

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

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Glen Arbor, May 1, 2016

Members Present:

Scott Grimes, Grand Haven  
Fred Smith, Benton Harbor  
Vic Michaels, Detroit  
Kris Isom, Adrian  
Sean Jacques, Calumet

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.

Caledonia, Grand Rapids-South Christian & Lowell High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in girls and boys swimming & diving between these three schools. The combined 2016-17 enrollment of 3,242 students will place teams in the Division 1 tournaments. Caledonia and South Christian were previously in an agreement with Byron Center which will sponsor its own teams. Caledonia will be the primary school. Support from the OK Conference was submitted.

Delton-Kellogg and Martin High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of boys and girls soccer to a cooperative program which currently exists between these two schools in boys golf. The combined 2016-17 enrollment of 579 students will continue placement of a team in the Division 3 tournament. Delton-Kellogg sponsored soccer previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Southwestern Athletic Conference was submitted.

Detroit-Westside Christian Academy and Taylor Preparatory High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in 11-player football between these two schools whose combined 2016-17 enrollment will be 346 students. Westside Christian was in a cooperative program with Detroit Public Safety Academy which has been dissolved. Westside Christian will be the primary school. Support from four future opponents was submitted.

Sebewaing-Unionville Sebewaing and Cass City High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys soccer between these two schools whose combined enrollment of 555 students will place a new team in the Division 3 tournament. Unionville Sebewaing sponsored soccer previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Greater Thumb Conference was submitted.

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

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

The committee approved continuation of this cooperative program and asked that, prior to the 2018-19 school year, the school district consider plans to create two or even three separate teams in girls lacrosse as it has done previously for boys lacrosse.

Adrian High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who enrolled at Adrian because of difficulty of a younger sibling at the middle school of another district that was not resolved satisfactorily. The student enrolled at Adrian High School on Nov. 30, 2015, and the younger sibling enrolled at Adrian Middle School.

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 and specifically Interpretation 62 (closest nonpublic school) was made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student whose family will be moving from North Carolina to Rochester over the summer due to her father's employment. The student attended a non-denominational nonpublic school in North Carolina and will be enrolling at Notre Dame Prep to begin the 2016-17 school year on Aug. 22, 2016. The family is Catholic and has a history of attendance at Catholic schools. Notre Dame Prep is the closest coed Catholic high school to the new home but not the closest nonpublic school.

The Executive Committee approved 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 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 Subvarsity Eligibility Status
Harbor Beach	10	Mt. Morris	Feb. 23, 2016	Remainder of 15-16 school year

Okemos High School (Regulation II, Section 11[H]) – Pursuant to Interpretation 241, a request to waive the four-player rule for the 2016-17 school year was made on behalf of the head boys and girls varsity swimming coach who is also employed full-time by the Spartan Swim Club which operates from multiple pools in the area. The program is open to the general public ages 6-22 and anticipates 200 participants in 2016-17 of which 35 percent are Okemos students in grades 7-12. The program involves students from ten school districts including Okemos (Haslett, East Lansing, Williamston, Lansing, Holt, DeWitt, St. Johns, Jackson and Mason). Approval has been granted for this coach and this program annually since 2010.

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

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Executive Committee are scheduled for Wednesday, June 15, 2016, at 9 am in East Lansing; Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2016, at 9 am in East Lansing; Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2016, at 9 am in East Lansing; Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2016, at 8:30 am in East Lansing; Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2016, at 8:30 am in East Lansing; Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2016, at 8:30 am in East Lansing; and Thursday, Dec. 1, 2016, at 1 pm in East Lansing.