

# 2023 U.S. ARMY BOWL



## Middle School Tackle Championship Rules

The National Middle School All Star Championships will abide by the official NFHS Rules with the following adjustments listed below:

- Each team must bring one official team ball with team name on it for I.D. purposes labeled or stamped with logo.
  - Ball Sizes:
    - 6th Grade = TDJ \*
    - 7th Grade = TDY \*
    - 8th Grade = TDY or Official Ball Preferred
- Game Time:
  - 4 10-minute Quarters (Standard Game Clock) ○ 10-minute Half-Time
- Mercy Rule:

If a team is ahead of the other team by 24 points or more, the game clock will switch to a running clock. If point total goes under 24 pts at any time during the game, the clock will switch back to a regular timed game.

- Overtime Rules:
  - Each team will have a chance to score during an overtime period.
  - The visiting team will call the coin toss to start off overtime.
  - The team that wins the coin toss will have a choice to take the ball first or defer to the other team.
  - Each team will start at the 10-yard line and will have 4 downs to score ○ If the first team scores and the second team does not score, the game is over.
  - If both teams remain tied after the first overtime period, the game continues into another overtime period until one team wins.

- Whichever team goes second during the first overtime period, starts with the ball during the next overtime period (if another overtime period is needed).
  - If a game is tied after 2 overtime periods, then teams must go for 2 points after they score a touchdown.
- PAT:
  - Teams can Pass or Kick for 2 points after a touchdown.
  - Teams may run for 1 point after a touchdown.
  - If a field does not have goal posts, there will be no kicking for an extra point, only normal 1- or 2-point conversions will be permitted
- Celebrations:
  - Celebrations are allowed after scores in a tasteful manner.
  - Taunting the other team or any un-sportsmanship like celebrations and/or any sexual gestures will not be tolerated and will receive a 15-yard penalty. If the penalty happens after a scoring play that penalty will be assessed on the following kickoff.
- Blocking:
  - There is no chop or cut blocking allowed at any level. Only blocking that is allowed will be per NFHS rules
- Athlete Playing Time:
  - There are no restrictions on athlete playing time. This decision is at the coaches' discretion.
- Injuries:
  - Any head injuries / concussion protocol is at the event's Athletic Trainer / EMT discretion. The Athletic Trainer / EMT will provide their recommendation if an athlete can continue playing in the current game, for the remainder of the event and/or needs immediate attention after a sustained head injury.
  - Other injuries - The Athletic Trainer / EMT will provide their recommendation if an athlete can continue playing in the current game, for the remainder of the event and/or needs immediate attention after a sustained injury.
  - Each coach is responsible for reporting all athlete injuries that have not been recognized by referees, event staff or event Athletic Trainers on the field to event staff.
  - The Event Director has final discretion on all decisions relating whether an athlete can continue playing in the current game or for the remainder of the event after that athlete has been fully evaluated by the event Athletic Trainer / EMT.
- Football Equipment / Protective Wear:

- All athletes must wear full protective equipment at all times during game play (all pads and mouth pieces).
  - All athletes must have their chin straps buckled at all times. ○ All athletes must wear their mouthpieces at all times.
  - All athletes must wear an athletic supporter, girdle with 5 pads, and knee pads.
  - All metal cleats WILL NOT BE PERMITTED
- Positional Jerseys:
  - All Offensive linemen must wear Jersey Number's 50-79.
- Pre-Game Coin Toss:
  - Each team will be asked to pick up to 3 team captains for every pregame coin toss.
- Team Sportsmanship / Conduct:
  - Coaches are responsible for the behavior of their coaching staff, team manager, parents and athletes at all times.
  - Referees have final say on the field. Harassment of the referees by coaches, players, or fans will not be tolerated.
  - The National Middle School All Star Championship staff have the right to eject anyone, and no refunds will be given.
  - The Event Director has final discretion on conduct matters which supersede any referee's call pertaining to sportsmanship / conduct.
  - An athlete can be ejected for a single game or for the entire tournament for misconduct. The Event Director has final discretion on the amount of games an athlete can be ejected for based on the severity of the misconduct. ○ All players, coaches, parents, and any representatives of an organization must adhere to the code and conduct of the National Middle School All Star Championship and uphold the best interest of the National Middle School National Championships both on and off the field. In the event a person, player, or group is banned or removed from a National Middle School National Championships event, any further altercations will have the team held responsible. The National Director has the authority to override or extend as a final decision.
  - If a parent is ejected from a game, his or her child is also ejected from that same game.
- Tournament Advancement:
  - Tie Breaker Criteria (If there are multiple teams within a division that are tied after an advancement round):

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

- There will be no instant replay during any game.

### Athlete Qualifications

Age and grade qualifications:

- 6th grade team members CAN NOT turn 13 years old before 9/01/22;  
Must be born after 09/01/2009
- 7th grade team members CAN NOT turn 14 years old before 9/01/22;  
Must be born after 09/01/2008
- 8th grade team members CAN NOT turn 15 years old before 9/01/22;  
Must be born after 09/01/2007

\*\*\* Proof of current school grade and age is required \*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*Current Grade Takes Precedent \*\*\*\*\*

### Tournament Play:

- 12 teams per grade level - 3 Grade levels 6th, 7th, and 8th grade
  - Each grade level will have their own Draw show to seed the teams at each grade level (Either to be held before you arrive in Dallas via live Online Show or Tuesday night at check in Dallas on Tuesday 12/13)(We have a ping pong ball machine and will have custom team balls made for the draw)
  - 4 Teams each grade level will get a bye

### Team Uniforms and Colors

- Each Team will get to pick their color of choice from the list below
  - Each team will receive reversible game jerseys with home and away matching the colors of choice
    - 6 color choices 1st come 1st serve with signed State Director Contract, same uniforms for all grade levels for each origination.

- There will be 2 teams with the same color choices at each grade level
- Color Choices
  - Black/White
  - Red/White
  - Blue/White
  - Green/White
  - Yellow/White
  - Maroon/White
- Each Organization will receive a logo with team name from The National Middle School All Star Championships, which will be on your Jerseys Coaches and Staff
- Staff for each Organization ○ State Director ○ Staff Per Team
  - Team Manager/Team Mom (Not Allowed on Sideline during game play)
  - Head Coach + 3 other coaches on Sideline (If no Press Box is available at field location you can have all 6 coaches on the sideline)
  - 2 Coaches in Booth
    - If Booth Coaches not used, you do not get extra coaches on sideline. You do not use booth coaches you lose them

## US Army All American Game

All Middle school All Star Player, Coaches, and Team Staff will be expected to attend and to be part of Opening and Closing ceremonies for the All-American game to help on Saturday 12/17. Game time will be announced as we get closer to game day due to media coverage, the Dallas Cowboys, and the Star. Only players will receive free game tickets. All coaches and parents will need to purchase a ticket for the All-American game

## Game Days

Games will be played on the following days, with every team playing on Sunday 12/18/22. Tuesday 12/13, Wednesday 12/14, Friday 12/16, and Sunday 12/18. Every team will play for 1<sup>st</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> on Sunday.

## How teams are to be constructed

All-Star Directors can either bring in an existing travel team per grade level or can create teams by tryouts for each grade level. The US Army Middle School All Star Championships doesn't not care how the teams are created, as long as each organization has all 3-grade level represented.

**Please Read Carefully:**

For liability purposes and threat of injury, our insurance provider requests the following provision and enforcement which will be enforced by the event to the best of our ability.

If there is any attempt to perpetrate a fraud against the event, by misrepresenting an athletes' real age, who is otherwise older than the proscribed age as outlined within these rules, for the purpose of attempting to have an overage athlete play and compete in this tournament, the event shall, with good evidence, file a criminal fraud charge against the party promoting such activity.

Such charges will be filed within New Jersey Criminal Court and all athletes and parents, by signing the waiver, will consent to jurisdiction to defend such actions.

In New Jersey, the elements of common-law fraud are: “(1) a material misrepresentation of a presently existing or past fact; (2) knowledge or belief by the defendant of its falsity; (3) an intention that the other person rely on it; (4) reasonable reliance thereon by the other person; and (5) resulting damages.

**Acknowledgment of Reading and Understanding:** By signing this document, you agree that you have read, understand, and agree to follow all of the rules stated above during the National Middle School All Star National Championships, December 12<sup>th</sup> – December 18<sup>th</sup> 2022.

All-Star Director Name: \_\_\_\_\_

All-Star Director Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

To be signed at check-In