

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Security Advisory Issued For Fans Attending Football Finals At Pontiac Silverdome**

**EAST LANSING, Mich. – Oct. 31** – Spectators attending the Michigan High School athletic Association Football Playoff Finals at the Pontiac Silverdome, November 29 and 30, are being advised to arrive early for those games, and to travel light for security reasons.

“Security issues at major sporting venues continue to be at the top of everyone’s list so that spectators can have an enjoyable experience in as safe an environment as possible,” said Nate Hampton, MHSAA Assistant Director and the staff member who coordinates the Football Playoffs. “Given the recent events in our country, we feel the security measures enacted at the Silverdome and other major sporting venues are essential, and fans understand the need to arrive early and to have belongings they bring to the stadium searched.”

As a convenience for fans, the Silverdome has instituted “Express Lanes” at its entrances, where fans who are not carrying any items into the building should enter.

Items which will be allowed into the building include: Fanny packs and ladies handbags (no larger than 8 ½ x 11”), small binoculars and small soft camera cases (detachable lenses are OK), cellular telephones and portable radios of similar size, radio headsets (no larger than 6 x 8”), video cameras that are handheld and battery powered. All electrical items must be turned on to ensure that they work. Fans with video cameras are reminded that the use of tripods and electrical cords is prohibited in the Silverdome.

The list of prohibited items does not differ much from previous years. Prohibited items include, but are not limited to, the following: Noise-makers of any type (cow bells, plastic jugs to be used like shaking noise makers, air horns, thunder sticks/excite sticks, etc.), flags or banners on a stick or pole, tripods, audio tape recorders, laser lights/sights, missile-like objects, bottles (plastic or glass), cans, hard case containers, coolers, bags, backpacks, soft coolers, larger portable radios or TVs, products dispensed by aerosol, medium and large camera cases and weapons of any kind (including pocket knives).

(more)

## **2-2-2 – Security Advisory For Silverdome**

Gates open at 9 a.m. each day for the first session, and at 4 p.m. for the second session. Fans are encouraged to arrive at least one hour in advance of the listed game time for the second game of each session (1 p.m. and 8 p.m.) to ensure that they can pass through the security checkpoints in plenty of time to be in their seats for their game.

In the parking areas, fans traveling in large trucks, vans and motor homes are advised that their vehicles may be subject to visual inspections in the Silverdome parking lot. Fans tailgating in the Silverdome parking lot are reminded that the consumption of alcohol, and the use of charcoal and wood burning grills is prohibited.

The MHSAA is a private, not-for-profit corporation of voluntary membership by over 1,300 public and private senior high schools and junior high/middle schools which exists to develop common rules for athletic eligibility and competition. No government funds or tax dollars support the MHSAA, which was the first such association nationally to not accept membership dues or tournament entry fees from schools. Member schools which enforce these rules are permitted to participate in MHSAA tournaments, which attract approximately 1.6 million spectators each year.

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**MEDIA ADVISORY – See separate insert in this mailing regarding security at the press entrance at the Silverdome.**

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