



March 20, 2020

Paul Neidig appointed next IHSAA Commissioner

John (Paul) Neidig, who has enjoyed a 34-year career in secondary education and athletic administration, has been named by the Executive Committee as the next commissioner of the Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc.

Neidig (pronounced Ny-dig), has been an IHSAA assistant commissioner since 2017 and will officially assume the position on August 1, 2020 succeeding Bobby Cox. Cox announced his [intention to retire](#) this summer on Jan. 16.

The Poseyville, Ind. native will become the ninth individual to serve as IHSAA commissioner. He follows Bobby Cox (2011-20), Blake Ress (2000-2011), Bob Gardner (1995-2000), C. Eugene Cato (1983-1995), Ward E. Brown (1976-1983), Phil N. Eskew (1962-1976), L.V. Phillips (1945-1962) and Arthur L. Trester (1929-1945).

Neidig, 56, joined the IHSAA staff July 1, 2017 as an assistant commissioner and has administered the sports of boys and girls cross country, boys basketball, boys and girls track and field, and unified track and field.

[Neidig Video Announcement](#)

“On behalf of the IHSAA Executive Committee, we are excited to confirm Paul Neidig as the next commissioner of the Indiana High School Athletic Association,” said Matt Martin, chairman of the IHSAA Executive Committee and Director of Athletics at Knightstown High School. “Paul has some great thoughts and ideas about how to continue leading the Association and its member schools. We feel the organization is in great hands and we look forward to working with him.”

“I’m very humbled to be chosen to become the next commissioner of the IHSAA,” said Neidig. “I’m proud to be a part of this organization and lead it into the future. Our primary focus will continue to be promoting and supporting education-based athletics in our state.”

“Also, I ask everyone to please be safe during these unprecedented times. Listen to our state’s health experts and take care of yourselves and your family and we will get through these difficult times.”

Prior to joining the Association office, Neidig spent 31-years with the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation, most recently as Chief of Staff and Director of Athletics. He also served as its Chief Administrative Officer from 2012 to 2015, Deputy Chief of Staff from 2009 to 2012 and Director of Athletics at Evansville Central High School from 2001 to 2010. Before that, Neidig had worked at Evansville Central as a teacher, department chair, head coach and assistant coach for boys basketball, assistant athletic director and technology director between 1985 and 2001.

He was a continuous member of the IHSAA Board of Directors from 2004 to 2017 and served as Chairman of the Executive Committee three times in 2006-07, 2009-10 and 2015-16.

Neidig has held membership with the Indiana Association of School Principals (IASP), Indiana Association of School Business Officials (IASBO), Indiana Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (IIAAA) and the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA).

He has been honored with numerous awards including a NIAAA State Award of Merit in 2006, IIAAA Athletic Director of the Year in 2007, Indiana Basketball Coaches Association (IBCA) Administrator of the Year in 2012, IIAAA Distinguished



Service Award in 2013, and most recently with a citation from the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) in 2015.

Neidig earned a B.S. degree in Technology Education in 1985 from Eastern Illinois University where he played basketball for four years. He later earned an M.A. in Education from the University of Southern Indiana in 1994. He is a 1981 graduate of North Posey High School and played basketball all four years for the Vikings.

Neidig and his wife, Jean, are the parents of three adult children, Ashley (Charlie Grimes), Chris, and Kyle (Erin Neidig) and three grandchildren.

Paul Neidig at a Glance

Full Name

John Paul Neidig

Birth

August 22, 1963 in Evansville, Ind. (56 years old)

Education

North Posey High School, 1981
Eastern Illinois University (B.S.,
Technology Education) 1985
University of Southern Indiana (M.A.,
Education) 1994

Family

Wife: Jean

Children: Ashley (Charlie Grimes),
Chris, and Kyle (Erin Neidig)

Grandchildren: 3



Paul Neidig (center) will become the ninth commissioner in IHSAA history.

Career Path

Indiana High School Athletic Association, Assistant Commissioner (2017-20); Board of Directors (2004-17), Chairman of Executive Committee three times

Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation, Chief of Staff, Director of Athletics (2015-17); Chief Administrative Officer (2012-15); Deputy Chief of Staff (2009-12)

Evansville Central High School, Director of Athletics (2001-10); Assistant Director of Athletics, Technology Director, Teacher, Department Chairperson, Coach, Assistant Coach (1985-2001)

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 412 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.