BLACK MAMAS
RECEIVER	FATIMA ZAHRA AOUANE	DRAGONS & BLACK MAMAS
GUARD	IMANE ASSEFFAR	PHOENIX
GUARD	MALIKA CHOUBRI	MAVERICKS & HAWKS
CENTER	HAJAR BOUGHABA	TITANS-LIONS-BULLS
PUNTER	AABIR	SEKHER



POSITION	PLAYER	TEAM
PRIMARY	GHOUFRA HISSOUFA	PHOENIX
PRIMARY	CHADIA IDRISSE	MAVERICKS & HAWKS
PRIMARY	CHADIA CHAMAMI	TITANS-LIONS-BULLS
PRIMARY	CHAKROUN SOUKAINA	DRAGONS & BLACK MAMAS
SECONDARY	SALOUA JAGHAR	TITANS-LIONS-BULLS
SECONDARY	DOHA KHARBOUCH	MAVERICKS & HAWKS
SAFETY	HALIMA EL KASAIRI	MAVERICKS & HAWKS
SAFETY	AIT AICHTE SAFAE	PHOENIX
KICKER	SALAMA EL AZAOUI	DRAGONS & BLACK MAMAS

DEFENSE



1ST SPAIN TOURNAMENT

MVPS

TEAM	OFFENSE	DEFENSE
1ST SPAIN RED TEAM	ALMA RODRÍGUEZ	LAURA BARDAJÍ
2ND SPAIN BLUE TEAM	MARTA GONZALEZ	NATASHA JOSEPH

16TH PTOWN TOURNAMENT

MVPS

TEAM	OFFENSE	DEFENSE
1ST BLUE WAVE	GABI GWYNNE OLIVER	PAM DENOMME
2ND RI HURRICANES	EMMA STRAND	LISA VINCENT
3RD CAPE COD MIX	ASHLEY SMITH	MORGAN LEFEGED
4TH PTOWN LOOSE WOMEN	MADDY MCDOWELL	JILL MCNALLY

ALL STARS

DEFENSE OFFENSE

POSITION	PLAYER	TEAM
QB	AMANDA GOETZ	BLUE WAVE
QB	MORGAN LINDBERG	BLUE WAVE
RUNNING BACK	MICHELLE FRANCES RIZZUTO	BLUE WAVE
RUNNING BACK	MADDY MCDOWELL	PTOWN LOOSE WOMEN
RECEIVER	GABRIELLA GWYNNE OLIVER	BLUE WAVE
RECEIVER	NICOLE BOUCHER	RI HURRICANES
CENTER	LISA WILLIAMS	PTOWN LOOSE WOMEN
GUARD	KEAIRA PERRY	RI HURRICANES

POSITION	PLAYER	TEAM
PRIMARY	PAM DENOMME	BLUE WAVE
PRIMARY	ISABEL GREEN	MIX CAPE COD
PRIMARY	LISA VINCENT	RI HURRICANES
SECONDARY	MORGAN LEFEGED	MIX CAPE COD
SECONDARY	JILL MCNALLY	PTOWN LOOSE WOMEN
SECONDARY	JODY GAUTHIER	BLUE WAVE
SECONDARY	JUNE MALONEY	PTOWN LOOSE WOMEN
SAFETY	FAITH ROBINSON	RI HURRICANES
KICKER	ERIN DIETTE	RI HURRICANES

7TH GUATEMALA'S TOURNAMENT

MVPS

TEAM	OFFENSE	DEFENSE
1ST PANTERAS	MIKAELA FERRARI	LARISSA SALGADO
2ND LOOSE TEAM	DIGNA ORTIZ	PAOLA COELLO
3RD LIBELULAS	LUCIA TORRES	CAROLAYN VALIENTE
4TH EL SALVADOR	OLGA FLORES	ELI MONTALVAN
5TH TITANES	PAOLA ROJAS	ALEJANDRA ALVAREZ

ALL STARS

OFFENSE



POSITION	PLAYER	TEAM
QB	GABRIELA JIMENEZ	PANTERAS
RUNNING BACK	RAQUEL SAUCERA	LOOSE TEAM
RUNNING BACK	GABRIELA GONZÁLEZ	TITANES
RECEIVER	DIGNA ORTIZ	LOOSE TEAM
RECEIVER	MIKAELA FERRARI	PANTERAS
OFFENSIVE LINE	NIDIA ESPINOZA	EL SALVADOR
OFFENSIVE	ADRIANA ALVAREZ	TITANES
CENTER	MISHEL MONTERROZA	LIBELULAS
PUNTER	CAROLAYN VALIENTE	LIBELULAS

POSITION	PLAYER	TEAM
PRIMARY	LINDA LOPEZ	LIBELULAS
PRIMARY	LARISSA SALGADO	PANTERAS
PRIMARY	PAOLA COELLO	LOOSE TEAM
SECONDARY	JULIA MORALES	EL SALVADOR
SECONDARY	ELI MONTALVAN	EL SALVADOR
SECONDARY	ALEJANDRA FLORES	LIBELULAS
SECONDARY	ANA CASTRO	PANTERAS
SAFETY	OLGA FLORES	EL SALVADOR
KICKER	ALEJANDRA ALVAREZ	TITANES

DEFENSE

FINAL RANKING 2022

RANK	TEAM	POINT DIFFERENTIAL	RANK PTS ACRUED	TOTAL PTS
1st	Honduras Panteras	39	13 + 6 = 19	19
2nd	MOROCCO DRAGONS & BLACK MAMBAS	15	13 + 5	18
3rd	BLUE WAVE		8 + 9	17
4th	Cat5	69	6+3+3+1=13	14
5th	First Order	78	6+3+3+1=13	13
6th	HONDURAS DOLPHINS	42	5 + 3 + 3 + 1 = 12	12
7th	HONDURAS EAGLES	28	6 + 3 + 1 = 10	10
8th	GUATEMALA LOOSE WOMEN	21	4 + 3 + 1 = 8	8
9th	GUATEMALA LIBELULAS	8	3 + 5	8
10th	RI HURRICANES	50	6 + 1 = 7	7
11th	RFTN Sosa	-12	3+3+1=7	7
12th	FAIRVILLA Loose Women	26	5+1=6	6
13th	Mexico Lince	6		6
14th	Morocco Phoenix	-1	2 + 3 + 1 = 6	6
15th	EL SALVADOR BARBARIANS	23	4 + 1 = 5	5
16th	St Louis Logos	-10	3+1=4 - 5	5
17th	Lady Eagles	-28	2+1=3 - 4	4
18th	Honduras	-25	2+1=3 - 4	4
19th	Mexico Vaqueros	-1		3
20th	MOROCCO MAVERICKS & HAWKS	-2	2 + 1 = 3	3
21st	Mexico Loose Women	-5		3
22nd	El Salvador	-11	2 + 1 = 3	3
23rd	GUATEMALA FENIX	-12	2 + 1 = 3	3
24th	MOROCCO TITANS & LIONS & BULLS	-12		3
25th	CAPE COD MIX	-47	2 + 1 = 3	3
26th	BT All Stars	-34		2
27th	GUATEMALA TITANES	-39	1 + 1	2
28th	SPAIN BLUE	6		1.5
29th	KW Leo's	-39		1
30th	EL SALVADOR CUSTALECAS	-52		1
31st	PTOWN LOOSE WOMEN	-53		1
32th	Big Pine	-65		1
33th	SPAIN RED	-6		1



1

HONDURAS
PANTERAS TEAM IN
GUATEMALA'S TOURNAMENT

FINAL RANKING WOMEN'S DIVISION 2022



CAT 5

Barry Frankel
Stacy Palani Photography.com

WOMEN HIGHER DIVISION

RANK	TEAM
1st	Cat 5
2nd	Blue Wave
3rd	St Louis Logos
4th	Lady Eagles
5th	Honduras
6th	BT All Stars

WOMEN LOWER DIVISION

RANK	TEAM
1st	First Order
2nd	RFTN Sosa
3rd	Loose Women
4th	Morocco Dragons
5th	KW Leo's
6th	Big Pine Women



FIRST ORDER

Barry Frankel
Stacy Palani Photography.com

FINAL RANKING JUNIORS AND GIRLS DIVISION 2022

JUNIORS DIVISION

RANK	TEAM
1st	MARATHON JR
2nd	HOB1-JR
3rd	KWHS -JR
4th	HOB2-JR
5th	SUGARLOAF
6th	KEY LARGO



Marathon JR BARNES & FL. LOBSTER

GIRLS DIVISION

RANK	TEAM
1st	MARATHON MERMAIDS
2nd	SUGARLOAF SPARK CHASER
3rd	MIX-SIGSBEE ISLE SMILE
4th	PO 1 SUNRISE ROTARY
5th	GA 8 PARADISE DENTAL
6th	PO TERMINEX
7th	BIG PINE JRC
8th	GA DOC GUZMAN
9th	PO PIT STOP



Marathon Mermaids Team

SPECIAL AWARDS 2022



IWFFA
International Women's
Flag Football Association

2021 PORTER WILSON AWARD IWFFA'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

TO THE PERSON/ GROUP WHO HAS DONE
SO MUCH FOR FEMALE FLAG FOOTBALL

SAVING THE LIVES OF OUR FLAG FOOTBALL
PLAYERS IN AFGHANISTAN

ALDEA - THE PEOPLE'S JUSTICE CENTER
BRIDGET CAMBRIA
SAHAR JALILI
JACKIE KLINE



IWFFA
International Women's
Flag Football Association

2021 IWFFA SPORTSWOMAN NORTH AMERICAN REGION

LISA HORTON
PITTSBURGH - USA



IWFFA
International Women's
Flag Football Association

2021 IWFFA SPORTSWOMAN LATIN REGION

TANIA MAYDE BARRERA
ZEPEDA
GUATEMALA



IWFFA
International Women's
Flag Football Association

2021 IWFFA SPORTS GIRL AWARD

DORCELIE JUSTE
FLORIDA - USA

"You are never too small to make a difference."

Greta Thunberg
climate activist

Hello Sisters, I am a queer, feminist, artist, writer, cook, volunteer and all around troublemaker, pleased to make your acquaintance! I recently learned of iwffa and I was thrilled to be asked to be a contributor to your newsletter. It is my hope to add my art and opinions, sprinkled with a recipe or two, focusing on the mission of empowering women and girls around the globe. Happy New Year to old & new friends in 2023.

Trouble Mandeson, Greenfield, MA



What people are saying...

THESE WOMEN: AN ILLUSTRATED COLLECTION OF KICKASS WOMEN

"Kudos to the artist for bringing these interesting and colorful women to the forefront." Lara C.

"Brilliant, creative, enlightening and amusing! Thank you!" N. Barrister

"It's a great read and you'll very likely learn something new, maybe about the story behind paper bags (hint: kickass woman involved)." Anne Thalheimer, *Xerography Debt: The Zine Review Zine #51*, Jan 2022

A HANDBOOK TO SMASHING THE PATRIARCHY

"A clear and well-curated guide to understanding why the patriarchy is still the prevalent modus operandi and what we can do to transform that reality for ourselves and the future inhabitants of this planet." Astranada (business owner, mother, and seeker of a better/fairer way to live).

"It's an insightful declarative reality check and a terrific learning experience. Outstanding concise work!" M. M.

**Women-featured comics
and 'zines
available for purchase at
[Etsy.com/shop/
TreasuresbyTrouble](https://www.etsy.com/shop/TreasuresbyTrouble)**

Contact me at wildferalfemme@gmail.com,
I love to barter/trade for art!

2023 IWFFA TOURNAMENTS



January

31th Kelly McGillis Classic
International Women & Girls
Flag Football Championship,
Key West, Florida, USA

26-30 /GAMES ONLY
Full week of events 24-30

February

1st Pakistan, Quetta

25-26

March

April

1st Honduras, Tegucigalpa

April 15 - 16

May

1st Spain, Ciudad de Leones

20-21

2nd México City, México

27-28

June

6th San Salvador, El Salvador
Hosted by ASFA

24-25

July

2nd Morocco, Rabat
1-2

5th Cuba, Havana Friendship
Game

IWFFA Flag Football Festival -
HACKSVIK, SWEDEN
31 - July - August 6

August

IWFFA Flag Football Festival -
HACKSVIK, SWEDEN

31 (July) - August 6

September

17th IWFFA Ptown Classic,
Provincetown,
Massachusetts

15-18

October

2nd Kingston, Jamaica
Clinics

7-8

November

8th Guatemala City,
Guatemala
Hosted by Guatemala Women
flag football league

4-5

December