

University of Wisconsin-Madison



905 University Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin 53715
(608) 263-2741 (Voice/TDD)

February 8, 1988

Mr. Leonard Bryson
Athletic Ticket Office Manager
Camp Randall Stadium
1440 Monroe Street

Dear Mr. Bryson:

Enclosed is a copy of the University of Wisconsin System's Policy and Guidelines Applying to Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability. Page seven of the guidelines contains the statement "Institutions may not discriminate on the basis of disability in physical education, athletics, and similar programs and activities." I believe that this statement addresses some of the concerns that I discussed with you recently over the telephone.

My first concern is the discrepancy in the price of basketball tickets between the general student population and students who use wheelchairs. My understanding is that a student who uses a wheelchair is charged \$7 for a ticket while his/her nondisabled peer is only charged \$3.50. To charge a student the higher general admission price because he/she is forced by a disability to sit in the only accessible section of the Fieldhouse seems to be a discriminatory policy. Fortunately, it is a policy that could be easily changed and that would have little budgetary impact on the Athletic Department in terms of lost revenue. It would have a very positive impact, however, on students who now pay double what their peers are charged to enjoy a Badger basketball game.

My second concern involves reserved student seating in the wheelchair accessible seating section of the Fieldhouse. As I understand it, there are currently no seats in that area that are saved for students. Traditionally, students have a certain number of seats that are reserved for them. If these seats are not purchased by students by a specified deadline, they become available to the general public. I feel that this policy should also be in effect for students who want to purchase tickets in the wheelchair accessible seating section of the Fieldhouse. Under current rules, a student may never have the opportunity to purchase a ticket for a specific basketball game because the general public may have already bought all of the seats available in the wheelchair accessible section before the start of the new semester. This also seems to be a discriminatory policy. Again, however, this could be easily corrected by simply holding a certain number of tickets for students. If unsold, they could be made available to the public so that no revenue would be lost.

(continued)

McBurney Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities

I know that you share my concerns about ensuring that athletic events are equally accessible to all students. If there is anything that I or Pat DesNoyers, McBurney's Director, can do to advocate within the Athletic Department to make it more accessible, please do not hesitate to contact either one of us.

Sincerely,

B.A. Scheuers

B.A. Scheuers
Assistant Director

Enclosure