

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, April 24, 2018

Members Present:

Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
Pete Ryan, Saginaw
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Karen Leinaar, Adrian
Pat Watson, West Bloomfield

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 MHSAA is a private, nonprofit corporation, made up of voluntary membership; it is neither a state agency nor a court of law, and is not bound by any particular legal standard of review or burden of proof when applying its Regulations or while administering an internal appeal. The *MHSAA Handbook* may identify which party bears the burden of proof, depending on the particular situation or if a particular Regulation is at issue. The MHSAA staff, its Executive Committee, or its Representative Council, where appropriate, shall determine whether the circumstances in each situation, as presented to the MHSAA, warrant application or waiver of a particular Regulation or Interpretation. To make that determination, the MHSAA considers what a reasonable person given the same information would decide.

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 agreement 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.

Burt Lake-Northern Michigan Christian Academy, Harbor Springs-Harbor Light Christian and Petoskey-St. Michael Academy High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of Northern Michigan Christian Academy to a cooperative agreement between the other two schools in boys soccer (varsity only). The combined 2018-19 enrollment of 107 students will continue placement of a team in the Division 4 tournament. Northern Michigan Christian will become the primary school. Support from the Northern Michigan Soccer League was submitted.

Ishpeming-Westwood and Republic-Michigamme High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of 11-player football ((varsity and JV) to a cooperative program that exists between these two schools in girls softball. The combined 2018-19 enrollment is 391 students. Ishpeming-Westwood sponsored football previously and will be the primary school. Republic-Michigamme was in a cooperative agreement with Ishpeming High School which has dissolved. Support from the West Pac Conference was submitted.

Lansing Christian, Lansing-New Covenant Christian and Leslie High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of New Covenant Christian to a cooperative agreement in boys tennis (varsity and JV) which exists between Lansing Christian and Leslie. The combined 2018-19 enrollment of 587 students will continue placement of a team in the Division 4 tournament. Lansing Christian will continue as the primary school. Support from the Greater Lansing Athletic Conference was submitted.

Muskegon Catholic Central and Muskegon-Western Michigan Christian High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in 11-player football (varsity, and JV tentative) between these two schools whose combined enrollment is 402 students. Muskegon Catholic Central sponsored football previously; Western Michigan Christian was in a cooperative program with North Muskegon that has dissolved. Muskegon Catholic Central will be the primary school. Support from the Lakes 8 Activities Conference was submitted.

Onsted and Blissfield High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E-1]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program between these schools in girls softball at the JV level only. The combined enrollment will be 836 students. Onsted will be the primary school. Support from the Lenawee County Athletic Association was submitted.

Ovid-Elsie and Ashley High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of varsity boys soccer to a cooperative program that exists between these two schools in wrestling and JV boys soccer. The combined 2018-19 enrollment of 547 students will continue placement of a team in the Division 3 tournament. Ovid-Elsie sponsored boys soccer previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Tri Valley Conference was submitted.

Saginaw-Arthur Hill and Saginaw High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E-2]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of varsity level only teams in wrestling and boys and girls bowling to a cooperative program that exists between these schools of the same district in boys and girls soccer under an experiment which allows a multi-school district to form a cooperative program in excess of the enrollment cap. These programs may not extend beyond the 2018-19 school year without additional Representative Council action. The schools currently are in a program in boys and girls tennis and boys and girls soccer. Arthur Hill will be the primary school. The combined 2018-19 enrollment of 1,301 students will place a new team in the Division 1 tournament from Division 3 in wrestling. Support from the Saginaw Valley League was submitted.

Saginaw-Arthur Hill, Saginaw and Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E-2]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of Arthur Hill to a cooperative program that exists between these schools of the same district in boys and girls cross country under an experiment which allows a multi-school district to form a cooperative program in excess of the enrollment cap. These programs may not extend beyond the 2018-19 school year without additional Representative Council action. Arthur Hill will become the primary school. The combined 2018-19 enrollment of 1,517 students will place new teams in Division 1 tournaments from Division 2. Support from the Saginaw Valley League was submitted.

Suttons Bay, Lake Leelanau-St. Mary and Northport High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of Suttons Bay to a cooperative program which currently exists between Northport and St. Mary in varsity girls volleyball. The program will also include JV girls volleyball. Suttons Bay sponsored volleyball previously and will become the new primary school. The combined 2018-19 enrollment of 235 students will place a new team in the Division 3 tournament and two fewer teams in the Division 4 tournament. Support from the Northwest Conference was submitted.

Alanson-Littlefield 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 12th-grade student who lived with her father and attended Kalamazoo Central and has moved to the residence of her mother in Pellston. The student attended Alanson Schools from 2008-2013 prior to moving to Kalamazoo and has two siblings who have been enrolled in Alanson for several years. The student's parents never married. An otherwise completed Educational Transfer Form is in process.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Beverly Hills-Detroit Country Day High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity only level was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student who attended Birmingham-Seaholm and enrolled at Detroit Country Day in February 2018 because of academic and curriculum concerns at the previous school. The student participated in football at Seaholm and has been practicing with the JV lacrosse team this spring.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

McBain High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student whose father's job is relocating for a second time in two years, this time from Bay City to South Lyon. The father recently remarried, causing the student to move from Howell to Bay City, enrolling at Bay City Western High School in the fall of 2016. The student experienced difficulty in the transition to a new home and family; and the student has moved into the home of his grandparents in McBain, enrolling on March 20, 2018.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver with the condition that the student may not utilize any Exceptions to the Transfer Rule in the future.

Montague High School (Regulation I, Section 9[A & F]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 62 (public school of residence) was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student whose family experienced the death of three grandparents in 8 months. Unable to bear living in the same home where they cared for the grandparents, the family sold their home in Muskegon-Oakridge and moved to their cottage in Hart. While at Oakridge, the student has been attending the Allied Health Program of the Muskegon Career Technological Center. Hart does not participate in this program. The closest school to their home in Hart that grants credit and participates in the MCTC is Montague. The student enrolled at Montague on Feb. 27, 2018.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Onsted High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who was pregnant and had a full and complete residential change into Onsted over the summer of 2017. To begin the 2017-18 school year, the student enrolled in Great Lakes Virtual Academy until her child was born and then enrolled at Onsted on Jan. 29, 2018. The student attended Parma-Western for the 9th and 10th grades.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Rockford High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who was raised by his grandparents in Pentwater since he was one year old. The grandmother died when the student was 12 years old and the student moved in with a family in Pentwater and participated in track while in the 9th grade. To begin the 10th grade, the student lived with a family in Hart but did not begin school until mid-semester, enrolling in online classes but not completing them. The student moved in with a family in Rockford in November 2017 to begin the second trimester and has now met academic eligibility standards. The student's status under the maximum semesters regulation is being reviewed by the school.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Royal Oak-Shrine Catholic High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade international student present in the US on an F-1 visa. The student's agency that originally placed the student at Shrine High School in the 2015-16 school year was not an Approved International Student Program at that time, but the agency has obtained CSIET listing for the 2018-19 school year – the student's 12th grade at Shrine. The student came to Shrine in the 7th grade and has lived with the same host family his entire stay and played CYO athletics. The student participated while ineligible in the first semester of the 9th grade as well in early soccer games in his 10th and 11th grades, which the school has forfeited.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Traverse City-St. Francis High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who attended Catholic schools in Nevada through the 9th grade while living with her parents who are divorcing. To begin the 2017-18 school year, the student moved to the home of an uncle in the Traverse City Central attendance area and enrolled at Central. The mother completed her job in Nevada and moved to another home in the Central attendance area. The student returned to live with her mother in that home. Preferring to return to a Catholic school, the student enrolled at St. Francis after six weeks at Traverse City Central, on Oct. 18, 2017. St. Francis is not the closest nonpublic school but is the closest Catholic school to the home of the mother and student. The divorce will be final in July 2018. The student played 9th-grade soccer in Nevada.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Union City High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who attended Union City Schools his entire career until January 2018 when the student moved to Ohio with his younger sister and mother who had taken a job in Ohio. The father remained in Union City until he found a job in Ohio. The student was not happy in Ohio, returned to his father in Union City, and reenrolled at Union City High School on March 27, 2018. The mother and middle school age sister who has had some medical concerns remain in Ohio. The student did not participate in sports in Ohio.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Yale High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student who began the 2017-18 school year at Yale and played football. The student lived with his father, his father’s girlfriend and her children in Peck. The student had difficulties with another student at Yale and transferred to Peck in December 2017. The student has left the father’s home due to conflicts with the girlfriend’s children that resulted in a court order mandating that the children cannot live together. The student is now residing with his grandmother in Yale. The student reenrolled at Yale on March 5, 2018, and seeks to play JV football this fall.

The Executive Committee tabled 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
Manchester	9	Napoleon	Jan. 29, 2018	Remainder of 17-18 school year
Ovid-Elsie	9	Chesaning	Jan. 22, 2018	Remainder of 17-18 school year

Grand Rapids-Catholic Central High School (Regulation I, Section 12[C]) – A request to waive the one-year period of ineligibility under the Limited Team Membership regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who participated in the U.S. Army All-Star game in February 2018. The student gained full permission from the school to attend, is in good academic standing, but did not provide the MHSAA a letter from the school principal approving participation 30 days prior to the event. The student has never participated previously in baseball and is interested in being on the baseball team this spring.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Inclement Spring Weather (Regulation II, Sections 10 & 15) – In communication with a number of schools, MHSAA staff sought direction regarding schools which may not be able to complete the minimum of four required contests to be eligible for the MHSAA tournament. Other requests included permitting additional soccer and lacrosse games to be played in a week (Monday-Sunday) and permitting additional multi-team tournaments (currently two are allowed in soccer and lacrosse).

The Executive Committee approved the following policies and procedures for the remainder of the 2017-18 school year:

“As a result of poor weather and numerous rescheduling difficulties for member schools, the MHSAA Executive Committee has approved two actions effective for 2018 spring sports only:

- “1. **Regulation II, Section 10(A) 10 and 12 – Limitations of Competition:** Allowed up to two additional multi-team tournament dates in girls soccer, boys lacrosse and girls lacrosse – each counting within the 18 dates permitted in a season. Multi-team events must be held on non-school days (soccer and lacrosse) or days not followed by school (lacrosse) and follow all stipulations set forth under the regulations, including that these dates count as one of the 18 allowed in a season and three allowed dates of competition in a week (Monday through Sunday). There may be no more than two other games during a week (Monday through Sunday) when a multi-team event is played. The limits apply to both teams and individuals. **Consult page 66 of the 2017-18 MHSAA Handbook for all specifics.**
- “2. **Regulation II, Section 15(B) – MHSAA Tournament Condition:** For all schools and spring sports, the Executive Committee waived the requirement that a school team must have participated in four contests against MHSAA member schools this season prior to the MHSAA tournament.”

East Grand Rapids High School (Regulation II, Section 11[H]) – Pursuant to Interpretation 241, a request to waive the four-player rule for the 2018-19 school year was made on behalf of the assistant boys and girls swimming & diving coach who is employed full-time by the East Grand Rapids Aquatics USA Swim Club. The program will have over 260 participants ages 6-18 of which approximately 100 are East Grand Rapids students in grades 7-12. Approximately 40 participants come from four other schools or districts (Byron Center, Grand Rapids-Catholic Central, Grand Rapids Christian and Forest Hills). A similar request has been approved for this coach and program since 2012-13.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for this coach for the 2018-19 school year only.

Grand Blanc-East, Grand Blanc-West and Grand Blanc-Perry Innovation Center Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys and girls swimming & diving (7th and 8th grades combined) between these three member middle schools of the same district. Grand Blanc East sponsored the sports previously and will be the primary school. Note: The school district reported violations of regulations as teams were operating in swimming & diving without the required approval of a cooperative agreement and two 6th-grade students from the newly opened Perry Innovation Center participated in cross country and wrestling without MHSAA membership or cooperative agreement approvals. This agreement and the two companion agreements below bring the school into compliance. The original problem occurred when Grand Blanc Middle School split into two schools in 2006 and continued to sponsor one sports team between the two schools.

Grand Blanc-East and Grand Blanc-Perry Innovation Center Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in several sports between these three member middle schools of the same district: boys and girls cross country and wrestling (6th, 7th and 8th grades combined); and football, girls basketball and girls volleyball (one 7th-grade only team and one 8th-grade only team). East Middle School sponsored the sports previously and will be the primary school.

Grand Blanc-West Middle School, and Grand Blanc-Perry Innovation Center Middle School (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in several sports between these two member middle schools of the same district: boys basketball, baseball and girls softball (one 7th-grade only team and one 8th-grade only team); boys and girls track & field (6th, 7th and 8th grades combined); and girls competitive cheer (7th and 8th grades combined). West Middle School sponsored the sports previously and will be the primary school.

Representative Council Agenda – The Executive Committee reviewed the agenda for the May 6-7, 2018 Representative Council Meeting in Gaylord.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Executive Committee are scheduled for Sunday, May 6, 2018, at 10:30 a.m. in Gaylord (Representative Council meeting follows); Wednesday, June 13, 2018, at 9 a.m. in East Lansing; Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2018, at 9 a.m. in East Lansing; Wednesday, Aug. 22, 2018, at 9 a.m. in East Lansing; Wednesday, Sept. 5, 2018, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2018, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2018, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; Thursday, Nov. 29, 2018, at 1:30 p.m. in East Lansing (Representative Council meeting next day); and Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019, at 1 p.m. in East Lansing (following Classification Committee meeting).