



# DON SMOLENSKI

## PRESIDENT

NFL Experience: 26th Year (26th with Eagles)  
College: Amherst College Hometown: Pittsford, NY



**SUPER BOWL CHAMPION: 2017 (LII)**

**Don Smolenski**, now in his 26th season with the organization, was named team president in 2012 after originally joining the team in 1998 as chief financial officer. He served as senior vice president/chief financial officer from 2001-10 and then as the team's chief operating officer from 2010-12.

As president, Smolenski directs the club's business and strategic efforts, including sales, marketing, communications, and operations. He has played a key role in significant projects from the construction of Lincoln Financial Field to the club's internationally recognized environmental and philanthropic programs. Smolenski has infused energy and creativity throughout the organization with his engaging leadership style. In 2015, he was named to the Most Admired CEOs list by the *Philadelphia Business Journal*. Under his direction, the Eagles were recognized as a "Top Workplace" by Philly.com in 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, and 2022.

During his time as the team's president, Smolenski and the Eagles celebrated their first Super Bowl victory in franchise history after defeating the New England Patriots, 41-33, in **Super Bowl LII**.

In his first year as president, Smolenski spearheaded a two-year, \$125 million Lincoln Financial Field revitalization project that added 1,600 seats, HD video boards, and graphics paying tribute to the team's history. In 2019, Smolenski's leadership was instrumental to the Lincoln Financial Group naming rights extension, which stands as one of the longest stadium naming rights relationships in the NFL. Over the years, Lincoln Financial Field has hosted high-profile events, including sold-out concerts, national and international soccer matches, the NCAA Lacrosse Championships, the Army-Navy Game, the NHL Stadium Series, Monster Jam, Temple University football, and more. In June 2022, Lincoln Financial Field was selected as a FIFA World Cup 2026 host venue, becoming one of 16 stadiums across the United States, Canada, and Mexico to earn the prestigious honor.

As part of Smolenski's commitment to offering guests a safe, clean, and friendly experience at Lincoln Financial Field, the Eagles were credited with a SAFETY Act designation in August 2020, one of the highest levels of accreditation offered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. One month later, Lincoln Financial Field achieved the distinguished Global Biorisk Advisory Council STAR accreditation for implementing stringent protocols for cleaning, disinfection, and infectious disease prevention.

Smolenski plays an important role in the team's environmental initiatives. As a result of their Go Green program, which features the NFL's largest solar array with 10,456 panels, the Eagles have emerged as a leader in environmental stewardship. Lincoln Financial Field is LEED Gold certified and the Eagles are the first professional sports team to earn ISO 20121 certification. In June 2021, the Eagles entered into a landmark, first-of-its-kind partnership with Ocean Conservancy and The Ocean Foundation to offset team travel through seagrass and mangrove restoration in Puerto Rico.

In 2018, Smolenski helped launch the Eagles Autism Challenge, a one-day bike ride and family-friendly 5K run/walk dedicated to raising funds for cutting-edge autism research and care programs. In 2019, the team's signature fundraising event expanded and led to the formation of the Eagles Autism Foundation, a new charitable endeavor that unified the team's various autism activities into one organization. Through its mission to turn autism awareness into action, the Eagles became one of the first sports franchises to build a state-of-the-art sensory room in its home stadium, have partnered

with organizations to help combat the unemployment rate in the autism community, and have even leveraged home games and open practices to drive critical funds. The Eagles Autism Challenge celebrated a record-breaking year in 2023, raising more than \$6.2 million for the cause and bringing the total raised to \$22 million since 2018.

As an extension of the team's ongoing inclusion efforts, the Eagles made an unprecedented \$100,000 contribution in 2022 to help increase access to female-specific sports equipment. The sizeable donation translated into 6,000 sports bras, which were enough to equip every female athlete in need in The School District of Philadelphia. The success of this initiative then led to the formation of a long-term partnership with Operation Warm to design, manufacture, and distribute 30,000 sports bras throughout the tri-state area.

Furthering Smolenski and the team's mission to knock down barriers that stand in the way of young girls participating in sports, the Eagles launched a girls flag football league in 2022. The program, which initially started with 16 schools and grew to 52 in 2023, sets out to make girls flag an officially sanctioned high school sport in the state of Pennsylvania.

In 2013, Smolenski helped launch the Eagles Care initiative, which has forged strategic partnerships with 30 area-based nonprofits in an effort to help strengthen the core work of each charitable organization.

In addition to his leadership roles within the Eagles organization, Smolenski co-chairs the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's Corporate Council, is a member of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce Board and FM Global Advisory Board, and is involved in the city's FIFA World Cup planning efforts as a member of the Philadelphia Soccer 2026 Board.

In 2019, Smolenski was appointed chair of the PHL Sports Advisory Board. PHL Sports is a business development division of the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau (PHLCVB), which brings together the area sports community to attract major events to Philadelphia. In 2017, in partnership with PHL Sports, Smolenski assisted in bringing the NFL Draft back to Philadelphia for the first time since 1961.

Smolenski serves as the vice president and treasurer of the Eagles Autism Foundation, as well as treasurer of the Eagles Charitable Foundation, which provides area-based children with greater access to vision care.

Before joining the Eagles, Smolenski served as chief financial officer for the International Hockey League, where he oversaw all league financial matters and played an integral role in growing the league from 12 to 19 teams.

Smolenski began his career as a public accountant with Arthur Andersen.

An outdoor enthusiast, Smolenski has completed the Detroit, Pittsburgh, and Boston Marathons. He earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Amherst College and a master's degree in accounting. Don and his wife, Karen, have two sons, Jake and Shane.

