



NEWS RELEASE

May 9, 2025

Everett Public Schools announces addition of Girls Flag Football as new varsity sport



Everett, WA - Everett Public Schools is excited to announce the addition of Girls Flag Football as a new varsity sport beginning in the winter season of the 2025–26 school year. This announcement follows the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA)'s recent decision to sanction Girls Flag Football for the first time since 1999, marking a historic step forward in expanding athletic opportunities for female student-athletes across the state.

Girls Flag Football will be offered to students in grades 9 through 12 at Cascade, Everett, and Jackson high schools. The varsity season will include up to 16 contests, with eligibility for post-season play, and the potential to advance through a state tournament, which is consistent with other WIAA varsity-level sports. The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) is expected to publish the official rule book in June, which will provide further guidance on gameplay and regulations.

Flag football is one of the fastest-growing youth sports in the nation. In 2024 alone, nearly 500,000 girls between the ages of 6 and 17 participated in the sport, an increase of 63 percent since 2019. The non-contact sport emphasizes safety, agility, and strategy while eliminating the need for tackling and heavy equipment.

In the coming weeks, each participating high school will host an interest meeting for students wanting to learn more about this new opportunity. Information about meeting times and locations will be shared through school communications.

"Bringing girls flag football to our district as a varsity sport is more than just adding a team; it's about opening doors," said Dani Mundell, athletic director for Everett Public Schools. "As a lifelong advocate for equity in sports, I'm passionate about creating spaces where our young women can compete, lead, and shine. This is a game-changer for our district, and I could not be more excited for the opportunities it will bring to our student athletes."

Everett Public Schools remains committed to providing inclusive, diverse, and meaningful extracurricular opportunities that support the success and well-being of all students. Adding Girls Flag Football marks a significant milestone in this ongoing mission.

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For more information:

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