

A LETTER TO NDHSAA

Dear NDHSAA officers:

I am writing this letter to communicate my disgust with the abuse of the co-op rule taking place in North Dakota High School girls hockey. This rule was put into place to create more opportunities for students and athletes, not put up walls. The blatant misuse by several of the largest schools in the state, is distasteful, restrictive, and totally goes against the rules of good sportsmanship, and fairness in competition.

The stacking of these superteams in girls high school hockey absolutely has to come to an end immediately. It is holding back girls who want to play high school hockey, because their school has co-oped and no longer offers hockey, or it is pushing them out to play in other leagues because they know they will not make their team when it is stacked with the best of the best. I have been told that there may already be a team that won't have enough players next year from losing a few seniors, and some of the girls are quitting because they are tired of losing, and losing by a lot, all the time. If that trend continues, there will only be six or seven teams left in the state in four years. Is that what NDHSAA wants? I don't think you do, but that is the reality of this here. By making this right, you will likely add three to four teams in the same amount of time or less. That's what we all want, more teams to compete against, at a fair level of competition. That's it.

This notion that if they are not allowed to co-op, they won't have a team does not fly for me. After seeing the amount of girls teams in 14U, 19U, and others, makes it clear there are plenty of girls to go around in these districts to put together a team at almost all of their schools. It does not take a school with 800 to 1100 students to field a team for high school girls hockey, **I KNOW**. I am a proud parent of a girl playing North Dakota High School Hockey in Devils Lake. We finally won a game this year, first in several years. It was the first year on the high school team for my daughter. She's an eighth grader, one of five eighth graders and a 7th grader that played for Devils Lake this year. No, we probably won't be a contender for a state title any time soon, but it sure makes it hard on the girls knowing most all the games they play, the score will not reflect the idea of sportsmanship and fairness in competition. As a parent it's heartbreaking. When she asks, why are they allowed to put all those schools on one team all I can say is,

I don't know honey. But I do know. It's not about fair competition, working hard for something and being proud of the accomplishment, no matter what the score. Its about the TROPHY, the \$95.00 trophy. It's about getting that title to add to the others no matter what the cost, with no regard to others who would have played hockey but didnt get the opportunity. She said it's kind of like being punished because we dont live in a bigger city dad. (8th grader)

On behalf of my daughter, and the many other girls arond the state who know this can be changed, please do so, show them that abuse of a rule will not be tolerated, and can be made right.

A PROUD HOCKEY PARENT

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p.s. Please check out the Sherman Act, and the Clayton Act. They sort of apply here I think.