

**MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

East Lansing, January 12, 2011

Members Present:

Jim Derocher, Negaunee  
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven  
Vic Michaels, Detroit  
Fred Smith, Buchanan  
Paula Steele, East Lansing

Staff Members Present:

Tom Rashid  
Jack Roberts (Recorder)

Executive Committee Authority and Responsibility – The Executive Committee reviewed its authority under Article VII of the MHSAA Constitution and specifically its responsibility to consider each application for waiver of an eligibility requirement on its individual merits, determining if the regulation serves the purpose for which it was intended in each case or if the regulation works an undue hardship on any student who is the subject of a request for waiver. (These underlying criteria may not be restated for every subject of these minutes.)

The Executive Committee was reminded that it was the responsibility of each member school involved to provide sufficient factual information about the specific request for the Executive Committee to reach a decision without further investigation. If information is incomplete, contradictory or otherwise unclear or has been received too late to be studied completely, the Executive Committee may deny the request for waiver or delay action. Such requests may be resubmitted to the Executive Committee with additional information at a subsequent meeting or appealed to the full Representative Council.

It is possible that some of the information presented as facts to the Executive Committee by school personnel and others may be inaccurate. However, to avoid constant repetition in this report of phrases such as “it was alleged” or “it was reported,” no attempt is made in the introduction of each waiver request to distinguish between truth, allegation, hearsay, opinion, summary or conclusion. If any information provided to the Executive Committee is inaccurate, any decision of the Executive Committee to grant waiver of a regulation shall be null and void.

The Executive Committee is not authorized to approve waiver based on alleged or actual differences between schools based on “environment,” demographics, curriculum or extracurricular offerings. A determination of undue hardship is a matter addressed to the discretion of the Executive Committee within the educational philosophy and secondary role of voluntary extracurricular competitive athletics in the academic environment. The Executive Committee will avoid making exceptions that would create precedent that effectively changes a rule without Representative Council action or local board of education adoption, which would exceed Executive Committee authority. The contract the MHSAA has with member schools obligates the MHSAA to not change rules during the school year.

Students for whom waiver of a particular regulation is approved must be eligible in all other respects under all sections and interpretations of the regulations prior to their participation.

Adoption of these regulations, as well as policies, procedures and schedules of MHSAA tournaments, is a choice schools make locally when they consider their option of MHSAA membership. Consistent with rulings of the Attorney General and Michigan Supreme Court, schools are not bound by the decisions of the Executive Committee, but the association may limit participation in the post-season tournaments it sponsors to those schools which choose to apply rules and penalties as promulgated by the MHSAA and adopted by each member school’s board of education. The MHSAA exercises no independent authority over schools or students.

Bath High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who has attended Bath Schools her entire career except for 16 school days from Nov. 30, 2010 to Jan 4, 2011, when the student attended St. Johns High School. The student has returned to Bath (the school of residence), enrolling on Jan. 5, 2011.

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 a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student whose parents are divorced and whose father was in a serious auto accident in October 2009 and has recently recovered from a coma. The student had lived with his father in Blissfield until the accident and moved into the residence of the mother in Saline, using an Educational Transfer Form in December 2009. The father has recovered and the student has returned to the residence of his father in Blissfield, enrolling at Blissfield High School on Jan. 4, 2011.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Camden-Frontier High School (Regulation I, Section 9[A] & [D]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student whose mother died during his 10<sup>th</sup> grade year, so the student moved to Florida to live with his father for the first two months of the 11<sup>th</sup> grade. The student has returned to Michigan to live with his girlfriend's mother in Pittsford. The student began high school at Jonesville and attended Pittsford for a short time at the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> grade when his mother was hospitalized prior to her death. The student enrolled at Camden-Frontier on Oct. 3, 2010 because the guardian enrolled three siblings at Camden-Frontier to begin the 2010-11 school year.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for immediate eligibility but did approve eligibility on the 91<sup>st</sup> school day of the student's enrollment at Camden-Frontier High School beginning Oct. 3, 2010.

Flint-Powers Catholic High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment. The student previously attended Davison High School and enrolled at Powers on Nov. 22, 2010 for a better educational experience.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Ishpeming-Westwood High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 61 (public school of residence) was made on behalf of a 12<sup>th</sup>-grade student from a CSJET-listed foreign exchange program. The host family has three children who have been enrolled in the Westwood Schools for several years. The family recently moved to Marquette but their children continued to attend Westwood Schools.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Lapeer West High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 61 (public school of residence) was made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who has lived under the guardianship of an aunt in Lake Orion and attended Lake Orion High School for five semesters before returning to live with his parents at the home of the grandparents in the Lapeer East School District (Exception 2). The student attended elementary and middle school at Lapeer West. The residential changes were based upon uncertainty of the father's employment location.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Milan High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive or otherwise interpret the transfer regulation relative to a full and complete residential change was made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who lived in St. Louis, Missouri with his mother until 10<sup>th</sup> grade. The student then lived for 13 months in Belleville with his father and his father's girlfriend, who is also the mother of two step-siblings who also resided in Belleville. The student has moved with the father and two step-siblings only into the Milan School District, enrolling there on Oct. 20, 2010.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Monroe High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A confidential request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who previously attended Ida High School while residing with his divorced mother. The student has moved to the residence of his grandmother in Monroe and enrolled at Monroe High School on Nov. 29, 2010.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Oscoda High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment. The student previously attended school in Palau while residing with his parents, who intended to move to Oscoda but could not relocate due to an ailing grandmother. The student participated in athletics while in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade in Palau and enrolled at Oscoda on Oct. 11, 2010.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment at Oscoda High School starting Oct. 11, 2010.

Vermontville-Maple Valley High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student whose parents relocated to Olivet over the summer and where the student enrolled to begin the 2010-11 school year. The student was unhappy at Olivet and reenrolled at Maple Valley on Jan. 5, 2011. The student participated in freshman basketball at Olivet.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Wayland Union High School (Regulation I, Section 9[A & C]) – A request was made to waive the transfer regulation on behalf of a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student who participated in the ice hockey cooperative agreement between Hopkins and Wayland Union as a 9<sup>th</sup> grader and who has moved to the residence of his grandmother in Wayland to assist her due to poor health. The student enrolled at Wayland Union High School on Jan. 5, 2011. The student did not participate in the previous season as the rule stipulates; but the student has been a team member this current season. The request was also for eligibility in spring sports. Support from Hopkins High School has been received.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for ice hockey only until Aug. 1, 2011.

Subvarsity Waiver Requests Meeting All Conditions of Section 9(B) – The Executive Committee approved immediate eligibility at the subvarsity level for the following transferring 9<sup>th</sup>- or 10<sup>th</sup>-grade students (after entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade, before completing 10<sup>th</sup> 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 Sub-varsity Eligibility Status
Midland	9	Home School	Jan. 24, 2011	Remainder of 10-11 school year
Muskegon-Western Michigan Christian	10	Muskegon	Fall 2010	Jan. 17, 2011
Orchard Lake-St. Mary's	9	Novi-Detroit Catholic Central	Jan. 3, 2011	Remainder of 2010-11 school year

Byron Center High School (Regulation II, Section 8[B]) – A request was made to waive the penalty which prohibits a head coach who did not complete a rules meeting from being present at an MHSAA tournament when his or her team is participating. The head girls basketball coach misunderstood the policy, thinking that because another staff member had completed a meeting, the requirement that the head coach must complete a meeting was fulfilled. Rules meeting completion by a staff member satisfies the requirement of Section 8(C) that a school representative complete a meeting once in two years or the team cannot participate in the tournament.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Boys and Girls Lacrosse Playing Rules (Regulation II, Section 8[A]) – It was recently discovered that the National Federation playing rules for boys lacrosse eliminated the playing rule requirement that if a cast is worn, it shall be directed in writing by a licensed medical physician (MD/DO). For the first time in 2010-11, the girls lacrosse rules include an allowance for a cast if properly padded, and do not reference written approval by an MD or DO. The same clause requiring MD or DO written approval was removed in the NFHS football and soccer rules but reinstated by the Representative Council as a playing rule adoption for 2010-11.

The Executive Committee determined that the same policy should apply to all sports. Staff will include this requirement in spring 2011 Lacrosse Rules Meetings.

Cedarville Middle School (Regulation III, Section 1[C]) – A request was made to waive the enrollment regulation on behalf of a 13 year old 6<sup>th</sup>-grade student who is eligible by age for the 7<sup>th</sup>-grade boys basketball team and who will be too old for participation as a 12<sup>th</sup> grader. The Eligibility Advancement Application is only applicable to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. The waiver would allow the student two years of junior high eligibility, and completion of the Eligibility Advancement Application would permit four years of high school eligibility from grades 8-11. Cedarville High School has 111 students in grades 9-12 and 45 students in grades 7 and 8 but requested this allowance for this student only.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Regulation III, Section 1(C) – Pursuant to 2010-11 *Handbook* Interpretation 258, the following junior high/middle schools received approval for waiver of the enrollment regulation to permit 6<sup>th</sup>-grade students to participate with and against 7<sup>th</sup> and/or 8<sup>th</sup> graders for the sports listed in the 2010-11 school year only.

Junior High/ Middle School	Sport(s)	High School Enrollment	Middle School Enrollment
Camden-Frontier	7 <sup>th</sup> grade girls basketball	157	14 7 <sup>th</sup> grade girls 22 8 <sup>th</sup> grade girls

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Executive Committee are scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2011, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; Thursday, March 24, 2011, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing (with Representative Council meeting March 25); Wednesday, April 20, 2011, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing (with Audit and Finance Committee meeting to follow); Sunday, May 1, time to be determined, in Bellaire, with Representative Council meetings to follow); and Wednesday, June 15, 2011, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing.