

The FFWC is about more than playing flag football. More than 350 youngsters have enjoyed the sights and different cultures of some of the world's most exciting cities, visiting attractions such as the Great Wall of China, Niagara Falls and the Berlin Wall. The participants also learn to communicate and make friends despite language barriers and the tournament promotes sporting excellence among boys and girls. Four of the past six championship games have featured co-ed teams, including reigning champion Thailand.



Team Canada - 2006 World Flag Silver medallists

The Flag Football World Championships (FFWC) first kicked off in Toronto, **Canada** in **2000**, within the grounds of the famous Canadian National Exhibition. The Roo Boys of Australia overturned a 20-point halftime deficit in a thrilling final to defeat Japan and win the inaugural championship game.

Ten ten-team format that has featured throughout the event's history continued in Berlin, Germany, in **2001**. An all-North American final saw the USA's Runnymede Eagles from New Jersey defeat **Canada** 33-21. Mexico claimed third place, edging out Australia by two points.

Mexico City staged the third tournament in **2002**, which was won by the Imperial Valley Chargers of San Diego, ensuring the USA kept its grip on the world title. Tomken Road School from Ontario, **Canada** was beaten in the final for a second straight year.

Beaten semi finalists the previous year, Los Diablitos from Mexico won the **2003** title in Tokyo when Asia became the third continent to host the FFWC. The Mexicans beat Wa-Ryong Middle School from Korea to take gold. Thailand claimed third place and Australia came in fourth.

The USA returned to top spot in Vancouver, **Canada** in **2004** when the Michael-Ann Russell Jewish Community Center from Miami had too much firepower for Mexico's Las Aguilas in a 48-17 victory in the city's picturesque Stanley Park. **Canada** took bronze with a hard-fought win over Japan in a tournament that marked the participation of China for the first time.

Beijing, China, welcomed the prestigious grassroots tournament in August **2005**. Thailand's Bangmod Wittaya Middle School defeated defending champion the Michael-Ann Russell Jewish

Community Center team from the United States 25-19 in the tournament final and were crowned world champions. Las Aguilas from Monterrey, Mexico claimed third place with victory over **Canada's** Tomken Road School.

The **2006** FFWC was held at the Leichtathletik Stadion in the historic cathedral city of Cologne, Germany, from August 22 to 26, featuring the national champions of ten nations spanning three continents: **Canada**, China, Germany, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, Mexico, Spain, Thailand and USA.

Source: [://www.nfl-flag.com](http://www.nfl-flag.com)

Football Canada is proud to partner with NFL Canada Flag Football to promote this prestigious co-ed tournament, which motivates boys and girls to participate in a fun and safe sport.