

RULES OVERVIEW

Our Youth Holiday Bowl Tournament is crafted differently than others in that it places each team in a “real time, real scenario” playing atmosphere.

Prospects by Sports Illustrated sole purpose is to provide a National platform for those teams who deserve their time on a National platform. Our thought process is that all who attend our tournament go away better than they came.

Teams that enter the tournament must be prepared to play at least one, possibly two games Thursday night. Reserving a hotel room Wednesday evening is advised.

Please make sure you read the rules thoroughly before the tournament! Teams play for a chance to receive and achieve National Rankings for following pre-season via Prospects by Sports Illustrated.

This is a highly competitive tournament, with a single elimination Championship bracket, which seeds are determined by pool play.

Teams who do not make it out of the pool, will be ranked by Prospects by Sports Illustrated rankings according to the National tie breakers. In the championship bracket, teams play until they lose and that the final two teams play in the Championship.

Your team’s placement in the tournament is not confirmed until FULL payment is received 1 week from the first day of the tournament and according to the National tie breaker rules. Registration payments are NON-REFUNDABLE for teams who cancel.

All games will be played in accordance with the rules and guidelines of the National High School Football Federation and that of Elite Football Events.

Rosters and team certification must be submitted via the National Sports Id website at <https://www.nationalsportsid.com/elite-football-events-verification/> 7 days prior to the start of the tournament, to be scheduled for tournament play.

Once certified, all eligible players must wear the GCS certification band on the left wrist the entire tournament. If the player removes or loses their certification band, Replacement bands are \$5 per player paid at the ticket booth. Once paid, the player must be recertified by our certification staff.

A player must participate in all games to be considered eligible and to remain in the tournament for the National tournament.

Teams are required to bring their official team roster and book printed from to National Sports ID to certification & each game.

All teams are guaranteed 2 games minimum with a possible 4 games, depending on wins and losses.

Each team should be ready to play 30 minutes PRIOR to their scheduled start times without any advanced warning. If games are early, we will start up to 15 minutes early.

Sunday championship games should be complete by 8 pm.

Schedule will be released 2-5 days prior to the tournament start date.

No Protests will be accepted.

Every team must dress a minimum of 11 players in accordance with National Football Federation rules. If a team has less than 10 players, it will be an automatic forfeit.

The age group divisions for the National Championship are UNLIMITED:

6u,7u,8u,9u,10,11u,12u, 13u & 14u

SINGLE AGE BREAKDOWN & REQUIRED FOOTBALLS

6U DIVISION *****CAN'T TURN 7 BEFORE July 1st BALL SZ- PEE WEE WILSON K2, NIKE, BADEN

7U DIVISION *****CAN'T TURN 8 BEFORE July 1st BALL SZ- PEE WEE WILSON K2, NIKE, BADEN

8U DIVISION *****CAN'T TURN 9 BEFORE July 1st BALL SZ- PEE WEE WILSON K2, NIKE, BADEN

9U DIVISION *****CAN'T TURN 10 BEFORE July 1st BALL SZ- JUNIOR WILSON, NIKE, BADEN

10U DIVISION *****CAN'T TURN 11 BEFORE July 1st BALL SZ- JUNIOR WILSON, NIKE, BADEN

11U DIVISION *****CAN'T TURN 12 BEFORE July 1st BALL SZ- YOUTH WILSON, NIKE, BADEN

12U DIVISION ***** CAN'T TURN 13 BEFORE July 1st BALL SZ- YOUTH WILSON, NIKE, BADEN

14U DIVISION ***** CAN'T TURN 15 BEFORE July 1st BALL SZ- YOUTH WILSON, NIKE, BADEN

If your age cutoff date conflicts with ours more than one month of our cutoff date, must play up to the next age level, please notify us ASAP.

ALL TEAMS must be complete on-line waivers and all rosters, WITH pictures, and color copies of original birth certificates via National Sports Id at least two weeks before the tournament. Each Head Coach will receive an emailed link to upload.

All teams must be certified by the Prospects by Sports Illustrated staff...once a player is certified and "banded" (TOURNAMENT BAND PLACED AROUND LEFT WRIST), all that is required is the NSID certified roster...Each Head coach is to pre-certify with the opposing team 10 minutes before the game. If a player loses his PSI band, he must be recertified before returning to the field. Any player that does not have a band during play

in the game will cause that team to forfeit if it's proven that that player was not wearing a band.

Coaches and/or team moms from other teams ARE NOT ALLOWED to be in the open certification area to watch the actual certification of other teams.

- Helmet (NOCSAE approved) with Face Guard
- Mouthpiece
- Shoulder Pads
- Football Jersey
- Protective Hip and Spinal Pads
- Thigh Pads
- Knee Pads
- Regulation Football Pants
- Socks
- Cleats or other Approved Football Shoes

Overall governance for all football games played are by the National Federation of High School Football rules.

The Youth Holiday Bowl is a pool play tournament with a winner only bracket. Once a team loses twice in pool or by tie breaker they are out of the competition. If pool play results in a tie by record, the tie breaker rules will come into effect which are for pool play/reseed.

Semifinals and the CHAMPIONSHIP are a single elimination game, regardless of a team's record in pool / bracket play. All games are regulation games. After pool play, depending on the size and number of pools, teams with the best records will then be reseeded #1 & #2 and will advance to the Championship. Once teams reach the semi-final phase, it is then single elimination.

Unlike other sports, football is a full contact sport so for safety purposes, all pool play, semifinal, final games will have 8-minute regulation quarters for 6u thru 8u, 10-minute regulation quarters for 9u thru 14u. The game clock will be governed by the PSI refs.

There will only be 2 timeouts per half

Halftime will be 5 minutes long, unless the games are behind, at which time it will be reduced to 3 minutes

- There will be kickoffs for ALL age groups, determined by a coin flip. Whoever wins the coin toss decides whether their team defers or receives, for that half.
- One Coach on the field for ages 6 & 7... No coaches on the field for 8,9, 10,11,12, 13 or 14 teams
- Field length for all teams will be 100 yds.
- Major penalties will be ten (10) yards, except unsportsmanlike conduct on any coach, player or team mom\parent will be 15 yards. If a player or coach is ejected by a referee or tournament official for ANY reason, they will be disqualified for the entire tournament, no matter their official position on that team. i.e. Head Coach, Park President, Team Mom, etc. **NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED!**

Two (2) points will be awarded for a successful kick on an extra point and one (1) point will be awarded for a successful run / pass.

All interceptions and fumbles can be advanced for yards and or a score.

If a team is winning by 24 or more points at the end of the 1st half or any time thereafter, the game will be played with a running clock even if the score difference

becomes Less than 24 points. For championship games, if a team is up by 24 in the 3rd quarter, the running clock will be in effect and will not stop. This rule has become necessary in order to add a degree of scoring control in games that are between teams that are not matched in talent, experience, size, etc. It is highly encouraged, and shall be required, that winning coaches take all necessary steps available to control the high level of scoring in unmatched games.

Declared Punts – On fourth down, the offense can declare a punt or have it walked off 20 yards or punted with no return for 6U, 7U, 8U. All punts are live for 9u, 10u, 11u, 12u, 13u & 14u. There is no rush once a punt has been declared for 6U, 7U, wherever the ball lands or is fielded is where the offense will start. The ball will not be advanced by a punt return team in any age. Teams can however field the punt. Punting team must inform the referee of intention prior to the play, who in turn informs the opposing team. If the ball is snapped over the punter's head, the ball must be punted from the recovery spot.

Championship games are single elimination and in regulation fashion, times for all teams will be 9-minute quarters. Punts will follow the punt rule in games previous.

Both Head Coaches will be called to the middle of the field and will participate in an overtime coin toss. The winner of the coin toss can decide either to go on offense or defense or choose which end of the field they will play on. Each team will receive the ball on the 10 yard line and if a team scores, extra points for a conversion via run which is 1 point or pass and two points for a "frozen" extra point kick for ALL TEAMS. If no team scores in the first round of overtime, then the penetration rule will be applied.

Tie Breakers for National Rankings

If 2 teams are tied in points, the following order applies to determine the ranking of teams:

1. Head-to-Head.
2. Points Against
3. Points For
4. Point Differential

In the case where more than 2 teams are tied in points, the above order applies to determine the ranking of teams:

The Tournament Director will hold ALL teams, coaches, players, parents, and fans accountable for their negative actions, any drug usage or violence within and outside the facility. The Tournament Director holds the final decision on ALL matters not covered above. Teams that continuously violate the conduct rules will be banned from ALL Prospects by Sports Illustrated events.

Please always respect the referees, and if you have a situation you would like to discuss concerning a particular individual, we have appointed a referee in chief who is available to you. However, they do not have the power to change a referee's decision.

However, we have advised our refereeing staff to treat coaches with respect and they will expect the same in return. They will not exercise any patience when being sworn,

screamed at or gestured at any time and can recommend that any fan, player, or coach be ejected from the tournament.