

# 2017 NFL Pro Bowl to Feature Events at Disney, Throughout Orlando During Weeklong Celebration

The **2017 Pro Bowl presented by Aquafina** in Orlando, Fla. is much more than a game on Sunday; it's a week-long celebration that unites and inspires the entire football community. In the week leading up to the game, the NFL will host events that will bring interactive fan experiences, youth and high school football competitions and a spirit of community to Orlando.

## Pro Bowl Week activities include:

- The NFL FLAG Championships and Punt, Pass and Kick National Championships
- Pro Bowl Skills Showdown
- Free access to AFC and NFC team practices
- NFL Pro Bowl Experience, a free, football-themed fan festival
- NFL PLAY 60 activities
- A series of community events with local nonprofit organizations and military personnel.

The week-long celebration will culminate with the Pro Bowl game featuring 88 of the NFL's best players on **Sunday, Jan. 29** at Camping World Stadium that will air on ESPN and ESPN Deportes at **8 p.m. ET.** 

Visit **NFL.com/ProBowl** and follow @NFL on Twitter for the most up-to-date Pro Bowl information. Fans may virtually participate in Pro Bowl Week by tagging their tweets with #ProBowl.

Below are ways the NFL will celebrate the football community, provide fans access to a range of free football activities:

## 2017 NFL PRO BOWL EXPERIENCE

NFL Pro Bowl Experience will be open to fans **Wednesday**, **Jan. 25 - Thursday**, **Jan. 26** from **10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.** and **Friday**, **Jan. 27 - Saturday**, **Jan. 28** from **10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.** at **ESPN Wide World of Sports at Walt Disney World Resort**. The free-admission, family-friendly football fan festival will bring fans closer to the NFL through interactive games and sponsor activations.

An assortment of free fan activities at the 2017 NFL Pro Bowl Experience are detailed below. A full list of the attractions is available at NFL.com/ProBowl. No tickets are required.

- **Disney Food Trucks** Enjoy selections from Disney's theme parks and best restaurants in a "taste of the town" tailgate.
- **EA SPORTS** Check out the EA SPORTS Madden NFL experience and get in the game with Madden NFL 17 and the free-to-play Madden NFL Mobile.
- Family Tailgate Photo Opp Presented by Ford Trucks Snap a photo with your friends in front of an NFL tailgate set up

- **Family Football Zone** An interactive area for kids and families to play together. Play catch in the field or take part in a range of football and tailgate-themed games.
- Long Snap Accuracy Challenge Presented by Verizon- Test your aim by long snapping footballs through a variety of obstacles.
- NFL Pro Bowl Trophy Take a photo with the official NFL Pro Bowl Trophy.
- **NFL Shop at Pro Bowl** Stop by for official NFL Pro Bowl merchandise and shop for your favorite NFL team gear at the NFL Shop trailer.
- **Panini** Panini America, the exclusive physical trading card partner of the NFL, will give fans the opportunity to interact with their Panini Gridiron digital trading card app and make their own digital trading card. Fans can win packs of Panini NFL trading cards and get the Panini NFL Sticker Album.
- Run-A-Route Test your wide receiver skills and run a see-and-react route to catch a pass down field.
- Touchdown Celebration GIF Booth presented by Aquafina Immortalize your best touchdown celebration as a free, digital GIF.
- **Wilson** Put yourself into the game with the Wilson X Connected Football, the world's first smart football, get your very own Wx rating and find out how you stack up against your friends!

For more information, contact Catherine Boyle, NFL, Catherine.boyle@nfl.com.

#### **AFC and NFC Team Pro Bowl Practices**

The AFC and NFC teams will practice at ESPN Wide World of Sports from **Wednesday**, **Jan. 25** through **Saturday**, **Jan. 28**. All media availabilities will take place on the field at the conclusion of each practice.

Practices are free and open to the public, but fans can pre-register for priority access and opportunities for VIP seating upgrades here. Fans are encouraged to arrive early as space is limited.

## Wednesday, January 25

11:30 a.m.	<b>NFC team practice</b> at ESPN Wide World of Sports - Field	17
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**11:45** a.m. **AFC team practice** at ESPN Wide World of Sports – Field 16

Thursday, January 26

**9:45 a.m. AFC team practice** at ESPN Wide World of Sports – Field 17

**11:20 a.m. NFC team practice** at ESPN Wide World of Sports – Field 17

Friday, January 27

**9:45 a.m. NFC team practice** at ESPN Wide World of Sports – Field 17

**11:20 a.m. AFC team practice** at ESPN Wide World of Sports – Field 17

Saturday, January 28

**9:45 a.m. AFC team walk-through** at ESPN Wide World of Sports – Field 17

**10:00 a.m. NFC team walk-through** at ESPN Wide World of Sports – Field 16

For more information, contact Jake Gellerman, NFL, Jacob.Gellerman@nfl.com.

# **Special Olympics Flag Football Game**

The NFL and Special Olympics are teaming to build inclusive communities and provide opportunities for athletes of all abilities to participate in sports through the expansion of Special Olympics Unified Sports flag football, where individuals with and without intellectual disabilities play flag football together on the same team. To kick off their new partnership, the NFL and Special Olympics will host a flag football game featuring local Special Olympic athletes on **Wednesday**, **January 25** from **2-3:00 p.m. at ESPN Wide World of Sports.** Current Pro Bowl players will serve as coaches and cheer athletes on during the game.

#### **USA FOOTBALL'S 2017 WOMEN'S WORLD FOOTBALL GAMES**

The 2017 Women's World Football Games will take place Wednesday, Jan. 25 to Saturday, Jan. 28 at ESPN Wide World of Sports. The fourth-annual event will bring together more than 250 female tackle football players from around the world for five days of training, skills sessions and 11v11 competitions. Participants will also be eligible to participate in the NFL's Women's Careers in Football Forum at ESPN Wide World of Sports Jan. 26-27.

## **USA Football's Women's World Football Games Practice Schedule:**

Practice #1, Wednesday, Jan. 25: 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Practice #2, Wednesday, Jan. 25: 3:45 - 5:45 p.m.

Practice #3, Thursday, Jan. 26: 10:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Practice #4, Thursday, Jan. 26: 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Practice #5, Friday, Jan. 27: 10:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

## USA Football's Women's World Football Games Game Schedule:

Game #1, Friday, Jan. 27: 5 – 8 p.m.

Game #2, Saturday, Jan. 28: 12 - 2:30 p.m.

Game #3, Saturday, Jan. 28: 3:30 - 6 p.m.

\*Note: All practices and games are open to the media. Practice and games to be played at ESPN Wide World of Sports on Field 29, with the exception of Game #2, which will be played on Field 17.

For more information, contact Tom Yelich, USA Football, tyelich@usafootball.com.

## **WOMEN'S CAREERS IN FOOTBALL FORUM**

The NFL will host the **first-ever Women's Careers in Football Forum** Thursday, Jan. 26 and Friday, Jan. 27 in conjunction with USA Football's 2017 Women's World Football Games **at ESPN Wide World of Sports**. The forum is open to all Women's World Football Games participants and will feature panel discussions, presentations and networking sessions aimed to educate and prepare women for positions in football operations, including coaching, officiating and scouting.

The Women's Careers in Football Forum furthers the NFL's commitment to diversity and inclusion. All

attendees will be entered into the league's <u>Diverse Talent Community</u>, an online recruitment platform that encourages quality, dynamic candidates with diverse backgrounds to join its ranks through a shared talent acquisition database for Human Resources across the NFL and its 32 clubs.

Media interested in attending the NFL Women's Careers in Football Forum and/or setting up interviews with speakers and participants may contact Catherine Boyle, NFL, catherine.boyle@nfl.com.

## **NFL PLAY 60 Clinics**

On **Thursday, January 26** from **11:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.** and **1 - 2 p.m.**, the NFL will host two PLAY 60 clinics with current NFL players and local students from Fuel Up to Play 60 schools. In addition, the Jacksonville Jaguars and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers will host community groups from their region at the PLAY 60 clinics, which will take place **ESPN Wide World of Sports**.

PLAY 60 is the NFL's campaign to promote youth health and wellness, aimed at encouraging kids to get active for 60 minutes a day. For more information, visit NFLRUSH.com/PLAY60.

Organizations and schools taking part in the clinics include:

- Lake Asbury Elementary School
- Lakemont Elementary School
- City of Sanford: Westside Community Center

For more information, contact Ana Blinder, NFL, ana.blinder@nfl.com

#### **Pro Bowl Skills Showdown**

The Pro Bowl Skills Showdown, pitting AFC and NFC All-Stars against each other in unique competitions, will air on Thursday, January 26 at 7:00 p.m. ET on ESPN. Each team in the Skills Showdown will feature a mix of quarterbacks, running backs, wide receivers, tight ends, linemen, linebackers and defensive backs. The 2017 Pro Bowl Legends Captains, **Jerome Bettis** and **Ray Lewis** of the AFC and **Tony Gonzalez** and **Charles Woodson** of the NFC, will lead their respective squads.

Taking place at ESPN Wide World of Sports at the Walt Disney World Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., the competition will include:

- Epic Pro Bowl Dodgeball: Pro Bowlers will compete in a game of dodgeball.
- Power Relay Challenge: Four team members will compete in a timed relay race.
- **Precision Passing**: Two players on each team will battle it out, trying to hit moving targets of varying size and distance.
- **Best Hands**: Quarterback and wide receiver duos from each team will show off their skills, connecting on as many pass attempts as possible before time runs out.

Fans are encouraged to join the conversation surrounding the new Pro Bowl Skills Showdown on social media using the hashtag #ProBowlSkills.

A limited number of free tickets to the Skills Showdown taping will be made available to fans. Fan may register for tickets here.

For more information, contact Jake Gellerman, NFL, Jacob.Gellerman@nfl.com.

#### **EA SPORTS: THE MADDEN BOWL**

From **Thursday**, **Jan. 26 to Saturday**, **Jan. 28**, EA SPORTS will host The Madden Bowl Group Stage tournament **at ESPN Wide World of Sports**. The Madden Bowl, the second EA Major Series event of the \$1 Million Madden NFL 17 Championship Series, will bring together the top 16 players from across the country to compete during Pro Bowl Week in Orlando, FL. These elite competitive players advanced through a grueling online elimination process featuring millions of Madden players in pursuit of the Madden Bowl title and their share of \$250.000.

The competitions will take place:

- Thursday, Jan. 26: 3 10 p.m. ET
- Friday, Jan. 27: 3 10 p.m. ET
- Saturday, Jan. 28: 5 10 p.m. ET

For more information, contact Corbin Bourne, EA SPORTS, cbourne@ea.com.

## **DISNEY SPRINGS PRO BOWL BASH**

Head over to **Disney Springs** to kick up your heels and celebrate the 2017 Pro Bowl. Dancing, live radio broadcasts, NFL cheerleaders and team mascots await at the Disney Springs Pro Bowl Bash! Fans will receive giveaways and enjoy hours of free music from a Disney DJ. The Disney Springs Pro Bowl Bash will culminate with the Pro Bowl Dance Party on **Saturday, Jan. 28** from **4-7 p.m.**.

Live radio broadcasts include:

## Mike & Mike Show, ESPN Radio

- Thursday, Jan. 26: 6 10 a.m.
- Friday, Jan. 27: 6 10 a.m.

## **NFL Radio**

- Thursday, Jan. 26: 3 4 p.m.
- Friday, Jan. 27: 3 4 p.m.

For more information, contact Catherine Boyle, NFL, catherine.boyle@nfl.com.

## THANK YOU, COACH

For the 2017 Pro Bowl, players will be saying "Thank You, Coach" to that special high school coach who most impacted their life and NFL career. Each Pro Bowl player attending may invite their high school coach and a guest to celebrate Pro Bowl Week in Orlando.

On **Friday, Jan. 27**, high school coaches will enjoy a special welcome reception followed by a luncheon with their Pro Bowl players on **Saturday, Jan. 28 at ESPN Wide World of Sports.** Also on Saturday, high school coaches will participate in the USA Football National Conference to learn and network with fellow coaches and high school football administrators and former NFL coaches and players. On **Sunday, Jan. 29**, the coaches will attend the Pro Bowl at Camping World Stadium and be recognized on-field alongside their Pro Bowl player.

For more information, contact Catherine Boyle, NFL, Catherine.boyle@nfl.com.

#### NFL FLAG CHAMPIONSHIPS AT PRO BOWL POWERED BY USA FOOTBALL

Traditionally hosted at Super Bowl, the NFL FLAG Championships powered by USA Football will be held at Pro Bowl for the first time as part of the week-long celebration of football across all levels. The NFL FLAG Championships will be held at ESPN Wide World of Sports from Friday, Jan. 27 - Saturday, Jan. 28 from 10 a.m. - 7:30 p.m..

Sixty-four teams from across the country – eight regional champions in four divisions plus 32 at-large teams – will compete and each will represent a different NFL club. Divisions include 9-10 coed, 11-12 coed, 13-14 boys and 13-14 girls. NFL Pro Bowl players and Legends will serve as guest coaches, encouraging the teams as they compete for the national title. The 13-14 Boys Championship Game will be aired on ESPN on Sunday, Jan. 29 as part of the network's broadcast of the Pro Bowl at Camping World Stadium.

For more information, contact Catherine Boyle, NFL, Catherine.Boyle@NFL.com.

#### PRO BOWL PARADE

As part of the weeklong celebration in Orlando, current Pro Bowl players will take part in a special Pro Bowl parade at Disney's Magic Kingdom® Park on **Friday, Jan. 27** at **2:30 p.m.** The four Pro Bowl team captains will be joined by Mickey and his pals, as well as kids and families from Make-A-Wish Central and Northern Florida and the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), in the celebratory parade down Main Street U.S.A.

The Pro Bowl parade continues a tradition at Disney Parks of honoring extraordinary sports champions from professional football, basketball, hockey, baseball and beyond. The parade will be livestreamed on the Disney Parks Blog. Fans may also follow along on Twitter with the hashtag #DisneyParksLIVE.

Media interested in attending the parade must RSVP at disneyurl.com/ProBowlParadeRSVP. For questions regarding media access or more information, please contact Darrell Fry, Disney, Darrell.Fry@disney.com.

## NFL YOUTH AND HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT PANELS

On **Friday Jan. 27**, the NFL will host a series of football development panels for NFL FLAG Championship and Punt, Pass, and Kick participants and their parents at **ESPN Wide World of Sports**. AFC Pro Bowl Legend Captain **Ray Lewis** will kick off the day's competition with a motivational speech for participants. Two afternoon panel sessions at **1:00 p.m.** and **3:30 p.m.** will address the values of football and sportsmanship and feature NFL Pro Bowl players and Don Shula NFL High School Coach of the Year Award nominees.

For more information, contact Catherine Boyle, NFL, Catherine.boyle@nfl.com.

## **YOUTH "MEDIA NIGHT"**

Members of the NFL FLAG Championship teams will experience what it feels like to be in the spotlight like an NFL player at Youth "Media Night" on **Friday**, **Jan. 27** at **7 p.m.** at **ESPN Wide World of Sports**. At the event, FLAG participants will take part in interviews with current Pro Bowl players and NFL Legends. In addition to being interviewed like the stars, NFL FLAG and PPK participants will enjoy food and entertainment, photo opportunities with NFL players and Legends and walk a red carpet like the NFL's best.

For more information, contact Catherine Boyle, NFL, Catherine.boyle@nfl.com.

#### **PRO BOWL 5K RUN**

The NFL is teaming with Walt Disney World Resort to host the Pro Bowl 5K Run at Epcot on **Saturday, Jan. 28** at **7:00 a.m.** Participants will receive a Pro Bowl 5K Run race bib and finisher medal. Fans ages five and up may register for the run here.

The Pro Bowl 5K Run benefits Make-A-Wish Central and Northern Florida, an organization dedicated to granting the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions. With the support of volunteers, the Pro Bowl 5K Run will give hope, strength, and joy to a sick child by granting his or her most heartfelt wish.

Information on race packet pick-up:

## Race Packet Pick-Up

ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex Location: Champion® Stadium Concourse

Friday, Jan. 27, 2017 - 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Epcot** 

Location: Epcot® Imagine Parking Lot

Saturday, Jan. 28, 2017 - 5:00 a.m. - 6:30 a.m.

For more information, contact Catherine Boyle, NFL, Catherine.boyle@nfl.com.

#### HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL DAY

On **Saturday, January 27**, the NFL will host approximately 100 local high school football players for a daylong event designed to encourage team-building and unity and to educate players about character development and healthy relationships. The program will feature a character development session with A CALL TO MEN CEO Tony Porter in which students will identify signs of healthy and unhealthy relationships and discuss effective strategies for violence prevention. As part of the event, players will also attend Pro Bowl practice and visit the NFL Pro Bowl Experience, a free, football-themed fan festival.

For more information, contact Catherine Boyle, NFL, Catherine.Boyle@nfl.com.

## NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP

The North American Championship features top high school-aged national football teams from the United States and Canada. On **Saturday, Jan. 28**, each country's Under-18 National Teams will play at **5:30 p.m.**, followed by a matchup of each nation's Under-19 National Teams at **8:30 p.m.** Both games will be played at **ESPN's Wide World of Sports Complex**.

The North American Championship is a collaboration of the sport's national governing bodies in each country, USA Football and Football Canada. The two U.S. National Teams encompass approximately 100 student-athletes spanning more than 20 states. The head coach of the U.S. Under-18 National Team is Matt Hennesy of Locust Grove (Okla.) High School. Kenny Sanchez of Las Vegas Bishop Gorman High School is the U.S. Under-19 National Team's head coach.

U.S. National Team alumni include RB Todd Gurley (Georgia/Los Angeles Rams), RB Samaje Perine (Oklahoma), QB Bryce Petty (Baylor/New York Jets) and QB Jameis Winston (Florida State/Tampa Bay Buccaneers).

For more information, contact Tom Yelich, USA Football, tyelich@usafootball.com

# 2017 NFL PRO BOWL PRESENTED BY AQUAFINA

The 2017 Pro Bowl will be played on **Sunday, Jan. 29** and simulcast live on ESPN and ESPN Deportes at **8:00 p.m. ET** from Camping World Stadium in Orlando.

Tickets to the 2017 Pro Bowl are on sale through NFL.com/ProBowlOnSale.

Pro Football Hall of Fame running back **Jereome Bettis**, All-Pro tight end **Tony Gonzalez**, two-time NFL Defensive Player of the Year and Super Bowl XXXV MVP Ray Lewis, and former NFL Defensive Player of the Year and All-Pro defensive back **Charles Woodson** will serve as 2017 Pro Bowl Legends Captains. Bettis (offense) and Lewis (defense) will lead the AFC, while Gonzalez (offense) and Woodson (defense) will lead the NFC. The NFL legends on both teams will also be assisted by two active player captains, who will be determined by a player vote on Wednesday, Jan. 25.

The 2017 Pro Bowl coaching staffs will be from the losing teams in the AFC and NFC Divisional playoffs with the best regular-season records.

Live audio coverage of the Pro Bowl will be available on Westwood One, SiriusXM NFL Radio and on the TuneIn app. NFL Mobile from Verizon will stream the NFL Pro Bowl live via mobile devices for Verizon users, as well as offering full coverage of stats, videos, news stories & more for all. After it's over, replay the game with NFL Game Pass. The 2017 Pro Bowl will feature a return to the traditional AFC vs. NFC format following three years using a revised, "unconferenced" structure.

NFL Network will broadcast the following on Pro Bowl Sunday, January 29:

• 7:00 p.m. ET: NFL Total Access – live pre-game coverage of the Pro Bowl

• 11:00 p.m. ET: NFL Total Access – live postgame coverage, highlights and interviews from the Pro

Bowl

• 12:00 a.m. ET: NFL Network encores the 2017 Pro Bowl in full

NFL Network is providing Pro Bowl coverage in its news and information programming throughout the week leading up to the big game. *Good Morning Football, Up to the Minute* and *NFL Total Access* will offer updates as well as on-site reporters in Orlando. Live play-by-play, highlights and in-game stats for the Pro Bowl are available through the game center experience on NFL.com and NFL Mobile, including behind-the-scenes coverage from practice throughout the week.

Media interested in covering **"2017 Pro Bowl presented by Aquafina"** must apply for credentials at NFLcommunications.com. After signing in, click on "Event Credentials" under the "Events" section of the homepage. If you do not already have an account with NFLCommunications.com, you will need to register.

The deadline to request credentials is **Friday**, **January 13**.

For more information, contact Jake Gellerman, NFL, Jacob.Gellerman@nfl.com