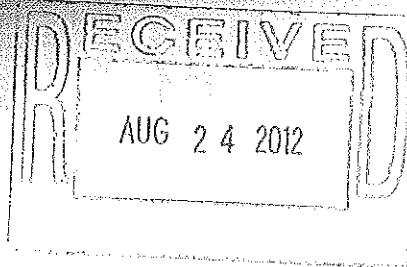


# Ralph Engelstad Arena



One Ralph Engelstad Arena Drive  
Grand Forks, ND 58203  
Phone: 701.777.4167  
Fax: 701.777.6643  
theralph.com

August 21, 2012

Sherm Sylling  
North Dakota High School Activities Association  
PO Box 817  
Valley City, ND 58072

Dear Sherm,

Hope you had some time to enjoy summer now that fall is quickly approaching. It is my understanding that Ralph Engelstad Arena is scheduled to host the State Boys/Girls Hockey Tournament each year 2013-2020 with the exception of 2014 which will be played in Fargo.

In working with the University of North Dakota's Men's and Women's hockey programs on their schedules for the next few years, I want to update you on the anticipated venue schedule during the state hockey weekends in the coming years.

- 2013:** State Tournament (**Grand Forks**), UND Men's Hockey at Denver,  
UND Women's Hockey at Minnesota-Duluth
- 2014:** State Tournament (**Fargo**), UND Men's Hockey at Minnesota-Duluth,  
UND Women's Hockey at Ohio State
- 2015:** State Tournament (**Grand Forks**), UND Men's Hockey home series (opponent TBD),  
UND Women's Hockey home playoff series

As you can see the state tournament is the only event scheduled at Ralph Engelstad Arena in 2013 and the entire tournament can be played at Ralph Engelstad Arena and Olympic Arena. In 2014 however, both UND hockey programs will play on the road when the state tournament is scheduled to be hosted in Fargo.

It is in 2015 where the Ralph Engelstad Arena venue schedule becomes a challenge. With both of the UND programs scheduled to play at home along with the state tournament, it is unrealistic to play all of the desired number of games at Ralph Engelstad Arena on that particular weekend. We are not able to reschedule the UND Men's hockey series and do not anticipate the UND Women's program relocating to an alternate rink in Grand Forks (as in the past).

Whereas there are no UND games scheduled in Grand Forks in 2014 and with the conflicts mentioned above for 2015, I would like to formally request the NDHSAA consider switching the hosting sites to Grand Forks in 2014 and to Fargo in 2015. By "trading" years, this would address the scheduling conflicts in 2015 and would allow the high school tournament to be played entirely in the Ralph

Engelstad Arena complex in 2014. For the next three tournaments, this revised schedule would allow the high school tournament the greatest number of games at the selected venues in Grand Forks and Fargo.

I am not naïve that Fargo has already put great effort in coordinating their schedules to accommodate the state tournament along with other events hosted in their community during this time of year. If the dates in 2015 are available in Fargo for the state tournament and if swapping years does not have a severe negative impact on the hosts in Fargo, I believe this proposal is the best solution for all parties involved and proactively solves scheduling issues through 2015.

Please let me know what the next step in the formal process is to address the proposal. Todd Olson is CC: on this letter and I feel it is important to make sure he is involved in the conversation from the very beginning.

I look forward to your advisement on the proposal.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Semrau". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a stylized "S".

Chris Semrau

CC: Todd Olson