



# AMERICAN YOUTH FOOTBALL AND CHEER

THE WORLD'S LARGEST YOUTH FOOTBALL AND CHEER ORGANIZATION

Coach,

## Welcome to the 2023 American Youth Football National Championships!

This year, AYF celebrates 28 seasons of youth football and cheer. This National Championship tournament promises to be the BIGGEST and BEST one to date, with over 190 teams competing in Division 1 6U-14U, Division 2 6U-14U, Conference All Star Divisions 10U, 11U, 12U, 13U, & 14U unlimited weight divisions and the Invitational.

### Roster Upload

All rosters must be uploaded via the myayf.com platform by October 1, 2023. No Exceptions. Questions or concerns can be directed to [craig@americanyouthfootball.com](mailto:craig@americanyouthfootball.com).

### Live Random Draw Bracket Show

In 2020, AYF was the **FIRST** national youth football tournament to have a completely random seeding-by-draw of each bracket. We will continue that process in 2023. We will stream the draw live on Friday, December 1, 2023, at 8:00 PM EST from the Paradise Coast Sports Complex Welcome Center (via YouTube) and presented by Varsity Media.

### Team Check-In

Team Check-in is a requirement for participation and will be held at North Collier Regional Park Exhibition Hall. Check-in will run from 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM on Saturday, December 2, 2023. Please make travel arrangements that get you to Naples in time to attend Team Check-in. Please note that head coaches must attend a briefing with the Field Marshal Director during Team Check-in as well as the Mandatory Coaches Meeting that evening - this is a requirement to receive credentials needed for participation in the tournament.

### Lodging

The mandatory Stay-to-Play Requirement has been suspended for 2023. A list of recommended hotels can be found at [www.ayfchampionships.com](http://www.ayfchampionships.com).



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Dear AYF National Championship Head Coaches,

Get ready for a fantastic voyage at the 2023 AYF National Championships!

From the off-season signups, to those hot summer practices, to the thrilling anticipation of your opening game and overcoming adversity, your dedication has led you to Naples, Florida. Congratulations on earning this opportunity!

This year's championships will be held at the state-of-the-art Paradise Coast Sports Complex, a venue that promises to elevate your experience to new heights. As we embark on this football adventure, whether you're a first-time attendee or a returning contender or champion, anticipate a fresh and dynamic experience that sets this year apart. You are a part of AYF history!

Our team is here to support you at every turn, providing valuable resources to help you succeed. Stay connected through social media and [AYFChampionships.com](https://www.ayfchampionships.com) for the latest updates, scores, and essential information.

A pivotal and non-negotiable element of this week is to maintain unwavering commitment to your academics and exemplify exceptional character and integrity both on and off the field. Competing at the highest level in all that you do will set you up for future success. Football is the ultimate team sport, offering a fresh experience each year, but the values of sportsmanship, discipline, and perseverance remain constant. This is very important, every day of the year!

This year, our commitment to creating a memorable experience is strengthened by our partnership with Paradise Coast Sports Complex. Explore every corner of this incredible venue and the beautiful surrounding areas of Southwest Florida, as you create unforgettable life-long memories.

I look forward to meeting each of you in person as we unite for our annual epic football extravaganza. Together, let's make the 2023 AYF National Championships a remarkable chapter in your football and life journey.

With excitement and enthusiasm,

Dee Grayer  
National Football Commissioner



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## 2023 AMERICAN YOUTH FOOTBALL STATES, REGIONAL & NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 6U AND 7U RULES

*6U and 7U are National Championship Divisions. This is not Instructional Play.*

**The games will be played by NFHS and AYF rules with the following Special Teams modifications:**

- No punts. There will be a 30 yard walk-off.
- No kickoffs. Ball will be placed on the 40 yard line at the beginning of each half and after scores.
- No Extra Points will be attempted via Kick

### **2 Point Conversion Rule:**

The Game Official will ask the Coach on the Field or the Head Coach (If the team does not have a coach on the field) after a Touchdown if he wants to attempt a 1 pt. Conversion or a 2 pt. Conversion.

1 Pt. Conversion can be attempted from the 3 yard line

2 Pt. Conversion can be attempted from the 10 yard line

### **Optional:**

- Each team can have 1 (one) coach on the field - This is not mandatory.
- The on field coach is allowed to only call plays and not make adjustments.

If there are violations of this, the coach will lose the on field opportunity and be removed from the field for the remainder of the game - zero tolerance.



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**WHEN:** December 2, 2022 - December 8, 2023

**WHERE:** Paradise Coast Sports Complex - Naples, Florida

**INFORMATION WEBSITE:** [www.ayfchampionships.com](http://www.ayfchampionships.com)

**REGISTRATION:** Teams can begin registering as of November 1, 2023 via [www.myayf.com](http://www.myayf.com)

## DIVISIONS OF PLAY:

**DIVISION 1 & DIVISION 2** - 6U, 7U, 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U, 12U, 13U, 14U

**CONFERENCE ALL STARS** – 10U, 11U, 12U, 13U, 14U

**INVITATIONAL** - 10U, 11U, 12U

## GAME DAY INFORMATION BY DIVISION:

**Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday:** D1 & D2: 6U, 7U, 9U, 11U, 13U; CONFERENCE ALL STARS 11U, 12U, 13U, 14U

**Monday, Wednesday, Friday:** D1 & D2: 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U; CONFERENCE ALL STARS 10U

**Monday & Wednesday:** INVITATIONAL DIVISION 10U, 11U, 12U

**LIVE RANDOM DRAW SELECTION SHOW:** Live Streamed via YouTube presented by Varsity Media on Friday, **December 1, 2023**, beginning at 8:00 PM EST. at the **Paradise Coast Sports Complex Welcome Center**.

**TEAM CHECK-IN:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 - North Collier Regional Park Exhibition Hall from 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM  
**(All Teams Must Attend)**

**ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:** [craig@americanyouthfootball.com](mailto:craig@americanyouthfootball.com)



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## 2023 AYF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS ENHANCED SECURITY PROTOCOLS

*AMERICAN YOUTH FOOTBALL IS IMPLEMENTING SEVERAL CHANGES TO OUR SECURITY PROTOCOLS FOR THE 2023 FOOTBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS.*

### EXISTING PROTOCOLS:

MANUAL INSPECTION OF SPECTATOR BAGS AND INSPECTION OF INDIVIDUALS WITH WALKTHROUGH OR HANDHELD MAGNETOMETERS (WANDS).

NO MUSIC WITH EXPLICIT LANGUAGE AND OR PROFANITY IS PERMITTED ON PREMISES.

NO LARGE SPEAKERS OR "BOOM-BOXES" ARE PERMITTED ON PREMISES. HANDHELD SPEAKERS CAN BE USED AT YOUR PRACTICE AREA.

NO WEAPONS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO KNIVES OR GUNS, ARE PERMITTED ON PREMISES.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, NARCOTICS, AND ALL OTHER DRUGS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, MARIJUANA ARE NOT PERMITTED ON THE PREMISES; WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS WHICH ARE PERMITTED WITH APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION.

NO PROFANITY, GANG INNUENDO AND OR SYMBOLS ARE PERMITTED ON PREMISES, INCLUDING ON CLOTHING OR PERSONAL ACCESSORIES.

ANY THREAT MADE AGAINST AN AYF STAFF MEMBER, VOLUNTEER, REFEREE, FACILITY EMPLOYEE, OR ATHLETIC TRAINER WILL RESULT IN A PROMPT REMOVAL FROM THE PREMISES. A REFUSAL TO VACATE THE PROPERTY WILL BE REFERRED TO LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL TRESPASSING CHARGES WILL BE LEVIED AGAINST SAID INDIVIDUAL(S). MOREOVER, SAID PERSON(S) WILL BE BARRED FROM ANY AND ALL AYF/AYC EVENTS AND FACILITIES FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE EVENT AND SHALL BE BANNED INDEFINITELY FROM ANY AND ALL AYF PROGRAMS.



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**IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE PROTOCOLS, THE FOLLOWING ENHANCED PROTOCOLS ARE BEING ADOPTED FOR THE 2023 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AND SHALL REMAIN IN PLACE UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED:**

AYF HAS ADOPTED "THE NFL CLEAR BAG POLICY" IN ITS ENTIRETY (<https://www.nfl.com/legal/clear-bag-policy>) NO PURSES, BACKPACKS, FANNY PACKS, DIAPER BAGS, COMPUTER BAGS, CAMERA BAGS ARE PERMITTED ON PREMISES. ONLY CLEAR BAGS ARE PERMITTED ON PREMISES, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF COOLERS, WHICH LIKE ALL ITEMS ARE SUBJECT TO INSPECTION.

NO CARTS OR WAGONS ARE ALLOWED ON PREMISES, ALL COOLERS MUST BE CARRIED IN AND OUT OF THE FACILITY.

ALL COOLERS ARE SUBJECT TO INSPECTION BY SECURITY PERSONNEL AND MAY ONLY BE BROUGHT THROUGH THE TEAM ENTRY GATE. NO COOLERS ARE PERMITTED THROUGH THE SPECTATOR GATE.

MAGNETOMETERS, WALK THROUGH OR HANDHELD (WANDS) WILL BE USED AT THE TEAM GATE AND ALL TEAM EQUIPMENT IS SUBJECT TO INSPECTION.

PLAYERS MUST CARRY OR WEAR ALL EQUIPMENT WHEN ENTERING THE FACILITY, NO DUFFLES, BACKPACKS, ETC. FOR PLAYERS ARE PERMITTED. ALL DUFFLES, BACKPACKS, ETC. MUST REMAIN IN VEHICLE/PARKING LOT. AYF IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOSS OR THEFT OF ANY ITEMS LEFT IN VEHICLES OR PARKING LOT AS A RESULT OF THIS POLICY.

COACHES ARE PROHIBITED FROM WEARING ANY FORM OF BAG AND OR BACKPACK WHILE COACHING.

EACH TEAM WILL RECEIVE A MAXIMUM OF 10 WRISTBANDS. WRISTBANDS WILL ONLY BE GIVEN TO ROSTERED PERSONNEL – A MAXIMUM OF 8 COACHES AND 2 TEAM STAFFERS (TEAM MOM, WATER-ATTENDANT, ETC.) 2 ADDITIONAL BANDS WILL BE PROVIDED EXCLUSIVELY TO MPR PERSONNEL. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS WRISTBAND POLICY. THE TEAM'S COACHING STAFF IS RESPONSIBLE TO ENSURE THAT THERE ARE NO MORE THAN 10 PERSONS ON THE TEAM SIDELINE, WITH OR WITHOUT WRISTBANDS. FIELD MARSHALS WILL CONDUCT PERIODIC INSPECTIONS OF THE TEAM SIDELINE AND CONTINUED VIOLATIONS OF THIS POLICY WILL BE ENFORCED WITH AN UNSPORTSMANLIKE PENALTY LEVIED AGAINST THE INFRINGING TEAM AT THE TIME OF DISCOVERY.

THERE IS A ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY FOR FIGHTING. ANY FIGHTS BEFORE, DURING OR AFTER THE GAME BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS OR TEAMS WILL RESULT IN TEAM DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE EVENT. TO BE CLEAR, THIS POLICY EXTENDS BEYOND PLAYERS AND COACHES, FIGHTING BY PARENTS OR SPECTATORS WILL RESULT IN THEIR AFFILIATED TEAM BEING DISQUALIFIED FROM THE EVENT. NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN TO TEAMS OR SPECTATORS IN THE EVENT OF



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DISQUALIFICATION AND REMOVAL FROM THE PREMISES. MOREOVER, THE OFFENDING PERSON(S) SHALL BE BANNED INDEFINITELY FROM AYF REGIONAL AND NATIONAL PARTICIPATION.

TEAM "SHOW-DOWNS" OR "SQUARE-OFFS" IN PRE-GAME ARE PROHIBITED. A VIOLATION OF THIS RULE WILL RESULT IN A 15 YARD PENALTY ON THE OPENING KICK-OFF APPLIED AGAINST THE OFFENDING TEAM, IF BOTH TEAMS ARE FOUND TO HAVE VIOLATED THE RULE, THE PENALTIES WILL BE OFF-SETTING, AND BOTH HEAD COACHES WILL RECEIVE A "PERSONAL FOUL ON THE BENCH", WHICH WILL COUNT TOWARDS THE MANDATORY EJECTION OF THE HEAD COACH FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE GAME, UPON A SECOND "PERSONAL FOUL ON THE BENCH."



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