

THE ZONE



**THE NEIGHBORHOOD SPORTS
NFL FLAG**

Spring
Newsletter

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Justin Jefferson Skills Camp - San Antonio

BY STAFF CONTRIBUTORS

UNIV. OF THE INCARNATE WORD

On March 12, 2022, Viking Nation crept into San Antonio in the form of All-Pro Wide Receiver Justin "Jetts" Jefferson. Number 18 for the Minnesota Vikings partnered with Hard Count Athletics and Neighborhood Sports to bring a once in a lifetime skills camp experience to the youth of San Antonio. Campers got to get their Griddy on with the superstar while participating in a wide variety of skills stations and clinics put on by Hard Counts Athletics coaching staff comprised of highly qualified skills and positions coaches

from various universities as well as current and former college and NFL players. The best yet, 50 lucky youth were able to spend a little over an hour in an exclusive VIP and Q&A Session with Jefferson before the skills portion of the camp started. It all culminated to the end of day celebration where the six MVP's of the camp, selected by the positions coaches, were able to feed the appetite they had worked up in a Cinnamon Toast Crunch eating contest against endorsee, Jefferson himself. Keep reading to learn about the man, the myth, and the legend.

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THE COACHING SHUFFLE

Developing young athletes is no easy task. Ask any coach. The men and women of Neighborhood Sports who volunteer to coach your youth on the field do so while juggling a busy plate with their careers and personal lives. They come with a passion for teaching kids the game of football, building on skills and excelling to the next level. Most importantly, they create the positive environment we excel to achieve - all while having fun and offering all players the ability to play and grow safely. We meet some of these coaches here...

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GAMES BEGIN WEEK OF JUNE 12, 2022

SUMMER REGISTRATION IS OPEN

With the Spring Season in full swing and things on that downhill slide, we look toward our highly anticipated Summer Season and what it will bring along with it! Registration is open and we couldn't be more excited to welcome back current players and coaches and invite new prospects to our league to check us out. You won't want to miss out on this Summer of Football - including a double header weekend and culminating with an All-City Championship. We even have a Skills Combine in the Works!

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**NS - SAN ANTONIO:
A REFRESHING KIND OF DIFFERENT**

Our goal at Neighborhood Sports is to turn your typical Sports League on its head and shake out all of the common issues that are out there. From not knowing the rules, to lack of communication to logistical order nightmares. We tackle all of the issues head-on. In this article, we go through some of the ways we are looking to be innovative and give you an experience that is a refreshing kind of different.

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STAFF CORNER

What's an organization without it's staff? In this section, we'd like you to meet the fine men and women that call Neighborhood Sports home. They also offer some of their favorite helpful tips on how to navigate our league successfully, have a great time, and ensure your athlete is ready to hit the field!

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What's better than watching an NFL player on television? Spending the day improving your game with one!

That's exactly what roughly 150 youth did on March 12 at the University of Incarnate Word. Hosted by Neighborhood Sports in partnership with Hard Count Athletics out of Las Vegas, NV, Justin Jefferson was the guest of honor as he hung out and drilled with each of the youth that attended his skills camp.

Jefferson, a 6'1", 22 year old that played receiver for Louisiana State University was a first round pick for the Minnesota Vikings in the 2020 NFL Draft. Since being drafted, Jefferson has put up more than 3,000 yards in 196 receptions and accounted for 17 touchdowns for the Vikings. In his rookie year, he set a then-record 1,400 receiving yards and was named to the Pro Bowl in 2020. His former LSU teammate Ja'Marr Chase would break that record a year later in 2021.

Graduating from Destrahan High School in Destrahan, Louisiana,



Jefferson, one of three boys whose father played Division II basketball in college, started out slow in his first year at LSU after committing to play football for the Tigers in 2017. Both of his brothers, Jordan and Rickey, also played football for LSU. Jordan was signed by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers as an undrafted free agent in 2012 and went on to play in the Canadian Football League and Rickey has spent time playing for both the Las Vegas Raiders and the New Orleans Saints.

Jefferson exploded onto the scene in his second season at LSU, leading the team with 54 receptions for 875 yards and 6 touchdowns in 2018. In 2019, he lead the country's receivers with 111 receptions and was second in the nation with 18 touchdowns, bested only by his teammate Ja'Marr Chase - and his 1,540 receiving yards

were third best. He would go on to make history in the Peach Bowl with 14 receptions for 227 yards and 4 touchdowns against the Oklahoma Sooners. All four of which came before halftime, setting a College Football Playoff game record and tying the record for any bowl game. In the ensuing National Championship, he pulled in 9 receptions for 106 yards in LSU's 42-25 victory over Clemson. Forgoing his Senior season, he entered the NFL Draft, and the rest is history. The young athletes that had the opportunity to spend time with Jefferson will never forget it, as they aspire to break the records set by him and follow in his footsteps into the NFL and beyond.

The Coaching Shuffle

Our coaches are great individuals who give their time to our young athletes to build them up, teach them sportsmanship, further their skills and role model important life skills. We meet some of these amazing people here.



Coach Jonathan Solis - Buccaneers.

Occupation: Northside ISD Athletics

What I Love About Coaching: I can go down the list of things I love about coaching, but the thing I love the most is the development. Not just athletically but also mentally. Being able to witness the growth in the youth is truly a blessing.

Favorite NFL Team: Green Bay Packers

Favorite Kind of Play: Offense

Coach Justin Brown - Broncos & Chiefs.

Occupation: Lieutenant/Paramedic for SAFD, assigned to the Fire Suppression division for almost 17 years.

What I Love About Coaching: Watching the player development and progression that happens not only throughout the season but across seasons. It's been very rewarding to see players come in day one having no idea what they are doing to becoming a very confident and productive player out on the field. There's nothing like seeing the "light switch" flip for each kid when they realize how good they can be.

Favorite NFL Team: I love the Denver Broncos; I bleed Orange & Blue

Favorite Kind of Play: No matter offense or defense, it's a play the kids can execute very well. As a coach I love X's and O's but that only gets you so far at this level. You can draw up the perfect play for a situation and if it's not executed correctly it'll look like the worst play. I think the biggest lesson I have learned over the years is that sometimes less is more and more is just too much. Keep it simple, keep it fun, make a positive impact.



Coach Earl Gibson - Patriots.

Occupation: Air Force, Ret.; Substitute Teacher; Security Personnel

What I love About Coaching: I love to see kids progress from not being able to even catch a football to running routes and making touchdowns. It's an awesome sight to see.

Favorite NFL Team: New England Patriots

Favorite Kind of Play: Whatever builds confidence in the kids I coach.



GAMES BEGIN WEEK OF JUNE 12, 2022

Early Registration: April 22 - May 6 | \$100/ player

Regular Registration: May 7 - June 3 | \$120/ player

Grades K-10. We are a proud member of the NFL Flag Program, the premier youth flag football league for boys and girls! This league is geared towards building self confidence in kids, teaching kids age appropriate skills, and staying active and having fun. Players will wear the same gear as the NFL Pros, with officially licensed NFL JERSEYS! This league is non-contact with an emphasis on safety and good sportsmanship. Best of all, Everyone Plays!

COACHES ARE NEEDED!

Discounts for Coaches Player(s)

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[Click Here to Register Today!](#)



A Refreshing Kind of Different

If you've ever participated or been involved in youth sports in any way, you know that there are some typical issues that you might run into at one point or another. At Neighborhood Sports, we're out to change that.

To achieve that goal, we first start with a different kind of approach to communication. From our office staff to our Field Directors to our ownership, we want coaches and parents to feel well informed and to know we have an open-door policy. That's why we're rolling out new things like this newsletter and continuing the staples of our organization like communication emails, access to NFL Flag rules on our website and direct access with our staff. Did you know that you have the ability to direct access with your venue's Field Director, and the ability to call and email the ownership with questions or concerns? That's right...just one more way we are tearing down obstacles and shaking



things up. Another way we are disrupting the billion dollar youth sports industry is ensuring that your voice is heard. You read that right; Neighborhood Sports relies on our clientele - our coaches, parents, and players, to give us feedback on what we are doing right, and what we could improve upon and how we can be better than any other league.

We are disrupting the billion dollar youth sports industry and ensuring your voice is heard.

Be on the lookout soon for our Spring 2022 Survey, rolling out by mid-June for all parents. We take your feedback seriously because we want you to have the best

experience possible as your player grows and progresses within our league. Other ways that we are working to be different is to ensure fair playing time, inclusion of all youth regardless of financial circumstance and/or any other factors (see our website for more details on Every Kid Plays), rolling out Coaches' Clinics and Player Skills Combines, and so much more. We can't possibly fit all of the avenues and areas in which we strive to be different in this article, but we invite you to talk to our staff, talk to our current players and coaches, and even more telling, come give us a try. We guarantee you've not had an experience like this before. And you won't want to go back once you do.

Staff Corner



Trainer - Officials, San Antonio Mauro Rodriguez

How Long You've Been With NS: 2 Seasons

Hometown: Matamoros, Mexico

Football Experience: Played 15 Years; Coached 15 Years and Counting; Officiated for 3 Years & Counting

Favorite Hobby: Playing & Watching Sports

Office Assistant & Field Director Christian Denison

How Long You've Been With NS: 1-Year

Hometown: New Braunfels, Texas

Football Experience: Played 8 Years; Coached 3 Years

Favorite Hobby: Coaching Youth Football



Official Adrian Aguilar

How Long You've Been With NS: 2 Seasons

Hometown: San Antonio, Texas

Football Experience: Played 11 Years; 19 Year Enthusiast

Favorite Hobby: Country Dancing & Collecting Sports Cards





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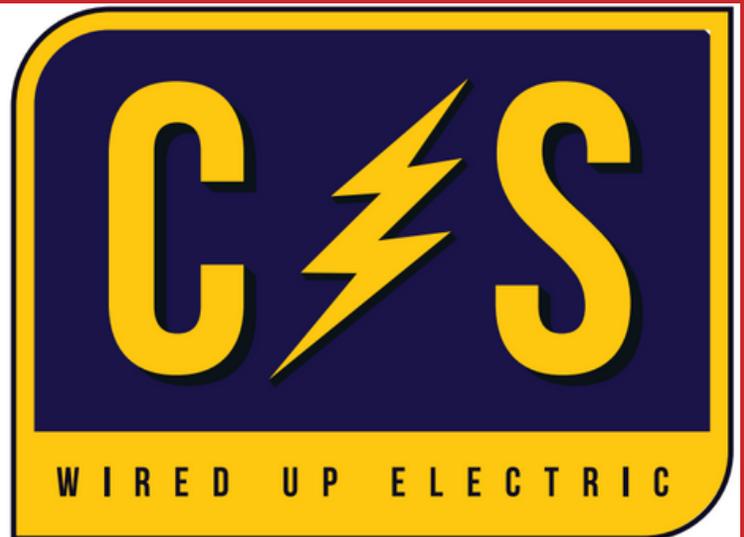
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Editor's Corner: Memoirs of Flag Football

We all know NFL Flag because it's been around for awhile now. 28 years to be exact. But do you know the deep history of flag football and where the sport came from? We take a look at the surprising facts that surround this sport including where it all started, where it's been, and where it's headed.

Did you know? Flag football has been around almost as long as tackle football! The earliest records of "touch-and-tail" football, as it was called, start around the early 1940's on military bases during World War II. Flag was introduced to help soldiers stay fit and have a bit of fun, while also minimizing injury as they played. Another interesting fact? One of the greatest NFL quarterbacks of all time got their start playing flag football. That's right - Flag helped to launch the career of the great Tom Brady. He started playing Flag in elementary school and continued to play it up until he started high school. He used the skills he had learned and perfected playing Flag to secure

a spot on his high school's Junior Varsity team as a Freshman. What's more, an estimated 20 million people enjoy Flag across the United States each year.

Flag Football launched the career of one of the greatest players in NFL history.

Back to the history of the game. The first recorded history of Flag can be traced back to Fort Meade, Maryland, which is now widely considered the birthplace of the game. It wasn't until more than twenty years after it's creation that an actual league was established for the sport. The National Touch Football League was formed in the

1960's and the first championship was played in 1971. NFL Flag was born in 1994 when the NFL officially kicked off its first youth camp series at the New England Patriot's stadium where they introduced the rules of Flag and taught children how to play. By the early 2000's, youth athletes all over the country were participating in NFL Flag - from elementary school affiliate programs to programs like Neighborhood Sports. Today, Flag's become a major sport on the world stage, with an international governing body and with Flag becoming an invitational sport in the 2022 World Games, to be hosted in Birmingham, Alabama.



Zachary Dulevitz is a Field Manager for Neighborhood Sports at the San Antonio NW Venue. He works professionally as an expert in operations and facilities management for HOA's in San Antonio. His favorite NFL team is the Houston Texans and his hobbies are spending time with his wife and three children, taking road trips, and enjoying anything outdoors - to definitely include all sports! He enjoys surprising people in unique ways and is always looking for an opportunity to improve. You can contact him with questions, concerns or feedback at: 210.618.8319 or email zdulevitz@neighborhoodsports.us.



Upcoming Events:

- May 22nd - All-City Play-Offs: Teams will be seeded according to point differential. Play-offs will all be played on this day. Single elimination rounds leading up to the Super Bowl for each division.
- June 4th - Summer Regular Registration Deadline - Late Registration accepted after June 4th, space permitting on team rosters.
- June 5th - Fall Registration Open Date - Regular Registration will run until August 28th. Tentative Opening Day for Fall Season - Sept. 25th.
- Coming Soon! - Neighborhood Sports Night: Mattenga's Pizzeria has offered to hold a Neighborhood Sports Night for our organization. 30% of all sales will go towards scholarship funding for families in need so their children can participate in organized sports. Please come out and support us!

Mattenga's Pizzeria: 17219 O'Connor Rd, San Antonio, Texas 78247

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- San Antonio

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