



# EIGHT MILE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 6

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September 23, 2025

Dear NDHSAA Board of Directors,

Last January, I assumed the role as the defacto "commissioner" of the North Dakota 6-Man football league when Tracy Peterson left his superintendent position at Center-Stanton. When the 6-Man group was formed several years ago, Trenton was still playing 9-Man football, and I was unaware of any agreements that were made between the NDHSAA Board and the 6-Man school leaders at that time. I believe that Troy Walters and Tracy Peterson may have been involved in conversation with NDHSAA at that time.

With that background, I was unaware of an agreement that was made when the league was formed that limited the length of the season to no more than nine games, including all playoff games.

This past spring, Strasburg joined the 6-Man group of teams, which brought the number of teams to nine. With nine teams, I developed a 9-week, 8-game regular season schedule and a two-week playoff schedule including the top four teams (semifinals and finals). This schedule was unanimously approved by the 6-Man schools last May.

The 6-Man regular season concludes on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, with semifinals scheduled for October 25<sup>th</sup>, and the championship games being played on Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>.

This schedule will mean that the two teams in the championship game will play 10 games, which is a violation of the initial agreement several years ago. Again, no one in the current 6-man league was aware of the 9-game limit.

I have reached out to all the ADs and asked them to discuss this situation with their school administration, and to let me know if they are opposed to requesting an exception to the initial 9-game limit for 6-Man schools. As of this morning, I have received no messages of opposition.

As the representative of the 6-Man football schools, I am formally requesting that the NDHSAA Board of Directors grant an allowance for 6-Man schools play 10 games in a season, if the only schools doing so are the teams competing in the championship game. While this request specifically addresses this year's season, it is also being requested that this exception be extended to subsequent seasons.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need any other clarification. My email address is [steve.morben@k12.nd.us](mailto:steve.morben@k12.nd.us) and contact number is 701-774-821.

I appreciate your time and consideration of this request.

With kind regards,

Steve Morben

Trenton 7-12 Principal