



Executive Department
State of Idaho

State Capitol
Boise

**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF IDAHO
BOISE**

EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 2026-02

RECOMMISSIONING THE IDAHO GOVERNOR'S TROPHY

WHEREAS, the State of Idaho has long valued healthy competition, civic pride, and shared traditions that unite communities across geographic and institutional lines; and

WHEREAS, the University of Idaho and Boise State University are key public institutions of higher education, each playing a central role in the cultural, economic, and educational life of the Gem State; and

WHEREAS, the football rivalry between the University of Idaho Vandals and the Boise State University Broncos has historically served as a visible expression of intrastate competition, sportsmanship, and statewide unity; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, Governor Dirk Kempthorne commissioned the Idaho Governor's Trophy to commemorate this cherished rivalry and to reinforce the importance of shared traditions between these universities, despite competing in different athletic conferences; and

WHEREAS, 25 years after the original commissioning of the Idaho Governor's Trophy, dramatic changes in conference realignment have led to the cancelation of many historic college football rivalries; and

WHEREAS, Boise State University and the University of Idaho have agreed to buck the trend of historic rivalries falling by the wayside, by agreeing to renew this historic rivalry; and

WHEREAS, reinstating the Idaho Governor's Trophy would reaffirm the State of Idaho's support for collegiate athletics, institutional collaboration, and traditions that bring Idahoans together;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Brad Little, Governor of the State of Idaho, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Idaho, do hereby order the following:

- 1. Recommissioning of the Idaho Governor's Trophy
The Idaho Governor's Trophy is hereby recommissioned as a traveling trophy to be awarded to the winner of any future football game between the University of Idaho and Boise State University.*
- 2. Custodianship and Design
The Idaho State Board of Education, in consultation with the Office of the Governor and representatives from both universities, shall assume custodial responsibility for the Idaho Governor's Trophy, including its preservation, display, and any necessary refurbishment or redesign.*
- 3. Award and Recognition
Upon completion of any future football contest between the two institutions, the Idaho Governor's Trophy shall be formally awarded to the winning institution, with recognition by the Office of the Governor as scheduling and circumstances permit.*

4. *Non-Interference with Athletic Governance*

Nothing in this Executive Order shall be construed to require the scheduling of athletic contests, to interfere with conference affiliations, or to impose obligations upon either institution beyond voluntary participation in the tradition recognized herein.

5. *Effective Date*

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon issuance.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this 12th day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-six.

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

PHIL MCCRANE
SECRETARY OF STATE