

IHSAA News Release



Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc.
9150 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46260
317-846-6601 ▪ IHSAA.org ▪ IHSAAtv.org ▪ @IHSAA1

March 22, 2022

IHSAA Commissioner's statement on Governor Holcomb's veto of HB1041

In an ever-changing world, the IHSAA continues to work tirelessly to maintain fairness and equity in all education-based athletics. Protecting the integrity of girls sports is a worthy cause. That said, the specific language included in HB1041 does not adequately address all of the issues at hand.

As Commissioner of the Association, I support Governor Holcomb's decision regarding his veto of HB1041. Throughout the legislative process, I publicly expressed reservations with the proposed legislation only addressing a single gender and the grievance procedure.

The Association appreciates the Governor's perspective in recognizing the IHSAA's gender policy, which was originally written in 2006 and updated in 2017. Our policy is rooted in the Association's substantial interest in students' health and safety, in competitive equity, in safeguarding a level playing field, and in ensuring that there is fair opportunity for athletic participation in a manner that enhances the education of all high school students. Through Governor Holcomb's veto, this policy continues to allow the flexibility to assess competitive advantage in each unique case.

Paul Neidig
Commissioner
Indiana High School Athletic Association

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 407 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 22 sports, 10 for girls, 10 for boys and two co-ed (unified flag football and unified track and field). A 19-person board of directors, elected by member school principals, governs the organization.