

UNITED STATES AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Executive Board Annual Report 2019





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Year in Review



2019 was a year of growth for the USAFL in which 5 new clubs joined the league and over 50,000 viewers watched the live stream of the USAFL National Championships on ESPN3. The world's largest Australian Football tournament continues to grow as does the regional championship series. The number of accredited coaches and umpires throughout the league continues to climb. Clif Bar, Bundaberg Brewed Drinks, OFX and HBC Event Services were all added to the growing list of sponsors in 2019. On the field, the Freedom held their largest training camp ever and are poised to take on the world at next year's International Cup. The introduction of the Player Development Handbook and Concussion Protocol are a testament to the leadership of the Executive Board and dedication of committee members. The re-launch of the

USAFL's Movember campaign resulted in record breaking funds raised towards men's health. These are all positive signs that the league is in a position for sustained growth to continue for years to come.

History In The Making

With the burgeoning quality and quantity of women's Aussie Rules here in the USA, it wasn't a question of if an American would get signed by an AFL Women's team. Just when, and who. In July, those questions were answered when Coloradan Danielle "Dani" Marshall was signed by the Western Bulldogs for the 2020 AFLW season. She becomes the first American woman to ink a deal with an AFL club.

Marshall's signing is a groundbreaking moment in the development of Aussie Rules football overseas. And this surely is just the beginning of Americans playing at the game's highest level. Aside from Marshall, four other American women are currently listed on VFLW teams, and others will most likely be making the sojourn across the Pacific in the coming years. And with the competition expanding to fourteen teams in 2020 and filling out at eight by the middle of the decade, there will be plenty of opportunities available for non-Australians to follow in Marshall's footsteps.

Capital Times

The Regional Championships Series rolled on for the fifth year. This year three state capitals Raleigh, Denver, and Salem played host to these mid-summer carnivals. At the Eastern Regional in Raleigh it was a day where the Hawks of Philadelphia won their third cup in a calendar year, the New York Magpies nested back on top of the women's ladder, and Boston came out on top in Division 2.

Several weeks later in Denver, the home team's reserves took home the men's division 2 title, the Minnesota women teamed with Chicago and Wisconsin to put forth their names as challengers for a National title in October, and the Austin Crows won yet another cup.





The results in Salem had a similar pattern with the home team, Portland Steelheads, taking out Division 2 and perennial powerhouses San Francisco Iron Maidens, in the Women's Division, and Golden Gate Roos, in Men's Division 1, each adding to their ever-expanding trophy cases.

New Frontiers

Even in 2019, the game of Australian Rules football is still finding new frontiers to conquer. As much as the international game has developed over the past several seasons, footy is still blooming around the globe. Two USAFL clubs made a historic journey to Bogotá, Colombia, in the first slate of matches between North and South American teams. This Americas Series saw the Bogotá Bulldogs host the defending D1 National Champion Austin Crows, followed by the Denver Bulldogs and Lady Bulldogs in May.

The Sun Shines on Footy in Florida

The heat was hot and the ground was dry, and when the dust had settled on the 23rd USAFL Nationals, there were new and old champions crowned at the Premier Sports Campus at Lakewood Ranch. The Austin Crows and San Francisco Iron Maidens added another cup to their cupboards, while the Arizona Hawks and Boston Demons had rare doubles, winning both men's and women's championships. In Division 2, the San Diego Lions won their first cup since 2015. Boston battled their way to the top in Division 3 winning their first national title since 1999 and Ohio Valley took home their sixth Division 4 title.





USAFL Member Clubs

Club	Founded	Club	Founded
Arizona Hawks	1999	Louisville Kings	1996
Arizona Outlaws	2018	Little Rock Coyotes	2016
Atlanta Kookaburras	1998	Maine Cats	2018
Austin Crows	2002	Milwaukee Bombers	1998
Baltimore Dockers	2017	Minnesota Freeze	2005
Baton Rouge Tigers	2004	Nashville Kangaroos	1997
Boston Demons	1997	New York Magpies	1998
Chicago Swans	1998	North Carolina Tigers	1997
Cincinnati Dockers	1996	North Star Blue Ox	2017
Cleveland Cannons	2014	Oklahoma FC	2017
Columbus ARFC	2008	Orange County Giants	1998
Dallas Magpies	1998	Philadelphia Hawks	1998
DC Eagles	2017	Portland Steelheads	1998
Denver Bulldogs	1998	Rome Redbacks	2018
Des Moines Roosters	2010	RVA Lions	2019
Ft. Lauderdale Fighting Squids	2005	Sacramento Suns	2009
Golden Gate AFL	1998	San Diego Lions	1997
Hawaii Eagles	2019	Savannah Hurricane	2019
Houston Lonestars	2005	Seattle Grizzlies	1998
Indianapolis Giants	2013	St. Louis Blues	1997
Jacksonville Saints	2018	Tampa Bay Tiger Sharks	2019
Las Vegas Gamblers	2005	Wasatch War Gulls	2019
Los Angeles Dragons	2010	Wisconsin Wombats	2017





Executive Board Members - 2019

• Seb Aguiari, President	• Jon Loring, Secretary
• Scott Morris, Eastern Vice President	• Richard Horden-Gibbings, Treasurer
• David Bryant, Central Vice President	• Tegan Hamilton, Member At Large
• Heather Serpico, Western Vice President	

USAFL Staff

• Doren James, Executive Director	• Brian Barrish, Media Manager
• Kathryn Hogg, Webmaster	• Horacio Gutierrez, Accountant

USAFL Umpires Association

• Jonathan Mills, President	• Toby Persson, Umpire Goal Coach
• Steve Arnott, Vice President	• Jeff Persson, Field Umpire Coach
• Sid Caesar, Treasurer	• William Conway, Member at Large
• Seth McElvaney, Secretary	• Laurie Rupe, Member at Large

USAFL Women's Association

• Lisa Arredondo, President	• Lauren Skonieczny, Vice President
• Jessica Taylor, East Representative	• Diane Welch, Secretary
• Sara Rohner, Central Representative	• Anna Thexton, Treasurer
• Lauren Williams, West Representative	• Lauren Balsley, Member At Large

USA Revolution Coaching Staff

• Tom Ellis, Head Coach	• Matt Dinauski, Assistant Coach
• Jason Becker, Assistant Coach	• Brad Anderson, Team Manager
• Dan Sarbacker, Assistant Coach	• Steve Budrick, Head Trainer

USA Freedom Coaching Staff

• Christina Licata, Head Coach	• Lucy Parrington, Assistant Coach, Development
• Martin Coventry, Assistant Coach	• Brandon Snider, Strength & Conditioning Coach
• Kathryn Hogg, Assistant Coach, Talent	• Brianne Theisen, Development Manager



2019 Regional Championships

Eastern Regional – Raleigh, NC



In this, the fifth year of the Regional Championships Series, one thing that can be counted on is that the weather will be unforgiving.

However, by some divine providence of the Australian Football gods, it was a cool and breezy day at the Raleigh MAC Sports & Entertainment Complex. It was a beautiful day, and for three clubs, the day was made even better by winning the first regional championships of the summer.

It was a day where the Hawks of Philadelphia won their third cup in a calendar year, the New York Magpies nested back on top of the women's ladder, and good and evil came together for a common cause, and a premiership.

MEN'S DIVISION 1

For the first time in this competition's history, it truly looked like a wide-open quartet. Philadelphia and Baltimore traveling with a full complement of players, and both New York and Columbus with strong sides but light benches. However, Philadelphia came to play and held off the challengers to repeat as back to back Eastern Regional Champions. With the victory, the Hawks have now won three USAFL-sanctioned tournaments in a row, as this is their second D1 ERC title to go with their D3 National Championship last year.

Columbus 5.5.35 def New York 1.4.10
Philadelphia 4.8.32 def Baltimore 2.6.18
Philadelphia 10.8.68 def Columbus 3.3.21
Baltimore 3.4.22 def New York 2.4.16
Philadelphia 7.9.51 def New York 2.3.15
Baltimore 14.2.86 def Columbus 4.7.31

1st: Philadelphia (3-0)
2nd: Baltimore (2-1)
3rd: Columbus (1-2)
4th: New York (0-3)



WOMEN'S DIVISION

A year ago it was raining, muddy, and anything but sunny in Philadelphia. It was New York, DC, and Columbus in a triangular battle that was ultimately won by the Eagles following a thrilling and emotional deciding match. Those three teams met again in Raleigh on a much sunnier day, and by and large it was the same old song. Except for one X-factor wearing black and white.

And so once again the Eagle and Magpies would determine the regional winner. And like 12 months ago, it was a tight game from the get go. Hemenway got her fifth goal of the day to start, but soon it was Alei, Jennings, and Makensy Medlin chopping off chances. That would lead to a scoring chance from Atlanta forward Megan Hils, she converted to tie the game at 7-7 at the main break.

The Eagles got the first point of the final twenty minutes and were on the front foot. But there were some on Christina Licata's team who remembered that rainy day in Philadelphia and led by Green, they turned the tide. Taylor put the Magpies ahead to stay, and then Hemenway kicked her sixth of the day to salt the trophy away for the women from the Big Apple.

DC Eagles 2.5.17 def Columbus 1.1.7
New York 7.4.46 def Columbus 2.2.14
New York 3.1.19 def DC Eagles 1.2.8

1st: New York (2-0)
2nd: DC/Baltimore/Atlanta (1-1)
3rd: Columbus/Philly/Nashville (0-2)

MEN'S DIVISION 2

The Boston Demons have been around since 1998. The Jacksonville Saints were formed last year. The four Floridians joined the New Englanders, both looking for their first ever regional title. They faced three equally hungry teams from DC, North Carolina and Atlanta. The Demons and Saints, however, held up their end of the bargain to win their first-ever regional title.

North Carolina 5.4.34 def DC Eagles 3.4.22
Boston 7.10.52 def Atlanta 1.1.7
Atlanta 5.4.34 def North Carolina 3.6.24
Boston 8.7.55 def DC Eagles 0.1.1
DC Eagles 6.10.46 def Atlanta 1.2.8
Boston 3.11.28 def North Carolina 0.2.2

1st: Boston (3-0)
2nd: North Carolina (1-2, 71.4%)
3rd: DC Eagles (1-2, 71.1%)
4th: Atlanta (1-2, 40%)



Central Regional – Denver, CO



In the month prior, it snowed in Colorado. That's what happens when you're so far above sea level. However, the snow was long melted as the action unfolded at this year's Central Regional Championship in Westminster, Colorado, it didn't deter from the quality of Aussie Rules played.

As the Rocky Mountains kept vigil over the proceedings, the home team's reserves took home the men's division 2 title, the Minnesota women teamed with Chicago and Wisconsin to put forth their names as challengers for a National title in October, and the Austin Crows won yet another cup.

MEN'S DIVISION 1

The Minnesota Freeze and Austin Crows traveled to Denver to take on the Bulldogs in the highest tier of the carnival. The division was decided under the hot Colorado sky, which saw all teams put to the test in matches that were twenty minutes longer than they would face at Nationals. The Crows, however, were just better and sent a clear message to the rest of the league that they remain a dominant force 86-0 over Minnesota and 56-20 over Denver.

Denver 12.9.81 def Minnesota 3.5.23
Austin 13.8.86 def Minnesota 0.0.0
Austin 8.8.56 def Columbus 3.2.20

1st: Austin (2-0)
2nd: Denver (1-1)
3rd: Minnesota (0-2)

WOMEN'S DIVISION

In another sign of the continued growth of women's football there were, for the first time, four women's teams competing in the women's division at Central Regionals. With the retirement of many of the players who had brought them six straight titles at the beginning of the decade, the Denver Lady Bulldogs have been working hard to recruit players to help spawn the next run of titles. Hosting regionals allowed a showcase of the growth. All teams on the day were balanced with respect to veterans and rookies alike, and for many of the new players, this day would be their first competitive hit out in Australian rules football.



Minnesota came to play and it was Catherine Georgiadis leading the way with a best and fairest performance. Catherine Hoha and the rest of the offense were impressive throughout the day winning all three of their matches by a combined score of 137 to 28.

Denver Red 2.5.17 def Houston 1.3.9
Minnesota 9.6.60 def Denver Blue 1.2.8
Houston 3.7.25 def Denver Blue 3.4.22
Minnesota 6.4.40 def Denver Red 2.1.13
Minnesota 5.7.37 def Houston 1.1.7
Denver Blue 4.4.28 def Denver Red 3.5.23

1st: Minnesota (3-0)
2nd: Denver Red (1-2)
3rd: Denver Blue (1-2)
4th Houston (1-2)

MEN'S DIVISION 2

The six teams in Divvy two found themselves in a two-game showdown shootout to advance to the grand final later in the day. In Pool A play, Nashville teamed up with four players from Wisconsin to face Chicago, a team they had already turned aside this season, combined with players from and Des Moines.

Pool B came down to a final match between Denver's reserves and the Dallas Dingoes, who were supported by last year's D2 champions, the Ohio Valley River Rats. Both teams were winners earlier in the day over Oklahoma, though the Okies put in two valiant efforts led by Andrew Rose and Stephen Rasbold. Denver's "B" team was not made up of scrubs; players from the clubs' halcyon days, including Brent Dowling, Rich Mann, and Phillip Camping, were too much for Dallas and on went the Doggies into the Grand Final.

The 'Roos and 'Dogs came together for one of the most jarring contests of the day. In the end, it was Denver that clawed their way to victory to win its first men's regional championship, 19-14.

Nashville 6.5.41 def Chicago 5.0.30	Denver 4.11.35 def Oklahoma 2.1.13
Dallas 8.3.51 def Oklahoma 2.6.18	Nashville 4.1.25 def Houston 3.3.21
Chicago 4.6.30 def Houston 3.3.21	Denver 7.2.44 def Dallas 2.2.14
Houston 5.11.41 def Oklahoma 5.3.33	Chicago 6.3.39 def Dallas 3.3.21
Denver 3.1.19 def Nashville 2.2.14	

1st: Denver Reserves (3-0)	4th: Dallas (1-2)
2nd: Nashville (2-1)	5th: Houston (1-2)
3rd: Chicago (2-1)	6th: Oklahoma (0-3)



West Regional – Salem, OR



It's a true as anything else in Aussie Rules; every team comes into every game and every tournament with something to prove.

With many teams, it's about being the best. With others, it's showing how far you've come with new players, or with a new team altogether.

The Golden Gate Roos proved that they are still the best team in the West, turning aside all three challengers and locking up their fourth straight Western

D1 title.

The San Francisco Iron Maidens found their way back to the top of the region after turning back the Seattle Grizzlies in what proved to be a preview of the Women's Division 1 National Championship. In Men's Division 2 it was the home team the Portland Sockeyes defending their crown as they repeated as Western Regional Champs.

MEN'S DIVISION ONE

The Golden Gate Roos had a reputation to uphold; ranked second in the country and as three-time Western D1 premiers. They asserted their intentions in the opening game and sustained it throughout the day tallying over 60 points in all three of their matches. Seattle came to play and in a re-match of what is becoming a competitive rivalry they knocked off San Diego to take second place.

Final Standings:

Golden Gate 9.7.61 def Seattle 3.2.20
San Diego def 6.6.42 def Los Angeles 2.4.16
Golden Gate 10.5.65 def Los Angeles 3.2.20
Seattle 4.7.31 def San Diego 4.3.27
Golden Gate 10.8.68 def San Diego 1.4.10
Seattle 8.12.60 def Los Angeles 2.4.16

1st: Golden Gate (3-0)
2nd: Seattle (2-1)
3rd: San Diego (1-2)
4th: Los Angeles (0-3)



WOMEN'S DIVISION

Coming into the tournament as the reigning National Champions, the San Francisco Iron Maidens were motivated to show they remain the class of the USAFL women's competition. The Seattle Grizzlies were just as motivated to avenge their heart-breaking loss in 2018's Grand Final. While the home team, the Portland Sockeyes had plans to repeat the magic they captured at the 2018 and bring home another Regional Cup. Sacramento brought a young team that gained valuable experience in their lead up to Nationals.

Final Standings:

San Francisco 3.1.19 def Sacramento/LA 0.2.2
Seattle/AZ Hawks 5.3.33 def Portland/AZ Outlaws/Austin 2.1.13
San Francisco 4.9.33 def Seattle/AZ Hawks 2.1.13
Portland/AZ Outlaws/Austin 3.4.22 def Sacramento/LA 1.1.7
San Francisco 4.7.31 def Portland/AZ Outlaws/Austin 1.0.6
Seattle/AZ Hawks 2.3.15 def Sacramento/LA 1.2.8

1st: San Francisco (3-0)
2nd: Seattle/AZ Hawks (2-1)
3rd: Portland/AZ Outlaws/Austin (1-2)
4th: Sacramento/LA (0-3)

MEN'S DIVISION TWO

In Division Two the day belonged to the Portland Steelheads as they put on a dominating display of power and efficiency for the home crowd. Outscoring their opponents by a combined total of 151 to 54 it was an impressive all around performance. The biggest challenge of the day came from Orange County, but in the end it was Portland's veteran experience led by Martin Coventry who played in his 200th USAFL match on the weekend.

Final Standings

Portland 8.6.54 def AZ Outlaws 3.0.18
Orange County 6.6.42 def Sacramento 2.2.14
Portland 8.7.55 def Sacramento 1.3.9
Orange County 7.2.44 def AZ Outlaws 2.5.17
Portland 6.6.42 def Orange County 4.3.27
AZ Outlaws 10.1.61 def Sacramento 1.7.13

1st: Portland (3-0)
2nd: Orange County (2-1)
3rd: AZ Outlaws (1-2)
4th: Sacramento (0-3)



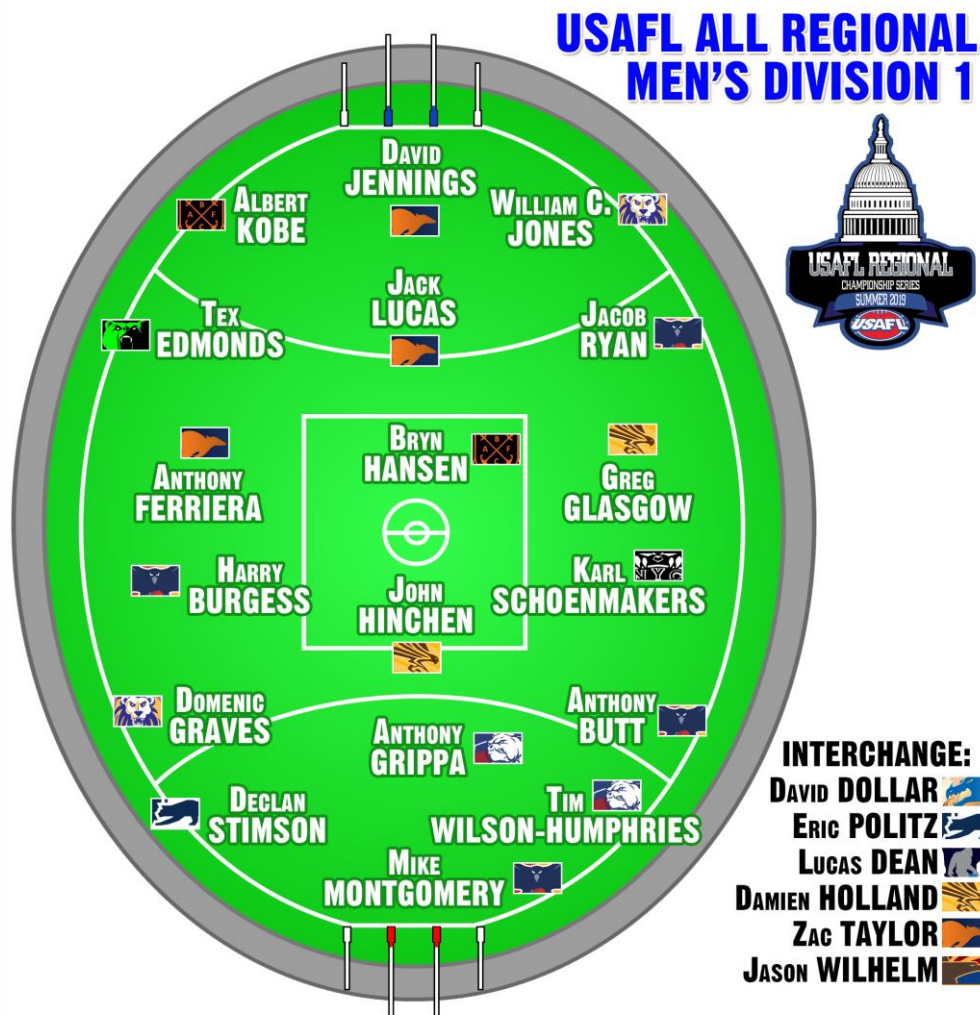
2019 All-Regionals Team

For the first time, the USAFL is excited to introduce the All-Regional Team. The best 24 players in each of the divisions that were contested this summer were selected. The lists below were chosen from the highest vote-getters as selected by our umpires, as well as neutral observers from the tournaments in the case of ties. Each of the 36 teams (as opposed to clubs) were guaranteed at least one player in the division they played in, and the rest were filled out with the next best vote getters. While the number of representatives from each region vary, the starting lineup contains the top six players from each tournament.

Men's Division 1

BEST & FAIREST: Karl Schoenmakers (New York), Harry Burgess (Austin), Jack Lucas (Golden Gate)

MVP: John Hinchin (Philadelphia), Anthony Butt (Austin), Zac Taylor (Golden Gate)

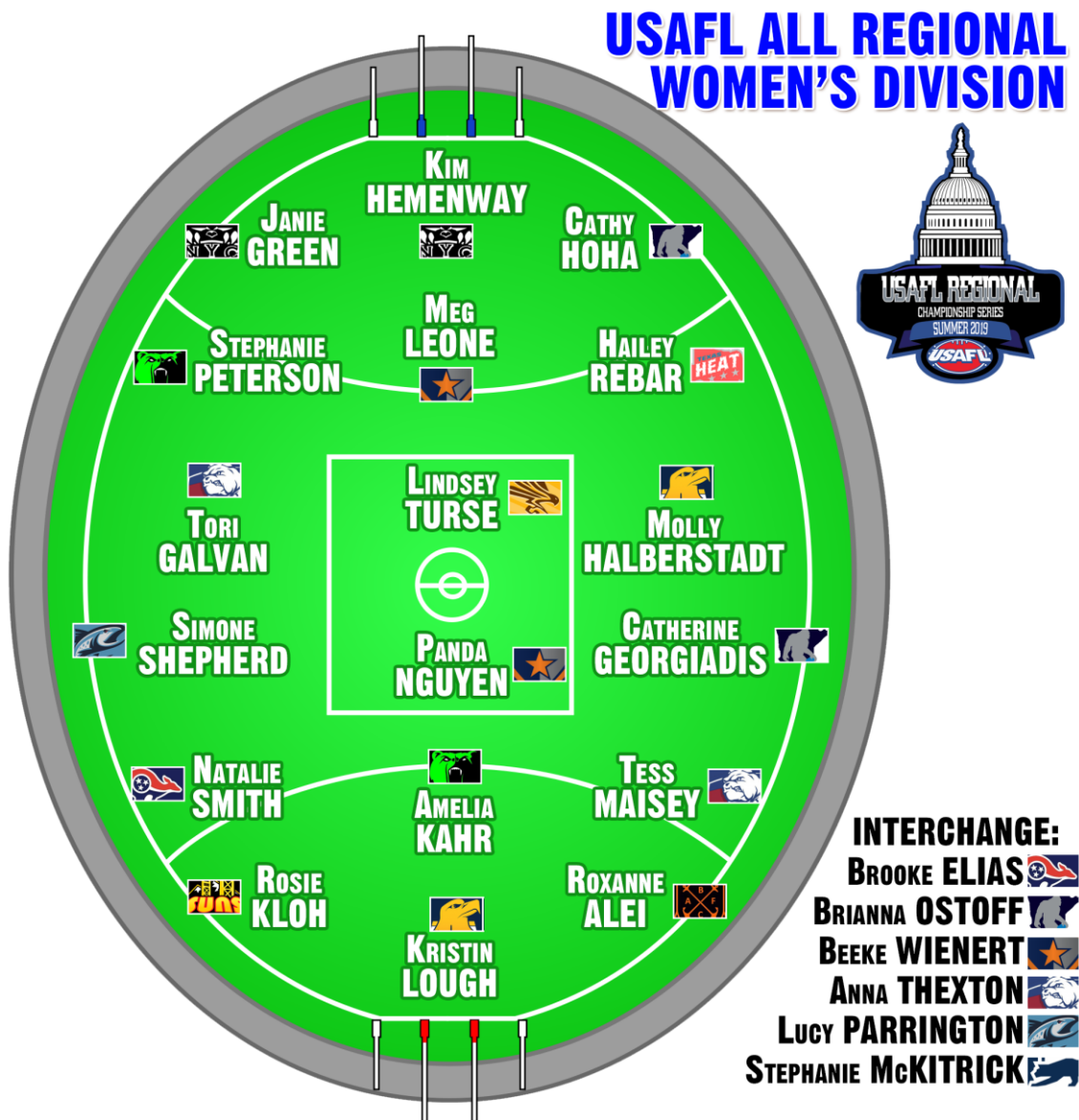




Women's Division

BEST & FAIREST: Janie Green (New York), Catherine Georgiadis (Minnesota), Meg Leone (San Francisco)

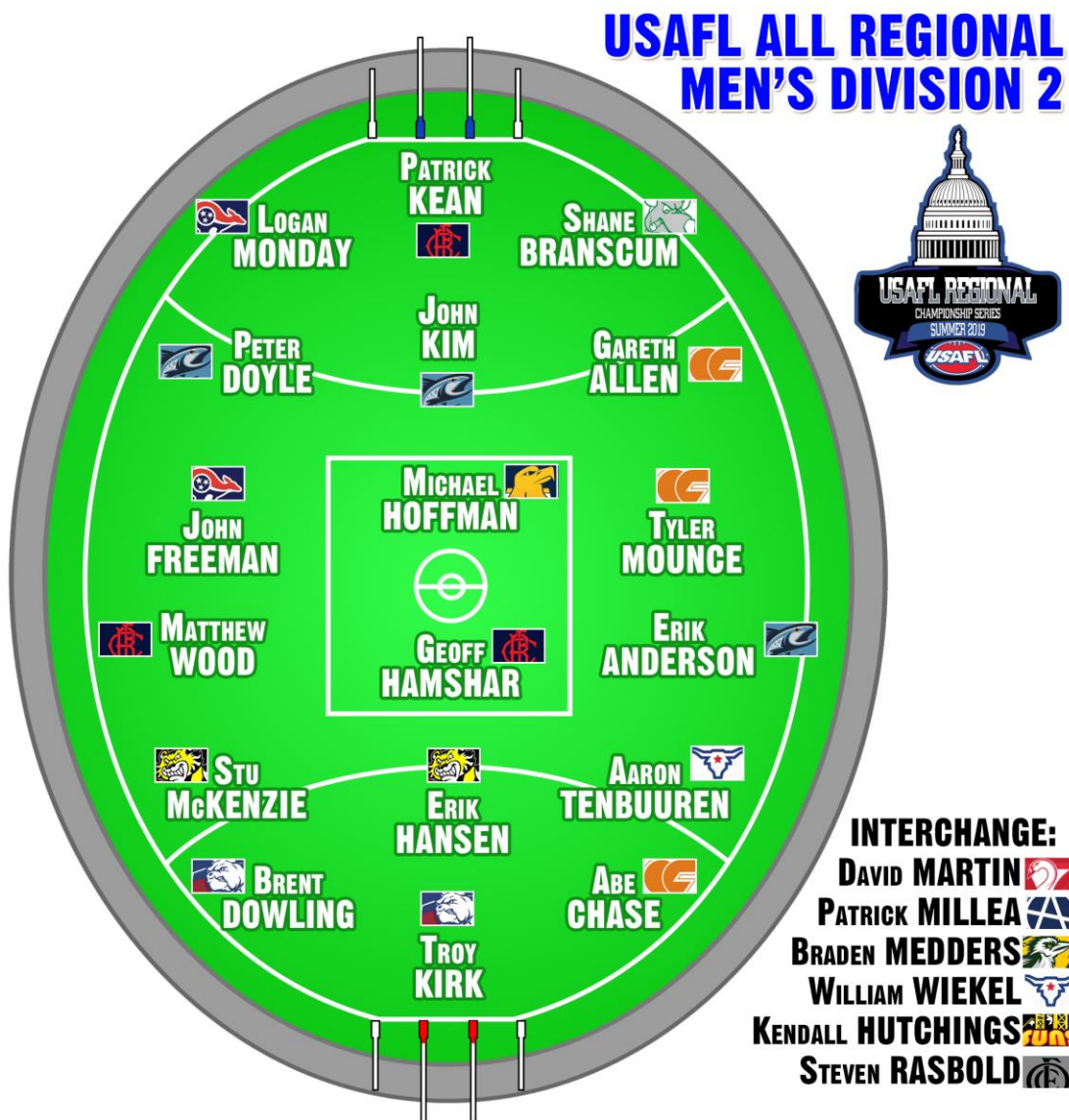
MVP: Roxanne Alei (Baltimore), Jessica Gray (Denver), Beeke Wienert (San Francisco)





Men's Division 2

BEST & FAIREST: Erik Hansen (North Carolina), John Freeman (Nashville), Tyler Mounce (Orange County)
MVP: Patrick Kean (Boston), Brent Dowling (Denver), John Kim (Portland)





2019 National Championships

The 2019 USAFL Nationals were the second largest in history; nearly 1,200 players from 44 teams representing over 40 clubs competed on October 12-13. The Premier Sports Campus venue in Lakewood Ranch, FL is one of the top venues in the entire country



This was the second Nationals held in Bradenton-Sarasota since 2016 and was perhaps the most successful event in league history. The word of the weekend was 'smooth' and from the perfect playing surface to the ideal weather the 2019 edition of the USAFL National Championships was all any player, fan or official could hope for. In his seventh year as National Tournament Director Doren James brought together an incredible team that delivered in every capacity and set a new standard for Nationals. The League would like to recognize the Bradenton Sports Commission, Visit Sarasota, the staff of Premier Sports Campus and the dedicated support of countless

volunteers who made the weekend a tremendous success.

The USAFL would also like to thank Coopers Brewery and Michael Shearer for their continued, long time support and sponsorship of the USAFL Nationals. Special recognition to AFL & AFLW guests Mason Cox and Erin Phillips, AFL Umpires, Shane McInerney, Ray Chamberlain, Chris Donlon and Hayden Gavine. Gratitude and appreciation to Andrew Hughes, AFL International Manager for attending and his continued support of the USAFL. Thank you to the Australian Advisory Board represented by Doug Drinkwater and Mark Motlop for their continued and reliable support across the weekend.

The second edition of the Mateship Match, which honors past and present US and Australian military members was played on the Sunday afternoon. The two teams were coached by Mason Cox and Erin Phillips with the match ending in a tie.





USAFL Honors

The USAFL Hall of Fame recognizes and honors those members of the United States Australian Football community who, by virtue of their contributions, are of such significant stature that they are considered to be among the most highly regarded contributors to the promotion and development of Australian Rules Football in the USA, while residing in the USA. The contributions of those inducted may come from player, coach, umpire, administrator or media backgrounds and must be of lasting value.

The Hall of Fame is a vehicle to inform the general public of the achievements of the USAFL and to provide recognition of the game's most outstanding individuals. It is also an important means of preserving the most notable aspects of the heritage of Australian Rules Football in the United States.

Steve Arnott

Steve Arnott has umpired for 31 years, 20 of those in the USAFL. Steve's umpiring and mentoring have been instrumental and made significant impact in the growth and development of USAFL umpiring across the league. He continues to work tirelessly at local, regional, and national levels and serves on the USAFL Umpire Association Board. He always has time for players' questions as well as new umpires' education, which includes classroom training as well as on-field mentoring.



Administration Excellence Awards

Each year selected USAFL leaders are recognized for their contributions to the overall development of the league. The awards are named in honor of USAFL Founder and Hall of Fame member, Paul "Plugger" O'Keeffe.

Congratulations to **Ian Payne, Baltimore Dockers** who was awarded for his leadership in guiding the Dockers as President and heading up the USAFL Coaches Association. The Coaches Association saw significant growth in USAFL Coaches completing AFL Coaching accreditation in 2019.

Congratulations also go to **Steve Noble, Denver Bulldogs** who was awarded and recognized for his leadership and efforts in the continued growth and development of the Denver Bulldogs. The Bulldogs had the largest growth in participation in 2019 across the league and their men's team were Division 1 runners up.



Division I Results

Denver Bulldogs



	Goals	Behinds	Totals
Final	1	2	28

Paul Roos Medal for Best & Fairest

Jack Lucas, Golden Gate

Coopers Medal for Most Consistent

Thomas Cramer, Denver

Austin Crows



	Goals	Behinds	Totals
Final	8	3	51

Geoff Cann Medal for MVP in Final

Kenrick Tyrell, Austin

Hayden Kennedy Medal for Grand Final

Umpiring

Ross McLaren, Derek Govier & Liam Dye



At the beginning of this decade, it seemed neigh impossible that anyone would reach the heights that the Denver Bulldogs had during the last one.

Between 2000 and 2011, the Doggies had been to ten D1 Men's Grand Finals and won eight. They were the team of the USAFL's first decade, and the gold standard in the league's formative years.

But over the past eight seasons, Denver had faded into the background among the also-rans, and a new dynasty emerged. This one, wearing blue, gold, and red, has taken over the

flagship mantle on the men's side. With four wins already in six seasons, the Austin Crows have been the best team of the USAFL's second calendar decade.

And so it was fitting that those two teams would duke it out in Lakewood Ranch for the last Men's D1 Grand Final of the 2010's, in front of a National TV audience. And though the Bulldogs had history and experience on their side, Austin had more of it.

The Crows parried away early Denver threats and stomped home to a resounding 51-10 win on Sunday, October 13, to win their fifth John Harrell Cup in seven seasons, and remain unbeaten in D1 Men's Grand Final matches.



Stefan Barr's Crows had a relatively straight forward run through pool play. Wins over Seattle and Quebec on Tuesday were followed up with a 51-point rout of Los Angeles on Sunday morning to punch their ticket. The highlight of the weekend was the first ever match between the Cox brothers, as Austin (the human) and Seattle fell to Nolan and Austin (the team). The score then belied a plucky effort all weekend from the Grizzlies in their return from a five year Men's Divvy 1 absence.

Denver's road to the final was a bit more challenging. An 11-point decision over New York and a 21-point win over last year's D2 champion Minnesota set up a virtual semifinal with much fancied Golden Gate on Sunday morning. But it was the Rocky Mountain boys who prevailed 27-17 in the showdown, ending the Roos' run of three straight Men's D1 Grand Final appearances. The win put the Doggies into their first D1 championship decider in eight seasons.

The wind was swirling as umpire Derek Govier, the pride of Toronto, tossed the opening ball up to the heavens. And the Bulldogs rushed forward and chiseled out the first two points of the match after winning some hard ground balls. If Denver was going to have any chance of pulling off a Ric Flair special, this is what they needed to do while they had the breeze.

But Austin can beat you if you let them string kicks together, and they did just that. Kenrick Tyrell doing what he always does, getting away from his defenders to take a mark, which he converted for the game's first major score on their first trip inside the 50 meter arc. The Crows can also beat you if you make mistakes; two minutes after goal number one, a free kick down field allowed Stefan Barr to find Dylan Barr to find the game's second.

After that shock to the system, Alex Mayberry and the Denver defense stood tall to stem the prods forward by the tricolors. The Bulldogs played desperation football in order to triage the bleeding. On the offensive side, they were inefficient as they kicked four behinds from four scoring shots in the first half. By contrast, an interception from Grant Campbell led to a strong goal-square mark from Tyrell who booted home his second and the game's third. A Denver answer came from Lachie Fleet, who had been snake-bit on his first two shots, was true on his third to bring the margin back to nine points at halftime. With the 'Doggies down 19-10, they faced a tough task in overcoming the Crows and a two-goal breeze in the final twenty minutes.

A frantic and sloppy several minutes punctuated the opening of the final stanza, as both teams sprayed handballs and kicks like a garden hose in the backyard. Dan Brown's midfield play helped clarify the confusion as he racked up meaningful possessions for the Texans. Pressure and Denver unforced Bulldog errors led to the half's first major, a Ben May free kick from 55 meters out that cut through the gulf winds and between the big sticks.

Both teams had periods of play where they had effective passes, but Austin's possessions were more efficient. Nolan Cox's goal midway through the second half was a dagger, and another one a few minutes later practically sealed Denver's fate. With Cox taking marks, Tyrell and Pete Petinari and all world forward Ben Carpenter-Nwanyanwu slotting home highlight reel caliber goals, Austin's fifth title was secure. The Doggies never gave up and never relented, but 32-unanswered second stanza points was too much to overcome. Austin 51, Denver 10.



Women's Division I Results

Seattle Grizzlies



	Goals	Behinds	Totals
Final	0	3	3

Paul Roos Medal for Best & Fairest

Nikole Mackenzie, San Francisco

Coopers Medal for Most Consistent

Janie Green, New York

San Francisco Iron Maidens



	Goals	Behinds	Totals
Final	2	2	14

Geoff Cann Medal for MVP in Final

Elise Gallagher, San Francisco Iron Maidens

Hayden Kennedy Medal for

Grand Final Umpiring

Brendan Dye & Shawn Farber

It's best to not question greatness. We can scrutinize, analyze, and predict. But it's all about execution, and when push comes to shove, the cream rises to the top.

For the San Francisco Iron Maidens, they took the brunt of everything an incredibly potent Women's Division 1 field had to give. There were questions even on Sunday afternoon as to whether the juggernaut would last another year. Still, they ended up lifting their fourth straight National Championship trophy on Sunday, October 13th at the Premier Sports Campus at Lakewood Ranch, Florida.



The coup-de-gras was a 14-3 triumph over the Seattle Grizzlies in the final, which was a testament to the fortitude of both teams' efforts over the season and the weekend and to the sextet of teams that showed the strength of USAFL women's football.

It was the second straight year that the Maidens and Grizzlies met in the final, and, just like in 2018, they had met in group play on Saturday before renewing pleasantries in front of a National TV audience. Coming out of Pool A, both San Francisco and Seattle had coolly dusted off a rebuilding Denver Lady Bulldogs outfit. Having already clinched their semifinal spots, the two slugged it out in an effort to determine the best of the pool.

In Racine last year, the Maidens accounted for an understaffed Grizzlies team twice despite the best efforts of the emerald-and-black. On this Saturday, the Maidens again whitewashed Seattle, but the stingy Grizzlies defense held the champs to just two behinds. For a team that was only playing in its third year of D1, Seattle was now starting to look like an heir apparent.



Pool B had its own upstarts that were there to rock the boat like a storm out on the Gulf. Both the Minnesota Freeze and New York Magpies had dispatch of the hearty Portland Sockeyes in straight sets, and when they came together on Saturday afternoon they set out upon their own war. Just as in the other pool, the “rubber” game here was also tightly fought and tightly contained on the scoreboard. Christina Licata’s New York Magpies ducked and parried the attacks of the potent and complete Freeze attack and managed to hang on 15-14.

On Semifinal Morning, both of Racine’s finalists had to go through clubs with robust American talent and the belief that this was Their Year. Seattle built up an early lead over New York through goals by Katya Hewitt and Rachel Blum, and built up a 16-0 wind-aided halftime lead. The Magpies were kicking everywhere but between the goals in reply, as a Kim Hemenway major was the only six-pointer to go with six behinds. And that is as close Pies would get to soothe their seven year Finals itch.

Catherine Georgadis led her Minnesota Freeze into a semis rematch with the Iron Maidens, cognizant of the fact that in Racine, they came up just four points short of knocking off San Francisco. After falling behind 2-0 late in the first half, the Maidens got a late goal right on the halftime siren by Caitlin Lutz, and that was the kickstart they needed. Led by Paul Roos medal winner Nikole Makenzie, the Maidens kicked away in the second half to win 27-2 and break northern hearts.

Aside from the weather being about forty degrees warmer, there were two main differences between this Grand Final showdown and last year’s. Seattle, who because of injuries and sundry, had dressed just fifteen players for the decider a season ago. This year, they had nineteen strong, and had gotten through their three games in relative good health.

San Francisco’s roster was largely the same as the one that had taken out flag number three. But new coach Carly Smolak, winner of two of those titles, had one weapon at her disposal that the previous teams didn’t. Katie Klatt, longtime Sacramento Sun, had come back to the States after 2 ½ seasons playing for VFLW’s Melbourne University, would be looming large across the halfback.

This would be the fourth meeting in two Nationals between the two teams. Within five minutes of the first Grand Final ball up, Seattle had done something they had failed to do in the first three games: score a point. An early behind through the hard work of Valerie Barber-Axthelm chiseled out a 1-0 lead. This was a better Grizzlies team, and the Maidens knew it. They scored the equalizer off of a good chance, but the game was tight and every ball contested in the spirit of it being a game of legendary status.

Goals would appear to be tougher to mine than diamonds. Seattle’s defense, with Amelia Kahr and Lateah Holmes acting as metaphorical shields, kept Maiden offensive chances to a minimum. It would take the rugged work of veteran Jessica Estrada-Finley to dig up the game’s first major. Literally wrenching the ball out of Grizzly midfielder Marian Dickenson’s hands, she sent a ball inside 50 that eventually found its way into the hands of Savannah Green who booted home a point blank sausage roll.

Stunned but not deterred, Dickenson and the Grizzlies kept the pressure on Klatt, Julie Marks, and the San Francisco defense. They added another point before the break, and went into halftime only down 7-2. With twenty minutes to play, there was a real feeling that this was anyone’s game and that the Maiden streak was in jeopardy of coming to an end.



The intensity and hitting picked up in the second stanza. So too did the tension. Through Alison Leonard and Ali Alcocer's midfield play, and the physicality of Tegan Hamilton, Seattle kept asking questions of the Maiden's backliners. And more often than not, it was Klatt who raised her hand and provided responses. Remember that this is a women who had played four seasons with a team that, while steadily improved in each season before she went to Australia, hadn't been this far before. Katie Klatt could taste a National Championship and there wasn't much in this earthly existence that was going to stop her.

Seattle had its chance to take the lead. And they pressed forward trying to squeeze some juice out of those chances. But they got caught up too high, and a Klatt clearance sent game MVP Ellise Gallagher forward with the ball. She found Sara Magallon with a pass, and "Mags" saw Makenzie streaking towards the goals with the quickness of three or four lightning bolts. When the Gloved Crusader's kick went between the two pipes, trophy number four was assured.

When the siren went off at 14-3 San Francisco, there were tears on both sides. For the Grizzlies, who were left bereft on the turf, it was the sad end to a story that they thought would have a happy ending.

But for the Maidens, this one tasted different. Still sweet, but different. Carly Smolak, who had been sidelined last year with that early season knee injury, became the first player to win the D1 women's title as a player and coach. For Klatt, the championship was a deserved end to this chapter of her footballing career.

Division II Results

San Diego Lions



	Goals	Behinds	Totals
Final	3	1	19

Paul Roos Medal for Best & Fairest

Jack Haw, San Diego, John O'Connor, Baltimore & John Hinchin, Philadelphia

Coopers Medal for Most Consistent

Lachlan Miscamble, Houston

Baltimore Dockers



	Goals	Behinds	Totals
Final	1	2	8

Geoff Cann Medal for MVP in Final

Michael Coffey, San Diego

Hayden Kennedy Medal for

Grand Final Umpiring

Laurie Rupe & Steve Arnott

The San Diego Lions picked up their fourth overall National Championship banner, and their first since they won D4 in 2015 by defeating a game Baltimore Docker outfit 18-9. Justin Valley's early second half goal was the winning marker over the Dockers, who made history by being the first team to make a Grand Final one season and then doing the same thing two divisions higher the following year.



Women's Division II Results

Philadelphia/Arizona Hawks



	Goals	Behinds	Totals
Final	2	1	13

Paul Roos Medal for Best & Fairest

Rebekah Quinn, Chicago & Liz Danielson, Sacramento

Coopers Medal for Most Consistent

Hailey Rebar, Texas & Hannah Alexander, North Star

DC/Des Moines/Arizona Outlaws



	Goals	Behinds	Totals
Final	1	2	8

Geoff Cann Medal for MVP in Final

Dani Marshall, Arizona Hawks

Hayden Kennedy Medal for Grand Final Umpiring

Brian Dunkin & David Heward

The DC Eagles combination held the lead for 38.5 minutes of the women's D2 final, only to see Philadelphia/Arizona kick a goal in the dying seconds to steal a 13-8 victory.

Division III Results

Boston Demons



	Goals	Behinds	Totals
Final	4	2	26

Paul Roos Medal for Best & Fairest

Samuel Barnett, Boston

Coopers Medal for Most Consistent

Noor Jehangir, Austin & Clyde Simpson, Columbus

Columbus Cats



	Goals	Behinds	Totals
Final	2	3	15

Geoff Cann Medal for MVP in Final

Samuel Barnett, Boston

Hayden Kennedy Medal for Grand Final Umpiring

Ryan Wilsmore & Peter Pearce

The Boston Demons/Maine Cats used a strong first half wind to put 26 points on the board in the first half, then set up shot defensively to hold off the Columbus Cats by eleven. The win was Boston's first National Title since they won the 1998 and 1999 D1 championships, while Maine was victorious in its first ever Nationals. The 26 points ties the fewest by a winning team in a D3 final (Philadelphia 2003, Kansas City 2008).



Division IV Results

Ohio Valley River Rats/Arizona Hawks



	Goals	Behinds	Totals
Final	5	2	32

Paul Roos Medal for Best & Fairest

Shane Branscum, Ohio Valley

Coopers Medal for Most Consistent

Michael Hoffman, DC & Josh Curtis, Des Moines

Des Moines/Sacramento



	Goals	Behinds	Totals
Final	4	4	28

Geoff Cann Medal for MVP in Final

Ben Judge, Des Moines

Hayden Kennedy Medal for Grand Final Umpiring

Peter Dinnick & Greg Everett

Division Four is an annual showcase of newer clubs dipping their toes into the competitive waters of Nationals for the first time, existing clubs keeping the flames of footballing passion going, and seconds players looking to make their mark en route to a National Championship. A see-saw affair saw the Ohio Valley River Rats come home four point winners in the D4 Granny, their sixth such win in the division.





Financial Management

The USAFL is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that maintains its books on a cash basis. The primary sources of revenue are from the annual grant provided by the AFL, dues from member clubs, individual player memberships, and several sponsorships in relation to the National Championships. The primary expenses each year are a mix of training, supporting, and educating functions, all in accordance with the League's core programs and mission. Each year at the USAFL Annual General Meeting the Treasurer outlines the financial report of the prior year, and the status of the year at hand at the time.

The organization is the financial record keeper of all the events organized by the League, including the National Championships and training courses. The financial philosophy of the League is for events to be self-funding where possible. Consistent with past years, the League continues to maintain a part-time accountant for enhanced internal controls, compliance, and bookkeeping purposes.

The financial results, as presented, demonstrate the League is in sound financial condition, subject to the continuation of funding by the AFL. To comply with US tax requirements, each year the League submits reviewed financials to an external accounting firm, which provides the USAFL with annual audit and accounting services and assists with federal tax compliance and reporting to the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS"). The following pages present the USAFL's balance sheet as of Dec. 31, 2019 and income statement for the calendar year 2019. At the time of printing, the 2019 tax return is not yet complete, and the figures presented below have not yet been submitted to the IRS.

Richard Hordern-Gibbings

Treasurer

treasurer@usafl.com



2019 USAFL Balance Sheet

	Total
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
BofA, Missouri	85,517.15
Petty Cash	80.00
USAFL - 2005 National Championships	0.00
USBank - 1813	39.95
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 85,637.10
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	0.00
Total Accounts Receivable	\$ 0.00
Other Current Assets	
Other Receivables	0.00
Prepaid Insurance	0.00
Store Merchandise	0.00
Undeposited Funds	0.00
Total Other Current Assets	\$ 0.00
Total Current Assets	\$ 85,637.10
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 85,637.10
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Accounts Payable	0.00
Total Accounts Payable	\$ 0.00
Credit Cards	
Credit Card	2,412.08
Total Credit Cards	\$ 2,412.08
Other Current Liabilities	
Direct Deposit Payable	0.00
Other Accruals	0.00
Payroll Liabilities	
Federal Taxes (941/944)	5,416.99
TN Quarterly Taxes	900.00
Total Payroll Liabilities	\$ 6,316.99
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$ 6,316.99
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 8,729.07



Total Liabilities	\$	8,729.07
Equity		
Opening Balance Equity		13,166.47
Retained Earnings		65,618.20
Net Income		-1,876.64
Total Equity	\$	76,908.03
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$	85,637.10



2019 USAFL Profit and Loss Statement

	<u>Total</u>
Income	
1050 Capital Donations	74,239.00
1250 Donations	58.43
1375 Membership Dues - Clubs	16,005.00
1380 Membership Dues - Players	
1380-01 Unknown - Club	400.00
1380-02 Arizona Hawks Football Club	3,375.00
1380-03 Atlanta Kookaburras Inc	2,500.00
1380-04 Austin Crows	6,100.00
1380-05 Baltimore/Washington Eagles FC	5,475.00
1380-06 Baton Rouge FC	875.00
1380-07 Boston Australian Rules FC	2,975.00
1380-08 Chicago United	3,225.00
1380-09 Cincinnati Australian Football Club	800.00
1380-10 Columbus Jackaroos	5,300.00
1380-11 Dallas Magpies AFC	2,925.00
1380-12 Denver Bulldogs AFC	9,650.00
1380-13 Florida United	150.00
1380-14 Golden Gate Roos	6,800.00
1380-16 Las Vegas Gamblers	425.00
1380-17 Louisville FC	200.00
1380-19 Minnesota Freeze	6,350.00
1380-20 Nashville Kangaroos	3,625.00
1380-21 New York Magpies	6,650.00
1380-22 North Carolina Tigers FC	3,025.00
1380-23 OC Bombers	2,875.00
1380-24 Philly Hawks ARFC	3,725.00
1380-26 Portland Power AFC	5,325.00
1380-27 San Diego Lions FC	3,425.00
1380-28 Seattle Grizzlies	7,300.00
1380-30 St. Louis Blues FC	250.00
1380-33 Sacramento	5,575.00
1380-34 Des Moines Roosters	1,825.00
1380-37 Fort Lauderdale Fighting Squids	2,250.00
1380-38 Houston Lonestars	6,050.00
1380-39 Quebec Saints	4,500.00



1380-40 Los Angeles Dragons		3,550.00
1380-42 Tulsa Buffaloes		100.00
1380-44 Indianapolis Giants		200.00
1380-48 Edmonton		150.00
1380-49 Oklahoma City Flyers		2,800.00
1380-50 Tampa Bay ARFC		1,000.00
1380-51 Wisconsin Wombats		600.00
1380-52 North Star Blue Ox		1,100.00
1380-53 Richmond Lions		100.00
1380-54 Hawaii Eagles		400.00
1380-55 Arizona Outlaws		875.00
1380-56 DC Eagles		1,925.00
1380-57 Rome RedBacks		100.00
1380-58 Ohio Valley River Rats		600.00
Total 1380 Membership Dues - Players	\$	127,425.00
1400 Sales of Merchandise Clothing		17,103.86
1600 Sales of Merchandise - Other		10,984.31
1650 Sales of Merchandise - Clothing		301.00
1700 Sales of Merchandise - Footballs		2,017.58
1800 Sponsorships		41,170.11
1800-01 Sales Beer		14,651.43
1800-07 Western Regional Tournament		3,015.00
1800-08 Central Region Tournament		2,570.00
1800-10 Eastern Regional		1,900.00
1800-11 Des Moines Roosters		0.00
Total 1800 Sponsorships	\$	63,306.54
2000 US Revolution Donations		135.00
Total Income	\$	311,575.72
Cost of Goods Sold		
3700 Costs of Merchandise		840.00
3750 Costs of Merchandise - Clothing		
3750-01 Costs of Merchandise - Clothing Nationals		7,933.94
Total 3750 Costs of Merchandise - Clothing	\$	7,933.94
3800 Costs of Merchandise - Footballs		
3800-01 Costs of Merchandise - Footballs Nationals		2,071.60
Total 3800 Costs of Merchandise - Footballs	\$	2,071.60
3825 Costs of Merchandise - Food and Beverage		14,490.25
Total Cost of Goods Sold	\$	25,335.79
Gross Profit	\$	286,239.93
Expenses		



3150 Bank Charges - Fees		3,673.98
3250 Board Retreat		3,995.68
3950 Dues & Subscriptions		1,425.54
4350 Travel		2,475.73
4400 Insurance		9,251.00
4450 Legal & Professional Fees		6,058.45
4650 Office Expenses & Supplies		526.40
4660 Web Hosting		1,200.00
4700 Postage & Shipping		649.71
5000 Storage		610.00
5200 Umpires & Officials (Hrs.)		1,200.00
5205 Umpires & Officials Expenses		1,586.00
Total 5200 Umpires & Officials (Hrs.)	\$	2,786.00
5225 Western Regional Tournament		
5225-01 Umpires Hrs		3,190.00
5225-02 Rent or Lease		726.75
5225-03 Awards		489.20
5225-04 Hotel / Meals		1,459.66
5225-05 Supplies		953.99
5225-06 Airfare		1,176.60
5225-08 Athletic Trainers		1,045.41
Total 5225 Western Regional Tournament	\$	9,041.61
5226 Central Regional Tournament		
5226-01 Umpires Hrs		4,125.00
5226-02 Rent or Lease		2,702.86
5226-03 Awards		475.45
5226-04 Hotel / Meals		874.74
5226-05 Supplies		791.63
5226-06 Airfare		873.56
5226-08 Athletic Trainers		1,045.40
Total 5226 Central Regional Tournament	\$	10,888.64
5227 Eastern Regional Tournament		
5227-01 Umpires Hrs. Eastern		3,810.00
5227-02 Rent or Lease		3,592.47
5227-03 Awards		478.00
5227-04 Hotel / Meals		1,568.42
5227-05 Supplies		236.65
5227-06 Airfare		275.60
5227-08 Athletic Trainers		1,084.13
Total 5227 Eastern Regional Tournament	\$	11,045.27
5250 Visa Transaction Costs		495.93



5300 Wages & Commissions		27,371.67
5400 Nationals		3,763.96
5400-01 Airfare		4,022.05
5400-02 Hotel/Meals		12,676.02
5400-03 Rent or Lease		28,368.03
5400-05 Supplies & Materials		4,006.08
5400-07 Tournament Contractors		2,520.00
5400-08 Office Supplies & Shipping		1,730.47
5400-09 VIP		3,891.66
5400-10 Fees & Expenses		75.00
5400-11 Tournament Labor		9,265.16
5400-12 Storage		4,836.14
5400-13 Umpires		20,306.18
5400-14 Streaming / Viedo Production		9,963.90
Total 5400 Nationals	\$	105,424.65
5480 Coaches Association Grant		217.53
5483 Revolution Expenses		8,100.00
5484 USA Freedom Expense		8,000.00
5485 Strategic Development - Women's Assoc		1,183.00
5486 Umpires Grant		2,400.00
5486-01 Travel		447.95
5486-02 Umpires Hrs. Games		1,200.00
Total 5486 Umpires Grant	\$	4,047.95
5496 Tony Fairhead Scholarship		2,500.00
Payroll Expenses		
Taxes		5,202.00
Wages		67,999.92
Total Payroll Expenses	\$	73,201.92
QuickBooks Payments Fees		371.63
Travel Meals		37.03
Total Expenses	\$	294,579.32
Net Operating Income	-\$	8,339.39
Other Income		
Miscellaneous Income		3.19
Other Income		6,492.58
Total Other Income	\$	6,495.77
Other Expenses		
Total Other Expenses	\$	33.02
Net Other Income	\$	6,462.75
Net Income	-\$	1,876.64



2019 USAFL Contact List

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