



# Sheyenenne High School

800 40<sup>th</sup> Ave E, West Fargo, ND 58078 | P: (701) 356-2160

January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026

To: NDHSAA Committee

West Fargo Sheyenenne High School respectfully requests an exemption from the NDHSAA rule regarding the participation of a student and their involvement with a club team after the start date of the high school season for Ellie Engelking, a girls' soccer student-athlete at Sheyenenne High School.

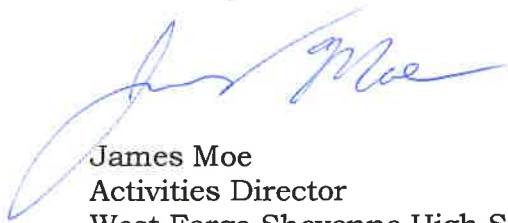
Ellie has been selected to participate in the Jefferson Cup, sponsored by the Richmond United Tournament Series. This tournament is a highly regarded showcase and recruitment event, offering student-athletes valuable exposure to college coaches and recruiting opportunities. Participating in this event represents a significant opportunity for Ellie's athletic development and future academic and athletic goals, as well as providing international opportunities to compete against teams from not only the United States, but from across the globe. Playing against talent from around the world will only make our North Dakota students stronger competitors.

In prior years, participating in this tournament would not have conflicted with the high school soccer season. However, due to the girls' soccer season beginning one week earlier this year, a scheduling conflict has occurred. The attached letter further outlines the rationale and request for Ellie's participation in this event.

We respectfully ask the NDHSAA to consider granting an exemption that would allow Ellie to participate in the Jefferson Cup without penalty or violation of the participation rule. This is a unique opportunity that would greatly benefit her growth as a student-athlete.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this request. Please feel free to contact me if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,



James Moe  
Activities Director  
West Fargo Sheyenenne High School



**Date:** January 1, 2026  
**To:** Whom it May Concern  
**From:** Richmond United Tournament Series  
**Re:** 2026 Jefferson Cup Showcase  
**Dates:**  
Boys Weekend– March 7-8, 2026  
Girls Weekend – March 14-15, 2026  
Girls Combine– March 19, 2026  
Girls Showcase– March 20-22, 2026  
Boys Combine– March 26, 2026  
Boys Showcase– March 27-29, 2025

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On behalf of the Jefferson Cup and the Richmond United Tournament Series, I would like to request the release of all Jefferson Cup players from your school to participate in the 2026 Jefferson Cup Showcase in Richmond, VA. We realize the importance of a player's education and strive to accommodate the academic calendar as much as possible. Regrettably, the Jefferson Cup Showcase will result in some players missing 1-2 days of school for travel and competition.

As one of the top showcase and recruiting tournaments in the United States, the Jefferson Cup is empowered and charged with assisting soccer players in finding a college that fits their needs for higher education. The Showcase will be attended by 350-500 college representatives each weekend. These college coaches will be scouting games for prospective student-athletes. Additionally, the showcase event is an integral part of facilitating and teaching young athletes the proper life skills and experiences as they mature into young adults.

Thank you for your understanding regarding the absence of Jefferson Cup players from school during this event.

Regards,  
Chris Friant

*Chris Friant*

Director of Tournaments  
Richmond United