



2026		
Date	Schedule Footprint	Competition Calendar
45 days in advance of Preseason	Training Facility must be designated	
Wednesday, January 14, 2026	Preseason Starts	40-player Preseason Roster Deadline; League must receive rosters by 12pm EST; Trialist Acknowledgments out for signature
Tuesday, January 20, 2026		Primary Transfer Window Opens
Friday, February 20, 2026	Challenge Cup Game	
Wednesday, February 25, 2026		32-Player Preseason Roster Deadline; League must receive rosters by 12pm EST
Wednesday, March 11, 2026		Roster Compliance/22-26 Player Final Roster Due; League must receive rosters by 12pm EST
Friday, March 13, 2026	Regular Season Begins	
Monday, March 16, 2026		Primary Transfer Window Closes
Monday, June 8 - Sunday, June 14, 2026	Mandatory Week Off	
Monday, June 15 - Sunday, June 28, 2026	2026 Men's World Cup	
Tuesday, June 30, 2026		List of Players Receiving Exercised Options Deadline; League must receive decision sheets by 12pm EST
Wednesday, July 1, 2026		FA window opens: ability to negotiate with upcoming free agents; Players can sign with new Teams for 2027
Tuesday, July 14, 2026		Secondary Transfer Window Opens
Monday, September 7, 2026		Secondary Transfer Window Closes
Thursday, October 8, 2026		Roster Freeze Date; All transactions must be completed by 3pm EST
Saturday, October 24 - Sunday, October 25, 2026	Regular Season Ends	
Friday, November 6 - Sunday, November 8, 2026	NWSL Quarterfinals	
Saturday, November 14 - Sunday, November 15, 2026	NWSL Semifinals	
Saturday, November 21, 2026	NWSL Championship	
Wednesday, December 23, 2026		2026 Transaction Moratorium Begins at 6:00pm ET
Monday, January 4, 2027		2026 Transaction Moratorium Ends at 9:00am ET

*Per CBA, Preseason training shall be no fewer than five (5) weeks and no longer than eight (8) weeks in duration. Roster Compliance will be March 11, 2026, making the earliest date a Team can start Preseason is January 14, 2026 (entrance physicals can occur on January 14, but not before).