



September 16, 2018

Pairings Announced for Inaugural Unified Flag Football State Tournament

The Indiana High School Athletic Association announced the pairings for the first-ever Unified Flag Football State Tournament Series this evening via webstream at IHSAAtv.org.

Twenty-five (25) teams have entered the inaugural state tournament and are spread across eight sectionals to be played on Saturday, Sept. 29. The teams that emerge as sectional champions will move on to a single regional championship game on Saturday, Oct. 6 with the four remaining teams advancing to the state finals on Saturday, Oct. 13 at the Indiana Farm Bureau Football Center, the training facility of the Indianapolis Colts.

Unified Sports® enables persons with and without intellectual disabilities to participate on the same team for sports training and competition as part of the “Champions Together” partnership between the IHSAA and Special Olympics Indiana.

Unified Flag Football, played on a 25-yard by 40-yard field, is five-on-five with three athletes and two unified partners to a side. Teams play two 20-minute halves with a touchdown worth six points, an extra point from the five-yard line worth one point while two points are added for a successful play from the 10-yard line. Two points may also be scored for a safety.

Starting on its five yard line, a team has four plays to cross mid-field, then an additional four plays to score a touchdown. Failure to cross mid-field or score a touchdown in the prescribed number of plays results in a change of possession starting at the opposing team’s own five-yard line. [Official Rules](#)



Unified Flag Football is the 22nd sport sponsored by the IHSAA and the second co-ed sport joining Unified Track and Field which debuted in 2014.

The [linked video](#) was posted last spring on the Champions Together program and Unified Flag Football in particular.

About the Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc. (IHSAA)

The IHSAA is a voluntary, not-for-profit organization that is self-supporting without the use of tax monies. Since its founding in 1903, the Association’s mission has been to provide wholesome, educational athletics for the secondary schools of Indiana. Its member high schools - public, institutional, parochial and private - pay no annual membership fee or incur entry fees to play in the Association’s tournaments. A state tournament series is conducted annually in 22 sports, 10 for girls, 10 for boys and two co-ed (unified flag football and track and field). A 19-person board of directors, elected by member school principals, governs the organization.

About Special Olympics Indiana, Inc. (SOIN)

Special Olympics Indiana is a not-for-profit organization that provides year-round sports more than 11,000 athletes across Indiana. The organization receives no federal- or state-appropriated funds, is not a United Way agency and relies entirely on corporate, civic and individual donations. For more information about Special Olympics Indiana, call (317) 328-2000 or visit www.soindiana.org.

About the Draw

To conduct the random drawing for the Unified Flag Football State Tournament, the IHSAA places ping-pong balls representing each school in a given sectional into a lottery-style air mix machine. A motorized fan in the bottom of the machine blows the balls around the inside of the transparent container and air then forces each ball up through a tube in random order. For example, the first ball retrieved from the machine will be the visiting team in game one with the second ball representing the home team in game one. The third ball to come out is the visitor in game two and the fourth ball the home team in game two. That same method is followed through all eight sectionals.



Sectionals

Date: Saturday, Sept. 29, 2018.

Times: Determined by host school.

Admission: \$5 per person.

1. Griffith (2)

Championship: LaVille vs. Griffith.

2. Warsaw (4)

G1: Wawasee vs. Goshen.

G2: Tippecanoe Valley vs. Warsaw.

Championship: Winner of G1 vs. Winner of G2.

3. Carroll (Fort Wayne) (4)

G1: Central Noble vs. East Noble.

G2: Fort Wayne North Side vs. Carroll (Fort Wayne).

Championship: Winner of G1 vs. Winner of G2.

4. Noblesville (5)

G1: Blackford vs. Noblesville.

G2: Mississinewa vs. Fishers.

G3: Marion vs. Winner of G1.

Championship: Winner of G2 vs. Winner of G3.

5. West Lafayette (2)

Championship: West Lafayette vs. Zionsville.

6. Carmel (3)

G1: Ben Davis vs. Carmel.

Championship: Warren Central vs. Winner of G1.

7. Bedford North Lawrence (2)

Championship: Bedford North Lawrence vs. Mooresville.

8. Jasper (3)

G1: Jasper vs. Floyd Central.

Championship: Evansville Central vs. Winner of G1.

Regionals

Date: Saturday, Oct. 6, 2018.

Time: To be determined by host school.

Admission: \$5 per person.

Host School: The winner of the even-numbered sectional will host the regional championship game.

1. Sectional 1 winner at Sectional 2 winner.
2. Sectional 3 winner at Sectional 4 winner.
3. Sectional 5 winner at Sectional 6 winner.
4. Sectional 7 winner at Sectional 8 winner.

State Finals

Date: Saturday, Oct. 13, 2018.

Site: Indiana Farm Bureau Football Center (Colts Training Complex), 7001 W. 56th Street, Indianapolis.

Admission: \$10 per person. All seats are general admission. Children age 2 and younger are admitted at no charge.

Official Football: The Wilson Unified Flag Football (youth model) will be used.

Semifinals

Regional 1 winner vs. Regional 2 winner | 4 pm ET / 3 pm CT (Games played simultaneously)

Regional 3 winner vs. Regional 4 winner | 4 pm ET / 3 pm CT (Games played simultaneously)

State Championship | 30 minutes following conclusion of semifinal games

