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January 14, 2015

Matt Fetsch
North Dakota High School Activities Association
Executive Director
PO Box 817
Valley City, ND 58072

JAN 19 2015

Mark Rerick
Grand Forks Public Schools
District Athletic Director
PO Box 6000
Grand Forks, ND 58206

Dear Matt and Mark,

I would like to take this opportunity to summarize Ralph Engelstad Arena's recent discussions and evaluations relative to the proposed 2017 State High School Hockey Tournament in Grand Forks.

Long story short, we've run every scenario imaginable and we have not been successful in our attempts to create a facility schedule that would allow us to host all of the following on a home weekend in 2017 to the satisfaction of the parties:

- UND Men's Hockey – regular season series
- UND Women's Hockey – potential playoff series
- State High School Hockey Tournament (boys and girls)

At this point, I think it is important for us to be forthright with regards to our availability in 2017. Simply stated, as much as we want to host this great state championship event in 2017, we're not going to be able to do it. We simply can't make it work.

In my opinion, there are two options for us moving forward that would allow us to continue to host the State High School Hockey Tournament:

- 1) Host the event at Ralph Engelstad Arena every second year – in even years (i.e. 2016, 2018, etc.). This would mean that the event would be at REA every second year and then in a community like Fargo or Minot in a year when Grand Forks does not host.

or

- 2) Host the event at Ralph Engelstad Arena every year – in even years during the traditional high school state championship weekend and in odd years one weekend later. The one-week “bump back” in odd years would allow us to host the event annually given the UND men’s and women’s hockey schedule.

Please feel free to let me know if you have any questions about this matter. We really enjoy hosting the North Dakota High School State Hockey Tournament and would like to keep doing the event if we can. Please let me know if either of the options outlined above are workable for you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jody Hodgson".

Jody Hodgson

General Manager, Ralph Engelstad Arena

CC: Kelvin Zeigler