



*Welcome to the ninth edition of the New York Jets 2026 Girls Flag Football Weekly Recap. We're excited to share the latest initiatives and events that highlight our dedication to empowering young athletes and promoting inclusivity. From growing youth football to providing opportunities for disadvantaged populations, the Jets are dedicated to fostering a spirit of unity and support. Stay tuned for updates on the season.*

## Jets Flag Elite Competes at the Beast of the East 5v5 National Flag Football Tournament

This past weekend, the Jets Flag Elite 14u and high school teams competed in the Beast of the East 5v5 National Flag Football Tournament in Conshohocken, PA. The high school team came out on top in the high school girls diamond division, defeating the Athena Athletics Warriors Travel team, 21-6. In the 14u division, the team advanced to the platinum bracket, ultimately falling in the championship, 7-6, to SIG Red. Both teams look ahead to their next tournament, when they will participate in the We Run the World NY Jets tournament in New Jersey.



## Two Jets Flag Elite Players Head to the U.S. National Team Training Camp



This week, two Jets Flag Elite players—Myla Ramos (QB/DB) and Kaitlyn Richards (WR/DB)—will travel to Chula Vista, CA, to participate in U.S. National Team Training Camp as members of the 15U Girls U.S. Flag Junior National Team. Ramos and Richards were named to the active roster last month, and Razalia Colter (ATH) was named an alternate. The training camp will run from May 21st to 24th, and will be combined with all USA Football U.S. Flag National Teams, including both the junior and adult, and male and female teams. This will be the final camp for Ramos and Richards in preparation of the Junior International Cup on June 17th to 21st, in Los Angeles, CA.



**Payten Tidridge Named Jets High School Girls Flag Player of the Week Presented By Gatorade**



Payten Tidridge of East Islip High School in Islip Terrace, NY, has been named this week's New York Jets High School Girls Flag Football Player of the Week presented by Gatorade. In its fourth year, this award is presented to standout girls flag players in the tri-state area. The Jets and Gatorade will recognize players throughout the season from a series of games hosted at the Atlantic Health Jets Training Center, in addition to games played throughout the tri-state.

In a Section XI League II matchup featuring two of Long Island's top girls flag teams, Tidridge was the difference-maker for East Islip to lead her team to a victory over Sayville. The sophomore WR/DB was lights out on defense, recording seven flag pulls, a sack, and two interceptions, one of which sealed the game for East Islip. Tidridge's game-winning pick resulted in a 6-0 win to improve East Islip to a 9-4 record on the season. East Islip will go on the road to play Hauppauge this Wednesday at 4 p.m. for their final regular season matchup.

As the New York Jets Girls Flag Football Player of the Week presented by Gatorade, Tidridge will receive a \$1,000 donation to be used toward East Islip's Girls Flag Football program. In addition to the monetary award, she is invited to attend the Jets Play Football preseason game at MetLife Stadium, where she will be honored on-field for her achievement.

**Connor Valvo Named Jets High School Girls Flag Coach of the Week Presented by Dunkin'**

Connor Valvo of Lafayette Educational Campus in Brooklyn, NY, has been named this week's New York Jets Girls Flag High School Coach of the Week Presented by Dunkin'. Coach Valvo will receive a \$2,000 donation to benefit Lafayette's flag football program. Along with the monetary award, he will be honored on-field at MetLife Stadium during the Jets Play Football preseason game.

In its fourth year, the Jets Girls Flag High School Coach of the Week Presented by Dunkin' award is given to a coach in the tri-state area who serves the best interests of the game through the teaching of sound football fundamentals, the motivation of young players to achieve, and the promotion of youth football by way of dedication to their community, their school, and their student-athletes.

Valvo grew up in Babylon, NY, and attended Babylon Junior-Senior High School before continuing his education at SUNY Geneseo. He is now in his 10<sup>th</sup> year as an English teacher and coach at Lafayette, holding coaching roles in both wrestling and football, in addition to his role with girls flag. Coach Valvo has guided the Lafayette girls flag program to back-to-back winning seasons, following a 4-4 finish in 2024 and a losing record in his first two seasons as head coach. Lafayette is now having its best season yet under Valvo's leadership, sitting at the top of the PSAL Division 1A - Brooklyn/Staten Island standings with a 10-1 record. Lafayette (5-seed) will play Brooklyn Community Arts & Media High School (4-seed) in the quarterfinals of the PSAL 1A Flag Football Playoffs this Thursday at 4 p.m.

