



NEW ROCKFORD-SHEYENNE PUBLIC SCHOOL

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December 8, 2020

Mr. Matthew Fetsch
Executive Director
North Dakota High School Activities Association
350 2nd St. NW
Valley City, ND 58072

Mr. Fetsch,

On behalf of the New Rockford-Sheyenne School District, I would like to request a regulation change, regarding the NDHSAA Guidelines and Recommendations for Opening Sports/Activities (November 24, 2020), specifically, to the current ND Smart Restart crowd limitations. Under current state guidelines, our county is designated an orange/high risk area, limiting fan attendance to 50 fans. Based on the following criteria, I am respectfully requesting that the board consider authorizing the New Rockford-Sheyenne School District to increase fan attendance to 25% of the facility capacity. My request is based on the following considerations:

- Our safety protocols have mandated student and staff mask use since the first day of school.
- The New Rockford City Commissioners passed one of the first mask mandates in the State of North Dakota on November 2, 2020.
- We have a large gymnasium, which can allow for safe social distancing for both Rocket and visiting team fans. All attendees will be required to wear masks for the duration of the event.
- We have a sanitation protocol in place, detailed in our safety plan, to ensure that proper cleaning occurs before, during and after all school events.
- Our county COVID positivity rate and our student/staff absence rates related to COVID have dramatically decreased over the past month.
- Throughout the fall season, our fans in attendance were required to wear masks.
- Our district continues to comply with NDHSAA Guidelines: mask use by team personnel and attendance logging to ensure that potential transmission is mitigated and tracked.
- Last year we offered the NFHS network to Rocket fans. This winter we will utilize Resiliency Grant dollars to provide this network to Rocket fans at no cost. We will encourage our fans to stay engaged and stay home. However, we recognize that in person attendance is important for a portion of our fan base and our athletes as well.

“HOME OF THE ROCKETS”

Thank you for your consideration. I recognize that this has been a challenging time for you as a board. I will support our affiliation with NDHSAA, regardless of your decision. However, please take into consideration the unique circumstances of each district and its community. Go Rockets!

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Jill C. Louters
Superintendent
New Rockford-Sheyenne School District

CC: Mr. Elliott Belquist, Mr. Kevin Morast

