



# AMERICAN YOUTH FOOTBALL AND CHEER

THE WORLD'S LARGEST YOUTH FOOTBALL AND CHEER ORGANIZATION

Coach,

## Welcome to the 2024 American Youth Football National Championships!

This year, AYF celebrates 29 seasons of youth football and cheer. This National Championship tournament promises to be the BIGGEST and BEST one to date, with over 200 teams competing in Division 1 6U-14U, Division 2 6U-14U, Conference All Star Divisions 9U/10U, 11U/12U, 13U/14U, and Division 3 10U-13U unlimited weight divisions.

### Roster Upload

All rosters must be uploaded via the myayf.com platform by October 1, 2024. 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 2024. We will stream the draw live on Saturday, December 7, 2024, at 6:00 PM EST. from the Great Wolf Lodge Convention Center (via YouTube) and presented by Varsity Media.

### Team Check-In

Team Check-in is a requirement for participation and will be held at Great Wolf Lodge Convention Center. Check-in will run from 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM on Sunday, December 8, 2024. 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 at 8:00 PM - this is a requirement to receive coaches credentials needed for participation in the tournament.

### Lodging

The mandatory Stay-to-Play Requirement has been suspended for 2024. A list of recommended hotels can be found at [www.ayfchampionships.com](http://www.ayfchampionships.com).

*Craig Karahuta*

Craig Karahuta  
Vice President Football & Cheer Operation



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Dear AYF National Championship Head Coaches,

Get ready for an unforgettable experience at the 2024 AYF National Championships! This year will be amazing, with exciting new features to elevate your journey.

Congratulations on earning your spot in Naples, Florida. We know the dedication it takes to get here—from building your team, becoming one, and taking it to the next level of competition to earn your spot. Now it's time to showcase your skills on the national stage.

We are more than excited to return to the **Paradise Coast Sports Complex**, with the newly opened **Great Wolf Lodge**, right next door, as our host hotel for Team Check-In. Expect more teams, more football, and more action, with expanded Division 1 brackets and the addition of Division 3. Plus, we're unveiling this year's AYF National Championship trophy, setting the stage for thrilling victories and giving champions new hardware to add to their 2024 collection!

Our upgraded **random draw process** will bring even more excitement and deliver faster results, setting up incredible early-round matchups. The competition will not disappoint, and we can't wait to see which teams rise to the challenge.

While you're here, remember that AYF is about more than just football. We expect our athletes to stay committed to academics, stay on top of schoolwork every day, and show outstanding character both on and off the field. Football teaches invaluable lessons—sportsmanship, discipline, and perseverance—that will serve you well and set the foundation for your long term success.

Our team is here to support you with valuable resources and updates throughout the week. Stay connected via **AYFChampionships.com** and social media for scores, schedules, and essential information.

Make the 2024 AYF National Championships a celebration of football, competition, and lifelong memories. We can't wait to see you soon and share in the excitement of this year's opportunity and experience.

Let's Get It!

Dee Grayer  
National Football Commissioner



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## 2024 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 5 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 8, 2024 - December 14, 2024

**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, 2024 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, 12U, 14U

**DIVISION 3** - 10U, 11U, 12U, 13U

## GAME DAY INFORMATION BY DIVISION: ***\*\*\*Subject to change***

Division 1 8U thru 13U - Mon-Wed-Fri-Sat

Division 3 11U & Division 1 14U - Mon-Wed-Fri

Division 1 6U & 7U - Tues-Thurs-Sat

All Star 14U, & Division 2 6U thru 14U - Tues-Thurs-Sat

All Star 10U, Division 3 10U & Division 3 13U - Tues-Thurs-Fri

All Star 12U - Mon-Tues-Thurs-Fri

Division 3 12U - Wed-Fri-Sat

***\*\*\*ALL TEAMS SHOULD PLAN TO STAY UNTIL SUNDAY AS CHAMPIONSHIP/3rd Place SATURDAY IS A FULL DAY OF 54 GAMES & 6 TIME SLOTS***

**LIVE RANDOM DRAW SELECTION SHOW:** Live Streamed via YouTube presented by Varsity Media on Saturday, **December 7, 2024, beginning at 6:00 PM EST. at the Great Wolf Lodge Convention Center.**

**TEAM CHECK-IN:** Sunday, December 8, 2024 - **Great Wolf Lodge Convention Center** from 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Plan Travel to Make Sure You Make Team Check-in This is NOT Optional

**(All Teams Must Attend to Participate)**

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



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## 2024 AYF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS ENHANCED SECURITY PROTOCOLS

*AMERICAN YOUTH FOOTBALL IS IMPLEMENTING SEVERAL CHANGES TO OUR SECURITY PROTOCOLS FOR THE 2024 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 2024 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 PERMITTED ON THE PREMISES, ALL COOLERS MUST BE CARRIED IN AND OUT OF THE FACILITY.

NO TENTS ARE PERMITTED ON THE PREMISES.

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



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TEAM BEING DISQUALIFIED FROM THE EVENT. NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN TO TEAMS OR SPECTATORS IN THE EVENT OF 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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