

DRAFT

TO: Dan Roe, Vaughn Smith - Sturgis Softball Club
Mr. Don Kirkegaard, Superintendent – Meade School District
Mr. Pete Wilson, Principal - Sturgis Brown High School

FROM: Mike Paris, Interim Activities Director – Meade School District

DATE: January 17, 2022

RE: Sturgis Softball Transition Proposal

In the interest of promoting the addition of girl's softball, the Meade School District has proposed the following "transition" plan, so there is a gradual incorporation of the Sturgis Softball Club program into the Sturgis Brown High School Athletic Department's offerings.

For Sturgis Brown High School to be considered a "transition" program, and obtain eligibility in the SDHSAA, the following criteria must be met for the softball program that is not necessarily fully integrated in to the Sturgis Brown High School Athletic Department offerings:

1. A school board resolution must state the Meade School District's intent to fully implement softball within five (5) years of passing of such a resolution (beginning 2022-2023 school year). MSD resolution would be at the February 2022 school board meeting.
2. Five (5) Year Transition Program
 - A. A five (5) year window of implementation from the date the Meade School District school board approves softball as a transition team until softball is full status school sponsored sport.
 - B. During the five (5) year window the transition team will be eligible for SDHSAA post-season competition (Sturgis Softball will not be eligible for Club Softball post season).
- C. Must follow SDHSAA regulations:
 1. Academic eligibility
 2. 8 Semester Rule
 3. Age Rule (become ineligible at age 20)
 4. Enrollment / Attendance Requirements
 5. Residency Requirements
 6. Adopt colors, logo, nickname
 7. In-Season and Out-of-Season Rules apply for Coaches and Athletes.

The Proposal is as follows:

Year One (1) 2022-2023

Sturgis Softball Club will assume 100% of the expenses.

Year Two (2) 2023-2024

Sturgis Softball Club will assume 100% of the expenses.

Year Three (3) 2024-2025

Meade School District will assume \$6000.00 in expenses, which is approximately 20% of yearly estimated program costs. The Sturgis Softball Club will assume the remainder of the expenses. Following the 2024-2025 softball season, the Sturgis Softball Club and the SBHS Activities Department will mutually develop the 2025-2026 SBHS Girls Softball schedule (home/away). This schedule will be approved by both the Sturgis Softball Club and the Meade School District prior to the 2025-2026 softball season.

*Sturgis Softball Club can request to have the Meade School District School Board re-visit the “transitioning/sanctioning” of the softball program (January/February 2026).

Year Four (4) 2025-2026

Meade School District will assume \$12,000.00 in expenses, which is approximately 40% of yearly estimated program costs. The Sturgis Softball Club will assume the remainder of the expenses.

Year Five (5) 2026-2027

Meade School District will assume \$18,000.00 in expenses, which is approximately 60% of yearly estimated program costs. The Sturgis Softball Club will assume the remainder of the expenses.

Year Six (6) 2027-2028

Meade School District will take over full implementation of the SBHS Softball program. Estimated expenses of the program would be approximately \$30,000 yearly with a one-time startup cost of approximately \$50,000.

* Sturgis Club Softball and Meade School District would negotiate a MOU with the City of Sturgis to use facilities that are located on Ball Park Road in Sturgis. Sturgis Softball would use their existing equipment with the money supplied by the Meade School District (beginning 2024-2025) to purchase additional equipment, personnel, travel, field maintenance, professional services, etc. that would be required for high school softball. The Meade School District may continue to use this equipment after the transition period.



Softball Intent to Participate

Complete this form and return to jo.auch@sdhsaa.com no later than February 15, 2022.

Name of School _____

_____ We plan to participate as a **“school sponsored” softball team** in the spring of 2022-23 school year.

_____ We plan to participate as a **school board approved “transition team”** in the spring of 2022-23 school year.

_____ Our school **will not** be participating at this time.

School Board President Signature

Superintendent Signature

Scan and email back to: jo.auch@sdhsaa.com no later than February 15, 2022.