

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, November 4, 2015

Members Present:

Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
Fred Smith, Benton Harbor
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Kris Isom, Adrian
John Thompson, Brighton

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.

Grand Rapids-South Christian and Grandville-Calvin Christian High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys lacrosse between these two schools whose combined enrollment of 985 students will continue placement of a team in the Division 2 tournament. South Christian has sponsored the sport previously and will be the primary school. Support from the OK Conference was submitted.

Grandville-Calvin Christian and Wyoming-Tri-unity Christian High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in girls softball between these two schools whose combined enrollment of 443 students will continue placement of a team in the Division 3 tournament. Calvin Christian sponsored the sport previously and will be the primary school. Support from the OK Conference was submitted.

Harbor Springs and Petoskey-St. Michael Academy High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in girls tennis between these two schools whose combined enrollment of 301 students will continue placement of a team in the Division 4 tournament. Harbor Springs sponsored girls tennis previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Lake Michigan Conference was submitted.

Hillsdale-Will Carleton Academy and North Adams-Jerome High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of boys and girls cross country and boys golf to a cooperative agreement which exists in several sports between these two schools whose combined enrollment of 182 students will continue placement of a team in the Division 4 Cross Country and Golf tournaments. Will Carleton sponsored cross country previously and will be the primary school in that sport for boys and girls. North Adams-Jerome sponsored boys golf and will be the primary school for that sport. Support from the Southern Central Athletic Association was submitted.

Holland-West Ottawa and Holland Christian High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of girls lacrosse to a cooperative agreement which exists in ice hockey between these schools whose combined enrollment of 3,058 students will continue placement of a team in the Division 1 tournament. West Ottawa sponsored the sport previously and will be the primary school. Support from the OK Conference was submitted.

Holly and Ortonville-Brandon High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys and girls lacrosse between these schools whose combined enrollment of 2,133 students will place a new team in both Division 1 tournaments. Holly will initially be the primary school for both teams. Support from the Flint Metro League was submitted.

L'Anse and Baraga High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – A request to waive the Oct. 15 deadline for submitting a cooperative program application was made to allow these schools to proceed to form a cooperative program in boys and girls golf which are both played in the spring in the Upper Peninsula. Both schools are experiencing a decline in participation and not likely to field a team on their own. The coaches have worked together previously and share the same golf course for practices and transportation. The combined enrollment of 379 students would place a new team in the boys and girls Division 1 tournament (one less in Division 2 and 3). L'Anse would be the primary school.

The Executive Committee approved the extension of the deadline to not later than Dec. 3, 2015.

Lansing-Waverly, Lansing Catholic and Lansing Christian High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of Lansing Christian to a girls lacrosse cooperative agreement which exists between these schools whose combined enrollment of 1,755 students will continue placement of a team in the Division 1 tournament. Waverly will continue as the primary school. Support from the Capital Area Activities Conference was submitted.

Manistique and Cooks-Big Bay de Noc High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of girls softball to a cooperative agreement which exists in football between these two schools whose combined enrollment of 388 students will continue placement of a team in the Division 3 tournament. Manistique sponsored softball previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Mid-Peninsula Athletic Conference was submitted.

Muskegon-Western Michigan Christian and Muskegon Catholic Central High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in girls softball between these two schools whose combined enrollment of 471 students will continue placement of one team in the Division 3 tournament. Both schools sponsored softball previously. Western Michigan Christian will be the primary school. Support from the Lakes 8 Activities Conference was submitted.

Ovid-Elsie and Ashley High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys golf between these two schools whose combined enrollment of 587 students will continue placement of a team in the Division 3 tournament. Ovid-Elsie sponsored boys golf previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Tri-Valley Conference was submitted.

Webberville and Dansville High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in girls softball between these two schools whose combined enrollment of 473 students will continue placement of one team in the Division 3 tournament. Both schools sponsored softball previously; Webberville will be the primary school. Support from the Genesee Area Conference was submitted.

Zeeland East and Zeeland West High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of girls lacrosse to a cooperative agreement which exists in several sports between these schools of the same district whose combined enrollment of 1,182 students will place a new team in the Division 1 tournament. Neither school sponsored the sport previously; Zeeland East will be the primary school. Support from the OK Conference was submitted.

Royal Oak High School (Regulation I, Sections 4 & 5) – A request to waive the maximum enrollment and competition portions of the eligibility regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who has experienced chronic medical issues since the fall of 2011 when the student was a 9th-grader. The student was absent for much of the 9th-grade year due to the illness and only received credit in three classes. For the 10th grade and first semester of the 11th grade, the student was mostly homebound and received credit in only six classes over three semesters as he was unable to complete his assigned work due to his condition. The student was able to return to school for the second semester of 2013-14 and passed six of seven classes. In 2014-15, the student resumed a full load of classes and is on track to graduate in May 2016. The student was hospitalized for ten days for this condition in January 2012 and continues under the care of two local hospitals and the Cleveland Clinic where he stayed for three weeks in January 2014. The student is eligible by age, turning 19 in November 2015, and has had two of four possible seasons of participation in baseball (2013-14 and 2014-15).

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

St. Clair Shores-Lake Shore High School (Regulation I, Section 7) – A request to waive the previous academic credit record regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who suffered a concussion during a hockey game in February 2015 and whose doctor recommended in March 2015 a reduction of his course load in half. The student's course load was reduced from five to three classes and he passed two of the three classes at the end of the third trimester in June 2015. The student was cleared from concussion symptoms in September 2015 and returned to a full-time course load to begin the 2015-16 school year.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver and stipulated that the term in question does count against the maximum number allowed under Regulation I, Sections 4 and 5.

Bay City-John Glenn 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 who made a full and complete residential change from California into the grandparents' residence in the Bay City Public School District and enrolled to begin the 2015-16 school year at John Glenn. The student's mother graduated from John Glenn which is closer to the student's residence than a Bay City Public School. The student participated in athletics in California.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Bloomfield Hills-Marian High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who previously attended Birmingham-Seaholm, participated in athletics and enrolled at Marian on Oct. 19, 2015.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with this student's 91st scheduled school day since enrolling at Marian High School beginning Oct. 19, 2015.

Davison 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 Flint-Kearsley and had conflicts with a teammate since the 8th grade. The student's father had conflicts with another parent that resulted in a court appearance and dismissal. The student enrolled at Davison to begin the 2015-16 school year so as to be free of bullying and ill will from students and their parents.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Detroit-Cornerstone Academy for Health & Technology (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who previously attended Southfield-Bradford Academy and participated in athletics. The student experienced difficulties with coaches including an assistant coach and security officer at the former school. There were also conflicts with the Bradford coaches and the father who was a volunteer coach at another school. Inappropriate comments were made by a coach to the student's mother. The father was hired by Cornerstone to begin the 2015-16 school year. The student attempted to remain at Bradford but as a result of the conflicts at his former school, the student enrolled at Cornerstone on Oct. 6, 2015.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver for immediate eligibility, but approved the request for waiver on the student's 91st scheduled school day at Cornerstone Academy for Health & Technology beginning Oct. 6, 2015.

East Grand Rapids High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student whose parents divorced in August 2013 and whose mother has experienced financial hardship, causing the student to transfer from Grand Rapids-Catholic Central to the school of her residence in East Grand Rapids to begin the 2015-16 school year. The student attended East Grand Rapids as a 9th-grader and Catholic Central for the 10th and 11th grades from 2013 through 2015. The student was not eligible for the first half of the 10th grade at Catholic Central in 2013-14 as the home did not sell and the mother and student did not relocate as intended after the divorce. The student participated in athletics at Catholic Central for the second semester of 2013-14 and the 2014-15 school year.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Grand Rapids-Ottawa Hills 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 Grand Rapids Christian High School, working toward a certificate of completion. Preferring the learning environment and services at Ottawa Hills and being unable to continue to afford tuition, the student enrolled at Ottawa Hills to begin the 2015-16 school year. The student enrolled at Ottawa Hills in a self-contained vocational education classroom.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Grandville High School (Regulation I, Section 9[C]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility in ice hockey only was made on behalf of 11th- and 12th-grade students who previously attended Byron Center and participated in the cooperative program in this sport between these two schools during the 2014-15 school year. The students enrolled at Grandville to begin the 2015-16 school year. Support for eligibility from Byron Center was submitted.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for these two students for the sport of ice hockey only.

Holly 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 who made a full and complete residential change into a home located on a street which is partly in the Ortonville-Brandon School District and partly in the Holly School District. The family moved into the Brandon portion of the street because of misinformation given to them by a Holly support staff person and a realtor. The superintendent of Brandon has released the student to Holly. The student previously attended Milford High School and participated in athletics.

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 10th-grade student whose mother is incarcerated and whose father has not secured housing for the student. The father lived in the home of friends for years and the student has been in seven schools since 2011. The student has been taken in by a family in Jenison with whom he lived for 3-4 months as a 6th-grader in the 2011-12 school year. The student attended Manistee High School for part of the 9th grade and participated in athletics. The student most recently attended Saranac, and enrolled at Jenison on Nov. 2, 2015. The student would like to try out for the JV basketball team.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Jonesville 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 from an Approved International Student Program whose host family resides in the Litchfield School District but whose 7th- and 11th-grade children have attended Jonesville Schools for six years.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Lansing Christian 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 attended Lansing Christian Schools through the 8th grade before moving to Texas for the 9th grade, attending school there in 2014-15. Over the summer of 2015, the family made a full and complete move from Texas to Lansing but into a home 1.3 miles closer to Lansing Catholic than to Lansing Christian. The student reenrolled at Lansing Christian, his former school but not the closest nonpublic school, to begin the 2015-16 school year. The school did not discover until Oct. 1, 2015 that the student's father had remained in Texas to sell the former home. The student had participated in six cross country meets while ineligible, which the school has forfeited to opponents. The father returned to the family home in Lansing within the week to ensure a complete residential change. The student has not participated in a contest since Oct. 1, 2015.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Marquette High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who is a US citizen born in Italy and who has resided there with his parents most of his life. To begin the 2015-16 school year, the student moved in with an aunt and uncle who reside in the Marquette School District and enrolled at Marquette. The student has attended no other school in the US and the parents contend that international students who arrive on a visa receive immediate eligibility while a US citizen must wait nearly half a semester. The father intends to reside in Marquette when he retires in 3-4 years.

The Executive Committee did not approve 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 attended Onsted schools since the 2nd grade except for the last three months of the 2014-15 school year when the student moved with his family to Minnesota in March 2015 because the father's employment changed in January 2015. The student was ostracized and unhappy there and has returned to Onsted to live with friends of the family. The student did not participate in athletics in Minnesota and reenrolled at Onsted to begin the 2015-16 school year.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Pinckney High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who attended Pinckney for the 9th grade and enrolled at Detroit Catholic Central for one day to begin the 2015-16 school year. The student did not participate in any practices or contests at Detroit Catholic Central. The student reenrolled at Pinckney on Sept. 8, 2015.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Saginaw-Valley Lutheran High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student who attended Lutheran grade schools since 2007, practiced football with Saginaw-Nouvel Catholic Central as a 9th-grader in August before school began, and then decided to enroll at Valley Lutheran. On Aug. 26, 2015, Valley Lutheran received an Executive Committee subvarsity waiver of Interpretation 74 for this student to play subvarsity football. The student attended classes for five days and played in a JV football game for Valley Lutheran. On Sept. 1, 2015, the student returned to Nouvel and practiced but did not participate in a contest. The student has now reenrolled at Valley Lutheran on Oct. 12, 2015.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with this student's 91st scheduled school day of enrollment at Valley Lutheran High School beginning Oct. 12, 2015.

Troy High School (Regulation I, Section 9[C]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility in girls gymnastics only was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who suffers from a disorder which necessitates online learning as opposed to in-school attendance. The student previously attended Auburn Hills-Avondale and participated in the gymnastics cooperative program with Troy-Athens in 2013-14 and Troy High School in 2014-15 and 2015-16. The student enrolled at Troy on Sept. 30, 2015, and will be considered a Troy High School student attending a non-traditional school of the district. Support from Avondale was submitted.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for the sport of girls gymnastics only.

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
Dearborn Heights-Annapolis	10	Westwood Cyber	Sept. 8, 2015	Jan. 18, 2016
Farmington	10	Detroit-U of D Jesuit	Sept. 8, 2015	Jan. 18, 2016
Holland	10	Zeeland iCademy	Sept. 8, 2015	Jan. 18, 2016
New Haven-Merritt Academy	10	Macomb-Dakota	Oct. 19, 2015	91 st school day of enrollment
Portage Central	9	Kalamazoo-Hackett Catholic Central	Oct. 13, 2015	91 st school day of enrollment
Westland-Lutheran Westland	9	Canton-Salem	Sept. 28, 2015	Jan. 18, 2016

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
Carsonville-Port Sanilac	7 th -grade girls basketball	120	25 7 th -graders 24 8 th -graders
Stephenson	boys & girls track & field	186	53 7 th -graders 30 8 th -graders
Wyoming-The Potter's House Chr	7 th -grade boys basketball	187	42 7 th -graders 37 8 th -graders

Hillsdale-Will Carleton Academy and North Adams-Jerome Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of boys and girls cross country to a cooperative agreement which exists between these two member middle schools in football. Will Carleton will be the primary school.

Jackson-Middle School at Parkside, Jackson Christian, Jackson-Lumen Christi and Parma-Western Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys and girls swimming & diving between these four member middle schools. Jackson Middle School at Parkside will be the primary school.

Manistee-Catholic Central and Manistee-Trinity Lutheran Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys and girls basketball between these two member middle schools. Catholic Central will be the primary school.

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 schools:

Center Line-Michigan Math & Science Academy – This school (MMASA) is chartered by Grand Valley State University and first opened in Hazel Park in 2009. The school recently moved to its current location in the former Center Line-St. Clement High School. It is operated by Company Concept Schools. The school athletic director coached previously at Warren-Mott and has attended an MHSAA New AD Orientation. The school currently has an enrollment of 175 students in grades 9-12 and 500 students in grades K-8. It intends to sponsor boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls track & field and girls volleyball. It is intended that the middle school also become an MHSAA member. The school has a competition gym and outdoor facilities two blocks from the school. The athletic program is a member of the Varsity Gold Charter School Conference where it competes in volleyball and basketball. A signed 2015-16 Membership Resolution and Preliminary Classification Form were received on July 28, 2015. The Athletic Department Code of Conduct was submitted. If a 2016-17 Membership Resolution is received prior to Sept. 30, 2016, and all other regulations are followed, the school will be eligible for MHSAA tournaments for the 2016-17 school year.

Detroit-Cornerstone Leadership and Business High School/Cornerstone Middle School – This school is a Christian nonpublic tuition-based school that first opened in 2011 with its first graduating class in the spring of 2015. It is located in a building formerly occupied by the Lutheran School for the Deaf on the near East Side of Detroit. The school has an enrollment of 57 students in grades 9-12 and 68 students in grades 7 and 8. It is intended that the Cornerstone Middle School also become an MHSAA member. It has a large outdoor play and competition field and a less than regulation size gym. The school is looking to rent a gym for basketball games. It intends to sponsor girls volleyball and the following sports for boys and girls: basketball, soccer, golf and track & field. The current athletic director has been with the school for four years. A signed 2015-16 Membership Resolution and Preliminary Classification Form were received on Sept. 17, 2015. The Athletic Department Code of Conduct was submitted. If a 2016-17 Membership Resolution is received prior to Sept. 30, 2016, and all other regulations are followed, the school will be eligible for MHSAA tournaments for the 2016-17 school year.

MHSAA Committees – The Executive Committee reviewed and approved appointments for membership on MHSAA committees which meet after Jan. 1, 2016.

Representative Council – The Executive Committee previewed the preliminary agenda for the Dec. 4, 2015 meeting.

Next Meeting – The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 3, 2015, at 12:00 Noon in East Lansing.