

FOOTBALL SCHEDULING TIMELINE

2026 AND 2027 (CLASSES A-B-C1-C2-D1-D2-D3-D6)

The classification period and schedules will be for two years – the **2026** and **2027** football seasons for Classes A-B-C1-C2-D1-D2-D3-D6.

The scheduling timeline is dependent upon receiving the enrollment figures the NSAA member schools report to the Nebraska Department of Education in the fall of 2025. In past years, these figures have been available to the NSAA sometime in early December.

The TENTATIVE schedule will be as follows:

1. **November 1, 2025** – Deadline to submit application for a cooperative sponsorship in football for the 2026 and 2027 seasons. **No cooperative sponsorships in football for the 2026 and 2027 football seasons will be accepted or permitted after November 1, 2025.**
2. **November 2025** – Football coops will be approved for the 2026 and 2027 football seasons at the November NSAA Board of Directors meeting.
3. **November 30, 2025** – The deadline for schools to submit their declaration of participation in 11-man, 8-man or 6-man football. **This is also the deadline for schools to submit their intent to “Opt Up” or “Opt Down” in classification.**
 - Those schools with a BOY three-grade enrollment (9th-11th grades) in excess of 55 as submitted in the fall of 2025 are not eligible for the 8-man football playoffs in 2026 and 2027, unless they’re eligible for the one-classification waiver. A school that is ineligible for the playoffs in the 2026 & 2027 cycle can become eligible in the second season (2027) if their BOY enrollment figure is 55 or lower as submitted in the fall of 2026.
 - (If you have questions, please contact the NSAA office.)
 - Those schools with a BOY three-grade enrollment (9th-11th grades) in excess of 27 as submitted in the fall of 2025 are not eligible for the 6-man football playoffs in 2026 and 2027, unless they’re eligible for the one-classification waiver. A school that is ineligible for the playoffs in the 2026 & 2027 cycle can become eligible in the second season (2027) if their BOY enrollment figure is 27 or lower as submitted in the fall of 2026.
 - (If you have questions, please contact the NSAA office.)
 - A school that Opts down in classification and is thus ineligible for the playoffs in the 2026 & 2027 cycle can become eligible in the second season (2027) if their boy enrollment figure as submitted in fall of 2026 falls within the appropriate classification enrollment range.
4. **December** – Classifications and district assignments for the 2026 and 2027 football seasons will be released. Schools will then be asked to submit a priority list of non-district schools they would like to have on their 2026 and 2027 football schedules. More detailed information and instructions regarding this process will be provided after classifications and district assignments are released.
5. **January/ February 2026** – The NSAA staff will establish the football schedules for the 2026 and 2027 football seasons for all member schools in Classes A-B-C1-C2-D1-D2-D3-D6.
6. **February 11, 2026** – The schedules along with the home and away designations for Classes A-B-C1-C2-D1-D2-D3-D6 will be released to the member schools. More detailed instructions will be provided.