

MHSAA

SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL ACTION

(5/14/18)

This summary does not include all Council action. Minutes of the Dec. 1, 2017 and March 23, 2018 meetings were published on MHSAA.com. Minutes of the May 6-7, 2018 meeting have been sent to all superintendents; and all high school and junior high/middle school principals, athletic directors and citywide athletic directors have been emailed a link to a download location on MHSAA.com. **Changes take effect Aug. 1, 2018, unless otherwise indicated.**

High School Regulations

1. **Regulation I, Section 9** – A “sport-specific” transfer rule has been adopted, with full effect in 2019-20 (what a student plays in 2018-19 will affect that student’s eligibility in 2019-20 should that student transfer and not meet one of the 15 stated exceptions). See Appendix “1.”
2. **Regulation I, Section 10** – Interpretation 109 has been revised to read (underscored is new):
“High school coaches or their representatives may not attend school or non-school camp, clinics or competitions for the purpose of evaluating or recruiting prospective athletes.”
3. **Regulation II, Section 11(H) 2 a** – A new part (4) has been added:
“For the purposes of this Section, incoming 9th-graders become high school students when the four-player period ends on the Monday following Memorial Day. Provided these recent 8th-graders are not still involved in middle school sports, they may begin working out with high school students on the Monday following Memorial Day. This does not negate the rule that prohibits recruiting for athletic purposes (undue influence).”

Junior High/Middle School Regulations

1. **Regulation III, Section 12(A)** – The Limited Team Membership rule has been revised to allow a middle school student to compete in two non-school events during the season in team sports except football (an “event” is one occurring on not more than three consecutive calendar days). This would make the team sport rule in junior high/middle school athletics the same as the individual sport model that currently exists. **Note:** For **individual** sports (and now all junior high/middle school sports), the rule initiates with the student’s first participation in a **contest**, not practice.
2. **Regulation IV, Section 10** – Contest limits and days of competition in the following sports have been increased without lengthening seasons (underscored is new):
 - a. **Softball** – 12 days of competition (previously 10) over 13 weeks with doubleheader games counting as one day of competition.
 - b. **Basketball** – 12 games over 13 weeks with one game a day allowed, except that two games may be played on a day not followed by a school day, up to four times a season. Each of the doubleheader days counts as one of the 12 games.
 - c. **Soccer** – 12 games over 13 weeks with one game a day allowed, except that two games may be played on a day not followed by a school day, up to two times a season. Each of the doubleheader days counts as one of the 12 games.

(OVER)

3. For track & field meets, the Junior High/Middle School Order of Events has been changed as follows:

4x800 Meter Relay
 55 Meter Hurdles
 100 Meter Dash
 4x200 Meter Relay
 1600 Meter Run
 4x100 Meter Relay
 400 Meter Dash
 70 Meter Dash
 800 Meter Run
 200 Meter Hurdles
 200 Meter Dash
 3200 Meter Run
 4x400 Meter Relay

Sports

1. **Baseball** – The MHSAA Regional round of play will begin on Wednesday following the District with single games at 64 sites for all District champions (Regional Semifinal) followed by the Saturday Regional Final (10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.), followed immediately by the “Super Regional” (formerly the Quarterfinal) game at 3 p.m. to determine the four Semifinalists at each of the four sites. This will eliminate the traditional Tuesday Quarterfinal round for baseball and the four “Super Regional” champions will advance directly to the Semifinals with no change in the current number of awards.
2. **Basketball** –
 - a. The 28-foot coaching box allowed in NFHS rules has been approved for competition involving MHSAA member schools. The current 14-foot box expands toward that team’s end line.
 - b. For 2018-19 only, the calendars have been switched so that boys basketball adopts the regular season and tournament schedules that have previously been in effect for girls, and girls basketball adopts the regular season and tournament schedules that have been in place for boys. The Semifinal and Final venues will continue to be Van Noord Arena at Calvin College for girls and MSU’s Breslin Student Events Center for boys. Decisions regarding sites and schedules for the 2019-20 season and beyond will be determined by the Council at a later meeting.
3. **Football** –
 - a. The 40-second play clock experiment has been extended through the 2018 season.
 - b. The limit for the 8-player tournament continues to be the maximum for a Class D school that year. Class D schools which have sponsored 8-player football one year (e.g., 2018) but have an enrollment in excess of Class D the next year (2019) may continue in the 8-player tournament for that year (2019). They must be within the Class D enrollment limit the following year (2020) to continue in the 8-player tournament that year (2020). The enrollments of schools are those established through the Enrollment Declaration Form submitted each February.
4. **Ice Hockey** – The MHSAA Preregional system of tournament assignments has been changed back to a system of Regional tournament assignments with no more than 8 teams assigned to each Regional, for a total of 24 Regions around the state.

5. **Boys Lacrosse** –

- a. Beginning with the 2019 tournament, an MHSAA tournament game will end when an 18-goal margin is reached any time after the third quarter is completed. The 12-point goal point differential running clock in the second half continues.
- b. Regulation II, Section 6(A) – Contests with Out-of-State Schools – Item 2 has been revised as follows (underscored is new): “2. All schools and teams are in good standing with their respective National Federation member high school association (if eligible). In boys lacrosse, a school may not participate in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest against an out-of-state opponent from a state whose NFHS member state association does not sponsor a statewide boys lacrosse tournament unless that team follows comparable regulations of other spring sport teams in that state. Comparable rules include but are not limited to practice and contest limits, travel, use of NFHS playing rules, and undue influence (recruiting). It will be for the MHSAA member school to collect and submit information to the MHSAA staff 30 days in advance of the season for approval to play teams in states where high school associations do not govern boys lacrosse.”

6. **Skiing** – The maximum number of contests has been increased from 15 to 17, while the number of scrimmages has been decreased from 4 to 2.

7. **Soccer** –

- a. At the high school level, as a part of the multi-team tournament rule, teams will be allowed to play two full games on a non-school day, and have those two count as one of the 18 regular season contests. Teams still have the option to play 180 minutes under the current multi-team tournament rule. The only overtime allowed would be a shootout if part of a bracket tournament.
- b. Effective with the spring season of 2019, the first round of District games must be played the week before the current District week. First round games are to be played on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday (May 22-24, 2019), with the District Semifinals and Finals scheduled for the following week (May 28-June 1, 2019). Saturday games can be used as a weather backup only for the first round.

8. **Track & Field** – Starting in 2020, MHSAA Regional and Final meets will be required to use a one-turn stagger for the 4x800 meter relay, 1600 meter run, 800 meter run and 3200 meter run.

Insurance

To be covered by MHSAA-purchased insurance, the activity of sideline cheerleaders at interscholastic athletic events must not exceed the safety norms of MHSAA girls competitive cheer (i.e., the height of mounts, flips, stunts, etc.).

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SUMMARY OF SPORT-SPECIFIC TRANSFER RULE
May 11, 2018

A “sport-specific” transfer rule proposal has been adopted by the MHSAA Representative Council for 2019-20. It has two major components:

1. More Lenient –

Students in grades 9 through 12 who have not participated in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest on a school-sponsored team in Michigan or elsewhere in an MHSAA sport one season may transfer from one school to another with no delay in eligibility at any level in that sport the next season. No MHSAA action is required.

2. More Restrictive –

Unless one of the 15 stated Exceptions applies, students in grades 9 through 12 who have participated in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest in an MHSAA sport on a school-sponsored team in Michigan or elsewhere during the previous season for a sport, and then transfer to an MHSAA member school, are ineligible at all levels of that sport at that school through the next complete season in that sport, including the MHSAA tournament.

Students who transfer during a season in which they are participating, and do not meet one of the 15 stated Exceptions, are ineligible at all levels of that sport for the remainder of that season, including the MHSAA tournament; and they remain ineligible at all levels of that sport through the next complete season in that sport, including the MHSAA tournament.

The revised rule means a transfer student has . . .

- **immediate eligibility** in a sport **not played** the previous season for that sport
and (unless one of the 15 Exceptions applies)
- **no eligibility** for the upcoming season in a sport actually **played** the previous season in that sport (participated in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest).

If the administration of the student’s new school requests in writing on a timely basis, the MHSAA Executive Committee **may** approve a waiver that reduces the period of ineligibility to 90 scheduled school days at the new school. The Executive Committee also has authority to approve immediate eligibility.

The effective date is Aug. 1, 2018, with implementation felt during the 2019-20 school year. **That is, what students do during the 2018-19 school year will determine their eligibility for 2019-20 should they transfer schools and not meet one of the 15 stated exceptions.**

DETAIL OF SPORT-SPECIFIC TRANSFER RULE

May 11, 2018

PRINCIPLES

1. Students enrolling for the first time anywhere in the 9th grade are eligible without delay at all levels of all sports, provided they have not already practiced or competed for a different high school. (No change; and, as in the past, the transfer rule does not apply to middle schools.)
2. Students in grades 9 through 12 who have never participated in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest on a school-sponsored team in Michigan or elsewhere in an MHSAA sport may transfer from one school to another with no delay in eligibility at any level in that sport. No MHSAA action is required.
3. Unless one of the 15 stated exceptions applies, students in grades 9 through 12 who have participated in an interscholastic **scrimmage** or **contest** in an MHSAA sport(s) on a school-sponsored team in Michigan or elsewhere during the previous season for a sport(s), and then transfer to an MHSAA member school, are ineligible at all levels of that sport(s) at that school through the next complete season in that sport(s), including the MHSAA tournament(s).

Students who transfer **during** a season in which they are participating are ineligible at all levels of that sport for the remainder of that season, including the MHSAA tournament; and they remain ineligible at all levels of that sport through the next complete season in that sport, including the MHSAA tournament.

4. If there are compelling circumstances for changing schools having nothing to do with athletics, discipline or family finances and would not require Executive Committee evaluation or comparison of school demographics, environment or curriculum, schools may request that the Executive Committee waive the regulation to the extent that the period of ineligibility in the sport involved is reduced to 90 scheduled school days of enrollment in the new school.
5. Under conditions described in the MHSAA Constitution, the Executive Committee (or Representative Council) may waive any aspect of the Transfer regulation. (No change.)

APPLICATIONS

A. Situation

A student enrolled at Canton High School in the 10th grade, participated in non-school ice hockey and school-sponsored lacrosse, completing his high school season June 1, 2019. He enrolled without a change of residence or any other applicable exception at Brighton High School at the start of the 2019-20 school year.

Ruling: The student is ineligible for lacrosse at Brighton High School for the complete lacrosse season in 2020. The student is eligible for all other sports at Brighton High School, including ice hockey, without delay.

B. Situation

A student attended Haslett High School for 9th and 10th grades where he participated in football and basketball. At the semester break of 10th grade, the student enrolled at DeWitt High School, and no exception to the transfer regulation was applicable.

Ruling: The student is ineligible at any level for the remainder of the current basketball season and is ineligible for the next school year's entire football and basketball seasons at DeWitt High School. He is eligible immediately at any level for every other sport at DeWitt.

C. Situation

A student participated in cross country at East Lansing High School as a 9th-grader and transferred to Okemos High School on March 1, 2019. It is alleged and well documented that the student was bullied at East Lansing. The parents are separated, but not divorced, and the student is changing residence from one parent in East Lansing to the other parent in Okemos.

Ruling: The student is ineligible for cross country at Okemos High School for the 2019 season. He is immediately eligible at Okemos at any level for all other sports, including track & field.

(OVER)

Appeal: Okemos High School requests waiver, citing significant and well documented bullying. The Executive Committee approves the request for waiver to participate in cross country after the student's 90th scheduled school day at Okemos High School beginning March 1, 2019.

D. Situation

A 12th-grade female student who plays soccer year-round and participated in girls soccer at Mason High School during the spring 2019 season, transferred to Holt High School in July where she seeks to participate on the boys soccer team. She enrolled at Holt without a change of residence and no other exception to the transfer regulation applies. At no time did she participate in any other sports at Mason or any other high school.

Ruling: The student is ineligible for both the boys and girls soccer seasons at Holt High School. She is eligible without delay at any level for any other sport in which she may wish to participate.

E. Situation

A 12th-grade student played football and basketball at St. Johns High School in 9th grade but not in 10th or 11th grade before he transfers to Grand Ledge High School for the start of the 2019-20 school year. His residence has not changed.

Ruling: The student is eligible for both football and basketball at Grand Ledge High School during the 2019-20 school year.

F. Situation

An 11th-grade student transferred from Mason High School to St. Johns High School on Oct. 2, 2018. No Exceptions apply. Having just missed the fourth Friday after Labor Day, St. Johns High School administration requests a waiver under Regulation I, Section 9(D) 3, asking for eligibility on the student's 91st school day of enrollment at St. Johns High School beginning Oct. 2.

Ruling: Pursuant to Interpretation 99, the Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91st school day of that student's enrollment at St. Johns beginning Oct. 2.

Note: Regulation I, Section 9(D) 3 may not be applied as it is currently written after Oct. 15, 2018.

G. Situation

An 11th-grade student played football at Okemos High School in the fall of the 2018-19 school year. He played no winter sport for his school. He transferred to East Lansing High School on March 1, 2019, missing the fourth Friday by a brief number of days. No Exceptions apply.

Ruling: The student is ineligible for football only at East Lansing High School during the 2019-20 school year.

Appeal: Prior to Aug. 1, 2019, East Lansing High School requests a waiver under Regulation I, Section 9(D) 3 that allows the Executive Committee to consider approving waiver after 90 school days of enrollment at the student's new school.

Result: The Executive Committee may not apply Regulation I, Section 9(D) 3 as it is currently written after Oct. 15, 2018.

IMPLEMENTATION DATES

This new rule will begin implementation on Aug. 1, 2018, with effects on eligibility beginning Aug. 1, 2019.

1. Students who have played a sport at any level in high school during the 2017-18 school year and who transfer during the 2018-19 school year have their eligibility for 2018-19 determined by the current rule in effect during 2017-18 ("4th Friday" rule).
2. Students who have not played a sport in high school during that sport's previous season may transfer with immediate eligibility in that sport, beginning with the 2019-20 school year.
3. Students who play a sport in high school during the 2018-19 school year and who transfer during that school year or later have their eligibility during the 2019-20 school year or later determined by the new sport-specific rule that takes full effect Aug. 1, 2019.