Ok, so summer is winding down and your friends are coming home from vacation, which leaves you wondering how to make sure you all have some fun this fall to forget that winter is coming?

Well, to help solve your end of summer woes, let us remind you that all kinds of football are coming your way!

NCAA and NFL football are both firing back up, and since College Football gets underway first ([going on now!](https://www.ncaa.com/news/football/article/2018-08-27/ultimate-viewing-guide-opening-weekend-college-football)), here’s the lowdown on what you need to know about what the future stars of your favorite NFL teams are up to this winter.

The season is kicking off with the greatly anticipated **Chick-Fil-A Kickoff Classic** on **Saturday, September 1** featuring **no. 7 Washington Huskies** against **no. 8 Auburn Tigers** at 3:30pm at **Mercedes-Benz Stadium** in Atlanta, GA (home of Super Bowl 2019). This will mark the first time the two teams meet on the gridiron; it will also be the first SEC vs. Pac-12 matchup in the history of the Chick-fil-A Kickoff Game. Who do you anticipate will take home **The Old Leather Helmet Trophy**?

**What’s new this year?**

* Not really news, but Alabama’s Crimson Tide is on a roll! Under the guidance of coach, Nick Saban, the team has won five of the last national championships. ‘Bama better look out for Clemson and Georgia, who are looking to dethrone the college football powerhouse.
* Shea Patterson, from Ole Miss is starting at Michigan.=
* Freshmen can appear in up to four games

**Most exciting teams this year?**

* Alabama Crimson Tide (no surprise here, amiright?)
* Clemson Tigers (look out ‘Bama!)
* Georgia Bulldogs
* Ohio State Buckeyes
* Oklahoma Sooners
* Washington Huskies

This year, we want to take some of the guesswork out of talking about College Football, so we’re going to share a recap just how college football BOWL games work.

**First of all, what is a bowl game?**

* When a team qualifies to play a one-off matchup against a team of similar skill that it would not usually face in the regular season.
* A team qualifies by winning more total games than it has lost against its opponents in its subdivision.
  + The minimum is set at 5-7
  + Teams with winning records always receive priority
  + [Read the full rules here](http://www.ncaa.org/sites/default/files/2018-19PBA_Postseason_Bowl_Handbook_FINAL_20180822.pdf)
* Losses in the conference championship game do NOT count

**What’s the Schedule for the major Bowl Games?**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Game** | **Venue** | **City** |
| December 29 | **Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl** | Mercedes-Benz Stadium | Atlanta |
| December 29 | **Belk Bowl** | Bank of America Stadium | Charlotte, North Carolina |
| December 29 | **College Football Playoff Semifinal at the Capital One Orange Bowl** | Hard Rock Stadium | Miami Gardens, Florida |
| December 29 | **College Football Playoff Semifinal at the Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic** | AT&T Stadium | Arlington, Texas |
| December 31 | **San Francisco Bowl** | Levi's Stadium | Santa Clara, Calif. |
| December 31 | **Military Bowl Presented by Northrop Grumman** | Jack Stephens Field at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium | Annapolis, Maryland |
| December 31 | **AutoZone Liberty Bowl** | Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium | Memphis, Tennessee |
| December 31 | **San Diego County Credit Union Holiday Bowl** | SDCCU Stadium | San Diego, Calif. |
| December 31 | **TaxSlayer Gator Bowl** | TIAA Bank Field | Jacksonville, Florida |
| December 31 | **Hyundai Sun Bowl** | Sun Bowl Stadium | El Paso, Texas |
| January 1 | **Outback Bowl** | Raymond James Stadium | Tampa, Florida |
| January 1 | **Citrus Bowl** | Camping World Stadium | Orlando, Florida |
| January 1 | **PlayStation Fiesta Bowl** | University of Phoenix Stadium | Glendale, Arizona |
| January 1 | **Rose Bowl Game Presented by Northwestern Mutual** | Rose Bowl | Pasadena, California |
| January 1 | **Allstate Sugar Bowl** | Mercedes-Benz Superdome | New Orleans |

**What’s the College Football Playoff Schedule?**

1. College Football Playoff Semifinal **Cotton Bowl** Classic (Semifinal): December 29 @ AT&T Stadium, Arlington, Texas
2. College Football Playoff Semifinal **Orange Bowl** (Semifinal): December 29 @ Hard Rock Stadium, Miami Gardens, Florida
3. College Football Playoff Championship Presented By AT&T: January 7 @ Levi’s stadium, Santa Clara, CA

So grab your buds and get into a College Football game today!