



# Competitive Equity Proposals

February 15, 2024

CONFIDENTIAL / ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE

# **Objective: Increase Football Competitive Equity 2**

Goal: Each season, in November, at least HALF of Super League schools being in post-season contention.

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# Super League & Under League Format & Scheduling

- August 14, 2027 is the launch of the Super League (“SL”) and the Under League (“UL”).
- SL has 70 permanent schools (no relegation) plus 10 additional annually-rotating schools from UL. 80 schools each year.
- SL Permanent Members: 7 Divisions with 10 schools each = 70 schools
- The best 10 UL schools promoted each year to form the 8<sup>th</sup> division (regardless of geography) = 10 schools (see next slide).
- 14-game regular season games played across 15 weeks with the final weekend being Thanksgiving Weekend.
- 9 division games + 5 non-divisional games determined by rotational and standings-based formulas. Emphasis on competitive equity.
- 8 division winners guaranteed the post-season = 8 schools. Each division winner gets a home game and hosts 1<sup>st</sup> round wild card game.
- Plus 8 wild cards each year based on records/tie-breakers. 16 total post-season schools. (Room to grow to 24 without adding more weeks.)
- 4-game Post-Season (16 schools) played across 5 weeks. (20-week season in totality)
- 15<sup>th</sup> game: all schools play a mid-April Spring football “event” with game, concert, etc. (home every other year). College Football Spring Festival
- UL has 8 divisions with 7 schools per division = 56 schools (not counting the 10 playing “up” each year in SL).
- SL has 10 UL teams compete in SL annually as one division (regardless of geography)
- The 8 UL post-season teams from the previous year move up to the SL the following season, replacing the bottom 8 teams who competed up the year prior. No SL school is ever relegated. Model is promotion without relegation.
- Model drives more interest in SL and UL and drives more media dollars in the UL packages.
- New schedule every year published February 1<sup>st</sup>.

# Proposed Super League Divisions

Example:

<u>WEST</u>	<u>SOUTHWEST</u>	<u>PLAINS</u>	<u>MIDWEST</u>	<u>NORTHEAST</u>	<u>SOUTHEAST</u>	<u>SOUTH</u>	<u>UL TEAMS</u>
Arizona	Arkansas	BYU	Cincinnati	Boston College	Clemson	Alabama	Boise State
Arizona State	Baylor	Colorado	Illinois	Maryland	Duke	Auburn	James Madison
Cal	Houston	Iowa	Indiana	Notre Dame	Florida	Georgia	Liberty
Oregon	Oklahoma	Iowa State	Louisville	Penn State	Florida State	Georgia Tech	Miami (OH)
Oregon State	Okla State	Kansas	Michigan	Pittsburgh	Miami	Kentucky	N Mexico State
Stanford	SMU	Kansas State	Michigan State	Rutgers	NC State	LSU	Toledo
UCLA	TCU	Minnesota	Missouri	Syracuse	North Carolina	Miss State	Troy
USC	Texas	Nebraska	Northwestern	Virginia	South Carolina	Ole Miss	Tulane
Washington	Texas A&M	Utah	Ohio State	Virginia Tech	UCF	Tennessee	UNLV
Wash State	Texas Tech	Wisconsin	Purdue	West Virginia	Wake Forest	Vanderbilt	UTSA

# The Annual Football Calendar

## CURRENT FB CALENDAR

- August 1 – 31 – Dead Period (no high school recruiting contact)
- Sept 1 – Nov 26 – Official Evaluation Period (NCAA coaches and recruiters can talk to anyone involved in the player's life, like coaches or trainers, but are not permitted to speak to the players or their families)
- Nov 27 – 30 – Dead Period
- Dec 1 – Conference Championship Weekend
- Dec 1 – 16 – Contact Period (In-person, off-campus recruiting allowed)
- Dec 4 – First Transfer Portal Window Opens
- Dec 17 – Quiet Period (only on-campus recruiting allowed – visits to campus)
- Dec 18 – Jan 11 – Dead Period
- Dec 20 – 22 – Early Signing Day (HS recruits can sign letters of intent to join programs)
- Jan 2 – First Transfer Portal Window Closes
- Jan 3 – 7 – Quiet Period for portal players (transfers can visit schools)
- Jan 8 – National Championship
- Jan 12 – Feb 3 – Contact Period
- Feb 4 – Quiet Period
- Feb 5 – March 3 – Dead Period
- Feb 7 – Traditional Signing Day
- March 4 – April 14 – Quiet (Next season's recruitment starts)
- April 15 – May 25 – Contact Period
- April 16 – April 30 – Second Transfer Portal Window Opens & Closes
- May 26 – 29 – Dead Period
- May 30 – June 23 – Quiet Period
- June 24 – July 24 – Dead Period
- July 25 – 31 – Quiet Period

## 2027-2028 FB CALENDAR

- August 1 – 26, 2027: Dead Period (no high school recruiting contact)
- August 27 – Nov 30, 2027: Official Evaluation Period (coaches and recruiters can talk to anyone involved in the player's life, like coaches or trainers, but are not permitted to speak to the players or their families; coaches and staff can attend HS games)
- Dec 1 – Jan 14: Dead Period for Teams Competing in Post-Season Play
  - *Note – Teams eliminated from post-season contention will have a full Contact Period simultaneous to this timeframe through January 14.*
- Jan 3 – 18: Quiet Period for HS Seniors & Transfers (only on-campus recruiting allowed)
  - *Note – Only teams eliminated from post-season contention and play will be able to participate in this Quiet Period.*
- **Saturday, January 15, 2028 @ 6:00pm: Super League National Championship**
- Jan 16 – 31: Contact Period (for HS Seniors & Transfers)
- **Monday, January 31, 2028: National Signing Day**
- February: Open Transfer Window (Quiet Period for Transfers)
- March: Supplemental Transfer Window (Dead Period)
- April, 2028: College FB Spring Festival (40 Spring Games across 4 weekends)
- April 17 – June 30: Quiet Period (Next season's recruitment starts)
- July, 2028: Dead Period

# Name, Image, Likeness

- **Type A: Broadcast NIL:** Collectively bargain a templated NIL construct for all FBS (Super League and Under League) football student-athletes with standardized NIL payments for broadcast use of each athletes NIL, paid nationally: **6**

- **Freshman (5%):** all Freshman on the roster share pro rata equally in **5%** of the school's "FB Player Pool."
- **Sophomores (15%):** all Sophomores on the roster share pro rata equally in **15%** of the school's "FB Player Pool."
- **Juniors (30%):** all Juniors on the roster share pro rata equally in **30%** of the school's "FB Player Pool."
- **Seniors/Grads (50%):** all Seniors on the roster share pro rata equally in **50%** of the school's "FB Player Pool."

Each of the 70 permanent SL School's FB Player Pool =  $\frac{X}{70}$  of that season's **median** SL TV Pool. This will be collectively bargained.

- **Type B: Group NIL:** Collectively bargain standard "rider" and reporting protocol for "Group NIL" licensing deals which typically involved several (4 or more) student athletes appearing together in a video game or other commercial venture, etc. This will be collectively bargained.

- **Type C: Individual NIL:** Collectively bargain standard "rider" and reporting protocol for each individual student athlete's NIL deal(s). No constraints whatsoever other than reporting, i.e., can do deals with anybody, the school, collectives, third parties, etc. as long as properly reported/disclosed.

- **Proposal: Student-Athletes free and totally unfettered to receive unlimited NIL moneys from A + B + C.**
- **Proposal: Schools constrained by a "NIL Roster Cap" = A + B + C where C cannot exceed A + B.**

- **NIL Roster Cap** is NIL only and would NOT limit cost of attendance, medical, academic and other non-cash educational benefits (unlimited). If a school is below 80% of the **NIL Roster Cap** (the "**NIL Roster Floor**") for 2 consecutive years, it is relegated to the Under League until it maintains one full season at or above the **NIL Roster Floor**. If a school exceeds the **NIL Roster Cap** during a season, then in the next cycle it loses talent/player slots in the following order:

- **February Open Transfers:** lose one (1) **February** slot until all 10 gone for each 0.25% over the **Roster Cap**, then
- **March Supplemental Transfers:** lose one (1) **March** slot until all 20 gone for each 0.25% over the **Roster Cap**, then
- **HS Scholarship Offers:** lose one (1) **National Signing Day** scholarship until all gone for each 0.25% over the **Roster Cap**.

## Collectively Bargained Roster Management

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- Super League & Under League schools have flexibility within the collectively bargained **Roster Floor** and **Roster Cap**.
- Student-athletes will also have flexibility, but should NOT be encouraged to transfer every single year.
- **Five-for-Five** player eligibility model: players have 5-year-window of eligibility (must be enrolled as a full-time student).
- Within that 5-year-window, after their Sophomore season, student-athlete can transfer up to a max of two (2) times:
  - Once in the **February Open Transfer Portal** and once in the **March Supplemental Transfer Portal**;
  - OR
  - Twice in the **March Supplemental Transfer Portal**.
- **85 Roster slots** all counted within the **Roster Cap**: max 70 scholarship roster slots and max 15 non-scholarship.
- Non-scholarship walk-on student-athletes are eligible to receive NIL and count against the **Roster Cap**.
- Minimum 50/70 scholarship roster slots each season must have come to the school directly from high school.
- Maximum 10/70 scholarship roster slots each season can come from the **February Open Transfer Portal**.
- Maximum 10/70 scholarship roster slots each season can come from the **March Supplemental Transfer Portal**.

*System encourages student-athlete persistence (fewer transfer opportunities) to increase odds of graduation and simultaneously creating an even greater incentive for schools to invest in, retain, develop and graduate players.*

## February Open Transfer Portal

- This would be collectively bargained.
- Open Transfers as currently practiced, limited to the month of February.
- Student-athletes (SA's) are eligible to transfer once in the February Portal in their 5-year window.
- Player Transfer Payment ("PTP") owed by the school gaining the SA and paid to the school losing the SA.
- PTP = reimbursement of aggregate **Type A League NIL** paid to SA during time at school losing the SA.
- PTP amount counts 100% against the **Roster Cap** of the school gaining the student-athlete.
- School gaining SA can choose to take full 100% hit in next cycle or amortize 50% hit across next two cycles.



## March Supplemental Transfer Portal

- This would be collectively bargained.
- Within a 5-year-window, after their Sophomore season, student-athlete can transfer up to a max of two (2) times:
  - Once in the **February Open Transfer Portal** and once in the **March Supplemental Transfer Portal**;
  - OR
  - Twice in the **March Supplemental Transfer Portal**.
- No Player Transfer Payment (“PTP”) for a March transfer.
- SA lists between 5-10 schools/programs they are “applying” to (grounded in the high school & transfer portal statistics ).
- Those 5-10 schools/programs receive the “application.” Process is akin to how medical schools accept students.
- Those 5-10 schools/programs accept or decline SA in reverse order of prior year on-field performance *w/ waiver wire style*.
- The worst-performing school/program (of the 5-10 listed by the SA) has first choice and can accept or decline the SA.
- If that school/program takes a pass, then the next-worst on-field school/program can accept or decline the SA.
- SA would be obligated to attend the first school/program to accept their “application.”

1 – The average HS senior applying to 4-year undergraduate institutions applies to approximately 5 schools. The average transfer student, transferring between 4-year institutions, applies to approximately 4 schools.

# Super League Football Investments

- To be discussed

# Appendix A – Alternate Football Calendar

## CURRENT FB CALENDAR

- August 1 – 31 – Dead Period (no high school recruiting contact)
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- Nov 27 – 30 – Dead Period
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- May 26 – 29 – Dead Period
- May 30 – June 23 – Quiet Period
- June 24 – July 24 – Dead Period
- July 25 – 31 – Quiet Period

## 2027-2028 FB CALENDAR

- August 1 – 26, 2027: Dead Period (no high school recruiting contact)
- August 27 – Nov 30, 2027: Official Evaluation Period (coaches and staff can attend HS games)
- Dec 1 – Dec 22: Dead Period for all teams
- Dec 23 – Feb. 13 – Open Period for First-Time Transfers
- Jan 3 – Feb 13: Open Period for HS Seniors
- **Saturday January 1, 2028 @ 6:00pm: Super League National Championship**
- Monday, February 14, 2028: National Signing Day
- March: Supplemental Transfer Window (Dead Period for HS Seniors and First-Time Transfers)
- Saturday & Sunday April 15-16, 2028: Super League Festival Weekend (40 Spring Games)
- April 17 – June 30: Open Period (Next season's recruitment starts)
- July, 2028: Dead Period

- *Note 1 – In practice, dates will be modified to be tethered to competition beginning and end dates.*
- *Note 2 – Dead, Quiet, and Contact Periods condensed to simply Dead and Open periods.*
- *Note 3 – Supplemental Transfer Window is intended for multi-time transfers, with a system-based approach to transfers differing from initial transfers.*