



November 3, 2016

## IHSAA Commissioner Statement on Big Ten Football Decision

Yesterday, IHSAA Commissioner Bobby Cox participated in conversations with Jim Delaney, Commissioner of the Big Ten Conference and subsequent discussions with Athletic Directors Fred Glass of Indiana University and Mike Bobinski of Purdue University regarding the conference's decision to stage a small selection of conference football games on Friday nights beginning in the 2017 season.

State high school associations historically have opposed this overture from the collegiate level attempting to preserve Friday nights for the high school game. While the IHSAA has supported this concept in theory previously, it also recognizes and respects the position of our state universities and their conference responsibilities.

"The IHSAA believes that the most recent decision of the Big Ten Conference to play a limited number games on Friday nights represents a positive opportunity to collectively cross promote our football programs and continue to grow this great sport in our state," stated Commissioner Cox. "I have the utmost respect for both Fred Glass and Mike Bobinski and I'm confident, through their leadership, both the collegiate and high school games will benefit from this fresh thinking."

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### **About the Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc. (IHSAA)**

*The IHSAA is a voluntary, not-for-profit organization that is self-supporting without the use of tax monies. Since its founding in 1903, the Association's mission has been to provide wholesome, educational athletics for the secondary schools of Indiana. Its member high schools - public, institutional, parochial and private - pay no annual membership fee or incur entry fees to play in the Association's tournaments. A state tournament series is conducted annually in 21 sports, 10 for girls, 10 for boys and one co-ed (unified track and field). A 19-person board of directors, elected by member school principals, governs the organization.*

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