

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, August 4, 2021

Members Present:

Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
Steve Newkirk, Clare
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Kris Isom, Adrian
Alex Tiseo, Marquette

Staff Members Present:

Tom Rashid
Mark Uyl (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 vacated.

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.

Summary of 2020-21 Waivers – During the 2020-21 program year, there were 269 requests by member schools to waive regulations (versus 354 in 2019-20, 448 in 2018-19, 461 in 2017-18, 420 in 2016-17, 453 in 2015-16, 467 in 2014-15, 449 in 2013-14, 522 in 2012-13, 506 in 2011-12 and 462 in 2010-11). Of those requests, 198 were approved by the Executive Committee (versus 271 in 2019-20, 355 in 2018-19, 379 in 2017-18, 350 in 2016-17, 381 in 2015-16, 362 in 2014-15, 345 in 2013-14, 416 in 2012-13, 386 in 2011-12 and 337 in 2010-11). Of the total, 167 requests involved the transfer regulation (versus 226 in 2019-20, 315 in 2018-19, 322 in 2017-18, 285 in 2016-17, 291 in 2015-16, 300 in 2014-15, 316 in 2013-14, 338 in 2012-13, 352 in 2011-12 and 320 in 2010-11). Of those involving the transfer regulation, 106 were approved (153 in 2019-20, 238 in 2018-19, 253 in 2017-18, 234 in 2016-17, 224 in 2015-16, 213 in 2014-15, 229 in 2013-14, 259 in 2012-13, 265 in 2011-12 and 219 in 2010-11).

Rationale for Transfer Regulation – The following rationale for the transfer regulation, first established by the Executive Committee on Aug. 6, 1985 and last reviewed Aug. 5, 2020, was reaffirmed:

- a. The rule tends to insure equality of competition in that each school plays students who have been in that school and established their eligibility in that school.
- b. The rule tends to prevent students from "jumping" from one school to another.
- c. The rule prevents the "bumping" of students who have previously gained eligibility in a school system by persons coming from outside the school system.
- d. The rule tends to prevent interscholastic athletic recruiting.
- e. The rule tends to prevent or discourage dominance of one sport at one school with a successful program, i.e., the concentration of excellent baseball players at one school to the detriment of surrounding schools through transfers and to the detriment of the natural school population and ability mix.
- f. The rule tends to create and maintain stability in that age group, i.e., it promotes team stability and teamwork expectation fulfillment.
- g. The rule is designed to discourage parents from "school shopping" for athletic purposes.
- h. The rule is consistent with educational philosophy of going to school for academics first and athletics second.
- i. It eliminates family financial status from becoming a factor on eligibility, thus making a uniform rule for all students across the state of Michigan (i.e., tuition and millage considerations).
- j. It tends to encourage competition between nonpublic and public schools, rather than discourage that competition.
- k. It tends to reduce friction or threat of students changing schools because of problems they may have created or because of their misconduct, etc.

Allen Park-Cabrini and Riverview High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F-1]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program between these two schools in ice hockey (varsity only). Cabrini had previously been in a cooperative program with Belleville and Dearborn Heights-Annapolis which is dissolving. The combined 2021-22 enrollment is 1,139 students and will move one team from Division 2 to Division 3. Cabrini will be the primary school. Support from the Catholic High School League was submitted.

Bay City Central, Freeland and Frankenmuth High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F-1]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys lacrosse (varsity and JV) between these three schools whose combined enrollment of 2,445 students will move one team from Division 2 into Division 1. Bay City Central sponsored boys lacrosse previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Saginaw Valley League was submitted.

Boyne City and Charlevoix High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys and girls skiing (varsity only) between these two schools whose combined enrollment is 719 students. Boyne City will be the primary school. Support from the Lake Michigan Conference was submitted.

Fowlerville, Byron Area, Chelsea, Perry and Pinckney High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F-1]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of Chelsea to a cooperative program in girls gymnastics (varsity and JV) which has existed among the other schools and whose combined enrollment will be 3,078 students. Fowlerville will remain the primary school. Support from the Capital Area Activities Conference was submitted.

Tecumseh, Brooklyn-Columbia Central and Manchester High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F-1]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of Columbia Central to a cooperative program in girls gymnastics (varsity only) between the other two schools. The combined enrollment will be 1,428 students. Tecumseh will remain the primary school. Support from the South Central Gymnastics League was submitted.

Wixom-St. Catherine of Siena Academy and Ann Arbor-Rudolf Steiner High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program between these schools in girls golf (varsity only). The combined enrollment of 583 students will move one team from Division 4 to Division 3. St. Catherine sponsored the sport previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Catholic High School League was submitted.

Adrian High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who previously attended Lenawee Christian where her father was contractually obligated to have his children enroll. The student participated in cross country, JV basketball and track & field during the 2020-21 school year before enrolling at Adrian High School, the school of residence, to begin the 2021-22 school year. The father is no longer employed by the former school.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Ann Arbor-Father Gabriel Richard High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who experienced bullying through social media while a student, football and hockey player at Chelsea High School in the 9th grade, from October 2020 to April 2021. The student's grades began to fail and he became withdrawn and was socially isolated.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

AuGres-Sims High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who previously attended Standish-Sterling High School and participated in five volleyball dates of competition before enrolling at AuGres-Sims on Jan. 18, 2021.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver. The student will be withheld from the first five varsity volleyball days of competition of the 2021 season.

Battle Creek-Lakeview High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of 12th-grade sisters who attended Battle Creek-St. Philip for the 9th and 10th grades and were unhappy with the former school's curriculum. In addition, due to the pandemic, the students' family experienced financial hardships. The students enrolled on Nov. 9, 2020 at their school of residence in state-mandated online courses. The students participated in cross country at the former school.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Blissfield High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who participated in football, basketball and baseball while a student at Tecumseh High School where he experienced health challenges. The student intends to enroll at Blissfield to begin the 2021-22 school year. Support for eligibility was submitted by the former school.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Bloomfield Hills-Brother Rice High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who played in three 9th-grade soccer games while a student at Detroit-U of D Jesuit. The student enrolled at Brother Rice on Jan. 4, 2021. The request was for eligibility after three contests in 2021-22.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver. The student will be withheld from the first three boys soccer contests of the 2021 season.

Bloomfield Hills-Marian High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who previously participated in girls volleyball while attending Ann Arbor-Pioneer in remote learning for the 2020-21 school year. The student was diagnosed with a learning disability in April 2021 and will be enrolling at Marian to join with familiar students she attended school with previously while in Birmingham Catholic grade schools for nine years. The student's family recently moved to Michigan from Louisiana due to the father's employment, which requires that he remain in the Ann Arbor area.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Calumet High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who previously participated in volleyball and basketball while a student at Ishpeming-Westwood, residing with her mother and stepfather. The student has been hospitalized multiple times in the past few years and been diagnosed with several health disorders. The student has a negative relationship with her biological father who is reported to be moving back to the area. The student will be moving to her grandparents' home in Calumet and enrolling to begin the 2021-22 school year to help the student medically, socially and academically. The former school submitted support for eligibility.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Cheboygan 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 an 11th-grade student whose father recently accepted a job in Cheboygan. The family was unable to find a home in the Cheboygan School District and purchased a home in the Inland Lakes School District when they relocated from Montana. The student played in two JV 8-player football scrimmages in the fall of 2020 when the varsity season was cancelled at his former school in Montana due to the pandemic. The mother has accepted a job in Cheboygan and a 9th-grade brother has also enrolled at Cheboygan.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Clawson High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – On Feb. 24 and March 25, 2021, the Executive Committee did not approve a request to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment made on behalf of a current 12th-grade student who reenrolled at Clawson on Jan. 25, 2021 due to struggling academics, health concerns and socialization issues. The student attended Clawson through the 8th grade before beginning the 9th grade at Royal Oak-Shrine where he participated in football during the 2020-21 season. The school submitted significant additional information including correspondence from the student's health professional detailing the treatment plan and diagnosis, as well as a letter from the student. The school resubmitted its request, noting the difficulties the student experienced in baseball this spring and that his health situation is more serious than was previously understood. Specifics on his health disorder were also submitted with medical concerns that the student would spiral into greater, more serious illness.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Coopersville 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 whose family made a full and complete residential change from Lowell, where the student played 9th-grade football and ran track. The family moved to Conklin, Michigan to a home in the Sparta School District. The family relocated due to concerns over businesses opening in Lowell, academic preferences and safety concerns.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

East Kentwood High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student whose father had struggled with mental illness and died four years ago when the student was almost 12 years old. The student has struggled with her father's death and had relationship issues with her mother. The student will begin the 2021-22 school year residing with an aunt and uncle who have power of attorney and live in the East Kentwood School District. The student seeks to participate in volleyball, which she played while a student at Okemos in the 10th and 11th grades while residing with her mother. Support for eligibility was submitted by the former school.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Farmington Hills-Mercy 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 Dearborn-Divine Child High School where she participated in girls golf and seeks a fresh start as she begins at a new school. The student will be enrolling at Mercy to begin the 2021-22 school year.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Farmington Hills-Mercy High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who was socially targeted by a former friend group while a student at Novi High School where she participated in girls swimming & diving. The former school supports eligibility, was aware of the situation and worked with the student to avoid these classmates as much as possible. The student was in counseling in the fall of 2020 and will be enrolling at Mercy to begin the 2021-22 school year.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Fenton 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 participated in girls swimming & diving while a student at Madison Heights-Lamphere. The student made a full and complete residential change into the Lake Fenton School District and enrolled at Fenton because two step-siblings who grew up with the student moved and enrolled at Fenton Schools a couple of months prior to November 2020 when the student began at Fenton.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Fenton High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who has moved from his parents' home in New Mexico to reside with his older brother in the Fenton School District. The student is 16 years old and played in three football games in 2020-21. The student had originally intended to relocate to Michigan after high school but decided to arrive now because of the pandemic and is seeking a fresh start. The Fenton area is familiar to the family as the father is originally from this area and has family present who can assist with the transition.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver. The student will be withheld from the first three varsity football games of the 2021 season.

Gaylord 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 an 11th-grade student whose father accepted employment in Gaylord but whose family was unable to find a home in the Gaylord School District. The family is currently residing with the student's mother in the Alanson School District while assisting with the care of the grandfather. The family relocated from Battle Creek-Lakeview where the student participated in cross country, wrestling and baseball.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Grand Rapids-Catholic Central High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of 12th- and 10th-grade brothers who previously attended Grand Rapids Christian and participated in football and lacrosse during the previous school year. The 12th-grade brother has experienced social media harassment and mental and emotional targeting by classmates, causing the parents to seek enrollment at another religious-based school for both students. Support for eligibility was submitted by the former school.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Grand Rapids-Catholic Central 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 made a full and complete residential change from East Grand Rapids where she played volleyball and girls soccer to Grand Rapids. The new home is two miles closer to Grand Rapids Christian. The student and her parents are Catholic and members of a local parish and both parents attended Catholic high schools.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Grand Rapids-South Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 9[C]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility in girls swimming & diving was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who participated in the cooperative program in this sport between South Christian and Caledonia while a student at Caledonia during the 2020-21 school year. Support for eligibility was submitted by the former school.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver in girls swimming & diving only.

Holland-West Ottawa High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who attended Holland-Black River Preparatory and participated in soccer, basketball and track. The student is changing schools for more academic options and greater diversity.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Holly High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who played football, basketball and baseball while a student at Flint-Powers Catholic High School who was subject to harassment by a classmate from November 2020 through March 2021. The school was made aware of the incidents and suspended the classmate. The impact on the student's health caused the student to enroll at his school of residence to begin the 2021-22 school year. Support for eligibility was submitted by the former school.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Indian River-Inland Lakes High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who participated in cross country and basketball while a student at Onaway during the 2020-21 school year. Due to the impact, unpredictability and working from home caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the family was unable to continue attendance at the former school and the student enrolled at Inland Lakes, the school of residence, to begin the fourth quarter of the 2020-21 school year. The student participated in track & field in the spring and adjusted well to the new school.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Jackson-Lumen Christi High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who was hospitalized multiple times due to his medical condition. The student attempted to return to his former school, Grass Lake, following the hospitalizations but was unable to cope. The student entered outpatient and partial hospitalization programs. Virtual learning and other remediations allowed the student to pass all his classes in the 9th grade. The student participated in football and basketball at his former school and will be enrolling at Lumen Christi to begin the 2021-22 school year. Support for eligibility from the former school was submitted.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Jenison High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student whose brother was stabbed as the victim of a crime and died crashing into the Catholic Central High School parking lot while trying to drive himself to the hospital. The student was a 9th-grader at the time and has been the recipient of hurtful comments and bullying, causing him to enroll at Jenison to begin the 2021-22 school year. The student struggled with the daily reminder of the accident site at Catholic Central, where he participated in soccer. Support for eligibility was submitted by a teacher/coach from the former school.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Kalamazoo-Hackett Catholic Prep High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who attended Catholic schools through the 8th grade before enrolling at his school of residence, Portage Northern, for the 9th and 10th grades beginning in 2019-20. The student participated in boys tennis and boys basketball. The student struggled socially and academically and missed his former classmates and lifelong friends.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Kalkaska High School (Regulation I, Section 9[C]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility in ice hockey was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who participated in the cooperative program in this sport between Mancelona, Kalkaska and several other schools (Bay Area Reps) while a student at Mancelona the 2020-21 school year. The student enrolled at Kalkaska in March 2021. Support for eligibility was submitted by the former school.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver in ice hockey only.

Kalkaska High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who was the victim of repeated harassment, ongoing threats and a physical assault by two female peers on March 2, 2021 at Mancelona High School where the student was enrolled and participated in volleyball, basketball and track & field. A police report was filed and the student feared for her safety, and threats were ongoing after the assault. The student has had related medical issues. Support for eligibility was submitted by the former school.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Lawton High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who attended Mattawan High School and participated in girls basketball in the 2020-21 school year. The student experienced social struggles and isolation from her friend group that have impacted her health. The student is prepared to sit out basketball to experience a fresh start. The student's father was a 9th-grade basketball coach at Mattawan and recently accepted the girls varsity coaching position at Lawton.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Macomb-Lutheran North High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who attended Lutheran North for the first semester of 2020-21, participated in 9th-grade volleyball and enrolled at Clintondale Virtual School. The student did not participate in winter or spring sports at Clintondale and will be reenrolling at Lutheran North on Aug. 25, 2021.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Madison Heights-Lamphere High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student whose one surviving grandparent died in July 2020 and who moved into the residence of her older biological sister in the Lamphere School District, enrolling in January 2021. The student's mother and grandmother are deceased and the father is unknown. The student previously attended River Rouge High School and participated in volleyball.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Mancelona High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation is made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who played in three football games before enrolling at Mancelona-North Central Academy on Nov. 9, 2020. The student has reenrolled at Mancelona High School to begin the 2021-22 school year.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver. The student will be withheld from the first three varsity football games of the 2021 season.

Maple City-Glen Lake 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 is moving from his divorced mother's home in Florida to his father's home in the Benzie Central School District. The student's father and stepmother have two children who have attended Glen Lake elementary schools for two years. The student participated in football in Florida and enrolled at Glen Lake on Feb. 22, 2021. An otherwise completed Educational Transfer Form was submitted.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Memphis High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who attended Memphis Schools for six years until the summer of 2020 when the family bought a new home in Yale and the student began the 9th grade and participated in four volleyball games during the approximately one month of enrollment. The student experienced significant health issues for which she has been hospitalized. She reenrolled at Memphis on Oct. 1, 2020, and played soccer this past spring. Support for eligibility was submitted by the former school.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Muskegon-Catholic Central High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student whose mother is unable to care for the student and now resides with a person whom the student lived with for most of his life since he was three months old. The student moved in with his mother in Fremont for two years where he attended the 9th grade in 2020-21 and played JV baseball before moving in with the father-designate in the late fall of 2020 where the father-designate transported the student to Fremont. The student will be enrolling at Catholic Central to begin the 2021-22 school year on Aug. 25, 2021. The school requested eligibility based on Exception 8, that the student is moving between parents and that the father-designate, who has power of attorney of the student, is more the father than the biological parents.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver. This is the only time that Exception 2 or 8 of the transfer regulation may be used for this student.

Muskegon-Oakridge High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student whose father is in the military and was assigned to serve in California on Sept. 28, 2020. The student attended Oakridge for the 9th grade in 2020-21 while living with his parents and ran cross country before joining his parents in California on Oct. 29, 2020 for seven months and did not participate in sports there. The student had a negative experience in California and returned to the home of his grandparents in the Oakridge School District over the summer and will reenroll to begin the 2021-22 school year.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Painesdale-Jeffers High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of 11th- and 12th-grade brothers whose entire family of seven are intending to enroll to begin the 2021-22 school year. The students previously attended Chassell Schools. The 12th-grader who is 18 years of age played basketball and the 11th-grader played golf and basketball. The former high school principal will not sign the Educational Transfer Form for the 18-year-old 12th-grader to change residences without either parent. The family is changing schools in part because of the former school administration's decisions regarding a school volunteer.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Pontiac-Notre Dame Preparatory High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who applied, along with a middle school sister, to attend Notre Dame Prep and its feeder middle school, Marist Academy, for the 2020-21 school year. The students were not accepted then, due to numerous pandemic-related applications and class size limits. The students enrolled at Clarkston and the student played 9th-grade volleyball for her mental wellbeing during the pandemic. The student and her middle school sister have both enrolled at Notre Dame Prep and Marist Academy for the 2021-22 school year. The school requested subvarsity eligibility in volleyball at the very least for the fall of 2021.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Riverview-Gabriel Richard 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 Dearborn-Divine Child and played in four basketball games before enrolling at Gabriel Richard in January 2021. The school requested eligibility after four basketball games in 2021-22.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver. The student will be withheld from the first four basketball games of the 2021-22 season.

Rockford High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who has been struggling with medical issues for the past six months, including illness that required multiple hospitalizations. As a student at Forest Hills Eastern, he participated in cross country, wrestling and baseball. The student attended Rockford Schools from 2008 to 2017 and is reenrolling there for a fresh start and a familiar support system.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Saugatuck 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 Hamilton High School and participated in volleyball during the 2020-21 school year before enrolling at Saugatuck on Nov. 23, 2020. The student changed schools for her emotional and physical wellbeing as well as her parents' desire to improve her academic standing, which she has done since enrolling at the new school. The request was for eligibility at the subvarsity level in volleyball.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Schoolcraft 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 from an Approved International Student Program whose host family resides in Portage and has a 10th-grade student who has attended Schoolcraft Schools her entire career.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Waldron High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who played in three junior varsity football games for Morenci in the 2020-21 school year before the JV team was discontinued. The student practiced with the varsity team, played in no games and will be enrolling at Waldron to begin the 2021-22 school year. The student has always lived in Waldron and attended Waldron Schools through the 4th grade.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver. The student will be withheld from the first three football games of the 2021 season.

Warren-De La Salle Collegiate High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who participated in one football game while a student at Detroit-U of D Jesuit as a 9th-grader in the 2020-21 school year. The student enrolled at De La Salle on Oct. 5, 2020. The school requested subvarsity eligibility.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level only. The student will be withheld from the first subvarsity football game of the 2021 season.

Wyoming-Tri-unity Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who previously attended Libertas Christian School where she participated in volleyball. The student will be enrolling to begin the 2021-22 school year because of changes to staff and students at the former school.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Wyoming-Tri-unity Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of two 12th-grade sisters who previously attended Libertas Christian School where they participated in volleyball and basketball. The mother resigned as a teacher at the students' former school and has been hired to teach at Tri-unity, which requires its staff members' children to enroll. The students will be enrolling to begin the 2021-22 school year.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Ypsilanti-Lincoln High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who played in six basketball games with Ypsilanti Prep Academy, a basketball sports academy which opened for the first time in the fall of 2020-21. The student was enrolled in online classes, continued to live at home with his parents in the Lincoln School District and found this transfer to be problematic. The student reenrolled at his previous school to begin the 2021-22 school year.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver. The student will be withheld from the first six basketball contests of the 2021-22 season.

Zeeland West High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who was the victim of a crime in late August 2020 by a classmate at Holland-West Ottawa. The assailant continues to attend the former school. The student participated in two volleyball games at the former school and will be enrolling at Zeeland West to begin the 2021-22 school year.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Zeeland West High School (Regulation I, Section 9[C]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility in girls swimming & diving was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who was enrolled at Zeeland East and participated in the girls swimming & diving cooperative program between these two schools of the same district. The student will be enrolling at Zeeland West to begin the 2021-22 school year. Support from the former school was submitted.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver in girls swimming & diving only.

Volleyball Playing Rule Modification (Regulation II, Section 8) – The Executive Committee approved the recommendation of MHSAA staff and the Volleyball Committee to continue for the 2021-22 season the protocol used during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 that teams NOT change benches unless an obstacle is present that gives a disadvantage to one team (e.g., baskets over the court at one end). The Volleyball Committee was polled, is in unanimous support and will review at its meeting in December 2021.

Byron Center High School (Regulation II, Section 11[H]) – Pursuant to Interpretation 241, a request to waive the four-player rule for the 2021-22 school year was made on behalf of the head girls and boys swimming & diving coach who is employed as the aquatics director of the Byron Center Community Pool and also coaches the Byron Center Club Team. It is anticipated that the club program will have 150 participants ages 5-24, including students from several neighboring schools and districts: Grand Rapids-South Christian, Grand Rapids-Catholic Central, Caledonia, Zeeland East and West, Holland, Holland Christian, East Kentwood, Jenison, Thornapple Kellogg, Otsego, Allegan, Grandville, Rockford and Wayland. It is estimated that 30 girls and 30 boys from Byron Center Schools in grades 7-12 will participate in the Byron Center Club program in 2021-22. The Byron Center coach has been granted a waiver for employment in this program previously and is in his third year at Byron Center.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for this coach for the 2021-22 school year.

Mattawan High School (Regulation II, Section 11[H]) – Pursuant to Interpretation 241, a request to waive the four-player rule for the 2021-22 school year was made on behalf of the head girls and boys swimming & diving coach who is employed full-time by the Southwest Y Michigan Swimming Club In Kalamazoo. It is anticipated that the club program will have 40 participants ages 9-18, including students from Plainwell, Portage, Kalamazoo and Mattawan. It is estimated that 13 students from Mattawan in grades 7-12 will participate in the Southwest Y program in 2021-22.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for this coach for the 2021-22 school year.

Kalkaska and Mancelona-North Central Academy Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in football (7th and 8th grades combined), boys and girls cross country (6th, 7th and 8th grades combined), boys and girls track & field (6th, 7th and 8th grades combined), boys and girls basketball (7th grade only, 8th grade only and 7th and 8th grades combined), and girls volleyball (7th grade only, 8th grade only and 7th and 8th grades combined). Kalkaska sponsored all sports previously and will be the primary school.

Interstate 8 Middle School Athletic Conference (Regulation IV, Section 10) – A request was made to allow this league to begin middle school football practice five days earlier than allowed by the regulation, on Wednesday, Aug. 18, 2021. Practice is permitted on the 14th Monday before Thanksgiving (Aug. 23, 2021). The early start date would allow schools the option to have three additional days of practice so they may scrimmage on the Wednesday or Thursday of the last week of August prior to Labor Day in order to have nine practice days prior to the scrimmage. It would also permit schools to not practice on the Friday or Monday of Labor Day. The Interstate 8 Conference offers four seasons of participation with winter sports beginning on Monday, Oct. 18, 2021, and this would permit some time off between fall and winter seasons. The Executive Committee approved this request previously for the MKO Conference in the Grand Rapids area.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver. Football practice for the middle schools of this league may begin on Wednesday, Aug. 18, 2021.

MHSAA Committees – The Executive Committee approved appointments to MHSAA committees that meet prior to Jan. 1, 2022.

Epidemic Emergency Policy – The Executive Committee reviewed and edited the Epidemic Emergency Policy of 2007 to instruct schools to follow the local county health department orders that may differ from county to county during regular season competition.

GoFan Ticketing – The Executive Committee approved the use of GoFan for MHSAA fall tournaments in 2021.

Personnel – The Executive Committee reviewed and approved the employment contract and the 2021-22 Performance Agreement for the executive director.

Future Meetings – The next meetings of the Executive Committee are scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 24, 2021, at 9 a.m. in East Lansing; Thursday, Sept. 9, 2021, at 9 a.m. in East Lansing; Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2021, at 9 a.m. in East Lansing; Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2021, at 9 a.m. in East Lansing; Thursday, Dec. 2, 2021, at 1 p.m. in East Lansing (Representative Council meets following day); and Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2022, at 1 p.m. in East Lansing (after Classification Committee meeting).