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NATIONAL FIELD HOCKEY LEAGUE

29TH ANNUAL

FALL TOURNAMENTS

FALL CHAMPIONSHIP & CHALLENGE CUP

EVENT GUIDE

NOVEMBER 20-22, 2026

updated 11.5.26

ABOUT US

The mission of the National Field Hockey League is to promote and grow the sport of field hockey by providing a member-centered governing structure for club teams, improving access to competitive play, facilitating educational trainings, and building community.

Since 1997, the NFHL has grown to include more than 120 colleges and universities from across the United States. The NFHL is the official governing body for USA collegiate club field hockey.

The National Field Hockey League is a registered 501(c)(3) organization. For more information, visit our website at www.nationalfieldhockeyleague.com.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Player eligibility is determined by each school's governing club sports participation policies. The NFHL abides by and enforces each school's eligibility policies. Each school must submit a roster that is verified by a Club Sports Representative, validating that all players are eligible to participate based on their specific school policies.

The NFHL is a coed league and has been since its inception in 1997.

The NFHL is deeply committed to the safety and well-being of all participants in league events. ***Effective 1/1/24, the NFHL adopted a zero-tolerance Code of Conduct policy*** and believes that these measures will contribute towards a more positive and enjoyable experience for everyone involved. ***The Code of Conduct applies to anyone attending or participating in an NFHL event.***

29TH ANNUAL FALL CHAMPIONSHIP & CHALLENGE CUP

This is the 29th Annual Fall Tournament weekend, with the Championship being invite-only and Challenge Cup open to all active teams. These are two highly competitive tournaments, showcasing incredible collegiate field hockey clubs from schools across the U.S.



FALL RANKINGS

Only teams that played at least 7 regular 2026 fall season games were ranked by:

- Average game points per game (**AVE GP** = total game points / # games played)
  - Tiebreaker #1: greatest average goal differential (**AVE GD =** total goals scored – total goals against / # games played)
  - Tiebreaker #2: least average goals against (**AVE GA** = total goals against / # games played)
  - Tiebreaker #3: greatest average goals scored (**AVE GS** = total goals scored / # games played)

CHAMPIONSHIP ELIGIBILITY & QUALIFICATION DETAILS

- Must be in good standing and played minimum 7 games vs. active NFHL teams.
- Maximum 2 forfeit wins count towards record.
- Up to two opponents may be played a maximum of twice..
- The top 16 teams earns bids to the championship after the adjustments above. If teams decline, the next ranked teams are invited.

CHALLENGE CUP ELIGIBILITY

- The Challenge Cup is open to all active NFHL teams. There are no minimum game requirements.

TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE & SCHEDULE*

- Teams will play 4 pool play games, consisting of 25-minute halves.
- Pool play games will be held on Friday and Saturday of the tournament.
- Teams listed on the left wear white/light jerseys. Teams listed on the right wear dark jerseys.
- Teams that requested a Friday exemption or late start, will be notified by email if granted.
- Eight Championship and six Challenge Cup teams will advance to their respective playoffs.
- Games may need to be switched/rearranged due to reasons outside of our control.
- Teams must be available to play from 7am-7pm on Friday (unless you have previously requested a Friday exemption), 7am-7pm on Saturday, and 7am-2pm on Sunday.

**Subject to change due to inclement weather, cancellations or extenuating circumstances.*



FALL CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS

FALL 2026 STATS										
FALL 2026 TOURNAMENT RANK	SCHOOL	GAMES	WIN	TIE	LOSS	GS	GA	GD	GAME PTS	AVE GP
1	Penn State University	9	9	0	0	42	5	37	23	2.56
2	University of Virginia	11	11	0	0	57	4	53	27	2.45
3	University of Georgia	7	7	0	0	25	1	24	17	2.43
4	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	8	7	0	1	29	9	20	18	2.25
5	University of Wisconsin – Madison	7	7	0	0	38	2	36	15	2.14
6	University of Vermont	8	8	0	0	41	10	31	17	2.13
7	University of Maryland	11	8	2	1	30	6	24	22	2.00
8	University of North Carolina Wilmington	8	7	0	1	19	5	14	16	2.00
9	Providence College	7	6	0	1	37	7	30	13	1.86
10	Virginia Tech	10	9	0	1	36	2	34	18	1.80
11	Northeastern University	13	10	1	2	44	12	32	23	1.77
12	University of Michigan	8	7	0	1	39	2	37	14	1.75
13	Quinnipiac University	7	5	1	1	30	8	22	12	1.71
14	Towson University	7	5	2	0	22	2	20	12	1.71
15	University of Delaware	10	7	1	2	40	8	32	17	1.70
16	Boston College	8	5	1	2	21	11	10	13	1.63

CHALLENGE CUP TEAMS

SCHOOL			
College of William and Mary	North Carolina State University	University of Alabama	Villanova University
Drexel University	Saint Joseph's University	University of Massachusetts Amherst	Virginia Commonwealth University
Duke University	Temple University	University of Miami	Wake Forest University
Fairfield University	The College of New Jersey	University of Pennsylvania	
George Washington University	The Ohio State University	University of Pittsburgh	
James Madison University	Tufts University	University of Tennessee	



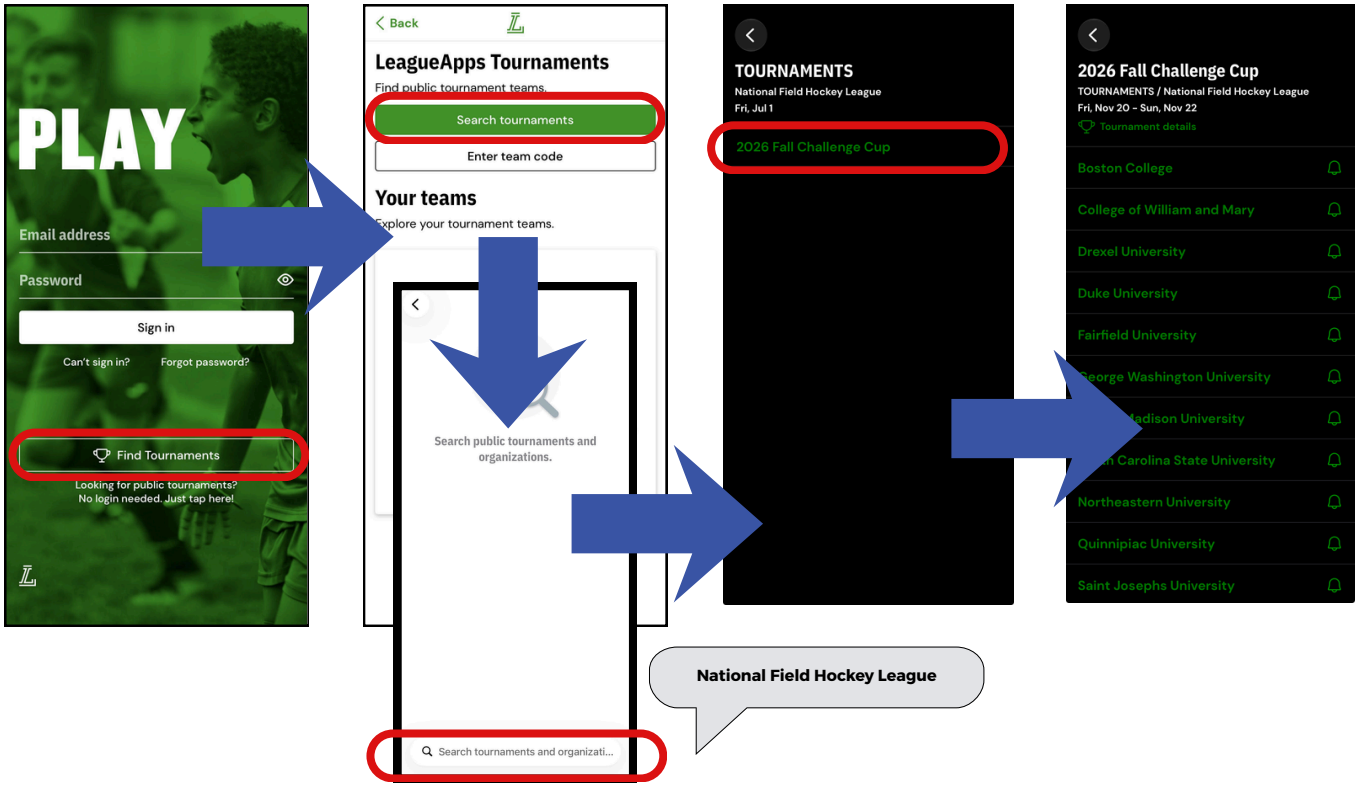
CHAMPIONSHIP & CHALLENGE CUP TEAMS

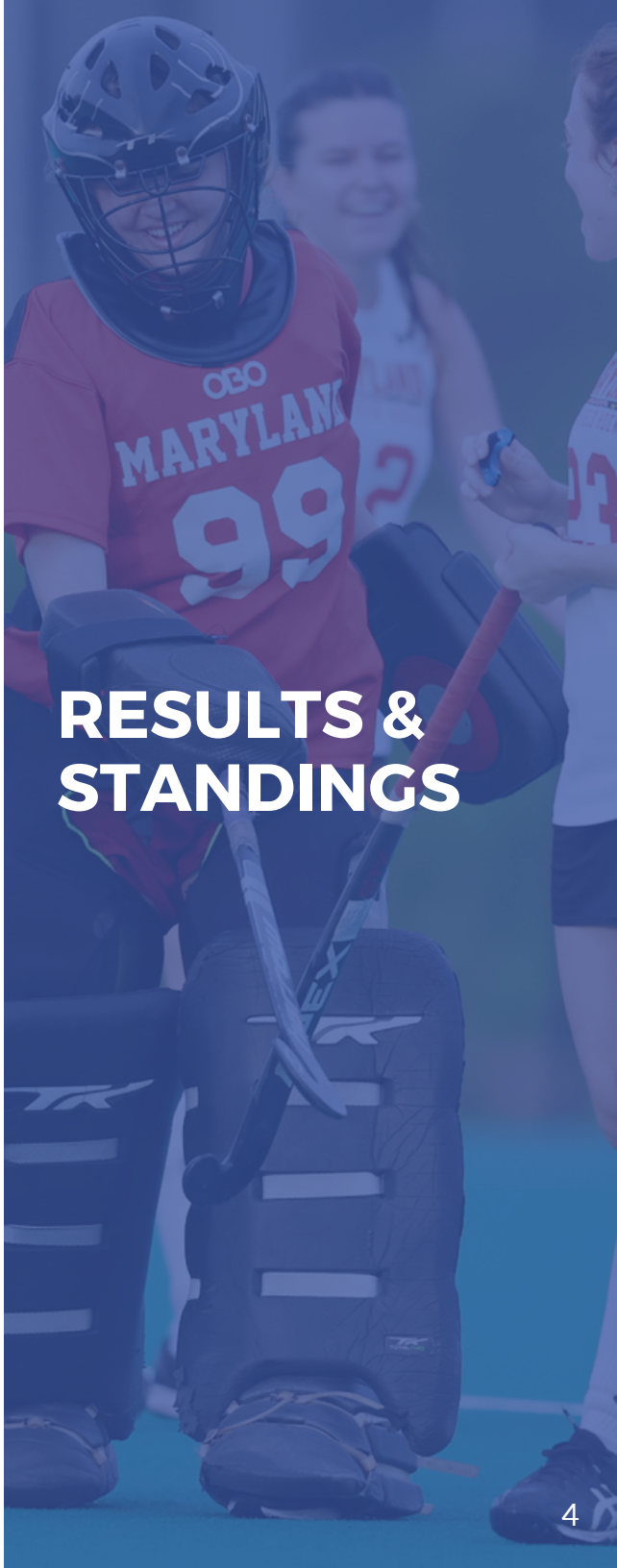
RESULTS & STANDINGS in the LeagueApps PLAY app:

Coaches, players and spectators can easily see live results and standings **using the LeagueApps PLAY app!**

To follow your tournament and see results and standings:

- Download LeagueApps PLAY in the app store.
- You DO NOT need to login to follow the tournament. Hit “Find Tournaments” or go to Teams and click the Trophy icon on the top right.
- Hit "Search Tournaments".
- Type "National Field Hockey League".
- Click "TOURNAMENTS" for our organization.
- Select “2026 Fall Challenge Cup” OR “2026 Fall Tournament (Nationals)”
- Follow a specific team by hitting the "bell" icon.
- Click "Tournament Details" to see the schedule, results, and standings for all teams!





APPAREL ORDER DEADLINE: Sun., November 8

Apparel is available for PICKUP ONLY. Pickup location: Field 1 at the Registration Table.

It is highly recommended that all apparel is pre-ordered. There are extremely limited quantities available for sale at the tournament. Please inform your teammates and spectators.

ORDER HERE: https://national-field-hockey-league.square.site/





front ^

FALL 2026 TOURNAMENT T-SHIRT

< back



NFHL CHAMPION QUARTER ZIP
<



NFHL MOCK NECK SWEATSHIRT
>



NEW! ADMISSIONS TICKETS – ALL ATTENDEES

New this year, *all* players, coaches, and spectators will be required to wear wristbands for the entire duration of the tournament.

For players:

- Upon arrival at Location 1, stop by the Registration Table to receive your team's wristbands.
- Wristbands must be worn for entry and participation on all three days of the tournament.
- Players will not be able to check in and receive a wristband *unless* they are on the team's submitted LeagueApps roster and have been verified by their club sports representative.

For non-player attendees:

- Admission is FREE, but all attendees MUST have a ticket to enter.
- Upon arrival at Location 1, all attendees must check in at the Registration Table to receive a wristband, which must be worn for entry on all three days of the tournament.

GET ADMISSIONS TICKETS HERE

CHECK-IN – CAPTAINS/COACHES ONLY

- Teams should arrive at least 30 minutes before each game.
- All check-ins are virtual using a form - captains/coaches should complete this form upon arrival to the fields (approximately 30 minutes before your game). This lets the NFHL know you are on-site.
- When you arrive for your first game at Location 1 (Tournament Center & Sportsplex), stop by the Registration Table to pick up your team's gift bag and wristbands.

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FIELDS

- Due to the large number of participating teams, there will be TWO different playing locations and FIVE different fields. Please pay close attention to the location of your games!
  - Refer to the Field Locations page for more details.
- Teams are not permitted on the fields before they open. Fields open at the following times:
  - Friday: 7:45am / Saturday: 7:00am / Sunday: 7:15am
- Trainers will be scheduled at fields 15 minutes before each game starts. There will be one trainer at each field.
- Locations are subject to change and more information will be released along with the preliminary and final schedules closer to the tournament.

REPORTING SCORES

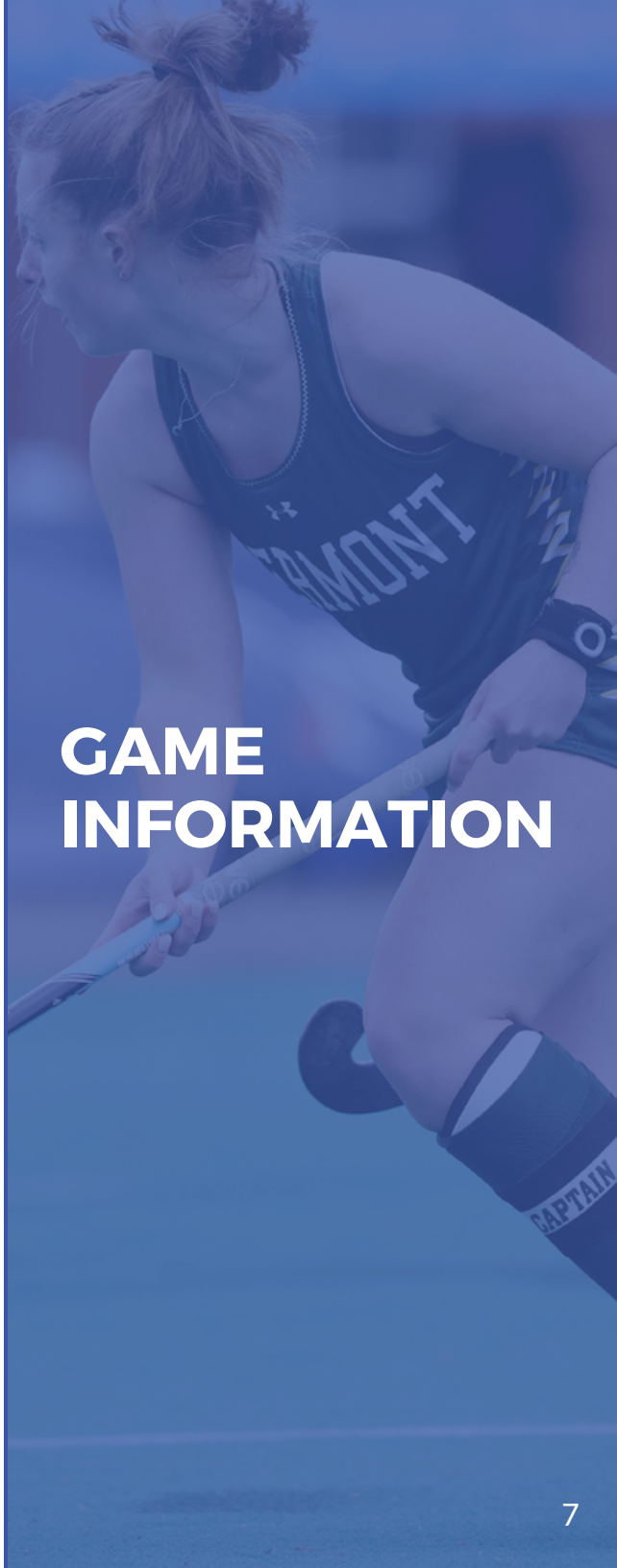
- **BOTH TEAMS** need to report the score immediately after each game.
- To report your score:
  - Send the NFHL a **direct message on GroupMe** immediately after every game.
  - Use this format when reporting scores:
    - "School A reporting: School A (X) vs School B (Y)"
    - Example: Rutgers reporting: Rutgers (3) vs Penn State (2)

LIVE STREAMING & GAME PHOTOS

- The Championship game on Sunday will include commentary! Visit our website for more details.
  - Links to stream will be provided closer to the tournament.
- Professional photos will be taken of every team during at least 1 game. Photos will be available for purchase ~1 week after the tournament.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

- Games and/or the format of the tournament may need to be rearranged in cases of extreme weather.
- The NFHL will keep all teams informed of any changes via email and GroupMe – please keep your notifications on and check them on a regular basis!



GAME INFORMATION

PLAYERS

- All players must be registered, verified, and deemed eligible per the team's Club Sports policies and NFHL rules prior to the tournament. Any team found to have ineligible or unregistered players will have their games disqualified (forfeit loss) and the team can face up to suspension from the league.
- **NEW THIS YEAR: ALL PLAYERS** are required to check in at the tournament upon arrival to receive an official tournament wristband. Wristbands are non-transferable and must be worn for the entire duration of the weekend.
- Male Players (Regular and OT): Before the start of each game, teams must confirm (with each other and the umpires) how many male field players each team has on their roster (excluding the goalie). The team with more male field players is allowed to play "up two" during regulation and overtime play (excluding the goalie). The number of male field players allowed (confirmed at the start of the game) cannot be changed during the game (penalty cards, injuries, etc. do not affect it) – regardless of how many male players are fielded.
    - E.g., if Team A brings 1 male field player and Team B brings 6 male field players, Team B is only allowed to play a maximum of 3 male field players at any given time.
    - **Note**: The rule applies to those who are on the active roster at the beginning of the game and NOT to player currently on the field.
        - **E.g., even if Team A's singular male field player is not currently on the field, Team B may still play 3 male field players.**

RED CARDS

- A red card requires the removal of the offending player from the remainder of the match, and the team plays short one player for the remainder of that match. In addition, the offending player may not participate in the next game scheduled for that team, though the previously offending team may play with a full 11-person squad on the field.
- If a red card is issued, umpires should inform both the Umpiring Director and the NFHL immediately upon completion of the game so that suspension can be enforced. The offending player's name and jersey number must be provided.



GAME INFORMATION cont.

CODE OF CONDUCT: ZERO TOLERANCE

- All teams will be required to send a signed Code of Conduct simultaneous with the submission of your verified roster for all NFHL tournaments and events. Please note that it is the captain/coach's responsibility to ensure that all individuals associated with your team, including, but not limited to, players and spectators, are aware of and understand the policy ahead of the tournament. The NFHL is deeply committed to thesafety and well-being of all participants in league events and believe that these measures will contribute towards a more positive and enjoyable experience foreveryone involved.

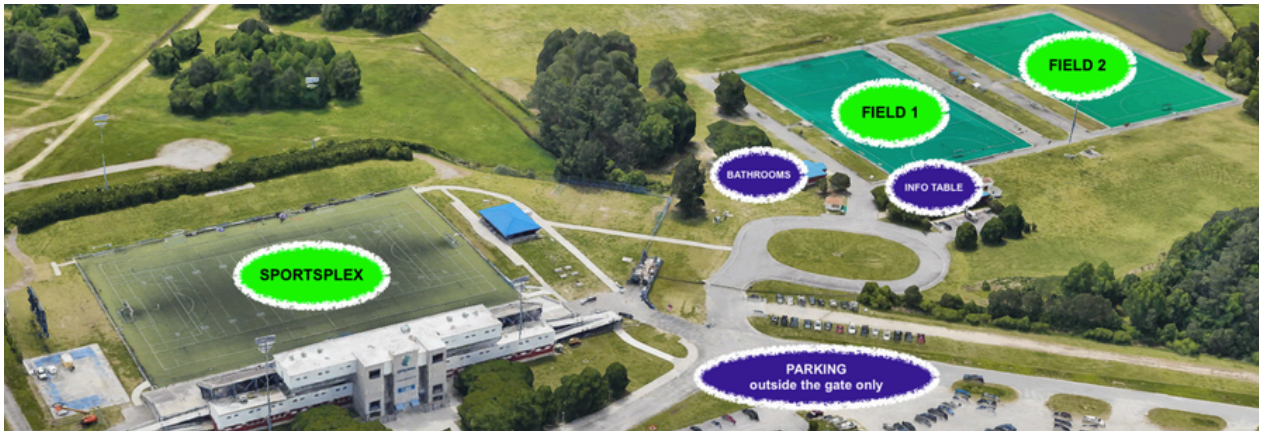
Key Points:

- Zero Tolerance Policy: The NFHL operates under a zero-tolerance policy for any form of discrimination, harassment, or derogatory comments based on race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or any other protected characteristic.
- Immediate Consequences: Any individual found in violation of the zero-tolerance policy will face immediate consequences, including removal from the premises or expulsion of their team from the tournament.
- Team Responsibility: Teams, especially coaches/captains, are responsible for ensuring that their fans/spectators adhere to the Code of Conduct. Separate incidents involving different individuals supporting the same team will result in **the entire team's disqualification** from the tournament.
- Reporting: All instances of misconduct or violations of the Code of Conduct should **immediately** be reported to the NFHL via GroupMe message, followed by a detailed email to info@nationalfieldhockeyleague.com.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping us promote our mission and uphold thevalues of respect and sportsmanship. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Code of Conduct, please contact info@nationalfieldhockeyleague.com.

CODE OF CONDUCT





LOCATION 1:
FIELD HOCKEY TRAINING CENTER & SPORTSPLEX

2181 Landstown Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23456
Fields 1 & 2 - Water-Based AstroTurf *Sportsplex - field turf*

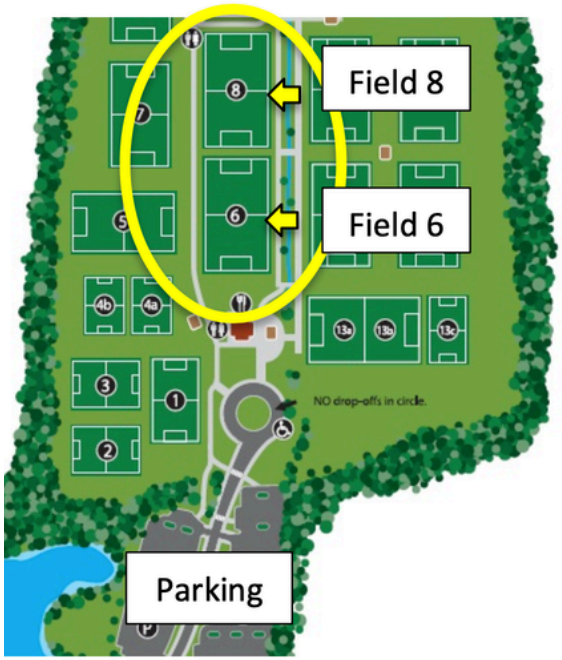
The information table, shirt pickup and NFHL staff are located at Field 1.
Dogs permitted; must be leashed, not tied to any fences or stands, and in direct supervision of owner at all times.

LOCATION 2:
HAMPTON ROADS SOCCER COMPLEX

2276 Recreation Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23456
Fields #6 and #8 - field turf

This location is <u>not</u> within walking distance from Location 1 (5-min drive, 1.8 miles).

Dogs <u>not</u> permitted.



FIELD LOCATIONS

BOXED LUNCH DELIVERY - Deadline: Thurs., November 12

If you would like to order boxed lunches for your team, delivered to the Training Center Field 1, please fill out **THIS FORM**.
For questions, contact haley@beachsportsplex.com

ON-SITE FOOD OPTIONS

There will be options for food at the Training Center! There will be boxed lunches which need to be preordered. Check out the links below to see the 3 options of food that will be available for the weekend!

- **CLICK HERE FOR OPTIONS OVERVIEW!**
- **Mello Beans - Coffee and Snacks** Menu
- **Marine Canteen Tacos Menu**
- **Lunch Box Legends Menu** - email or text to order. Do not use QR code.

OTHER RESTAURANT RECOMMENDATIONS

- El Azteca
- Plaza Degollado
- Duck Donuts
- Huddle House
- Nando's PERi-PERi
- Pochahontas Pancake House
- Tupelo Honey Southern Kitchen
- Yard House
- Ynot Italian
- Mannino's Italian Bistro
- Eat: An American Bistro
- Beachside Social
- Pelon's Baja Grill Oceanfront
- Smokey Bones Virginia Beach

DOWNTIME ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

- Walk along the Virginia Beach Boardwalk
- Visit the Virginia Aquarium
- Visit Virginia Beach Town Center - restaurant, stores, and entertainment
- Go to Apex Entertainment Virginia Beach (bowling, go-karts, arcade, laser tag, & more)
- Play Mini Golf
- Escape an Escape Room with your team



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2026 SPONSORS



VIRGINIA BEACH SAVINGS PASS

The Virginia Beach Savings Pass is provided by the City of Virginia Beach. This coupon will give discounts to multiple different restaurants and activities in the area. To sign up, click the link here and the pass would be sent directly to their phone after providing some information.

Explore different discounts offered and let us know if you have any questions!

Click here for Savings Pass!

HOTEL/FACILITY CONCERNS

If you have any significant concerns or issues with your hotel, please contact the NFHL immediately. We are here to help! It is important to the league that we continue to have great partnerships with our hotels, so we appreciate your help in making sure your team has a great stay. Please refrain from posting any negative reviews or comments about the hotel or facilities without addressing them with the NFHL first.

Please remember that your team represents the NFHL and your school, on and off the field. Disciplinary action will be taken against any player or team that causes damage to a hotel or facility property, or neglects any guidelines, protocols or rules.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

- Kristin Franck, *NFHL President*
  - (713) 396-0589
  - kristin@nationalfieldhockeyleague.com
- Maggie O'Donnell, *Director of Communications*
  - Via NFHL Admin GroupMe
  - maggie@nationalfieldhockeyleague.com

- Sentara Virginia Beach General Hospital - *1060 First Colonial Rd, Virginia Beach, VA 23454*
  - (757) 395-8000

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CONCERNS & CONTACTS