

New York City Middle School Team Championships - Sunday March 4th 2017

By Ben Nisbet, Director

Each year, [American Youth Table Tennis](#) (AYTTO) collaborates with the New York City Department of Education and community-based organizations to run the New York City Middle School Table Tennis League (NYCMSTTL), which held its invitation-only championship on March 4. The league provides students in grades 6-8 with the opportunity to learn basic table tennis skills and to represent their school in organized competition. For many students, this is their first opportunity to participate in an organized sport.

The New York City Department of Education's Office of School Wellness Programs supports the league through its [CHAMPS](#) program. For the past two years, [Manhattan Youth](#), a leading New York City after-school program provider, has hired a league commissioner and encouraged its network of schools to participate.

The six-hour championship event attracted 146 students from 14 participating schools, and many parents attended. Matches took place on ten Stiga Optimum 30 Tables, with XuShaoFa as the official ball sponsor.

"This event is the culmination of an exciting twelve-week league in which over 75 school team matches were played," commented Rob Schliessman, commissioner, who co-commissions middle school sports in NYC through the Middle School Athletic League (MSAL). Sports in the MSAL include soccer, flag-football, volleyball, basketball, lacrosse, tennis and many more. "Table tennis has become a highly successful school sport in New York City. At the middle school level, we are the building block to prepare students for high school sports." During the 2016-17 school year, 16 middle schools and more than 240 students participated in the table tennis league; due to heavy demand, many schools scheduled tryouts to select their teams.

Congratulations to the 2017 middle school team champions, and all the schools, participants, coaches, and parents in attendance:

[IS 125](#) - Varsity Champion
[Lab School](#) - Varsity Finalist
[PS 126](#) and [Wagner MS](#) – Varsity Semi-Finalists
[Ryan MS](#) - Girls Varsity Champion
[Anderson PS 334](#) - Girls Varsity Runner Up
IS125 and Lab School - Semi-Finalists
IS 125 - JR Varsity Champion
Wagner JR - Varsity Runner Up

Ben Nisbet is the co-founder of AYTTO, which coordinates after-school table tennis for New York City public middle and high schools, as well as summer camps and training academies. For more info visit www.aytto.org

