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Arizona Sports and Entertainment Commission Announces Top 5 for the 2026 Arizona High School Flag Football Player of the Year Award

Five finalists from four schools advance in the selection process

PHOENIX (November 27, 2026) — The Arizona Sports & Entertainment Commission (ASEC) and its managed entity, the Grand Canyon State Gridiron Club (GCSGC), have announced the Top 5 finalists for the 2026 Arizona High School Flag Football Player of the Year Award. The five athletes advance from the Top 10 as the program moves toward recognizing Arizona's outstanding high school girls' flag football player.

The finalists represent Campo Verde, Highland, Palo Verde and Salpointe Catholic, spanning the 3A, 4A, 5A and 6A classifications. Each earned a weekly medallion during the 2026 season before advancing through the Top 25 and Top 10 selections.

"Narrowing this field to five was incredibly difficult. The players in this state are extraordinary, and our committee had some very tough decisions to make," said Nikki Balich, executive director of the Arizona Sports & Entertainment Commission. "To stand out among this much talent is a tremendous accomplishment. These five finalists have earned this moment through an entire season of hard work and exceptional play. We are proud to celebrate them, the people who have supported them, and the remarkable athletes across Arizona who continue to raise the standard for this sport."

The 2026 Top 5 finalists are listed alphabetically by first name:

Amaya Moreno (Campo Verde); **Caleena Blackburne** (Palo Verde); **Isla Collins** (Salpointe Catholic); **Jaiyana Bogan-Jacobs** (Campo Verde); **Lacie Nemchick** (Highland).

For more information about the award, visit www.azsportsent.com or call 480.517.9700.

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Season statistics and rankings from MaxPreps as of November 25, 2026.

AMAYA MORENO — CAMPO VERDE

WEEK 6 MEDALLION WINNER | 2026 ARIZONA NO. 1 IN PASSING YARDS & TOTAL YARDS | 6,404 PASSING YARDS AND 110 PASSING TOUCHDOWNS | 996 RUSHING YARDS AND 12 RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS | 7,400 TOTAL YARDS

CALEENA BLACKBURNE — PALO VERDE

WEEK 8 MEDALLION WINNER | 2026 ARIZONA NO. 2 IN TOTAL TOUCHDOWNS | 41 TOTAL TOUCHDOWNS — 20 RUSHING, 13 RECEIVING AND 8 RETURN | 2026 3A SOUTH LEADER IN RUSHING YARDS, RECEIVING YARDS & TOTAL POINTS

ISLA COLLINS — SALPOINTE CATHOLIC

WEEK 6 MEDALLION WINNER | 2026 ARIZONA NO. 3 IN PASSING YARDS | 5,519 PASSING YARDS AND 83 PASSING TOUCHDOWNS | 949 RUSHING YARDS AND 10 RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS | 2026 4A LEADER IN PASSING YARDS & TOTAL YARDS

JAIYANA BOGAN-JACOBS — CAMPO VERDE

WEEK 8 MEDALLION WINNER | 2026 ARIZONA NO. 1 IN RECEIVING YARDS & TOTAL TOUCHDOWNS | 121 RECEPTIONS FOR 2,041 YARDS | 47 TOTAL TOUCHDOWNS — 44 RECEIVING AND 3 INTERCEPTION RETURNS | 13 INTERCEPTIONS

LACIE NEMCHICK — HIGHLAND

WEEK 5 MEDALLION WINNER | 2026 ARIZONA NO. 2 IN PASSING YARDS & TOTAL YARDS | 6,003 PASSING YARDS AND 102 PASSING TOUCHDOWNS | 625 RUSHING YARDS AND 14 RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS | 2026 6A LEADER IN PASSING YARDS & TOTAL YARDS

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About the Arizona High School Flag Football Player of the Year Award

Introduced by the Grand Canyon State Gridiron Club in 2024, the Arizona High School Flag Football Player of the Year Award annually recognizes the state’s top girls’ flag football player. Weekly medallions honor outstanding individual performances during the season.

About the Grand Canyon State Gridiron Club

The Grand Canyon State Gridiron Club (GCSGC) is Arizona's leading advocate for high school football, dedicated to recognizing the state's top student-athletes. The club presents the prestigious Ed Doherty Award to the most outstanding prep football player at the end of each season, and in 2024 introduced the Arizona High School Flag Football Player of the Year Award, now given annually to the state’s top girls’ flag football player. Through these initiatives, the club celebrates individual athletic, academic, and leadership achievements, promoting Arizona’s rich football tradition on a national stage.

About the Arizona Sports & Entertainment Commission

The Arizona Sports & Entertainment Commission (ASEC) is a non-profit organization created in 1988. The commission collaborates with hundreds of partners to help fulfill the mission of bringing national and international sporting events to the state; assisting in the promotion of existing events and Arizona sports teams; providing volunteer recruitment and organization for large-scale sporting events; and developing youth sports programs. In 2009, it assumed oversight of the Arizona Sports Hall of Fame, and in 2012, the Grand Canyon State Games and the Lori Piestewa National Native American Games. The ASEC was also the founding organization and owner of the 2015 NOVA Home Loans Arizona Bowl. The commission is also co-owner and strategic partner for Section 7, one of the most prestigious boys' and girls' high school basketball recruiting events in the country. For more information on the ASEC, please call 480.517.9700 or visit www.azsportsent.com.

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