

# Beulah School District #27

204 5<sup>th</sup> St NW

Beulah, ND 58523

Phone: 701-873-2237

Dale T. Gilje/Dr. Loren Scheer, Superintendent

Amber Skalsky, Elem. Principal  
Stacy Murschel, MS Principal

Kevin Hoherz, HS Principal  
Carrie Miller, Business Manager

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To: North Dakota High School Activities Board

From: Beulah High School

RE: Region 7 Tournament Sites

Dear NDHSAA Board;

We are writing to request that the board further review the regional site selection for Region 7 Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, and Volleyball tournaments. We feel that the current plan, which allows Dickinson Trinity to host all three State Tournament qualifying events, is providing an unfair advantage to the host school, and places visiting teams at a competitive disadvantage.

The decision to host the Region 7 Tournament at Dickinson Trinity for all 3 tournaments was based on several criterion: 1) seating capacity of facilities 2) travel time for Region Teams 3) ticket sales. While we agree that a tournament site needs to have ample seating for fans, we feel that convenience of travel and ticket sales should not be strong enough reasons to essentially give a region powerhouse a monopoly on a vital home court advantage. In addition, the majority of tournament officials are selected based on mileage, and are from the Dickinson area.

At the Region 7 Boys Basketball Seed Meeting, the Regional sites were determined through a vote by Region 7 Athletics Directors. The motions to give Dickinson Trinity all three regional tournaments passed by a vote of 8-4. While this was a majority vote, we feel that it is not equitable due to the fact the majority of region schools are located in close proximity to Dickinson, and that their votes were determined more out of convenience for travel and post-game meals for their schools and fans, and did not account for maintaining the competitive integrity of the tournament.

There were several viable options presented to the Region 7 AD's, that would either establish an equitable rotation of the Region Tournaments to schools with ample seating, or move the Regional Tournament to a neutral site, such as Watford City's brand new Civic Center, where no one would have a home court advantage. We feel that this is the most viable option for this tournament, because it has ample seating, it is a state of the art facility, and it is a completely neutral site.

It is our feeling that no school should have exclusive rights to have a home court advantage during a State qualifying tournament. While Dickinson Trinity does a fantastic job of running and hosting the tournament, we would like to see it moved to a neutral site. Under the current Region 7 Tournament plan, there is an unfair advantage being granted to the host team. It should also be noted that Region 7 is the only region in the state that allows a region school to host their respective Regional Tournament. As long as this policy remains in place, it will continue to be a divisive issue within our region and needs to be remedied by the NDHSAA Board for the sake of fair play and competition for our student athletes.

Respectfully,



Carl Blackhurst

Beulah Athletics/Activities Director



Dr. Loren Scheer

Superintendent, Beulah Public Schools