What is the official name of this year's game?
“College Football Playoff Semifinal at the Capital One Orange Bowl”

Shortened, it can be called “Playoff Semifinal at the Capital One Orange Bowl.” Collectively, the Capital One Orange Bowl and Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic (where the other Semifinal will be held) can be called “Playoff Semifinals” or “Semifinals.”

How will you select teams for this year's game?
This year, the Capital One Orange Bowl will host a Playoff Semifinal game, so the matchup will be determined by the CFP Selection Committee.

How are the top four teams selected and seeded?
The CFP Selection Committee ranks the teams and selects the top four for the playoff. They are matched up in Semifinal games (1 vs. 4, and 2 vs. 3). Polls and computer rankings are no longer part of the selection process; it is strictly ranked by the committee. One matchup will be placed in the Capital One Orange Bowl and the other in the Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic.

What time will the game start on Friday, Dec. 31, 2021?
Our game will start at either 3:30 or 7:30 p.m. ET, as assigned by the CFP Selection Committee and ESPN. Once the Selection Committee determines matchups on December 5, they will determine the starting time and location for each Semifinal game. The final announcement of rankings will be made at approximately noon ET on ESPN, followed by the announcement of matchups, location and time of game.

How does the CFP select which game goes to which site?
The Selection Committee will place teams using geography as a factor and giving a proximity preference to the #1 seed. For example if a southern, northeast or midwest team is #1 and a southwestern team #4 they would most likely come to the Capital One Orange Bowl, because sending that matchup to the Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic would give an advantage to the lower seed. Conversely, if a southwestern team is #1 and southern, northeast or midwest is #4, that matchup would most likely be in the Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic.

**The Orange Bowl Cares Program**

Orange Bowl is much more than just a football game...
Every year, through the success of the Capital One Orange Bowl football game, the Orange Bowl Committee is able to positively impact South Florida through its Orange Bowl Cares program, which is comprised of four pillars: Youth Sports, Education, Community Engagement and Legacy Programs.

Within these pillars are incredible events, programs and initiatives that directly benefit the South Florida community.

Events such as the Orange Bowl Food & Wine Celebration which raises $50,000 annually for Make-A-Wish and Special Olympics;

Programs like the Orange Bowl Youth Football Alliance, which is home to more than 13,000 youth football players and cheerleaders;

And initiatives such as its Legacy Park Projects where Orange Bowl has provided millions of dollars towards the beautification of multiple recreational parks throughout the area.

Just this past Spring, the Orange Bowl held its annual Orange Bowl Florida High School Football and Basketball Showcases. The Orange Bowl hosted multiple OBVA youth football clinics and wrapped up its fifth year of the Orange Bowl Leadership Academy.

Community giveback is the driving force behind the Orange Bowl Committee:
- More than $25 million has been invested in the South Florida community since 2006
- $21.5 million has been committed to the renovation of seven parks throughout South Florida by Orange Bowl and its partners
- $80,000 people utilize Orange Bowl’s five completed legacy park projects annually
- More than 20,000 students will be impacted each year by our latest learning center makeovers

What the experts are saying:

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<th>ESPN</th>
<th>Mark Schlabach</th>
<th>CBS SPORTS</th>
<th>Brett McMurphy</th>
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<th>BOWLURNER.COM</th>
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<td>Kyle Bonagura</td>
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CHAMPIONSHIP WATCH LIST: DEC. 3-4

PAC-12 CHAMPIONSHIP
No. 17 Utah vs. No. 10 Oregon // Friday, Dec. 3, 8 p.m. ET // ABC

Despite having one more loss than the Ducks, the Utah Utes (9-3) will be the higher seed and the home team for the Pac-12 Championship Game after finishing 8-1 in conference play. Oregon (10-2) will play in its third straight Pac-12 Championship Game and a record fifth overall after finishing (7-2) in conference play. The Ducks look for redemption after losing just two weeks ago to the Utes on the road.

BIG-12 CHAMPIONSHIP
No. 5 Oklahoma State vs. No. 9 Baylor // Sat., Dec. 4, noon ET // ABC

Baylor (10-2) earned a spot in the conference championship game after beating Texas Tech last week and after the Sooners fell to the Pokes in Bedlam. Oklahoma State (11-1) won 24-14 in the regular season over the Bears and looks to win in Arlington with playoff implications on the line.

SEC CHAMPIONSHIP
No. 1 Georgia vs. No. 3 Alabama // Sat., Dec. 4, 4 p.m. ET // CBS

Georgia (12-0) finished the regular season undefeated for the first time since 1982 after a 45-0 victory over Georgia Tech last week. Alabama (11-1) pulled off the late comeback last week in the Iron Bowl to secure the top seed in the SEC West and a matchup with the top-seeded Bulldogs. The Crimson Tide have won six straight against the Bulldogs including a victory last year in Tuscaloosa.

AAC CHAMPIONSHIP
No. 4 Cincinnati vs. No. 21 Houston // Sat., Dec. 4, 4 p.m. ET // ABC

After losing its season opener, Houston (11-1) has won 11 straight including all eight conference games. Cincinnati (12-0) finished the regular season undefeated, the only FBS team aside from Georgia to do so, for the second time in school history. The Bearcats have done everything in their power to make the playoffs and have one last task to solidify their argument. Cincinnati has won two straight against the Cougars.

BIG TEN CHAMPIONSHIP
No. 2 Michigan vs. No. 13 Iowa // Sat., Dec. 4, 8 p.m. ET // Fox

Michigan (11-1) took care of business against Ohio State last week in a resume-building win, putting them in position to claim a playoff spot with a Big Ten championship win this week. The Wolverines played their third ranked opponent of the year and arguably their most important one with playoff hopes on the line. Iowa (10-2) has defeated all three of its ranked opponents this year and looks to add a fourth. Michigan won the last matchup between the two schools back in 2019 with a 10-3 win.

ACC CHAMPIONSHIP
No. 15 Pittsburgh vs. No. 16 Wake Forest // Sat., Dec. 4, 8 p.m. ET // ABC

Pittsburgh (10-2) hasn’t played a ranked opponent all year but will look to cap off a great season with the ACC title. Wake Forest (10-2) finished the season with a 41-10 win over Boston College to clinch an ACC title spot. The two teams both rank in the top five of scoring offenses (Wake Forest 3rd, Pittsburgh 4th) and the game might come down to which team has the ball last. The only matchups in history between the two came back in 2018 when Pittsburgh came away with a 38-13 victory.

ORANGE BOWL ALUMNI IN THE NFL

Broncos first-round pick, Patrick Surtain II, took home AFC Defensive Player of the Week last week in an impressive showing against the Los Angeles Chargers. The 2018 Capital One Orange Bowl participant with Alabama, recorded his first career touchdown as well as his second and third interceptions on the season. Surtain II finished with five tackles, two interceptions and one touchdown. He is the fourth Broncos rookie to win the defensive award in team history.

Josh Jacobs, who appeared in the 2018 Orange Bowl with Alabama, played in his first Thanksgiving Day game of his NFL career against the Dallas Cowboys. The former Crimson Tide star finished the day with season highs of 22 rushing attempts for 87 yards. Jacobs finished the day with 22 carries for 87 yards and one rushing touchdown and two receptions for 25 yards in a 36-33 OT win in Dallas.

CAPITAL ONE ORANGE BOWL-FWAA COURAGE AWARD

The Courage Award was first presented by the Football Writers Association of America (FWAA) in 2002. The requirements for nomination include displaying courage on or off the field, including overcoming an injury or physical handicap, preventing a disaster or living through hardship. This year’s nominees are:

- Sept. 22: McKenzie Milton, Florida State
- Sept. 29: Yohance Burnett, Tulsa
- Oct. 6: J.J. Weaver, Kentucky
- Oct. 13: Elijah Hicks, Cal
- Oct. 20: Eli Thomas, Minnesota State
- Oct. 27: Taijah Alston, West Virginia
- Nov. 3: Utah Utes Football Team
- Nov. 10: Vedarian Lowe, Illinois
- Nov. 17: Tre Tipton, Pitt
- Nov. 24: Tanner Morgan, Minnesota

ORANGE BOWL COMMITTEE

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