

MHSFCA
Working Document
Proposed 2025-2026 Football Modifications

Executive Summary - MIAA Football 2025 Modifications

The goal of these modifications is to provide an equitable regular season experience for all student-athletes in football and to offer a post-season tournament for those who have demonstrated a specific level of excellence.

9-Game Regular Season, 8-Team Playoff

- The calendar for the pre-season will remain the same.
- The calendar for the regular season will be the same.
- Schools can schedule a maximum of 9 games before the playoff seeding.
- Schools must play 7 games to be eligible for the playoffs.
- The MIAA Power Rating formula will determine the top 8 seeds per division at the conclusion of week 9.
- The top 8 teams per division (64 schools) qualify for the post-season.
- Teams who do not qualify for the playoffs can play a maximum of two more games; a consolation game in week 10, and/or another week 11 or Thanksgiving week to complete an 11-game season.
- Playoffs begin week 10 -The higher seeds will host the quarterfinal game, unless they lack lights and/or grass ruled unplayable – see *Proposed Calendar B*
- The Semi-Final will be played in week 11 at neutral site
- Thanksgiving is week 12, and the final game of the regular season.
- The Super Bowls will be Week 13 at a neutral site

Benefits

- Allows schools the opportunity to schedule another game to fit the goals of their program.
- The additional game improves the accuracy of the power rating formula.
- A nine-week qualifying period eliminates a consolation game or bye week for 146 schools.
- Non-qualifying teams will still have the flexibility to play a 10th and/or 11th game.
- A minimum of the top 21% of teams from each division will qualify. The number of teams per division will range from 32 to 38 teams for 2025-2026 seasons.
- Set schedule – will only require the scheduling of one possible consolation
- Length of season - no change

Unsolved Issues

- This plan will still require 210 schools (77%) to play one consolation game or take a bye.
- Football will continue to be the only MIAA sport that operates an in-season tournament.
- The power rating will continue to be incomplete if all league games have not been played prior to seeding the tournament. This is inconsistent with other MIAA sport tournaments.
- Teams in the State final will still have the dilemma of playing starters on Thanksgiving.

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2025 Calendar
9-Game Regular Season, 8-Team Tournament
November / December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
WEEK 9	November 3	4	5	6	7 Final Regular Season Weekend	8 Final Regular Season weekend
WEEK 10 9	10	11	12	13	14 Quarterfinals/ Optional Consolation	15 Quarterfinals/ Optional Consolation
WEEK 11 16	17	18	19	20	21 Semi-Finals weekend	22 Semi-Finals Open *
WEEK 12 23	24	25	26 Week 12 THANKSGIVING EVE	27 Week 12 THANKSGIVING	28	29
WEEK 13 30	December 1	2	3 SUPER BOWLS	4 SUPER BOWLS	5 SUPER BOWLS	6