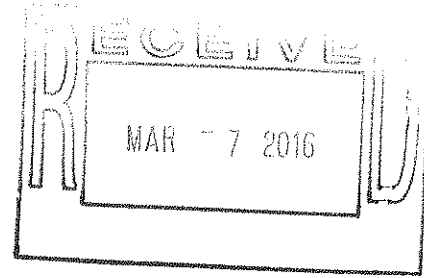


Joni Wold  
PO Box 1076  
Devils Lake, ND 58301

February 29, 2016

NDHSAA  
c/o Matt Fetsch, Executive Director  
350 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NE  
Valley City, ND 58072



Dear NDHSAA:

I am writing to you with concerns for our girl's hockey players in the state of North Dakota. I am relatively new to this sport (since my child play basketball previously) but have had a wide awakening in the past year to the struggles and inequalities of this sport in our state. As you once again have seen, the schools with conglomerates have been the ones at the top to almost completely represent our state at the state tournament with Bismarck taking the win once again.

It disappoints me to write a letter in this form because as an educator and parent in our system I feel that sports should be left in the hands of people that understand it more than I, like coaches, activities directors, and board members. You have to take a hard look at the facts and understand that this is hurting students in our state more than helping. From all the girls who don't play in the big conglomerates because they will never get ice time or be in the elite front lines to the girls who live in the small cities just trying to get a team together to compete in the sport they love.

If looking at statistics and facts, it is easy to understand that a city like Bismarck with a population of around 4,000 students in senior high or Fargo with around 3,000 can form "elite" teams, in comparison to a city of Devils Lake with student population of around 600 or Williston of 900 students. This is NOT sportsmanship. Many schools have to find a way to fill a bench each year but the conglomerates have found a way not to have to go through the growing pains of making a program successful in their respective schools. The state has created such an unequal playing field and it needs to be addressed.

My hope it that this program continues to grow in our state and that many girls are given a chance to learn this sport, but that is going to be up to you as a proactive association to address this matter and begin the discussion of how to make changes that can help this program be more successful for ALL girls that are involved or want the chance to be. I believe that you can find a way and make the tough decisions to create a playing field that is more level or you will begin to see the detriment of no action taken. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joni Wold  
Parent of Devils Lake Hockey Player  
(701)230-2415  
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