

MIDWAY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 128

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May 22, 2018

Re: 6 Man FB

Dear NDHSAA Governing Board,

Midway and Minto have known for several months that the Midway-Minto football coop will not be able to field a 9-man team for the fall of 2018. Numbers have been a real challenge for the coop for the last 5 years and we know there will not be enough students going out this fall to field a varsity team. Teams that were on our 2018 schedule have been notified so that they can try to find replacement games. As we study our numbers, it is obvious that the Midway-Minto coop won't be able to field a 9-man team for the foreseeable future. Despite the problem with numbers, both districts are very committed to this coop which has been in existence, in some form, for over 40 years. Midway could have the option of joining Larimore in a coop but Minto has no such option because doing so would move any neighboring coops to a higher division which those coops don't want to do. Since our top priority is to provide football options for students in both districts, the Midway and Minto districts have chosen to explore 6-man football starting with the 2019 cycle. We have been contemplating this for several years but the lack of other teams to play has caused us to delay this decision. There are now other districts within reasonable driving distance also seriously contemplating a move to 6-man FB so 2019 seems to be the right time to start a 6-man football conference in eastern North Dakota.

The Midway-Minto coop would like to use fall 2018 as an opportunity to acclimate our students to the game of 6-man football in anticipation of playing in a conference in 2019. Grenora has offered to assist us with this transition by playing a sub-varsity scrimmage and at least 1 sub-varsity game. The scrimmage would take place at Midway and would provide a wonderful opportunity for Grenora's coaches to assist Midway-Minto's players and coaches before playing an actual game. This would also

provide an opportunity for curious patrons, football fans and media representatives from the surrounding area to learn about 6-man football. It could also provide a good training opportunity for local referees.

The Midway and Minto school boards approved this plan at their May meetings knowing that the plan could not proceed without approval from the NDHSAA Governing Board. Minutes from both meetings are attached. We are sending this letter to request permission to proceed with this plan. As of now, the scrimmage would take place on Saturday, September 1 at Midway and the game would take place on Saturday, September 8. We are hoping to arrange a central location for that game. If possible, a 3rd game would be played later in the fall. We would also like permission to pursue games with other schools. As already mentioned, the scrimmage and games would be sub-varsity.

Thank you for considering this request. We truly believe this request is in the best interest of our students, our coop and, more generally, the future of football in eastern North Dakota.

Sincerely,



Roger Abbe, Midway Superintendent



Linda Lutovsky, Minto Superintendent



Brian Schanilec, Midway Board President



Anton Gudajtes, Minto Board President