

# ***FOOTBALL RECLASSIFICATION TIMELINE 2027 AND 2028 (CLASSES AA, A, B, 8-player, C-6 player)***

The **reclassification** period will be for two years – the **2027** and **2028** football seasons for Classes AA, A, B, 8-player, and C-6-player. The reclassification timeline is dependent upon receiving the enrollment figures member schools report to the Montana Office of Public Instruction in the fall/spring of the 2024-25 and the 2025-26 school years. In past years, these figures have been available to the MHSAs sometime in early October.

## **The TENTATIVE schedule will be as follows:**

1. **October 1, 2026** – Review of existing football coops will begin.
2. **October 10, 2026** – Deadline to submit application for a cooperative sponsorship in football for the 2027 and 2028 seasons. **No cooperative sponsorships in football for the 2027 and 2028 football seasons will be accepted or permitted after October 10, 2026.**
3. **October 25, 2026** – Football coops will be approved for the 2027 and 2028 football seasons by the MHSAs Executive Director.
4. **November 1, 2026** – The deadline for schools to submit their declaration of participation in 11-player, 8-player or C-6-player football. **This is also the deadline for schools to submit their intent (via email) to “Opt Up” or “Opt Down” in classification.**
5. **November 5, 2026** – MHSAs Office will notify schools if an appeal is needed to the Executive Board.
6. **November 2026 – Ten (10) days prior to the November Executive Board Meeting – All request for reclassification paperwork is due to the MHSAs office.** Football classification will be organized using the following enrollment ranges: Six-player = 1-65; Eight-player = 65-130; Eleven-player = 130+.
  - Those schools that do not fall into the enrollment range for their declared classification will be entered into the reclassification rubric using the following criteria:
    - 8th – 11th Boys’ Enrollment and future boys’ enrollment projections. 30% of total score.
    - Roster size for the past four years. 35% of total score.
    - Success factor (including win/loss record and other relevant information) in the current placement for the past four years. 25% of total score.
    - Free and Reduced Lunch Percentage from OPI. 10% of total score.
  - Those schools that do not meet the number in the rubric can opt down to participate in the lower classification but will not be eligible for the playoff consideration.
  - A school that opts down in classification and is thus ineligible for the playoffs in the 2027 & 2028 cycle can become eligible in the second season (2028) if their rubric calculation in the fall of the first season falls within the appropriate range. Schools that opt down will play a full conference schedule and all games played in the conference will count toward the overall conference standings.
7. **December 15, 2026** – Deadline for school requesting to opt down a classification if their appeal to play in their current classification was denied at the November Executive Board meeting.
8. **January 2027** – Classifications and division assignments for the 2027 and 2028 football seasons will be finalized and released at the MHSAs Annual Meeting. Class B 11-player, 8-player, and C6-player will present new conference alignment to the MHSAs Executive Board at their Saturday meeting. Schools wishing to appeal their placement in the new alignment must appeal at the same meeting. If needed, the final approval will be at the Monday Executive Board meeting.
9. **March 2027** – Each football division will establish the football schedules for the 2027 and 2028 football seasons for all member schools in Classes AA, A, B, 8-player, and C-6-player.