

2026 NFL Flag Africa Continental Championship to be held in Kenya

Men's and Women's National Teams, and U13 Youth Squads from Five African Nations to Compete in Nairobi

Event to Also Feature Elite Talent Identification Workout as Part of The League's NFL Africa Program

NAIROBI, KENYA — June 29, 2026 — The NFL will host a continental NFL Flag Championship in Kenya, bringing together national teams and youth squads from five African nations for three days of competition and development programming. The event runs July 9-11 in Nairobi and will be the third such competition held on the continent, following events in Nigeria (2024) and Egypt (2025).

For the first time the tournament features a flag football competition contested by five men's and five women's national teams representing Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Egypt and South Africa. Running alongside the main competition is a youth tournament featuring five U13 co-ed teams from the same five countries, with each youth squad made up of 10 players.

This initiative has been developed in consultation with the sport's international federation, IFAF, which has authorized the participation of national representative teams. It is also supported locally by the Kenyan Federation of American Football (KFAF), which has helped bring the event together.

Flag football, a fast-paced and accessible discipline of the game, is one of the fastest growing sports worldwide that will make its debut at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics, while NFL Flag is the official flag football program of the NFL.

"It's been inspiring to watch flag football take off across the continent," said Brian Flinn, NFL senior vice president, Global Flag Football. "This event brings together the very best players alongside the next generation of talent from five countries, showcasing the pathways that exist for athletes to compete at the grassroots level all the way to representing their countries in international competitions."

"IFAF and the NFL have been working collaboratively to accelerate flag football development across Africa, both at grassroots and high-performance levels," said IFAF President Pierre Trochet. "This event is another fantastic example of our partnership in action, providing the national teams of IFAF member federations in the continent with a valuable competitive opportunity in preparation for next year's crucial IFAF African Continental Championships."

In addition to the on-field competition, the week includes an elite talent identification workout on July 11, giving athletes from across the continent the opportunity to showcase their ability in front of NFL representatives as part of the league's NFL Africa program that supports the development of athletes on the continent via the league's global football programs including the International Player Pathway program and NFL Academy.

About Flag Football

Flag football is one of the fastest-growing sports in the world, played by more than 20 million people in more than 100 countries, with particularly rapid growth in youth and girls' participation. The sport will make its Olympic debut at the Los Angeles 2028 Games. The NFL continues to invest in the game's international growth through grassroots participation, youth development and strategic partnerships —

including its work with the International Federation of American Football (IFAF) to increase participation and inspire the next generation.

To find out more about NFL Flag around the world, please visit [here](#).

About NFL Africa

The NFL Africa program is, spearheaded by NFL Legend Osi Umenyiora, is an initiative developed to support the growth of American football across the continent. The program is built on three pillars —fan events, talent identification and NFL Flag development— creating pathways to play for boys and girls at the grassroots level, increasing opportunities for elite athletes, and serving a growing fan base. The continent's connection to the league runs deep, with more than 145 players of African descent on NFL rosters.