

**MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

East Lansing, April 21, 2010

Members Present:

Jim Derocher, Negaunee  
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven  
Vic Michaels, Detroit  
Rudy Godefroidt, Hemlock  
Chip Hansen, East Jordan

Staff Members Present:

Tom Rashid  
Jack Roberts (Recorder)

Executive Committee Authority and Responsibility - The Executive Committee reviewed its authority under Article VII of the MHSAA Constitution and specifically its responsibility to consider each application for waiver of an eligibility requirement on its individual merits, determining if the regulation serves the purpose for which it was intended in each case or if the regulation works an undue hardship on any student who is the subject of a request for waiver. (These underlying criteria may not be restated for every subject of these minutes.)

The Executive Committee was reminded that it was the responsibility of each member school involved to provide sufficient factual information about the specific request for the Executive Committee to reach a decision without further investigation. If information is incomplete, contradictory or otherwise unclear or has been received too late to be studied completely, the Executive Committee may deny the request for waiver or delay action. Such requests may be resubmitted to the Executive Committee with additional information at a subsequent meeting or appealed to the full Representative Council.

It is possible that some of the information presented as facts to the Executive Committee by school personnel and others may be inaccurate. However, to avoid constant repetition in this report of phrases such as "it was alleged" or "it was reported," no attempt is made in the introduction of each waiver request to distinguish between truth, allegation, hearsay, opinion, summary or conclusion. If any information provided to the Executive Committee is inaccurate, any decision of the Executive Committee to grant waiver of a regulation shall be null and void.

The Executive Committee is not authorized to approve waiver based on alleged or actual differences between schools based on "environment," demographics, curriculum or extracurricular offerings. A determination of undue hardship is a matter addressed to the discretion of the Executive Committee within the educational philosophy and secondary role of voluntary extracurricular competitive athletics in the academic environment. The Executive Committee will avoid making exceptions that would create precedent that effectively changes a rule without Representative Council action or local board of education adoption, which would exceed Executive Committee authority. The contract the MHSAA has with member schools obligates the MHSAA to not change rules during the school year.

Students for whom waiver of a particular regulation is approved must be eligible in all other respects under all sections and interpretations of the regulations prior to their participation.

Adoption of these regulations, as well as policies, procedures and schedules of MHSAA tournaments, is a choice schools make locally when they consider their option of MHSAA membership. Consistent with rulings of the Attorney General and Michigan Supreme Court, schools are not bound by the decisions of the Executive Committee, but the association may limit participation in the post-season tournaments it sponsors to those schools which choose to apply rules and penalties as promulgated by the MHSAA and adopted by each member school's board of education. The MHSAA exercises no independent authority over schools or students.

Atlanta and Fairview High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in football and boys and girls track & field between these schools. The combined enrollment of 242 students will place one team in the Division 4 Track & Field Tournament. Both schools sponsored track & field previously; Fairview will be the primary school in track. Atlanta sponsored football previously and will be the primary school in football. Support from the North Star League was submitted.

Clarkston-Everest Collegiate and Waterford-Our Lady of the Lakes High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of boys tennis to a cooperative agreement between these two schools which already exists in several sports. The combined 2010-11 enrollment of 243 students will place a team in the Division 4 tournament. Neither school sponsored boys tennis previously. Everest Collegiate will be the primary school. Support from the Catholic High School League was submitted.

Detroit-Cesar Chavez Academy and Detroit-Cristo Rey High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in football between these two schools whose combined 2010-11 enrollment will be 833 students. Neither school sponsored football previously. Cesar Chavez will be the primary school. Support from the Catholic High School League and the Charter School Conference was received.

Detroit-Westside Christian Academy, Detroit Community and Detroit-Weston Prep High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee tabled until not later than its June meeting a partially completed application for a cooperative program in football between these three schools whose combined 2010-11 enrollment will be 788 students. Westside Christian sponsored football previously and would be the primary school. Support from future opponents has been received; signatures and board approval are pending from Detroit Community.

Hancock, Chassell, Dollar Bay and Painesdale-Jeffers High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee tabled until not later than its June meeting an incomplete application for the addition of Dollar Bay to a cooperative agreement in football which has existed among Hancock, Chassell and Painesdale-Jeffers since 1994. The combined 2010-11 enrollment would be 530 students. Hancock would be the primary school. Support from several future opponents has been submitted. The application and Board of Education resolution creating a new agreement have not been submitted from Jeffers and Chassell High Schools.

Howell and Fowlerville High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – A request was made to allow one current 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student the opportunity to continue participation until graduation in 2013 in a cooperative agreement in boys swimming & diving between Howell and Fowlerville High Schools which is being dissolved because the combined enrollment for 2010-11 will be 3,624 students, which is in excess of the 3,500-student limit. Howell High School's enrollment has increased from 2,461 students in 2009-10 to 2,706 students for 2010-11. Fowlerville High School's enrollment has declined from 953 students to 928 students. This cooperative program originally included Hartland High School and was dissolved when the 3,500 cap was begun in 2006 but was allowed to operate for one more year (2006-07) due to pool facility issues. In 2007-08, Hartland became a stand-alone team. Howell would continue participation in Division 1, using the combined enrollment figures for classification purposes until the student graduates in the 2012-2013 school year.

Because this student has been on the team and this program does not have the option to compete in a larger division of the MHSAA tournament, the Executive Committee determined that it would "grandfather" this one student so he might continue to participate until his graduation. Waiver is not approved for any current or future students of Fowlerville High School.

Indian River-Inland Lakes and Wolverine High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in football between these two schools whose combined 2010-11 enrollment will be 393 students. Inland Lakes sponsored football previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Ski Valley and Northern Lakes Conferences was submitted.

Lansing-Everett, Lansing-Eastern and Lansing-Sexton High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F])

– The Executive Committee tabled until not later than its June meeting a partially completed application for a girls swimming & diving cooperative program between these three schools of the same district whose combined enrollment of 3,352 students would continue placement of one team in the Division 1 tournament and one less in Division 2. Everett sponsored its own team previously, Sexton and Eastern sponsored a cooperative agreement which has dissolved. Everett would be the primary school. Several signatures, Board of Education approval and support from the Capital Areas Activities Conference are all pending.

Manistee-Catholic Central and Manistee-Casman Academy High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E])

– The Executive Committee approved the addition of football and girls volleyball to a cooperative agreement which was established between these two schools in softball in September 2009. The combined enrollment of 144 students will continue placement of a team in the Class D Volleyball Tournament. Catholic Central has sponsored both sports previously and will be the primary school. Support from the West Michigan D League was submitted.

Martin and Martin-East Martin Christian High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E])

– The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in football between these two schools whose combined 2010-11 enrollment will be 202 students. Martin sponsored football previously and will be the primary school. The Southwest Athletic Conference supports the application.

North Adams-Jerome and Hillsdale-Will Carleton Academy High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E])

– The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program between these two schools in football. The combined 2010-11 enrollment will be 227 students. North Adams-Jerome sponsored football previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Southern Central Athletic Association and the Mid South Conference was submitted.

Northport and Lake Leelanau-St. Mary High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E])

– The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program between these two schools in girls volleyball. The combined 2010-11 enrollment of 119 students will place the team in the Division 4 tournament. Northport sponsored volleyball previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Cherryland Conference was submitted.

Rogers City and Posen High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E])

– The Executive Committee approved the addition of boys and girls cross country to a cooperative agreement which was established between these two schools in wrestling in August 2009. The combined enrollment of 290 students will continue placement of a team in the Division 4 tournament. Rogers City sponsored cross country previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Straits Area Conference was submitted.

Tekonsha and Marshall Academy High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E])

– The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program between these two schools in football. The combined 2010-11 enrollment will be 161 students. Tekonsha will be the primary school and sponsored football previously in a cooperative program with Coldwater-Pansophia Academy which has been dissolved. Support from the Southern Central Athletic Association was submitted.

Traverse City Central and Traverse City West High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F])

– The Executive Committee approved a girls swimming & diving cooperative program between these two schools of the same district whose combined 2010-11 enrollment of 3,280 students will continue placement of one team in the Division 1 tournament. Both schools sponsored the sport previously in a cooperative agreement with Traverse City-St. Francis which has dissolved. Traverse City Central will be the primary school. Support from the Big North Conference was submitted.

Traverse City-Grand Traverse Academy and Traverse City Christian High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys and girls cross country between these two schools whose combined 2010-11 enrollment of 269 students will continue with one team in Division 4. Both schools sponsored cross country previously and Grand Traverse Academy will be the primary school. The Cherryland Conference supports this cooperative program.

DeWitt High School (Regulation I, Sections 7 & 8) – A request to waive the previous and current academic credit record portions of the eligibility regulation was made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who suffered a closed head injury on Sept. 19, 2009. The student was withdrawn from all classes at that time and began a homebound course on Nov. 30, 2009, which he completed. DeWitt High School is on block scheduling. The student enrolled and completed two block courses in the first half of the second semester of 2009-10 and is currently enrolled in three courses for the fourth quarter. The student would be completing five of eight for the term, one short of 66 percent of full credit load potential for a full-time student at DeWitt.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver and noted that each of the terms involved must count toward the maximum terms allowed under Sections 4 and 5.

Blanchard-Montabella High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student who enrolled to begin the 2009-10 school year at Montabella High School while living with his grandparents. The student participated in the pre-season scrimmage and two football games before school began. On Sept. 9, 2009, the student moved to the residence of his mother and sister in the Lansing area and enrolled at Grand Ledge High School. The mother lost her job and was evicted from their apartment. The student and mother have moved back to the grandparents in the Montabella School District, enrolling on Feb. 9, 2010. The older sister continues to live in the Lansing area in order to graduate from Grand Ledge High School this spring.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver, provided the student did not participate if ineligible at Grand Ledge High School.

Bloomfield Hills-Brother Rice High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 59 (closest nonpublic school) was made on behalf of a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student who was accepted and intending to attend Brother Rice High School for the 2009-10 school year until his father's job was transferred to Germany over the summer of 2009 and the family relocated there. The father has been transferred back to Michigan and the family returned. The student enrolled at Brother Rice on March 29, 2010. Orchard Lake-St. Mary is 1.22 miles closer to the family's home than is Brother Rice. The student did not participate in athletics while in Germany.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Boyne City High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment. The student previously attended Johannesburg-Lewiston High School before enrolling at Boyne City High School on March 12, 2010.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment at Boyne City High School.

Elk Rapids High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – On March 25, 2010, the Executive Committee did not approve a request to waive the transfer regulation made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student whose parents are divorced and who previously attended Chelsea High School. On Jan. 25, 2010, the student moved to the residence of his aunt in Elk Rapids, enrolling at Elk Rapids High School. On April 7, 2010, the father moved from Ann Arbor to Elk Rapids and resides with the student in the aunt's home. The student would be eligible under Exception 2 except that the student preceded the father to Elk Rapids.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Fowlerville High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request was made on behalf of a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment. The student previously attended Webberville High School before enrolling at Fowlerville High School on March 12, 2010.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver, effective with the student's 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment at Fowlerville High School.

Grand Rapids-Forest Hills Northern High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12<sup>th</sup>-grade foreign exchange student from a CSIET-listed program who previously attended Grand Rapids-Creston High School. The student's placement was changed by the agency to the residence of a host family in the Forest Hills Eastern attendance area. The host family has a daughter who currently attends Forest Hills Northern. The student enrolled at Forest Hills Northern to begin the second semester of the 2009-10 school year.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Ionia High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – On March 25, 2010, the Executive Committee did not approve a request to waive the transfer regulation on behalf of a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student who lived with her father in Colorado and has moved to the residence of an aunt and uncle in Ionia due to attendance, academic and transportation issues. The student enrolled at Ionia on Jan. 10, 2010. Additional information was submitted to clarify that the student was in an unsuitable situation in Colorado. The parents are divorced and the mother is not in the student's life. The father lost his job and vehicle and the student was left without a way to attend school. The student lived several miles from school, was 15 years old with no school transportation available from the home to school. The student took the initiative herself to move in with her aunt because her parents could not provide for the student nor transport her to school.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Jenison High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) - A request was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment. The student previously attended Wyoming-Kelloggsville High School before enrolling at Jenison High School on Nov. 9, 2009.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Monroe High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request was made on behalf of a 12<sup>th</sup>-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment. The student previously attended Monroe-St. Mary Catholic Central High School and enrolled at Monroe High School on Oct. 8, 2009.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment at Monroe High School.

Newaygo High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student whose parents are divorced and who was removed from his mother's care by Child Protective Services due to the mother's criminal behavior. The student previously attended Hesperia before completing an Educational Transfer Form on Dec. 15, 2009 to attend Charlotte High School while living with his mother. On March 4, 2010, the student was placed by the courts with his father who resides in the White Cloud School District. The student has a 4<sup>th</sup> grade stepbrother who has attended Newaygo Schools for four years. The student enrolled at Newaygo High School on Feb. 1, 2010.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Subvarsity Waiver Requests Meeting All Conditions of Section 9(B) – The Executive Committee approved immediate eligibility at the subvarsity level for the following transferring 9<sup>th</sup>- or 10<sup>th</sup>-grade students (after entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade, before completing 10<sup>th</sup> grade) **who have not previously participated in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest in any MHSAA sport at the high school level** (whether MHSAA member schools or not) and who do not qualify for one of the 15 stated exceptions to the transfer regulation and have transferred for reasons having nothing to do with athletics, discipline or family finances and would not require Executive Committee evaluation or comparison of school demographics or curriculum:

Requesting High School	Grade	Former High School	Date of Enrollment	Length of Subvarsity Eligibility Status
Grand Blanc	10	Swartz Creek Alternative Academy	March 5, 2010	To be determined
Ithaca	9	Warren-Cousino	Jan. 25, 2010	Remainder of 2009-10 school year

Holland High School (Regulation II, Section 11[H]) – Pursuant to Interpretation 224, a request to waive the three-four player rule for the 2010-11 school year was made on behalf of the girls and boys swimming & diving coach who is also employed full time by the Holland Community Aquatics Center which anticipates 320 participants ages 5-24 for the 2010-11 season from 15 different school districts including Holland. It is expected that 14 girls and 10 boys in grades 7-12 from Holland will be participating in the program. The request was granted previously for this position each year since 2006-07.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for this coach for the 2010-11 school year.

Redford Union High School (Regulation II, Sections 11 & 12) – A request to waive the portions of the rule for contests governing high schools was made to permit students who participated on the boys soccer team in the fall of 2009 to play in a benefit game against Redford Union alumni on Monday, April 26, 2010, to raise funds to assist the family of a 9<sup>th</sup> grade Redford Union soccer player who was killed as a pedestrian in an auto accident on March 31, 2010. The school coaches will be involved only as game officials, providing no coaching. This is the second student from the boys soccer team to have been killed in an auto accident in the past 18 months. The school would like to repeat the fundraising effort which it had done when the first player died. Alumni vs. boys soccer game would precede the girls varsity soccer game with all income to the student's family.

Noting the unique and compelling circumstances, the Executive Committee approved the request for waiver with the stipulation that the opportunity to participate be open to all Redford Union High School students.

Regulation III, Section 1(C) – Pursuant to Interpretation 249, the Executive Committee approved following junior high/middle schools requests for waiver of the enrollment regulation to permit 6<sup>th</sup>-grade students to participate with and against 7<sup>th</sup> and/or 8<sup>th</sup> graders for the sports listed in the **2010-11** school year only:

Junior High/Middle School	Sport(s)	High School Enrollment	Middle School Enrollment
Northport	All sports	51 (2010-11)	12 7 <sup>th</sup> graders 8 8 <sup>th</sup> graders
Twining-Arenac Eastern	Boys & girls basketball	97 (2010-11)	20 7 <sup>th</sup> graders 27 8 <sup>th</sup> graders

North Adams-Jerome and Hillsdale-Will Carleton Academy Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program between these two member middle schools in football. North Adams-Jerome sponsored football previously and will be the primary school.

Northport and Lake Leelanau-St. Mary Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program between these two member middle schools in football. Northport sponsored volleyball previously and will be the primary school.

Tekonsha and Marshall Academy Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program between these two middle schools in football. Tekonsha sponsored football previously and will be the primary school.

Melvindale-Strong Junior High School (Regulation V, Section 3[C]) – On March 10, 2010, an 8<sup>th</sup>-grade girls basketball game between Strong and Wyandotte-Wilson Junior High Schools ended prematurely due to a breakdown in proper sportsmanship. To prevent an appearance before the Executive Committee, the actions of Strong Junior High School were presented, including the suspension and eventual disenrollment from school of one student who was central to the breakdown.

The Executive Committee approved and accepted the school's actions and did not require further action or an appearance by the coach and administration.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Executive Committee are scheduled for Sunday, May 2, 2010, at 9 a.m. in Gaylord (with the Representative Council meeting at 1 p.m.); Wednesday, June 16, 2010, at 9 a.m. in East Lansing; Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2010, at 9 a.m. in East Lansing; Thursday, Sept. 9, 2010, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; Monday, Oct. 4, 2010, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2010, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; and Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2010, at 1:30 p.m. in East Lansing (with Representative Council meeting Dec. 9).