

FOOTBALL MANITOBA

**FOOTBALL
MANITOBA**

>>> NEWSLETTER

Greetings to all on behalf of Football Manitoba!

As we soon arrive at the beginning of 2026, I want to take a few moments to reflect on the year that was 2025, in regards to football in Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario.

I had a thought at some point in the middle of 2025, that we are in the middle of the Golden Age of football in this province. We have seen enormous growth in our tackle football numbers, and even larger growth in flag. We have, for the first time ever, over 10,000 unique registered participants in football programs in Manitoba and NW Ontario. That's a big number, and an even bigger achievement for our football community.

In addition, we have financial stability in our member clubs, leagues and with Football Manitoba, as well as a flourishing WHSFL. That's before we mention the success that the Blue Bombers and the Bisons have had in the last few seasons, and the growth that the Rifles and Fearless have shown as well. It truly is a Golden Age for football, and we have the privilege of living it.

I think even more important than all of those achievements, and the real root of our recent successes, comes from our tight-knit community and their willingness to work together. Football Manitoba has board representation from minor football in Manitoba and Thunder Bay, high school football across multiple divisions, girl's tackle football, non-contact football and more. This is a representation of the state of our community, united and working together toward the betterment and growth of the sport. While we have come a long way in this area, I think we have an opportunity to be even stronger.

We had a terrible accident occur recently involving one of our young football players. Darius "Dee" Hartshorne died tragically after being injured in a high school football game. It was a difficult and trying time for all of our football community. I had the honour of attending this young man's memorial service, and what I saw was overwhelming. I saw people there to support his friends and family from all high school teams across the province, from the referee's association, from Bison football and the Winnipeg Football Club, amongst many others. I even saw some of the officials from the Grey Cup game there to offer support. It was a true embodiment of what the football community can do - come together and be united like no other group.

In summation, 2025 was a great year for football and for Football Manitoba. I sincerely look forward to an even better 2026!

Happy holidays to all, and all the best into the new year!

Bill Johnson, Executive Director

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As Winter arrives, we're thrilled to continue to share new programs, updates, and opportunities for everyone in our football community. Check out what's coming up in flag, tackle, coaching, officiating, and more!

Warm wishes for a wonderful Winter season from Football Manitoba!

GENERAL INFORMATION

>>> REES - RESPECT, EDUCATE, EMPOWER SURVIVORS

Have you or someone you know been a victim to assault or harassment in the football community? Football Manitoba has a partnership with REES, a 24/7 online platform for reporting bullying, abuse, harassment and discrimination.

REES includes multiple reporting options, including anonymous, and information about resources and supports available in the community, while gathering critical data and insights that can be used by Football Manitoba to inform prevention and awareness strategies.



[MORE INFORMATION ON REES](#)

>>> FOOTBALL MANITOBA MEGA RAFFLE 2025

Congratulations to the winners of the 2025 raffle!

\$20,000 - Lorna - supported MFGA

\$5,000 - Jessica - supported Mustangs

\$1,500 - Dana - supported Mustangs

More than \$106,000+ was fundraised for amateur football in Manitoba!

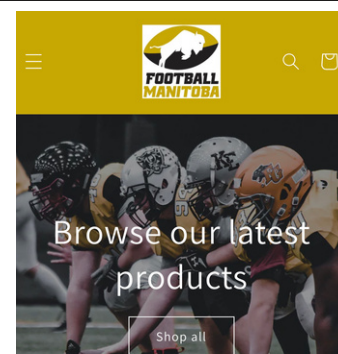


>>> ONLINE STORE

Looking for that perfect gift for the football fanatic in your life? Check out our online store for your favourite Football Manitoba products. Order by December 15th to ensure your order is ready before the holidays!

Orders able to be picked up at the Football Manitoba office or shipped right to your doorstep!

[VISIT THE STORE TODAY!](#)



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As we wrap up an incredible fall season, we are proud to celebrate the achievements of our tackle football community and share exciting updates for the months ahead. As football in our provinces continues to grow, we hope to keep momentum into 2026!

TACKLE FOOTBALL

>>> LEAGUE SEASON RESULTS

MMFA Champions

- U16 Bantam – St. Vital Mustangs
- U14 Laura Shea Division – Charleswood Broncos
- U12 Kathy Joshua Division – North Winnipeg Nomads
- U14 Neil & Yvonne Hansen Division – St. Vital Mustangs
- U12 Dan Fontaine Division – Charleswood Broncos

MGFA Champions

- St. Vital Mustangs

TBMFA Champions

- U8 – Crush
- U10 – Knights
- U12 – Redblacks
- U14 – Lions

MMJFL Champions

- Eastside Eagles

RMFL Champions

- Murray Black Cup - Neepawa Tigers
- Doug Steeves Cup - Interlake Thunder

WHSFL Champions

- Bramwell Bowl AAAA – Crocus Plains
- Home Sports Bowl JV 12 – Oak Park
- Brian Marks Bowl JV 9 – Miles Mac
- ANAVETS AAAA – Oak Park
- Gustafson AAAA – Elmwood
- Currie AAA – St. Norbert



>>> WHSFL COMBINE - DECEMBER 7TH, 2025

Athletes looking to test, compete and get noticed are invited to register for the WHSFL Combine taking place on December 7th at the University of Winnipeg RecPlex.

Cost: \$50

Participants will be placed into a session at 2:30pm or 4:30pm.

University and Junior program coaches from the Bisons, Rifles and Majors are invited to attend and evaluate



>>> U16 GIRLS - TRY TACKLE CAMP

Football Manitoba is *proud* to announce the addition of a U16 Girls tackle team for the 2026 season! Females aged 12-15 are encouraged to participate in the upcoming Girls Try Tackle camps throughout winter and spring to prepare for future evaluations.



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Although Winter is here, flag football runs year-round! With many exciting opportunities, we hope you'll find something that will keep you moving and involved!

Stay tuned for new flag camps, programs and leagues as we keep the momentum strong headed into 2026!

FLAG FOOTBALL

>>> FLAG HIGH PERFORMANCE

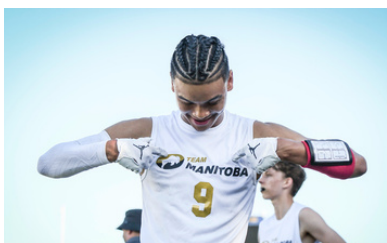
Another season of flag high performance is about to kick off and we have all the information to share with you so you don't miss out!

The evaluation process kicks off on January 4th with a Prep Camp that prepares athletes for the skills, drills and assessments of the ID Camps. Athletes will then partake in two ID Camp sessions, on each of January 11th and 18th.

Athletes that pass the first evaluations will get to practice with the team until final rosters are selected before the tournament which takes place May 15th-18th.

Registration for the evaluation process closes December 31st! Register now to secure your spot!

[REGISTER FOR HIGH
PERFORMANCE FLAG](#)

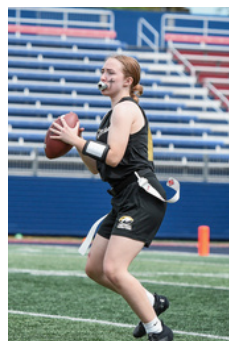


>>> NFL WINTER FLAG

NFL Winter flag is back and we are ready to get you onto the field at the Axworthy Health and RecPlex!

Registration for the NFL Winter flag season is currently full. New registrants will be added to a waitlist!

[FLAG FAQs](#)



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>>> NEWSLETTER

The offseason is the perfect time to take some certification courses for next year, or make some extra cash by becoming an official. We are pleased to offer many opportunities for those who want to get involved or stay involved!

More information to come - keep an eye on our website and social media channels!

COACHES AND OFFICIALS

>>> NCCP TRAINING



Football Canada is in the process of making changes to NCCP training delivery and stream requirements for all tackle and flag coaches, in conjunction with the Coaching Association of Canada.

As soon as final details of all changes are available, we will update our websites with a schedule of training events for the early 2026, as well as provide information on new "on-line" delivery options for some of the existing NCCP modules.

>>> COACH IDENTIFICATION CARDS

Starting in 2026 Football Manitoba is planning to make changes to our Coach ID Card program. Going forward, qualified coaches will receive one card to use for the entire calendar year for each discipline. Those participating in both tackle and flag disciplines will receive two cards - one for coaching tackle and one for coaching flag.

Coaches will still be required to register for each league or season they are participating in but will no longer require a separate card for each one. Stay tuned for more information!

>>> FLAG OFFICIALS

Another opportunity to become a flag official will be offered early January 2026, prior to the indoor Winter NFL flag season.

Stay involved in football all year round, assist us with our growing football programs, and earn money starting at \$20 per one-hour game! Anyone turning 14 years old in 2026 (or older) is eligible to become a Manitoba flag official.

[BECOME A FLAG FOOTBALL OFFICIAL TODAY!](#)