



## Football Finals staying in Orlando for three more years

February 18th, 2011

GAINESVILLE – The FHSAA Office announced today that its football state finals will stay at the Citrus Bowl in Orlando for the next three years. The Central Florida Sports Commission will serve as host for the event.

For Classes 1A, 2A, 3A and 4A the dates will be Dec. 9-10, 2011, Dec. 7-8, 2012, and Dec. 13-14, 2013. For Classes 5A, 6A, 7A and 8A the dates will be Dec. 16-17, 2011, Dec. 14-15, 2012, and Dec. 20-21, 2013.

Two other cities, St. Petersburg (Tropicana Field) and Miami (Sun Life Stadium and Florida International University), bid on the finals.

“Orlando has proven to be a great venue for our member schools to play football,” said FHSAA Executive Director Dr. Roger Dearing. “We’re excited to announce a renewed agreement between the Florida High School Athletic Association and the Central Florida Sports Commission for the state finals in Orlando with the new football classifications in place. It was rewarding to word directly with Mayor Buddy Dyer in reaching this three-year agreement.”

The football finals have been held at the Citrus Bowl for the past four years.

“The keys to our proposal were also the keys to our success over the past four years,” said Sam Stark, president of the Central Florida Sports Commission. “Orlando’s statewide appeal, central location and the dedication of our local partners helped to create a wonderful, seamless experience for the FHSAA and the participating teams. We are honored that the FHSAA has entrusted us with this showcase event for the next three years.”

“Orlando is well known for rolling out the red carpet for guests, as some of the most recognizable sports events and activities call this great city home,” added Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer. “We are proud to have the privilege of hosting the FHSAA football finals and the recent renovations to the Citrus Bowl will certainly enhance the player and patron experience during the championship games.”

### About the FHSAA

The Florida High School Athletic Association is the governing body for interscholastic athletics in Florida. It has a membership of more than 770 middle and senior high schools, and sponsors postseason competitions to determine the official state high school champions in 30 different sports.

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