

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, April 25, 2012

Members Present:

Jim Derocher, Negaunee
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake
Pete Ryan, Saginaw

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.

Ann Arbor-Rudolf Steiner High School and Saline-Washtenaw Christian Academy (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 boys tennis between these two schools whose combined enrollment of 167 students would place a new team in the Division 4 Boys Tennis Tournament. Neither school sponsored the sport previously. Rudolf Steiner would be the primary school. Support from the Mid South Conference and resolutions from both governing boards are in process.

AuGres-Sims and Twining-Arenac Eastern High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee tabled until not later than its June meeting an application for a cooperative program in football between these two schools whose combined enrollment is 199 students. Both schools sponsored football previously. AuGres-Sims would be the primary school. Support from the North Star League, which meets May 7, 2012, is in process.

Bloomfield Hills-Lahser and Bloomfield Hills-Andover High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in football between these two schools of the same district at the freshman and JV levels only for the 2012-13 school year only. To begin the 2013-14 school year, Andover and Lahser High Schools will be consolidating geographic borders to form one high school, Bloomfield Hills High School. The combined 2012-13 enrollment is 1,915 and will not involve tournament participation. Should a student be brought up to a varsity team, it will be at the high school of enrollment only. Both schools sponsored subvarsity football previously but Andover did not field both a freshman and JV team. Support from the Oakland Activities Association was submitted.

Cedarville and DeTour High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys and girls cross country between these two schools whose combined enrollment of 169 students will continue placement of a team in Division 4 Cross Country Tournaments. Cedarville sponsored cross country previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Straights Area Conference was received.

Ewen-Trout Creek and Watersmeet High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in football (eight-person) between these two schools whose combined enrollment is 146 students. Ewen-Trout Creek sponsored football previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Bridge Alliance League was received.

Fairview and Mio-AuSable High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys soccer between these two schools whose combined enrollment of 317 students will continue placement of a team in the Division 4 Boys Soccer Tournament. Fairview sponsored soccer previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Northern Michigan Soccer League was received.

Kinde-North Huron and Port Hope High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in football (eight-person) between these two schools whose combined enrollment is 180 students. North Huron sponsored football previously and will be the primary school. Support from the North Central Thumb League was received.

Lansing-New Covenant Christian, Holt Lutheran and Morrice High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee tabled until not later than its June meeting an application for a cooperative program in boys soccer between these three high schools whose combined enrollment of 229 students would continue placement of a team in the Division 4 Boys Soccer Tournament. New Covenant Christian sponsored the sport previously and would be the primary school. Support from the Mid-South Conference has been requested but not received.

Madison Heights-Bishop Foley and Sterling Heights-Parkway Christian High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of girls swimming & diving to a cooperative program which already exists between these two schools in ice hockey. The combined 2012-13 enrollment of 465 students will continue placement of a team in the Division 3 Girls Swimming & Diving Tournament. Bishop Foley sponsored swimming previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Catholic High School League was received.

Manistique and Cooks-Big Bay de Noc High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in football between these two schools whose combined enrollment is 430 students. Manistique sponsored football previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Mid Peninsula Conference was received.

Mattawan and Kalamazoo-Hackett Catholic Central High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of girls swimming & diving to a cooperative program that already exists in boys swimming between these two schools. The combined 2012-13 enrollment of 1,441 students will continue placement of a team in the Division 2 Girls Swimming & Diving Tournament. Both schools sponsored the sport previously. Mattawan will be the primary school. Support from the Southwest Michigan Athletic Conference was received.

Traverse City Christian and Traverse City College Prep Academy High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in football between these two schools whose combined 2012-13 enrollment is 148 students. Traverse City Christian sponsored an eight-person team previously and will be the primary school. Support from four future opponents was received.

Cooperative Program Renewals (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – Pursuant to instructions of the Representative Council in 1997, the Executive Committee must review Cooperative Team Renewal Forms for cooperative agreements in boys bowling, girls bowling, girls golf and girls competitive cheer where the combined enrollment exceeds 1,000 students. These agreements were formed before these sports reached over 250 schools sponsoring. The Executive Committee approved the following programs for renewal:

- Farmington and Farmington Hills-Harrison High Schools in boys and girls bowling.
- Farmington Hills-North Farmington and Farmington Hills-Harrison High Schools in girls golf.

Caro High School (Regulation I, Sections 1 & 8) – A request to waive the enrollment and current academic credit record regulations was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who is taking less than 66 percent of full credit load potential for a full-time student (four of seven classes) due to the return of cancer. The student is on track to graduate and would be required to pass all four classes in weekly academic checks.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Comstock High School (Regulation I, Sections 7 & 9) – A request to waive the previous academic credit record and transfer portions of the eligibility regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who was the victim of assault in October 2011 which resulted in harassment by the suspect, friends and relatives of a 17 year old student later convicted of criminal sexual conduct in this case. Police reports were filed four times by the student. The student stopped coming to school, was unable to do school work from home, and changed schools on March 5, 2012, attending Otsego High School for three school days before reenrolling at Comstock on March 14, 2012. The student has two credits of the four necessary to achieve a satisfactory previous trimester record for the second trimester of 2011-12.

The Executive Committee approved the request to waive both sections of the eligibility regulation for this student.

Adrian High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who attended Adrian High School for the 9th grade in 2009-10 while living with his grandmother. For the 2010-11 school year, until April 2012, the student lived in Minnesota with an aunt and uncle. The student has returned to live with his grandmother in Adrian, enrolling on April 9, 2012. The student has not seen his mother in six years. The student's father lives in East Lansing and sees the student on weekends.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Bangor High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student whose parents began divorce proceedings in the summer of 2011 at which time the student moved to an aunt and uncle in California. In February 2012, the student moved to her mother's home in Bangor. The father lives in Blanchard. The student was enrolled at Great Lakes Adventist Academy for the 9th and 10th grades while living in Blanchard before moving to California.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Big Rapids High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student who previously attended Big Rapids-Crossroads Charter Academy and participated in basketball. The student enrolled at Big Rapids High School on Feb. 23, 2012, for academic opportunities.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Comstock Park High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who previously attended Grand Rapids-Northview High School before enrolling at Comstock Park on March 12, 2012. The student's change of enrollment was delayed beyond the fourth Friday of February because of the student's illnesses and mother's hospitalization.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91st school day of enrollment at Comstock Park High School beginning March 12, 2012.

Fraser High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who attended Fraser-Richards Middle School, where the mother is a teacher, through the 8th-grade before enrolling at her high school of residence, Macomb-L'Anse Creuse North, to begin the 9th grade in the 2010-11 school year. Due to treatment from a coach of two sports in which she participated, the student enrolled at Fraser High School to begin the second semester of 2011-12.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Harbor Springs-Harbor Light Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student who previously attended Indian River-Inland Lakes High School until enrolling at Harbor Light Christian on March 7, 2012. The student previously participated in athletics at Inland Lakes.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91st school day of enrollment at Harbor Light Christian High School beginning March 7, 2012.

Harper Woods High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who began the 9th grade at Harper Woods and attended St. Clair Shores-Lakeview High School from Jan. 27-Feb. 29, 2012, until reenrolling at Harper Woods on March 1, 2012. The student previously participated in athletics at Harper Woods.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91st school day of enrollment at Harper Woods High School beginning March 1, 2012.

Midland-H. H. Dow High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student whose parents, as teenagers, never married and whose mother died when he was seven. The student has lived in Houghton Lake with his maternal grandparents since birth; the student's father is not able to care for the student. The maternal grandfather has become ill and the student will be moving to the residence of his paternal grandparents in the Midland-Dow attendance area and enrolling to begin the 12th-grade and the 2012-13 school year in September 2012.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for this one time only under the transfer regulation.

Pigeon—Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port Laker High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who attended Carsonville-Port Sanilac High School, participated in athletics, and has moved with his family to a home in Pigeon which is located in the Caseville School District. The student enrolled at Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port High School on Feb. 29, 2012.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for immediate eligibility. Waiver was approved effective with the student's 91st school day of enrollment at Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port Laker High School beginning Feb. 29, 2012.

Portland-St. Patrick High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student who previously attended Manistee High School while living with her parents before moving to her aunt and uncle's home in Portland and enrolling at St. Patrick High School on March 12, 2012. The student had difficulties with students at her former high school which are under investigation.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for immediate eligibility. If the student did not previously participate in high school athletics, waiver is approved at the subvarsity level until the student's 91st school day of enrollment at Portland-St. Patrick High School beginning March 12, 2012. If the student has participated previously, waiver is approved at any level effective with the student's 91st school day of enrollment at Portland-St. Patrick High School.

Southfield Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student who previously attended Beverly Hills-Groves High School and participated in athletics before enrolling at Southfield Christian High School on Feb. 27, 2012.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91st school day of enrollment at Southfield Christian High School beginning Feb. 27, 2012.

Troy-Athens High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student who attended Troy Schools in K-8 before enrolling to begin the 9th grade at Detroit-U of D Jesuit High School where he participated in athletics. The student enrolled at Troy-Athens on Jan. 30, 2012, preferring the social climate of his former school district.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Wixom-St. Catherine of Siena Academy High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student who previously attended Livonia-Ladywood High School and participated in athletics before enrolling at St. Catherine on March 19, 2012, preferring the new school's environment.

The Executive Committee did not approve 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 9th- or 10th-grade students (after entering 9th grade, before completing 10th 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
Dansville	9	Dansville, Home School	Jan. 31, 2012	Remainder of 11-12 school year
Niles-Brandywine	9	South Bend-Washington	Jan. 23, 2012	Remainder of 11-12 school year

Flint-Michigan School for the Deaf (Regulation II, Section 6) – A request to waive the travel limitation was made to allow Michigan School for the Deaf to participate in the Kentucky Spike-Out Volleyball tournament on Sept. 14-15, 2012, in Danville, Kentucky. Six deaf schools in five states, including Michigan, are invited to attend.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver provided this event is limited to schools for deaf students only.

Commerce-Walled Lake Northern High School (Regulation II, Section 11[H]) – Pursuant to Interpretation 236, a request to waive the three-/four-player rule for the 2012-13 school year was made on behalf of two swimming & diving coaches: (1) the head girls swimming & diving coach for whom a waiver was approved in 2011-12; and (2) an assistant boys swimming & diving coach who is also a full-time student. Both coaches' only income is from coaching full time for the Lakes Area Tridents Swim Club or with the high school. The Tridents program has approximately 80 participants ages 6-18 years old from three neighboring Catholic grade schools and five high schools or districts including Walled Lake (Farmington Hills-Mercy, Livonia-Ladywood, Novi-Detroit Catholic Central, Highland-Milford and White Lake-Lakeland.) Thirteen Walled Lake Northern students grades 9-12 are involved in the Tridents swim program.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for these swimming & diving coaches for the 2012-13 school year.

Grosse Pointe North High School (Regulation II, Section 11[H]) – Pursuant to Interpretation 236, a request to waive the three-/four-player rule for the 2012-13 school year was made on behalf of the boys and girls swimming & diving coach who is employed full time by the Pointe Aquatics Club. The Pointe Aquatics Club will have approximately 80 participants, 18 who are 7th-12th graders and 62 who are below the 6th grade. Twelve of the 7th-12th graders do not attend Grosse Pointe Schools but are enrolled at six other schools: Grosse Pointe Woods-University Liggett, Grosse Pointe-St. Paul and Our Lady Star of the Sea Schools, Warren-DeLaSalle, Harrison Township-L’Anse Creuse and Clinton Township-St. Thelca. Six of the participants are Grosse Pointe Public Schools students, grades 7-12. A similar request has been granted for this coach and program annually since 2006.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for this boys and girls swimming & diving coach for the 2012-13 school year.

Hartland High School (Regulation II, Section 11[H]) – Pursuant to Interpretation 236, a request to waive the three-/four-player rule for the 2012-13 school year was made on behalf of the head girls varsity swimming coach who is employed full time by the Hurricane Swim Club and is also a year-round water safety instructor and lesson coordinator for Hartland Community Education. The Hurricane Swim Club is open to students ages 5-18 and anticipates 100-150 participants from six school districts including Hartland (Brighton, Linden, Milford, Howell and Fenton). It is estimated that 20-25 of the participants are Hartland students grades 7-12. A request for this coach and this program was approved in 2011-12.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for this girls swimming & diving coach for the 2012-13 school year.

Holland High School (Regulation II, Section 11[H]) – Pursuant to Interpretation 236, a request to waive the three-(or four-)player rule for the 2012-13 school year was made on behalf of the head boys and girls varsity swimming coach who is also employed full time by the Holland Community Aquatics Center as club coach and supervisor of all competitive programs. The program is open to the general public ages 5-24 and anticipates 330 participants in 2012-13 of which 33 are Holland students grades 7-12. The program involves students from 15 schools or districts including Holland. Approval has been granted for this coach and this program in past years.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for this boys and girls swimming & diving coach for the 2012-13 school year.

Regulation III, Section 1(C) – Pursuant to 2011-12 *Handbook* Interpretation 261, the Executive Committee approved waiver of the enrollment regulation for the following junior high/middle schools to permit 6th-grade students to participate with and against 7th and/or 8th graders for the sports listed in the 2011-12 school year only (unless otherwise indicated below).

Junior High/ Middle School	Sport(s)	High School Enrollment	Middle School Enrollment
Cooks-Big Bay de Noc	boys & girls track (11-12 & 12-13), boys & girls basketball	97	39 7 th & 8 th graders
DeTour	girls volleyball, boys & girls basketball, boys & girls track, boys & girls golf	63	29 7 th & 8 th graders

Hillman Junior High School (Regulation III, Section 1[C]) – Pursuant to 2011-12 *Handbook* Interpretation 261, a request was made to waive the enrollment regulation to permit 6th-grade students to participate with and against 7th and/or 8th graders in boys and girls track & field for the 2011-12 school year. The 2012-13 high school enrollment is 145 students; there are currently 82 7th and 8th graders enrolled at Hillman Junior High School.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for track & field for spring 2012.

Battle Creek-Lakeview, Northwestern and Springfield Middle Schools and Sturgis Middle School (Regulation IV, Section 10[B]) – A request was made by these four member middle schools to permit the start of middle school football practice one week earlier, on Aug. 20, 2012. Their league consists of four non-school “rocket” football teams which begin practice one week earlier than MHSAA school teams. Starting practice on Aug. 20 would allow for three days of conditioning, and a scrimmage with nine days of practice prior. The last game would be on the same date of Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2012. Current regulations call for practices starting on the fourth Friday of August (Aug. 27, 2012).

The Executive Committee did not approve the request.

Detroit-Westside Christian Academy (Regulation V, Section 4[A]) – A request was made to amend the penalty assessed by the executive director that Westside Christian Academy be placed on probation and removed from the 2012-13 Boys Basketball Tournament. In addition, the school must submit completed New Student Transfer Information Forms and receive MHSAA advance approval for all new students prior to participation in a scrimmage or game in 2012-13. In 2011-12 there were three instances where Westside Christian students participated while ineligible. Two students were not enrolled in shared-time courses, resulting in forfeiture of the first football game. An ineligible transfer student participated in three basketball games prior to the MHSAA tournament, and a fifth-year senior participated the entire season and in three games of the 2011-12 Boys Basketball Tournament before it was discovered and the team withdrawn from the tournament on the eve of the Regional final.

The Executive Committee took note of the history of student eligibility violations at this school, as well as their occurrence during an MHSAA tournament; and the committee affirmed the action of the executive director.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Executive Committee are scheduled for Sunday, May 6, 2012, at 8:30 a.m. in Gaylord (Representative Council meeting follows); Wednesday, June 13, 2012, at 9 a.m. in East Lansing; Wednesday, Aug. 8, 2012, at 9 a.m. in East Lansing; Tuesday, Aug. 28, 2012, at 9 a.m. in East Lansing; Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2012, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2012, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2012, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; and Thursday, Dec. 6, 2012, at 1:30 p.m. in East Lansing.