

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, April 20, 2016

Members Present:

Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
Fred Smith, Benton Harbor
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 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 postseason 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.

Lansing Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 1) – A request to waive the enrollment regulation was made on behalf of an incoming 9th-grade student who resides in Holt and has attended Lansing Christian Schools since preschool. The student wants to play football and attend Lansing Christian for the 9th grade in 2016-17, but Lansing Christian does not sponsor a football team. Lansing Christian was in a cooperative program which was dissolved by the primary school years ago. The school requested eligibility at Holt High School where the student resides.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Baraga and L'Anse High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of boys and girls cross country to a cooperative program that currently exists between these schools in boys and girls bowling, boys and girls golf and ice hockey. The combined enrollment of 382 students will place a new team in the Boys and Girls Division 1 Upper Peninsula Cross Country Tournaments. Baraga sponsored cross country previously and will be the primary school. Support from the West Pac Conference was submitted.

Carney-Nadeau and Wilson-Nah Tah Wahsh PSA High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in 8-player football between these two teams whose combined 2016-17 enrollment is 150 students. Neither school sponsored football previously; Carney-Nadeau will be the primary school. Support from the Western Eight Conference was submitted.

Coldwater and Quincy High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in girls and boys swimming & diving between these two schools whose combined 2016-17 enrollment of 1,310 students will place a new team in the Division 3 tournaments. Coldwater will be the primary school. Support from four future opponents was received.

Erie-Mason and Ida High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of girls swimming & diving to a cooperative program that exists between these two schools in boys swimming & diving. The combined 2016-17 enrollment of 915 students will continue placement of a team in the Division 3 tournament. Erie-Mason will be the primary school. Support from the Southern Michigan Independent Swim League was submitted.

Farmington and Farmington-Hills Harrison 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 of the same district in boys and girls bowling and boys swimming & diving. The combined 2016-17 enrollment of 2,355 students will place a new team in the Division 1 tournament. Both schools sponsored the sport previously. Farmington will be the primary school. Support from the Oakland Activities Association was submitted.

Farmington, Farmington Hills-North Farmington and Farmington Hills-Harrison High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F-3]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of Harrison to a cooperative program in girls gymnastics which currently exists between Farmington and North Farmington. The request to form a cooperative program in excess of the 3,500-student enrollment limit was made in accordance with the provision of this section because Harrison dropped gymnastics in the previous year due to low participation. The combined 2016-17 enrollment will be 3,628 students. The program will be allowed to operate for three years and must be under 3,500 students combined enrollment to begin the 2019-20 school year. Harrison is planning on a phased-in closing of the school in three school years. Farmington will continue as the primary school. Support from the Oakland Activities Association was submitted.

Gaylord-St. Mary, Alba and Mancelona-North Central Academy High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of North Central Academy, a new MHSAA member school as of March 23, 2016, to an 11-player football cooperative program which exists between St. Mary and Alba. The combined 2016-17 enrollment will be 170 students. St. Mary will continue as the primary school. Support from the newly established Northern Michigan Football Conference was submitted.

Iron River-West Iron County and Crystal Falls-Forest Park 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 enrollment of 401 students will place a new team in the Division 1 Upper Peninsula tournaments. West Iron County sponsored cross country previously and will be the primary school. Support from the West Pac Conference was submitted.

Maple City-Glen Lake, Glen Arbor-The Leelanau School, Lake Leelanau-St. Mary, Leland and Suttons Bay High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of Suttons Bay to a cooperative program in boys tennis which exists among the other four schools and whose combined 2016-17 enrollment of 628 students will continue placement of a team in the Division 4 tournament. Glen Lake will continue as the primary school. Support from four future opponents was submitted.

North Muskegon and Muskegon Catholic Central High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of boys tennis to a cooperative program which exists between these two schools in girls golf and whose combined 2016-17 enrollment of 378 students will continue placement of one team in the Division 4 tournament. Both schools sponsored boys tennis previously; North Muskegon will be the primary school. Support from four future opponents was submitted.

Saginaw-Nouvel Catholic Central and Bay City-All Saints Central High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys tennis between these two schools whose combined enrollment of 352 students will place a new team in the Division 3 tournament. Nouvel sponsored boys tennis previously and will be the primary school. Support from six future opponents was submitted.

Westland-Lutheran Westland and Canton-Plymouth Christian Academy High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved an 11-player football cooperative program between these two schools whose combined 2016-17 enrollment will be 341 students. Lutheran Westland sponsored football previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference was submitted.

Wyoming-Tri-unity Christian and Holland-Calvary High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in 8-player football between these two schools whose combined enrollment is 168 students. Tri-unity sponsored 11-player football previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Midwest Central Michigan 8 Player Football Conference was submitted.

Cooperative Program Renewals (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) –

- a. Pursuant to instructions revised by the Representative Council in December 2006, the MHSAA staff identified Cooperative Team Renewal Forms that required Executive Committee review, including those involving Class A or B schools or three or more schools of any size which indicate large numbers of students trying out or being cut, or a significant win/loss record. All agreements include conference approvals. The Executive Committee reviewed the following programs:

- None at this time

- b. 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 continuation of the following programs:

- Farmington and Farmington Hills-Harrison in Boys and Girls Bowling
- Farmington Hills-North Farmington and Farmington Hills-Harrison in Girls Golf

Allen Park-Cabrini High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 62 (closest nonpublic school) was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who moved with her mother to Ireland due to a job assignment and attended school from January to March before returning to the family's residence in Michigan to live with her father and an older brother who attends Cabrini. The student reenrolled at Cabrini on April 4, 2016. Cabrini is not the closest nonpublic school to the residence but is the former school as the student attended there for the 9th grade and first half of her 10th grade.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Hart High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 62 (public school of residence) was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who is moving between parents who never married from her mother's home in the Pinconning School District to her father's home in the Shelby School District. The student has three step-siblings who have attended Hart Schools for several years. The student enrolled at Hart on April 11, 2016. An otherwise completed Educational Transfer Form is in process.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Lansing Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who attended East Lansing Schools his entire career and will be enrolling at Lansing Christian to begin the 2016-17 school year because of difficulties with administration and staff at the former school. The student wishes to continue participation in cross country.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Marcellus High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who previously attended Dowagiac, participated in athletics and enrolled at Marcellus on Feb. 18, 2016 because of conflicts with another student at the former school, including an assault that led to a court appearance and issuance of a Personal Protection Order.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Ottawa Lake-Whiteford 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 previously attended Temperance-Bedford and enrolled at Whiteford on March 8, 2016.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91st school day of enrollment at Whiteford High School starting March 8, 2016.

Traverse City-St. Francis High School (Regulation I, Section 9[C]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility in alpine skiing was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who previously attended Grand Traverse Academy and participated in the skiing cooperative program between these two schools, Elk Rapids and Central Lake. Support from the former school was presented.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for alpine skiing only until the start of the second semester of the 2016-17 school year.

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
Hart	9	Owensville, MO	Dec. 14, 2015	Remainder of 15-16 school year
Sparta	9	Watervliet	Mar. 17, 2016	Remainder of 15-16 school year
Traverse City-Grand Traverse Academy	10	Traverse City Central	Feb. 2, 2016	Remainder of 15-16 school year

Midland High School and Midland-Jefferson Middle School (Regulation II, Section 11[H]) – Pursuant to Interpretation 241, a request to waive the four-player rule for the 2016-17 school year was made on behalf of the head girls swimming & diving coach who is an elementary art teacher and employed as a coach of an age group swim club, the Midland Dolphins. The coach is in her second year as the high school girls head coach selected from a limited pool of coaching candidates in 2015. Her primary non-school responsibilities are to beginning swimmers and non-competitive middle school age students who practice approximately four hours per week. She is also the coach of the Jefferson Middle School team, as permitted under Interpretation 242. The Dolphins program has 150-200 swimmers age 5-18 and anticipates 40-50 Midland students in grades 7-12. Students from four school districts including Midland are involved in the Dolphins program: Bay City, Bullock Creek and Free-land. While non-school swimming is not the coach's primary source of income, the income is necessary to support the coach's family. The Executive Committee approved this waiver for this coach for the 2015-16 school year.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for this head girls swimming coach for the 2016-17 school year.

Midland-Northeast Middle School (Regulation III, Section 7) – A request to waive the previous academic credit record regulation was made on behalf of an 8th-grade student who is one course short of 50 percent of full credit load potential for a full-time middle school student. Near the start of the 2015-16 school year, the student began showing signs of a severe illness and has been in treatment. The student was in homebound status for a time and has recently returned to the classroom. The student wishes to run track.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Executive Committee are scheduled for Sunday, May 1, 2016, at 10:30 am in Glen Arbor (Representative Council follows at 1 pm); and Wednesday, June 15, 2016, at 9 am in East Lansing.