

ISTROUMASPORTS

FLAG FOOTBALL 2026

WELCOME TO ISTROUMA BAPTIST CHURCH

- We glorify God by making disciples of all nations. Visit istrouma.org for more information.
- You're invited to join us for small groups at 9:00 and worship service at 10:30 each Sunday.

WELCOME TO ISTOUMA SPORTS

- We are a gospel-centered sports ministry that intentionally creates opportunities to glorify God, make disciples, and redeem sports back to God.
- You're invited to join the Flag Football & Volleyball Season Celebration on Sunday, November 1, at 9:30. We will enjoy breakfast together, take family photos, and then attend the worship service.

DOING SPORTS A DIFFERENT WAY

- This sports ministry is a bridge that connects the community together, but most of all to the gospel.
- This sports ministry is a laboratory that reveals our need for a perfect, loving Savior. Sports can help us understand just how broken and sinful we are. God can use sports to redeem us back to Him.
- God cares about sports. He cares about the events on these fields just as much as the church because He loves us and created us. God gave us talents and abilities, like playing football.
- Because God gave us the gift of sports, we should play/coach/watch as an act of worship.
- We define competition as striving together for God's glory rather than against others for our own recognition. Competitors are not the bad guys; they play their best to bring out the best in your team, so that players improve.
- We strive to provide developmental leagues balanced with fun, healthy competition. Our leagues include divisions for kids 4-17 years old (varies per sport). You may notice some of our rules are different because we want players to develop skills and experience success at all ages.
- Teams are intended to be created fairly and competitively based on practice conflicts, friend requests, experience, and skill grades from The Combine.
- Players will receive equal playing time during each game. Players are encouraged to try all positions.
- Coaches are volunteers, mostly parents, who go through a vetting process.
- Coaches will integrate the gospel by teaching biblical principals through sports occurrences. Coaches in 11U, 14U, and 17U will present the gospel during practice one week.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

- Consider volunteering to be a Head Coach, Assistant Coach, or Bench Coach. All of our teams need at least 4 parent coaches, ideally 5. You don't need football or coaching experience.
- If coaching isn't your thing, help us sell concessions on a practice night or game day.
- You can volunteer for any role at www.istroumasports.org/volunteer.
- Be present for practices, games, and postgame gatherings. RSVP weekly to your coach.
- Keep score or bring snacks for your team.
- Write fan mail (available at the greeting table on game days) to encourage your players and coaches.
- Teach your child the memory verse and discuss the weekly theme/devotion.
- Fans are not allowed to yell at an official, coach their child from the bleachers, or walk on the field.
- Cheer on your children and enjoy the game.

STAY INFORMED

- Read emails (acallender@istrouma.org) and visit our website (istroumasports.org/football) weekly.
- Follow us on social media @IstroumaSports.
- Weather updates will be displayed on the website and social media. Coaches will be notified. Parents will be emailed if we can get to a computer. No news is good news here. Always check before arriving.

CAMPUS POLICY

- No alcohol, smoking, profanity, or pets.
- Park in appropriate parking spots (not in grass). Parking lots next to the Student Building are reserved for the elderly, handicapped, and families with young children. Park in the Worship Center lot if your family is able to walk a little further. We recommend exiting our campus via Cedarcrest Ave.
- Sit in designated spectator seating, on the road-side of the field at or near your team's bleachers. Parents are not allowed beyond the sideline unless they are coaching.
- Respect our officials; they are part of this ministry too. Don't yell at or complain about these folks giving up Saturday mornings to help your children.
- Help us maintain a culture of positivity, encouragement, and Christlikeness. Focus on the gifts and opportunities that God has given you this season.

PRACTICES/GAMES

- 5U and 17U will practice on Saturday mornings and will start playing games on September 26.
- 7U, 9U, 11U, and 14U will practice on Monday or Tuesday, starting at 5:45-6:45 pm.
- Rained out practices and games may be rescheduled on Thursday or Friday.
- Saturday games will start at 9:00-11:30 and may vary each week.

EQUIPMENT

- We provide uniforms, which include jerseys and shorts.
- We provide footballs and flags.
- Players need to provide their own water bottles. Mouthpieces are recommended.
- Tennis shoes are acceptable for 5U, 7U, and 9U.
- Rubber cleats (metal spikes not allowed) are recommended for 11U, 14U, and 17U.

COMING UP

- The timeline contains all dates and events for this season
- August 27 team assignments emailed
- September 2 practice schedule emailed
- September 14/15 first practice
- September 16 game schedule emailed
- September 21/22 teams receive uniforms
- September 26 first game

STAFF

- Danny Bracey coach chaplain
- Amelia Morgan event staff
- Drew Duckworth event staff
- Jacob Keith event staff
- Josh Mealy event staff
- Sara Authement event staff

