

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, February 17, 2016

Members Present:

Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
Fred Smith, Benton Harbor
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake
Peter 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.

Grandville-Calvin Christian and Wyoming-The Potter's House Christian High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in football between these two schools whose combined enrollment is 547 students. Calvin Christian sponsored football previously and will be the primary school. Support from the OK Conference was submitted.

Mio-Au Sable and Fairview High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in football, boys and girls cross country, boys soccer and wrestling between these two schools whose combined enrollment of 264 students will continue teams in the Division 4 tournaments of three sports. Mio-Au Sable sponsored football and wrestling previously and will be the primary school in these sports. Fairview sponsored cross country and soccer previously and will be the primary school in these sports. Support from the North Star League was submitted.

New Boston-Huron and Flat Rock High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in girls swimming & diving between these two schools whose combined enrollment of 1,488 students will place a new team in the Division 2 tournament. New Boston-Huron sponsored girls swimming previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Huron League was submitted.

Kalamazoo-Central High School (Regulation I, Sections 1 & 8) – A request to waive the enrollment and current academic credit record regulations is made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who is a homebound student and is passing only three classes during the second trimester of 2015-16. The student is under the care of a physician who is attempting to diagnose the student's disorder. The student has been participating in bowling.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Bellaire High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student who attended Bellaire Schools her entire career except for one day on Feb. 1, 2016, when the student attended Traverse City Central High School. Prior to enrollment at Central, the student played volleyball at Bellaire and was the subject of a determination by the executive director that she would be eligible at Central on Aug. 1, 2016 and not subject to 180 days of ineligibility under the athletic-related transfer regulation. The student did not go to school on Feb. 2, 2016, the next school day was cancelled by snow, and the student reenrolled at Bellaire on Thursday, Feb. 4, 2016.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver and eligibility for the MHSAA's winter 2016 tournaments.

Benton Harbor 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 Miami Valley School in Dayton, Ohio while living with her mother and enrolled at Benton Harbor on Jan. 26, 2016 due to negative experiences at her former school. The student had a confrontation with a middle school teacher in the 9th grade that resulted in the teacher's suspension. The student received race-related text messages from another student that resulted in discipline for the sending student. The student has changed residences to that of her grandmother in Benton Harbor while the mother completes medical school in Ohio and the father resides in Nigeria. The student has been in treatment for health issues. The former school confirmed the issues expressed by the student.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Burr Oak High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student whose sister experienced harassment and bullying in late September while enrolled at Bronson and who transferred to Burr Oak on Oct. 2, 2015. The younger 9th-grade sister, who is the subject of this request, experienced similar negativity from students at her former school, felt emotionally unsafe and enrolled at Burr Oak on Jan. 7, 2016. The student did not participate in athletics at Bronson. Burr Oak does not have a JV track team.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Evert High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment. The student started the 2015-16 school year at Remus-Chippewa Hills where he played JV football. The family home is in Evert, and transportation costs have been a concern. The student enrolled at Evert on Oct. 19, 2015. The student wants to participate in JV baseball this spring.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91st school day of enrollment at Evert beginning Oct. 19, 2015.

Grayling High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who resides in Grayling and attended Grayling for the 9th grade in the 2012-13 school year. For the 10th, 11th and first half of the 12th grade, the student attended Mio-Au Sable, commuting 60 miles round-trip and living with her boyfriend's family during the school week. The student and boyfriend have broken up and the student has a new employment opportunity in Grayling. To cut down on the commute, the student reenrolled at Grayling on Jan. 4, 2016. The student's only sport is softball.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Marion High School (Regulation I, Sections 9[A & G]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who was the victim of an assault in the summer of 2015 by a classmate at Marion High School which caused the student to enroll at McBain High School on Nov. 3, 2015. The student who committed the assault was later convicted and has since left Marion High School and enrolled at McBain on Feb. 10, 2016. The student who was the victim of the assault reenrolled at Marion on Feb. 11, 2016. The student has previously participated in volleyball, basketball, competitive cheer and softball.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver and eligibility for the MHSAA's winter 2016 tournaments.

Reed City 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 who is moving from his birth mother in Manton to his father and stepmother in Evert. The parents never married, and Friend of the Court documents have been submitted indicating both parents, along with an otherwise completed Educational Transfer Form. The student is enrolling at Reed City on Jan. 19, 2016, because his 8th-grade stepsister has been enrolled in Reed City Schools since Kindergarten.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Rochester Hills-Lutheran Northwest High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment due to compelling circumstances. The student is under medical treatment and attended Rochester-Adams where she experienced harassment due to her personal and medical issues. The student was on homebound status toward the end of her 9th-grade year. The student participated in softball at Adams. It was determined that a change of schools was best for the student, who enrolled at Lutheran Northwest on Oct. 30, 2015. Support from the counselor at Adams and medical professionals was presented.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver, with immediate eligibility.

Rockford High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who lived with her grandparents since she was three years old until the summer of 2015, and has returned to live with her grandparents in Rockford. The student's mother relocated to Northview this summer and the student moved in with her and enrolled at Northview to begin the 2015-16 school year. The student did not participate in athletics at Northview and wishes to run track. The student attended Rockford Schools from Kindergarten through 9th grade and was involved in sideline cheerleading. She enrolled at Rockford on Jan. 4, 2016. The school requested eligibility under Exception 2 as the grandparents are more the parents than the birth mother.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Webberville High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who attended Webberville Schools his entire career except for nine school days (Dec. 1-11, 2015) when the student attended Williamston due to a family issue between divorced parents. The student reenrolled at Webberville on Dec. 14, 2015.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Subvarsity Waiver Requests Meeting All Conditions of Section 9(B) – The Executive Committee is requested to approve 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
Garden City	10	Dearborn-Edsel Ford	January 2016	Remainder of 15-16 school year
Kingsley	9	Manton	Jan. 26, 2016	Remainder of 15-16 school year
Lincoln Park	9	Romulus-Summit Acad.	Nov. 17, 2015	Remainder of 15-16 school year
Waterford Mott	10	Ortonville-Brandon	Jan. 8, 2016	Remainder of 15-16 school year

Regulation III, Section 1(C) – Pursuant to *Handbook* Interpretation 265, the Executive Committee approved waiver of the enrollment regulation for the following member 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 2015-16 school year only.

Junior High/ Middle School	Sport(s)	High School Enrollment	Middle School Enrollment
Athens	boys & girls track & field	177	39 7 th -graders 46 8 th -graders

Harper Woods-Chandler Park Academy (Regulation V, Section 3[A]) – On Dec. 30, 2015, the basketball coach from Chandler Park Academy removed his team from a contest in protest when a Chandler Park player was ejected by the officials. The school took the independent action of suspending the coach from the next two dates of competition and informing him that a similar incident would result in further discipline up to and including dismissal. On Jan. 13, 2016, the Executive Committee was not satisfied with the remedies implemented by the school and requested the school take more meaningful actions. If the school fails to take actions that the Executive Committee determines are adequate by its next meeting, this coach may not coach or be present at the MHSAA Boys Basketball Tournament at which Chandler Park Academy is participating. On Jan. 14, 2016, the school dismissed the coach as its head varsity boys basketball coach.

The Executive Committee accepted the school's actions.

New Member Schools – Pursuant to the MHSAA Constitution adopted by member schools and according to procedures for MHSAA membership adopted by the Representative Council on March 27, 1997, the Executive Committee approved membership for the following school:

Hudsonville-Libertas Christian High School – This school is a nonpublic school in its second year of operation and was established by four former parents of Hudsonville-Freedom Baptist School which closed at end the 2013-14 school year. The school has a K-12 enrollment of 162 students and 9-12 enrollment of 27 full-time and 15 part-time students enrolled in a home and school partnership program. In this program, students physically attend school two days a week and are connected to teachers via homework and testing. The school grants credit and issues a diploma upon graduation to its full- and part-time students. There were 21 7th- and 8th-grade students enrolled on Jan. 28, 2016, and the school wishes to add its middle school to MHSAA membership. The school is operating from the Beaver Dam Christian School which has a small gymnasium and a field adequate for soccer. The school intends to sponsor cross country, basketball and soccer for boys and girls at both the high school and middle school levels. A signed 2015-16 Membership Resolution and Preliminary Classification Form were received on Dec. 2, 2015. The Athletic Department Code of Conduct was also submitted. If a 2016-17 Membership Resolution is received prior to Sept. 30, 2016, a 2017-18 Membership Resolution is received prior to Sept. 29, 2017, and all other regulations are followed, the school will be eligible for MHSAA tournaments for the 2017-18 school year.

Representative Council – The Executive Committee reviewed and discussed the preliminary agenda for the March 24, 2016 meeting.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Executive Committee are scheduled for Wednesday, March 23, 2016, at 2:30 pm in East Lansing (Representative Council follows on March 24); Wednesday, April 20, 2016, at 9 am in East Lansing (Audit & Finance Committee follows); Sunday, May 1, 2016, at 11 am in Glen Arbor (Representative Council follows at 1 pm); and Wednesday, June 15, 2016, at 9 am in East Lansing.