



2027 Gatlinburg Homeschool Classic National Championship Rulebook

Coach/Athletic Director,

Thank you for committing to compete in the 2027 Gatlinburg Homeschool Classic National Championship presented by Rocky Top Sports World. In an effort to provide the most legitimate Homeschool National Championship experience we expect all teams to understand and follow the rules as laid out below. Please read over the rulebook and let me know if you have any questions or concerns with anything listed.

NOTE: Any rules not covered in this rulebook follow NFHS Basketball Rules

<https://nfhs.org/sports/basketball/rules>

Sincerely,

Andrew Capps

Tournament Director

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- 1. 100% Homeschool Tournament**
 - a. This Tournament is 100% Homeschool**
 - b. A homeschool student athlete, by our definition, is a student either currently enrolled in homeschool curriculum or playing in a homeschool program because there is no option to play at his/her current school.**
- 2. Rosters**
 - a. Tournament Rosters are required to be set and submitted by **Monday, January 11, 2027****
 - b. Under no circumstance will a team be allowed to add a player from outside their organization**
 - c. High School Varsity Rosters will need to be uploaded into MaxPreps by this date.**
 - d. All other rosters will need to be sent to the Tournament Director using the provided roster template.**
 - e. A min. of 6 Players is required. There is no max number of rostered players.**
- 3. Dual Rostering**
 - a. Dual Rostering is allowed under the following condition:**
 - i. Tournament Roster is at 7 or less players**
 - b. If teams qualifies 1-2 players may be added from a younger team's roster within the program to make 8 players**
 - i. For Example: If an 18U team only has 6 players, 2 players from the program's 16U team can dual roster on the 18U team to provide depth.**
 - ii. If that same 18U team has 7 players, only 1 player from the program's 16U team can dual roster on the 18U team to provide depth.**
 - c. For player safety reasons, no player at the tournament will be allowed to play more than 185 basketball minutes**
 - d. Under no circumstance will a player who plays Varsity all season be allowed to play down on a JV Team.**
- 4. Divisions**
 - a. Middle School Boys – 14U**
 - b. Middle School Girls – 14U**
 - c. High School JV Boys – 16U**
 - d. High School JV Girls – 16U**
 - e. High School Varsity Girls Light – 16U**
 - f. High School Varsity Girls – 18U**
 - g. High School Varsity Boys – 18U**

5. Age/Birthday Cutoff

a. June 1, 2026

b. This means a player must be the age of each division, or lower, as of June 1, 2026

i. 1st Example: A player turns 17 on July 10, 2026, he/she is eligible for the 16U Division.

ii. 2nd Example: A player turns 17 on May 1, 2026, he/she is NOT eligible for the 16U Division and would need to play in 18U.

6. Game Rules

a. Game Length:

i. 18U: Four (4) 8-minute quarters

ii. 16U: Four (4) 7-minute quarters

iii. 14U: Four (4) 6-minute quarters

b. Halftime Length: 5 Minutes

c. Overtime Length: 4 Minutes

d. Guaranteed Games: 5

7. Pool Play/Bracket Play

a. Every team will be guaranteed pool play games

b. This is used to try and create the most competitive championship brackets possible

c. Pool Placement

i. We will use various resources to determine proper pool placement of teams.

ii. Creating unique matchups in pool play is as important, if not more important, as competitive balance.

iii. Varsity teams are encouraged to keep schedules and stats accurate in MaxPreps

d. Tiebreakers (in order of importance)

i. Record

ii. Head-to-Head

iii. Point Differential (capped at +20)

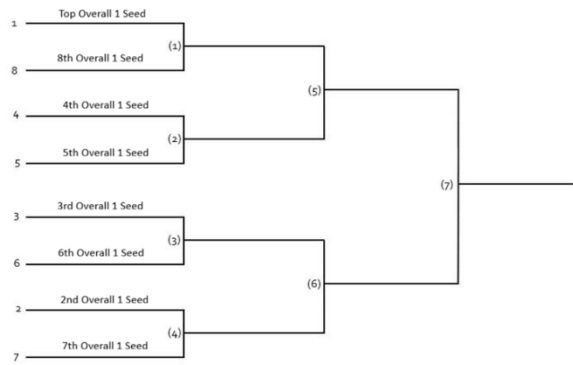
iv. Points Allowed

v. Points Scored

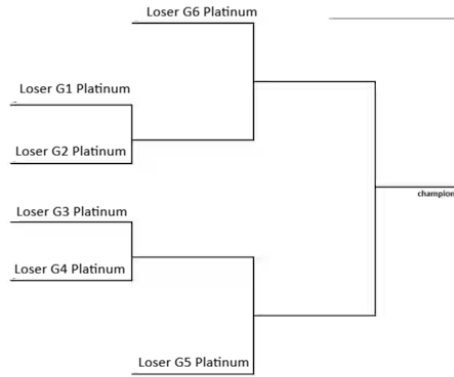
e. Higher Seed will always be home team in bracket play matchups

32 Team Bracket Format

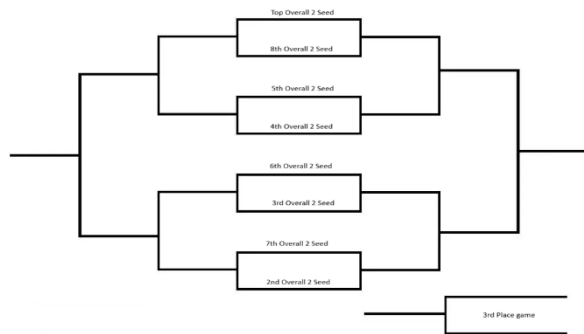
Platinum Bracket



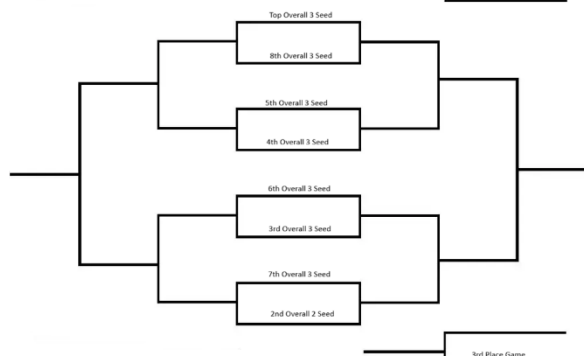
Gold Bracket



Silver Bracket



Bronze Bracket



4 Seeds play in Consolation Bracket

8. Anticipated Schedule

- a. **Monday, March 9, 2026: Pool Play Games Starting as early as 12:00pm EST and 3 Point, Dunk Contests running throughout the same time period.**
- b. **Tuesday, March 10, 2026: Pool Play Games. High possibility of a second game for teams on this date.**
- c. **Wednesday, March 11, 2026: Pool Play Games. High possibility of a second game for teams on this date.**
- d. **Thursday, March 12, 2026: Bracket Play Begins.**
- e. **Friday, March 13, 2026: Championship/Consolation Gameday.**

Venue Addresses:

Rocky Top Sports World – 1870 Sports World Blvd. Gatlinburg, TN 37738

Gatlinburg Community Center - 157 Mills Park Road Gatlinburg, TN 37738

GP High School/Junior High – 150 Proffitt Road Gatlinburg, TN 37738

Pittman Center Elementary School - 2455 East Parkway Gatlinburg, Tennessee 37738

Pi Beta Phi Elementary School - 125 Cherokee Orchard Rd, Gatlinburg, TN 37738

Head Coach Only Signs

2027 Gatlinburg Homeschool Classic National Championship

Code of Conduct

Respect Each Other, Our Staff, Officials, Coaches, Athletes, Facility and the Integrity of the Game

Together Through Setting the Example We Can Influence the Landscape of Youth Sports in America

Support Your Athletes Teams, Coaches, and Excellence in Sportsmanship with Positive Enthusiasm

World Class Conduct is a Culture at Rocky Top Sports World and an Expectation of Our Guests

Compete at a ***HIGHER***

Level

I, _____, acknowledge that my team, coaches, and spectators will abide by the Rocky Top Sports World Code of Conduct while participating in the 2024 Thanksgiving Bowl.

Head Coach Signature: _____

Date: _____

****HEAD COACH ONLY SIGNS****

Sudden Cardiac Arrest Education and Information

What is sudden cardiac arrest?

Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is when the heart stops beating, suddenly and unexpectedly.

When this happens, blood stops flowing to the brain and other vital organs. SCA is NOT a heart

attack. A heart attack may cause SCA, but they are not the same. A heart attack is caused by a

blockage that stops the flow of blood to the heart. SCA is a malfunction in the heart's electrical

system, causing the heart to suddenly stop beating.

If not treated within minutes, SCA results in death. The normal rhythm of the heart can only be

restored with defibrillation, an electrical shock that is safely delivered to the chest by an automated external defibrillator (AED).

How common is sudden cardiac arrest?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that every year there are about

300,000 cardiac arrests outside hospitals. About 2,000 patients under 25 die of SCA each year.

Are there warning signs?

Although SCA happens unexpectedly, some people may have signs or symptoms, such as:

- dizziness;
- lightheadedness;
- shortness of breath;
- difficulty breathing;
- racing or fluttering heartbeat (palpitations);
- syncope (fainting);
- fatigue (extreme tiredness);
- weakness;
- nausea;
- vomiting; and
- chest pains.

These symptoms can be unclear and confusing in athletes. Often, people confuse these warning signs with physical exhaustion. SCA can be prevented if the underlying causes can be

diagnosed and treated.

What are the risks of practicing or playing after experiencing these symptoms?

There are risks associated with continuing to practice or play after experiencing these symptoms. When the heart stops, so does the blood that flows to the brain and other vital

organs. Death or permanent brain damage can occur in just a few minutes. Most people who

have SCA die from it. Symptoms are the body's way of indicating that something might be

wrong. Athletes who experience one or more symptoms should get checked out.

Adapted from PA Department of Health: Sudden Cardiac Arrest Symptoms and Warning Signs Information Sheet 7/2012

What is the best way to treat Sudden Cardiac Arrest?

- Early Recognition of SCA
- Early 9-1-1 access
- Early CPR
- Early Defibrillation
- Early Advance Care

Public Chapter 325 – the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act

The Act is intended to keep youth athletes safe while practicing or playing in an athletic activity. The Act requires:

- Require that, on a yearly basis, a sudden cardiac arrest information sheet be signed and returned by each coach and athletic director
- The immediate removal of any youth athlete who passes out or faints while participating in an athletic activity, or who exhibits any of the following symptoms:
 - (i) Unexplained shortness of breath;
 - (ii) Chest pains;
 - (iii) Dizziness
 - (iv) Racing heart rate; or
 - (v) Extreme fatigue; and
- Establish as policy that a youth athlete who has been removed from play shall not return to the practice or competition during which the youth athlete experienced symptoms consistent with sudden cardiac arrest.
- **Before returning to practice or play in an athletic activity, the athlete must be evaluated by a Tennessee licensed medical doctor or an osteopathic physician. Clearance to return to full or graduated practice or play must be in writing.**

"Coach understands and agrees to assume full responsibility in enforcing compliance in all respects with TCA Title 68, Chapter 55 Part 5, known as the "Concussion Statute" requiring all organized athletics to provide training and policy on concussion awareness and treatment to all staff, coaches, volunteers and parents involved in organized athletics. Coach further understands and agrees to assume full responsibility in enforcing compliance in all respects with Tennessee Public Chapter 325 requires all coaches, youth athletes, and their parents or guardians to be informed and educated on the symptoms of a sudden cardiac event, to require removal of an athlete demonstrating these symptoms and require medical clearance prior to return to the game."

Printed Name

Signature

Date