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THE ARIZONA SPORTS AND TOURISM AUTHORITY AND FIESTA BOWL AGREE TO COMPROMISE TO SETTLE LAWSUIT

GLENDALE, Ariz. – The Fiesta Bowl and the Arizona Sports and Tourism Authority (AZSTA) have settled a pending lawsuit.

Compromise was reached during the past few months on many issues, including seating, parking, game scheduling, field turf preparation, special college events and the BCS National Championship Game. The agreement also addresses financial issues and includes a settlement to AZSTA and clarifies funding issues related to Fiesta Bowl game day expenses.

Duane Woods, Chairman of the Fiesta Bowl's Volunteer Board of Directors, and Bradley Wright, Chairman of the Volunteer AZSTA Board, announced the agreement.

"Both our organizations are very pleased about this outcome," Woods said. "This is a true compromise--both sides benefit, but the big winner will be our communities and the State of Arizona because we will have a very solid basis for existing and future events."

AZSTA Chairman Wright said, "This settlement is good for both organizations. AZSTA, as a public agency, has a fiduciary responsibility to the public. This agreement protects the taxpayer and allows better long-term planning for stadium use."

As part of the agreement, AZSTA said it will support the Fiesta Bowl in its efforts to stage selected regular season college football games at University of Phoenix Stadium. Woods said there would likely be "no more than one game annually, but we are very excited that this can mean additional economic impact for our state and for AZSTA at a very critical time."

"A possible additional regular-season college football game at University of Phoenix Stadium would be another positive outcome of these negotiations," Wright said. "New events at the stadium bring in new revenue and help support AZSTA at a time when tourism revenues have dropped significantly."

"The AZSTA board members support the settlement and are committed to moving forward in a positive fashion," Wright said. "This settlement allows us to continue our support of the Fiesta Bowl and we look forward to an open, positive and long-term relationship."

Woods said, "The Fiesta Bowl will benefit from having absolute certainty for scheduling future games, for having a national-class standard for the quality of the playing field for games, and for having full ability to create a college football atmosphere at the stadium on game days."

"The Fiesta Bowl organization takes great pride in our ability to stage our bowl games at University of Phoenix Stadium, recognized as the finest football facility in the country," Woods said. "We now have a point of pride moving forward that we have settled disagreements that would have only weakened our organizations and the communities and state we all love. Our volunteer board of directors looks forward to much happier and more productive times in our work with the good people of AZSTA."