



Anchorage School District

Education Center

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July 25, 2017

National Collegiate Athletic Association
Attn: Committee on Women's Athletics
700 W. Washington Street
PO Box 6222
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222

Dear Committee on Women's Athletics:

The Anchorage School District (ASD) has become aware of the ongoing campaign by USA Cheer to add STUNT as an NCAA emerging sport. Their initiative to place STUNT on the emerging sport list is important as it provides additional opportunities for women to participate in athletics and derive the important educational benefits that come with participating in intercollegiate athletics.

During the school year of 2014-2015, the ASD began developing plans to add STUNT to the list of female sports offered in the District. In September of 2015, the ASD developed an action plan to implement STUNT. By May of 2017, the ASD completed its first successful STUNT season culminating with a region championship. This exciting sport exceeded our goals with a participation rate of over 150 female athletes.

The ASD serves 50,000 students with 8 comprehensive high schools and with an annual sports participation rate of over 5,000 students. The ASD's sports mission is to support participation in co-curricular athletic activities that enhance the academic and social development of students.

The Alaska State Activities Association (ASAA) is aware of the ASD's commitment to the sport of STUNT. The ASD is acting as stewards of STUNT with a mission to grow the sport within the state. The ASD sponsors a regional championship for all of its sports. By including a minimum of 2 school districts, STUNT will meet the ASAA requirement for state championship status.

The ASD recognizes that at the college level, currently women have few opportunities to participate in cheer. The 800,000+ girls participating at the high school level are funneled into less than 40,000 collegiate opportunities to participate in traditional cheer, some of which are held by men. By offering STUNT teams, colleges and universities will open a whole new range of participation opportunities that are otherwise closed for young women to continue participating in their sport. With a 30-person roster, STUNT provides colleges

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and universities with an effective way to expand female sports offerings and improve compliance with Title IX. This will also set a standard for compliance at the high school level.

In May we were able to complete a successful region STUNT championship. The coaches, cheerleaders, fans, school administrators and school board members are excited with this new sport and the level of competition that was exhibited by each school. We anticipate the interest level to grow substantially this season as well as the interest levels from other Districts throughout the state of Alaska.

We fully support the efforts of USA Cheer to secure NCAA emerging sport status for STUNT and urge the Committee on Women's Athletics to approve their proposal for formal designation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Hagler', with a stylized, overlapping structure.

Derek S. Hagler
Director, Secondary Education