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LARIMORE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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District #44

September 1, 2021

Dr. Mark Rerick, President
NDHSAA Board of Directors
350 2nd St. NW
Valley City, ND 58072

Dear Dr. Rerick and the NDHSAA Board,

I am writing this letter to request the NDHSAA Board waive the 2021 General Football Regulation, item #13. The rule states: A team that forfeits and does not play a scheduled contest for reasons other than “acts of God” will be ineligible for play-offs. This week, August 20, several members of the Larimore football team tested positive for COVID. Therefore, it was necessary to cancel our home varsity football game with Wyndmere/Lidgerwood, a non-region game, scheduled for September 3. As you recall last school year, during the COVID epidemic, games that were cancelled due to an outbreak of this disease were not counted as a forfeit. I am asking that you again extend this waiver due to the level of COVID in our county and state again this school year. Grand Forks County is currently at an orange level (high transmission) for COVID. I am sure you would agree, the penalty of no playoffs because of a forfeit due to a infectious disease is comparable to an Act of God. Student athletes and coaches have very little control in regards to a highly contagious virus. Therefore, the administration of Larimore Public Schools, is asking the NDHSAA Board declare item 13 of the football regulations invalid this school year if the reason for a forfeit is due to an outbreak of COVID. If you have further questions regarding our request I would be available to answer those questions in person or by phone at your next Board meeting.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dr. Steve Swiontek, Superintendent

School Board: Mitch McCoy, President • Wanda Asperheim, Vice President • Henry Borysewicz, Director
• Todd Yahna, Director • Meg Farrell, Director • Shauna Sather, Business Manager

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