

12 TEAMS

12 teams selected and seeded by the College Football Playoff committee following conference championship weekend.



SEED RANKING

Four highest-ranked teams receive a first-round bye into the quarterfinals. The eight remaining teams play based on seeding with the higher ranked team playing on its campus or at a location of its choice.

FIRST ROUND PLAYOFF

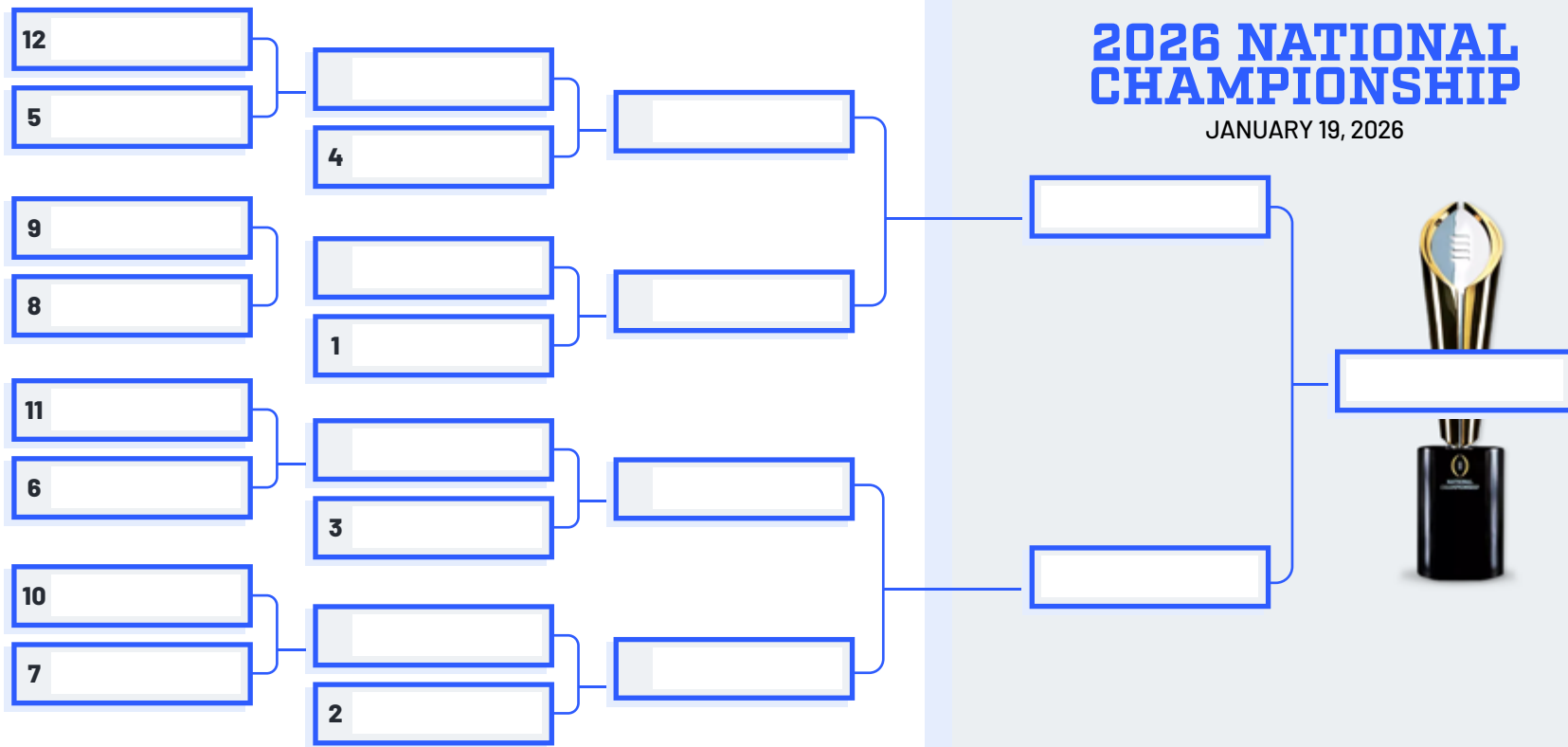
DEC. 19-20

QUARTERFINALS PLAYOFF

DEC. 31, 2025-JAN. 1, 2026

SEMIFINALS PLAYOFF

JAN. 8 - JAN. 9



Teams seeded No.5 to 12 will play at the campus of the higher seed or a location of their choice.

The top four teams will receive a first-round bye.



The semifinals take place at the Orange and Cotton Bowl. The No.1 seed will receive preferential placement.



Monday, Jan. 19, 2026 at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida at 7:30 p.m.