

## 2015 POPEYES BAHAMAS BOWL MEDIA INFORMATION

**POPEYES BAHAMAS BOWL COMMUNICATIONS STAFF:** Your media hosts for the 2015 Popeyes Bahamas Bowl are:

**COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE (Atlantis - Minos/Neptune Room): 242-445-3409**

**Chris Pika**, Director of Communications

*(Bahamas Cell: 242-525-3954; US Cell: 678-908-4853)*

**Todd Bell**, Communications Staff

**Dean Buchan**, Communications Staff

**Tim Glon**, Communications Staff

**Justin Rosenberg**, Communications Staff

**Kate Pika**, Media HQ/Workroom Manager

**Ben Solomon**, ESPN Events Photographer

**Kevin Kemp**, Videographer - Bahamas Ministry of Tourism

**COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE PHONE (Atlantis - Minos/Neptune Room): 242-445-3409**



We are committed to help you have a great experience at the 2015 Popeyes Bahamas Bowl. To that end, we will provide the following to the media.

**MEDIA SITE:** All press releases, media guides/postseason guides and releases for the participating institutions and the bowl are available in PDF format at [www.bahamasbowl.com/media](http://www.bahamasbowl.com/media). Media are encouraged to download digital copies to reduce paper use.

**MEDIA GUIDES/RELEASES:** Media guides/postseason guides & releases for the participating institutions and the bowl will be available at both the Atlantis Media Information Center & gameday at Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium.

**QUOTES:** Quotes of all media availabilities during bowl week will be distributed in the Media Information Center and online at [www.bahamasbowl.com/media](http://www.bahamasbowl.com/media).

**PRESS CONFERENCE VIDEO:** Video of the pre-bowl press conference **December 23** and both postgame press conferences will be available via [www.bahamasbowl.com/media](http://www.bahamasbowl.com/media) for media back in the United States unable to make the trip to the Bahamas.

**MEDIA CREDENTIALS:** All media attending the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl must apply for MEDIA/PHOTO credentials through the following web site: [sportssystem.com/bahamasbowl](http://sportssystem.com/bahamasbowl). No exceptions.

Once the credential request is processed, **Chris Pika**, the Bowl's Communications Director ([chris.pika@bahamasbowl.com](mailto:chris.pika@bahamasbowl.com)), will forward a confirmation if the request is approved. Conference and/or individual school media badges will not be accepted as valid credentials.

**MEDIA/PHOTO** credentials will not be mailed in advance, but will be available for pickup at the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl Media Center located at the Atlantis Bahamas beginning Sunday, Dec. 20, 2015. Working media members who have not picked up their credentials by Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. may do so on game day at the Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium Media Will-Call located just inside the Media Center in the Southwest corner of the stadium.

**LOCKER ROOM/PRACTICE INTERVIEW POLICY:** Throughout bowl week, working press must adhere to the policies established by each school regarding access to student-athletes and coaches. Please contact a member of each institution's media relations/athletic communications staff for team policies.

## 2015 POPEYES BAHAMAS BOWL MEDIA INFORMATION

**MEDIA CREDENTIAL DISTRIBUTION & WORKROOM:** The Popeyes Bahamas Bowl Media Information Center will be located at Atlantis – Minos/Neptune. Hours of operation are as follows:

- **Sunday, December 20** .....12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Lite fare/snacks available 12-2 p.m.)
- **Monday, December 21** .....9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Lite fare/snacks available 12-2 pm)
- **Tuesday, December 22** .....9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Lite fare/snacks available 12-2 pm)
- **Wednesday, December 23** .....9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Lite fare/snacks available 2:30-4:30 pm)

Both press and photo credentials and other information must be picked up at the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl Media Center during hours of operation.

In order to serve the media in an efficient manner, the Media Center is equipped with a copier and telephone. For all outgoing long-distance calls, media will be required to use their calling cards or give the operator collect billing instructions. The operator cannot charge any calls to these phones. Drinks and snacks will be available.

There will be workstations available and ample electrical power for computers and other electrical equipment. Internet service will be available. **Snacks & refreshments will be available each afternoon at times listed above.**

**MEDIA HOSPITALITY SUITE:** Media hospitality will be located at Atlantis (Coral Towers – **Room 9-225**). Drinks & snacks will be provided for credentialed media. Hours of operation are **9 p.m.-Midnight from Dec. 20-24.**

**MEDIA HOTEL/TRANSPORTATION:** The Atlantis Bahamas is the official media hotel of the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl. All media must make their requests for rooms through the online media credentialing process. There are an extremely limited number of media rooms at the Atlantis, and beat writers who staff their team's games during the 2015 season will have priority in the Atlantis media block.

**The Popeyes Bahamas Bowl recommends using taxis or tour companies to travel throughout Nassau. All driving in the Bahamas is done from the left-hand side of the road.**

The Popeyes Bahamas Bowl will provide transportation for traveling media representatives to the **Popeyes Bahamas Bowl Press Conference** on December 23 at Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium (bus leaves for stadium at 9:45 a.m.; returns to Atlantis at 2:00 p.m.) and the **2015 Popeyes Bahamas Bowl** (bus leaves for stadium at 9:30 a.m.; bus returns to Atlantis 3 hours after the conclusion of the game). Media buses will be staged at the Atlantis (Coral Towers lobby). All media members must show their credentials in order to use the transportation service.

**GAMEDAY PRESS BOX/MEDIA CENTER:** Entrance into the Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium press box and media center is by credential only for the news media and press box staff. A limited number of telephones (restricted long distance) and fax/copy service will be available to the working press.

The press box and media center will be open to the media at 10:00 am (approximately two hours before kickoff). Press releases, statistics, press guides and flip cards will be available. A pregame meal will be served only to accredited media approximately two hours prior to kickoff (10:00 am) in the media center, located in the Southwest corner of the stadium below the press area. Beverages and snacks will be available throughout the game in the Press Box.

The main media area at Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium is outside and under cover (similar to auxiliary press setups at Super Bowls and other major sporting events). Power, wireless and wired internet will be available to each individual seated in the media area. Booths for coaches, ESPN, institution radio networks, instant replay are located at the top of the Western Grandstand in the Press Box. Seat and booth assignments will be assigned by priority.

**2015 POPEYES BAHAMAS BOWL MEDIA INFORMATION**

The media workroom at Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium will remain open for **at least three hours** after the conclusion of the game.

**GAMEDAY MEDIA SERVICES:** Flip cards, stats and game notes will be available prior to the start of the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl in the main press areas. Complete box scores and play-by-play will be distributed to the media at the end of each quarter. Coaches and student-athlete quotes will be distributed shortly after the conclusion of the press conferences. If you need a box score emailed to your news organization, please make your request to a member of the Communications staff.

**INTERNET ACCESS:** Wireless and wired access will be available to the media in Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium. The wireless access network and password will be distributed to the media on gameday at the stadium.

**PHONES:** A limited number of toll-restricted (calling card) phones will be available in the media area and workroom at Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium. BTC calling cards (\$10 for approximately 50 minutes) can be purchased at the Atlantis.

**LIVE STATISTICS:** The Popeyes Bahamas Bowl has contracted with StatBroadcast to provide instant stats information during the bowl to media in attendance in Nassau and back in the United States. To access the stat feed, point your browser to **[bahamas.statbroadcast.com](http://bahamas.statbroadcast.com)**.

**PHOTOGRAPHERS/VIDEO:** Popeyes Bahamas Bowl photo credentials must be visible at all times. Bowl organizers will adhere to the NCAA's sideline control policy, which states that:

Sideline photographers are restricted outside the 25-yard lines in the areas designated and are reminded to stay behind the dotted restraining line around the field. No media personnel, including journalists, radio and television personnel or their equipment, shall be in the team area or coaching box.

**POSTGAME INTERVIEW POLICY:** Following a ten (10) minute cooling-off period, postgame interviews will take place in the Media Center in the Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium. Only individuals displaying proper credentials will be permitted in the interview area. Security will be posted in these locations and will not allow anyone to obstruct entrances. The runner-up head coach and two (2) student-athletes will go first, followed by winning institution's head coach and three (3) student-athletes. The game's Offensive and Defensive Players of the Game are required to attend as part of their team's student-athlete contingent. The trophy for the winning team and awards to the offensive and defensive players of the game will be presented on-field immediately following the game.

The cooling off period begins when the head coach enters the dressing room immediately after the game. The winning head coach must proceed directly to the dressing room after the game unless requested for a short interview (not to exceed four minutes) by ESPN. Both team's locker rooms are closed to the media.

Regardless of any personal regular season radio or television contracts, the coach is first obligated to the entire media staffing the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl and must report to the interview room immediately after the 10-minute cooling off period. The coach cannot delay a postgame interview with the covering media to conduct a program for a single radio, newspaper, or television reporter unless requested to grant a short interview (not to exceed four minutes) by ESPN. After fulfilling the commitment to the entire media covering the game, the coach and student-athletes may participate in special interviews.

## POPEYES BAHAMAS BOWL MEDIA SCHEDULE

Members of the media who have received Popeyes Bahamas Bowl credentials will be invited and encouraged to cover the following events:

**Popeyes Bahamas Bowl Team Announcement Press Conference**

Friday, December 11 ..... Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium Media Center ..... 11:00 a.m. – Noon

**Popeyes Bahamas Bowl Team Welcome Reception**

Sunday, December 20 ..... Atlantis – Royal Deck ..... 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.  
(Limited number of media will be permitted to attend. Please contact Chris Pika at 678-908-4853 for access.)

**Popeyes Bahamas Bowl Player Beach Bash and Dinner**

Monday, December 21 ..... Atlantis – Lagoon & West Beach ..... 4:00 – 6:30 p.m.  
(Limited number of media will be permitted to attend. Please contact Chris Pika at 678-908-4853 for access.)

**Community Relations Visit**

Tuesday, December 22 ..... Ranfurly Homes for Children ..... 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.  
(Media encouraged to attend. Please contact Chris Pika at 678-908-4853 for access.)

**Youth Football Leadership Clinic**

Tuesday, December 22 ..... Roscow A.L. Davies Field ..... 2:30 – 5:30 p.m.  
(Media encouraged to attend. Please contact Chris Pika at 678-908-4853 for access.)

**Popeyes Bahamas Bowl Press Conference**

Wednesday, December 23 ..... Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium Media Center ..... 11:00 a.m. – Noon  
All Popeyes Bahamas Bowl credentialed media encouraged to attend. The MAC institution's head coach and two student-athletes will be available to the media from 11:00-11:30 a.m. and the C-USA institution's head coach and two student-athletes will be available to the media from 11:30 a.m.-Noon. A photo opportunity with the two head coaches and the championship trophy will take place at 11:30 a.m. Contact Chris Pika at 678-908-4853 for info.

**Popeyes Bahamas Bowl Media Party**

Wednesday, December 23 ..... Atlantis – Imperial Club (Royal Towers – East Tower) ..... 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.  
All Popeyes Bahamas Bowl credentialed media encouraged to attend (need media credential to attend). Contact Chris Pika at 678-908-4853 for more info.

**2015 Popeyes Bahamas Bowl Game**

Thursday, December 24 ..... Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium ..... Noon  
Only Popeyes Bahamas Bowl credentialed media may attend the game/postgame press conferences. The championship trophy & the Offensive & Defensive Player of the Game awards will be presented immediately following the game.

**Popeyes Bahamas Bowl Postgame Press Conference**

Thursday, December 24 ..... Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium Media Center ..... Following Game  
Postgame press conferences will begin approximately 10 minutes after the conclusion of the game. The runner-up head coach and two student-athletes will go first, followed by winning team's head coach and three student-athletes. The game's Offensive and Defensive Players of the Game are required to attend as part of their team's contingent.

**Note: A complete list of team activities will be available at the Popeyes Bahamas Bowl Media Center. While every activity will not be open to the media, every effort will be made to assist media in covering the teams during bowl week and on game day. For all event information listed above, please contact Chris Pika, Director of Communications at 678-908-4853 or [chris.pika@bahamasbowl.com](mailto:chris.pika@bahamasbowl.com).**

**POPEYES BAHAMAS BOWL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

Schedule correct as of **December 8, 2015 (Schedule subject to change)**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20**

Time TBD ..... Middle Tennessee Team Arrival ..... Lynden Pindling International Airport  
 Time TBD ..... Middle Tennessee Hotel Arrival.....Atlantis – Beach Tower  
 Time TBD ..... Western Michigan Team Arrival ..... Lynden Pindling International Airport  
 Time TBD ..... Western Michigan Hotel Arrival.....Atlantis – Coral Towers  
**Noon – 5:00 p.m. .... Media Center, Credentials & Hospitality .....Atlantis – Minos/Neptune**  
 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. .... Team Welcome Reception .....Atlantis – Royal Deck  
*(Limited media availabilty - contact Chris Pika to cover event)*  
**9:00 p.m.-Midnight..... Media Hospitality .....Atlantis - Coral Towers – Room 9-225**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 21**

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. .... Media Center, Credentials & Hospitality.....Atlantis – Minos/Neptune  
 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. .... Middle Tennessee Team Practice ..... Roscow A.L. Davies Field  
 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. .... Western Michigan Team Practice ..... Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium  
 4:00 – 6:30 p.m. .... Player Beach Bash & Dinner..... Atlantis – Lagoon & West Beach  
*(Limited media availabilty - contact Chris Pika to cover event)*  
**9:00 p.m.-Midnight..... Media Hospitality .....Atlantis - Coral Towers – 9-225**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22**

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. .... Media Center, Credentials & Hospitality.....Atlantis – Minos/Neptune  
 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. .... Middle Tennessee Team Practice ..... Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium  
 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. .... Western Michigan Team Practice ..... Roscow A.L. Davies Field  
 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. .... Community Relations Visit ..... Ranfurly Homes for Children  
*(Media encouraged to cover with restrictions - contact Chris Pika to cover event)*  
 2:30 – 5:30 p.m. .... Youth Football Leadership Clinic..... Roscow A.L. Davies Field  
*(Media encouraged to cover - contact Chris Pika to cover event)*  
**9:00 p.m.-Midnight..... Media Hospitality .....Atlantis - Coral Towers – 9-225**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23**

9:00 – 5:00 p.m. .... Media Center, Credentials & Hospitality.....Atlantis – Minos/Neptune  
 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. .... Western Michigan Walk-Thru Practice..... Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium  
 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. ... Media Credential Pickup ..... Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium  
 11:00 a.m. – Noon ..... Popeyes Bahamas Bowl Press Conferences.. Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium Media Center  
*(Western Michigan 11:00-11:30 am; Coaches photo opportunity with trophy; Middle Tennessee 11:30-Noon)*  
 Noon – 1:00 p.m. .... Middle Tennessee Walk-Thru Practice ..... Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium  
**7:00 – 8:30 p.m. .... Media Reception..... Atlantis – Imperial Club (Royal Towers – East Tower)**  
**9:00 p.m.-Midnight..... Media Hospitality .....Atlantis - Coral Towers – 9-225**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24**

8:00 a.m. .... Parking Gates Open ..... Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium  
 10:00 a.m. .... Gates Open/Media Areas Open ..... Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium  
**10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. .... Media Credential Will-Call .....Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium Media Center**  
 10:00 a.m. – Noon ..... Popeyes FanFest ..... Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium  
**12:05 p.m.....Popeyes Bahamas Bowl .....Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium**  
 Immediately Following Game . Postgame Trophy/Awards Presentation .. Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium – Midfield  
 Immediately Following Game . Postgame Press Conferences ..... Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium Media Center  
 Postgame + 3 Hours ..... Media Postgame Workroom.....Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium Media Workroom  
**9:00 p.m.-Midnight..... Media Hospitality .....Atlantis - Coral Towers – 9-225**

**NOTE: Media availability to observe practices is subject to the rules of the participating institutions**

## HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE MEDIA

**PASSPORTS:** The Popeyes Bahamas Bowl reminds all media that all U.S. citizens coming to the Bowl must have a valid United States Passport for the time of travel. It is possible to secure passports on short notice, but costs will be much higher for the individuals involved and delays in receiving passports are possible during the holiday season. For information on how to obtain a U.S. Passport, visit [passports.state.gov](http://passports.state.gov). For obtaining an expedited passport in a hurry, visit <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/passports/services/expedited.html>.

**UNITED STATES EMBASSY:** The United States Embassy in the Bahamas is located at **42 Queen Street** in Nassau. The American Citizen Services Unit stands ready to help American citizens in The Bahamas – and their loved ones – in emergency situations. American citizens overseas, of course, remain subject to the laws of the country they are in. The American Citizens Services Unit can assist in areas, including: illness/injury, lost/stolen U.S. Passport, arrest/detention, victims of crime, etc.

In case of emergencies involving the death, injury, welfare, or arrest of an American citizen in The Bahamas, please call **242-322-1181**, ext. 4406, 4547 or 4584 during business hours, or **242-322-1181 x 9** or **242-357-7004** at all other times. (Please note that the Duty Officer who answers this number will not be able to assist with visa or routine passport matters.) The U.S. Embassy website is [nassau.usembassy.gov](http://nassau.usembassy.gov).

**CELL PHONES/INTERNET:** The Popeyes Bahamas Bowl staff reminds media that cell phone roaming rates for voice and data usage in the Bahamas can be extremely high per minute. All participants should check with their cell-phone service provider for pertinent information on current roaming rates. Phones can be used in “Airplane Mode” in the Bahamas (no data usage) in order to use phone cameras, etc. Atlantis Bahamas has wireless internet capability in rooms (free)/some public areas (daily fee if not staying at Atlantis). Calling cards for public phones located in the resort can be purchased at the Atlantis.

**CURRENCY:** The legal tender is the Bahamian dollar, which is equivalent to the U.S. dollar. U.S. currency is accepted throughout Nassau Paradise Island, as are most major credit cards and traveler’s checks. ATMs are located at both Paradise Island and Cable Beach casinos, Rawson Square, major banks and in most hotels.

**ELECTRICITY:** With standard North American 120-volt/60-cycle AC electrical current, you will be able to operate American laptops, electronics, hairdryers, shavers and other small electrical appliances without adapters.

**GETTING AROUND:** Taxi service is available from the Atlantis to take you into Nassau to visit tourist areas, restaurants, etc. Shared van rides into Nassau from the Atlantis run \$4 per person, and you will be dropped off in downtown Nassau near the Government House. Unshared rides from downtown Nassau back to the Atlantis are \$15 per person (not including the \$1 bridge toll to get back over to Paradise Island).

Ferry boats (water taxis) can take you between Nassau and Paradise Island while at the same time giving you a waterfront view of Nassau Harbour. Tickets can be purchased at the tour desk at Festival Place and at Woodes Rogers Wharf right next door. Tickets cost \$4 per person (plus a suggested \$1 tip for the storyteller who usually accompanies the ride) and the trip is approximately 10 minutes each way. Ferries leave every half hour on the hour from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

City buses, known locally as “jitneys”, run in downtown Nassau and Cable Beach several times a day. The cost for a one-way ride is \$1.25 per person, and exact change is required. Pay as you exit the bus.

**TIPPING:** Restaurants and hotels **automatically add 15%** to all food and beverage checks in lieu of gratuity. For exceptional service you may wish to leave something extra. Bellboys, doormen and porters usually receive \$2 per bag. Taxi drivers should be tipped about 15% of the fare.

**CUSTOMS:** U.S. citizens out of the country for 48 hours are allowed up to \$800 worth of duty-free merchandise. Less than 48 hours, the duty-free exemption is \$200. Limitations include 32 ounces of tobacco for those over 21 and no more than two liters of alcohol. To make traveling easier, consider packing things you’re going to declare separately and keep all your sales receipts.

**MEDICAL FACILITIES:** Internationally trained doctors are available at the hotels and throughout the Nassau Paradise Island. Two hospitals are fully equipped to respond to emergency medical situations. Princess Margaret Hospital and Doctor’s Hospital are both located in Nassau.

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS****Driving Directions From Lynden Pindling International Airport to the Atlantis Bahamas (11.8 miles):**

Go north on US Departures Rd. (0.2 miles), at the roundabout, take first exit onto Windsor Field Rd. (0.4 miles), go through one roundabout (0.4 miles) and stay on Windsor Field Rd., at the next roundabout (0.7 miles), take the first exit to John F. Kennedy Drive and go through two roundabouts, at the third roundabout (4.3 miles), take the first exit onto Prospect Ridge Rd., at the next roundabout (0.8 miles), take the first exit onto West Bay St., continue on West Bay St. (1.9 miles), at the next roundabout, continue on West Bay St. (1.1 miles), turn left onto Marlborough St. (0.1 miles), road becomes Navy Lion Rd. (213 feet), turn right onto Bay St. (1.2 miles), turn left and cross the Sir Sidney Poitier Bridge (0.5 miles), take first right onto Paradise Beach Rd., at the roundabout (0.1 miles), take the first exit and continue (0.2 miles), Atlantis Resort will be on the left.

**Driving Directions From Atlantis Bahamas to Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium (4.6 miles):**

Head east toward Casino Drive (0.2 miles), at the roundabout, take second exit onto Paradise Island Bridge – Southbound Rd., cross bridge (0.5 miles) – road becomes Mackey St., continue on Mackey St. (1.2 miles), turn right on Wulff Rd., continue on Wulff Rd. (1.3 miles), Wulff Rd. becomes Poinciana Dr., continue on Poinciana Dr. (0.5 miles), at the roundabout, take first exit onto Thompson Blvd., continue on Thompson Blvd. (0.7 miles), turn left on Bahamas Games Blvd., continue on Bahamas Games Blvd. (0.2 miles), Thomas A. Robinson National Stadium will be on the left.

**Driving Directions From Atlantis Bahamas to Roscow A.L. Davies Field (5.2 miles)**

Head east toward Casino Drive (0.2 miles), at the roundabout, take second exit onto Paradise Island Bridge – Southbound Rd., cross bridge (0.4 miles) – road becomes Mackey St., continue on Mackey St. (1.2 miles), turn right on Wulff Rd., continue on Wulff Rd. (1.3 miles), Wulff Rd. becomes Poinciana Dr. Continue on Poinciana Dr.(0.5 miles), at the roundabout, take first exit onto Thompson Blvd., continue on Thompson Blvd. (0.4 miles), turn left on Moss St., stay on Moss St. (0.1 miles), turn right and follow road (0.7 miles), at roundabout, take first exit onto Celery Dr., stay on Celery Dr. (0.3 miles), Roscow A.L. Davies Field will be on the left.