

BIG TEN CONFERENCE

Known as one of intercollegiate sports' most successful undertakings, the Big Ten is home to a lineage of legendary names and an ongoing tradition of developing strong leaders. Even in its infancy, the conference established itself as the preeminent collection of institutions in the nation, where the pursuit of academic excellence prevailed as the definitive goal.

The history of the Big Ten traces back 121 years to the Palmer House hotel in Chicago, where on Jan. 11, 1895, then-Purdue president James H. Smart and leaders from the universities of Chicago, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Northwestern and Wisconsin set out to organize and develop principles for the regulation of intercollegiate athletics.

At that meeting, a blueprint for the administration of college athletics under the direction of appointed faculty representatives was outlined. The presidents' first known action "restricted eligibility for athletics to bonafide, full-time students who were not delinquent in their studies." That important legislation, along with other legislation that would follow in the coming years, served as the primary building block for intercollegiate athletics.

On Feb. 8, 1896, one faculty member from each of those seven universities met at the same Palmer House and officially established the mechanics of the conference, which was officially incorporated as the "Intercollegiate Conference Athletic Association" in 1905.

Indiana and Iowa became the eighth and ninth members in 1899. In 1908, Michigan briefly withdrew its membership, and in 1912 Ohio State joined the conference, bringing its membership total back to nine. Upon Michigan's return in 1917, the conference was first referred to as the "Big Ten" by media members, and that name was eventually incorporated in 1987.

As the 1900s opened, faculty representatives established rules for intercollegiate athletics that were novel for the time. As early as 1904, the faculty approved legislation that required eligible athletes to meet entrance requirements and to have completed a full year's work, along with having one year of residence.

In 1901, the first Big Ten Championship event was staged when the outdoor track and field championships were held at the University of Chicago. The debut event marked what is now a staple of conference competition. Today, the Big Ten sponsors 28 official sports, 14 for men and 14 for women, including the addition of men's ice hockey and men's and women's lacrosse the last three years. Big Ten schools compete in a total of 42 sports, furthering the conference's commitment to broad-based programming and providing more participation opportunities than any conference in the country.

One of the conference's proudest traditions began in 1902 when Michigan took on Stanford in the Rose Bowl, the nation's first bowl game. Big Ten teams only appeared in Pasadena twice before the conference signed an exclusive contract with the Tournament of Roses in 1946, making it the first bowl game with permanent conference affiliations. But Michigan's appearance in 1902 cultivated a relationship that has endured for more than a century.

Coupling the academic goals set forth by the conference leaders and their steadfast commitment to athletics, the conference instituted the Big Ten Medal of Honor in 1915. It is awarded annually by each conference institution to a student of the graduating class who has attained the greatest proficiency in scholarship and athletics. It is the most prestigious honor a student competing in Big Ten athletics can receive.

In 1922, Major John L. Griffith became the conference's first "Commissioner of Athletics." Griffith was the first of five men to assume the role of commissioner in the conference's history, followed by Kenneth L. "Tug" Wilson in 1945, Bill Reed in 1961, Wayne Duke in 1971 and current commissioner James E. Delany in 1989.

After nearly 30 years with 10 members, the conference consolidated to nine schools when Chicago formally withdrew its membership in 1946. Michigan State was added to the Big Ten three years later, bringing the number of affiliated conference schools to 10 once again.

In 1955, the Big Ten formulated a revenue-sharing model designed to pool all football television rights of its members and share those proceeds equally. The conference and its members continue to utilize a revenue-sharing model, dividing media rights, bowl payouts and other profits among all conference institutions.

While academics have always played an integral role in the conference, presidents of the Big Ten member institutions formalized the primacy of academics with the establishment of the Big Ten Academic Alliance (formerly the Committee on Institutional Cooperation) in 1958. The Big Ten Academic Alliance is an academic consortium of all Big Ten universities. In 2014, the schools currently constituting the Big Ten Academic Alliance produced over \$10 billion in funded research, \$5 billion more than any other conference.

In one of Duke's first actions as commissioner, he oversaw the adoption of the Big Ten Advisory Commission in 1972, designed to study conference programs and make suggestions that would further Big Ten objectives. The Advisory Commission enlists former students that competed in Big Ten athletics to serve as liaisons to the NCAA's Diversity and Inclusion Department, the Big Ten Student-Athlete Advisory Commission and other organizations.

In 1981, the conference presidents and chancellors endorsed a proposal that enabled universities to affiliate their women's intercollegiate programs with the conference, and the first conference championships for women were staged that fall. The Big Ten was the first conference to voluntarily adopt male and female participation goals after launching its Gender Equity Action Plan in 1992.

In December of 1989, the conference agreed in principle to invite Penn State for membership. On June 4, 1990, the Council of Presidents officially voted to integrate Penn State into the conference, giving the Big Ten 11 members.



James E. Delany
Commissioner

BIG TEN NETWORK

Headquartered in Chicago, the Big Ten Network is the first internationally distributed television network dedicated to covering one of America's premier collegiate conferences.

With more than 400 live sports events, and virtually all of them in high definition, the Big Ten Network is the ultimate destination for Big Ten fans and alumni across the country. The network is on the air 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The network is available to an estimated 60 million households. The network is carried by all major cable, satellite and telecommunications providers and BTN2Go is also available on smartphones, tablets and the internet.

Since the current Big Ten media agreements began in 2007-08, Big Ten women's basketball has received more coverage than any other conference.

On June 11, 2010, the Big Ten Council of Presidents/Chancellors (COP/C) approved a formal membership application by Nebraska, which officially joined the Big Ten Conference on July 1, 2011.

The conference expanded to 14 programs when Maryland and Rutgers officially became Big Ten members on July 1, 2014, giving the conference almost 9,500 students participating in intercollegiate athletics and more than 11,000 participation opportunities on 350 teams.

On June 3, 2013, the Big Ten announced that Johns Hopkins had been accepted as the conference's first sport affiliate member. Johns Hopkins' addition in men's lacrosse gave the Big Ten six institutions sponsoring the sport, allowing the debut of men's lacrosse as an official conference sport. On June 17, 2015, the conference announced that Johns Hopkins was accepted as a sport affiliate member for women's lacrosse beginning in 2016-17. On March 23, 2016, the conference announced that Notre Dame will join the Big Ten for men's ice hockey beginning in 2017-18.

Since opening in the fall of 2013, the Big Ten Conference Center in Rosemont, Ill., has played host to more than 300 meetings annually for member institutions, Big Ten Academic Alliance-related committees and coaching groups. The headquarters also feature an interactive digital museum - the Big Ten Experience - which opened to the public on June 7, 2014. For more information on the Big Ten Experience, visit bigten.org.

In June 2014, the Big Ten opened a second office in New York City, featuring both office and meeting space in Midtown Manhattan. Three Big Ten staff members are based in the New York City office to provide expanded coverage and service. The conference manages 28 championships and tournaments, offers legislative and compliance services, oversees the production and distribution of nearly 1,400 events annually, provides staff services to coaching and administrative personnel and services media and fans interest for information on the Big Ten Conference.

More than 120 years after its inception, the Big Ten remains a national leader in intercollegiate athletics on and off the field. Big Ten programs have combined to win more than 450 team and 1,800 individual national championships, consistently taking home individual honors for athletic and academic accomplishments and fulfilling the Big Ten's mission of academic achievement and athletic success.

BIG TEN ADMINISTRATION

Commissioner.....	James E. Delany
Deputy Commissioner/CFO/COO	Brad Traviola
Deputy Commissioner for Public Affairs	Diane Dietz
Senior Associate Commissioner-Television Administration	Mark D. Rudner
Associate Commissioner - Finance	Julie Suderman
Associate Commissioner - Football Operations	Scott Chipman
Associate Commissioner - Men's Basketball	Rick Boyages
Associate Commissioner - Sports Administration	Wendy Fallen
Associate Commissioner - Policy	Chad Hawley
Associate Commissioner - Communications	Jason Yellin
Associate Commissioner - Technology	Mike McComiskey
Associate Commissioner - Branding	Robin Jentes
Associate Commissioner - Compliance	Gil Grimes

BIG TEN COMMUNICATIONS STAFF

Associate Commissioner - Communications	Jason Yellin
Director of Communications	Adam Augustine
Director of Communications	Brett McWethy
Associate Director of Communications (Women's Basketball)	Chris Masters
Assistant Director of Communications	Bryson Jones
Robert Hammel Communications Intern	Megan Rowley

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