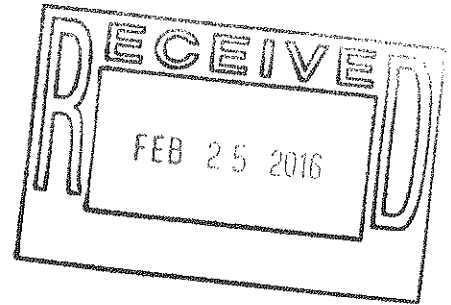


February 23, 2016

NDHSAA
Attn: Board Members
350 2nd Street NW
Valley City, ND 58072



Dear NDHSAA Board Members:

I am asking the Board to consider making changes to the High Schools Girls Hockey program in regards to large school coops.

When Girls Hockey was started back in the 2002, I can see why the coops with the Bismarck, Grand Forks schools occurred to get this sport growing. It has now been 14 years since the first tournament and each of these cities has grown even larger and they are still combining as one team. Now Fargo is combining so they can compete with Bismarck and Grand Forks.

The smaller towns of Devils Lake, Jamestown, Dickinson, Williston, and Mandan all have a smaller base of girls to organize a team together. In the bigger cities, they are cutting girls to form super teams to dominate and bring home championships. Cooperatives should be combining with a school that does not offer that sport so that those students are able to play sports they love and enjoy. Not so big schools can have a dynasty of winning every year!

Girls Hockey is losing girls in those bigger towns as they are cut or moved down to a 19u team. Some of them knowing they may never play high school.

If you take a look on who has won the state tournaments, its pretty obvious it is lopsided to the bigger schools that are combining. There may be a time when Devils Lake will have a team that will succeed in getting to the state tournament but still won't be able to compete with those tops schools combined.

Devils Lake has been on probation the last two years from our school board due to numbers and competitiveness. Our school board just lifted our probation. I am sure there are other schools in our same position that are looking at dropping girls hockey due to the fact that it is hard to compete with schools that are 3 times our size and still combining.

We ask you to consider looking into this combining of schools. I look forward to hearing a reply.

Thank you for your consideration.

Candis Longtin
Devils Lake Girls Hockey Booster President and Parent of Madelyn Longtin
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