

Grand Forks City Council,

Stars Athletics Volleyball is writing in support of the possibility of courts being added to the new sports complex. We are Susie Lancaster and Jessie Klingbeil, Co-Directors of Stars Athletics Volleyball. Stars Volleyball is one of the volleyball clubs in Grand Forks for girls in 2nd through 11th grade athletes.

Stars Volleyball has 3 different program options available for volleyball players. We hold skill camps for girls in grades 3-6 during the school year with 4-5 sessions for our camps. We also hold a volleyball summer camp during the summer for players in grades 2-9.

Our main program is our traveling teams held during our winter season, (December- February) and our spring season, (February-May). We have 2-4 teams traveling during the winter season and 10-12 teams traveling during the spring season. Our teams are organized with players that go through a tryout process, team placement, and practicing during the months for that season. The teams practice to play in tournaments that are held in Fargo, Bismarck, Minneapolis area, Sioux Falls, and other locations.

During the season, our teams practice in Grand Forks Public School (GFPS) facilities. We have been able to fill our practice needs at no cost with the gym availability using Schroeder and South Middle Schools and Red River High School. GFPS has always been very accommodating of our needs, but we do have to work around the gym schedule that the school programs need for their practices and games. The gyms that we use are also being used by Fastbreak Basketball, Special Olympics, parent organized traveling teams, and other organizations. This limits the availability in gym space. We adjust our scheduling of skills and summer camps around the availability of the gyms with high school practices, games, camps, and leagues. This has limited the number of teams that we are able to support during the winter and spring seasons, the amount of athletes that can participate in camps, and the length of time for camp sessions. In the last number of years, our program has wanted to provide athletes with specific skill practices and sessions, open gym time, and additional game practices, but we have not had the gym availability to provide this to our players.

Thank you,

Susie Lancaster and Jessie Klingbeil