

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, September 13, 2011

Members Present:

Jim Derocher, Negaunee
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
Fred Smith, Buchanan
Paula Steele, Perry
Arnetta Thompson, Grand Rapids

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.

Allegan and Hopkins High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys swimming & diving between these two schools whose combined enrollment of 1,342 students will place a new team in the Division 1 tournament. Allegan sponsored swimming previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Southwest and Central Michigan Swim League was received.

Benzonia-Benzie Central, Buckley, Kingsley, Leland, Maple City-Glen Lake, Traverse City Christian, Traverse City-Grand Traverse Academy and Traverse City College Prep Academy High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in ice hockey between these eight schools whose combined enrollment of 1,856 students will continue placement of a team in the Division 2 tournament. Benzie Central will be the primary school of this program which began with seven teams in June 2008 and increased to eight teams in September 2010 when Frankfort and Grand Traverse Academy were removed and Buckley, Leland and Onkama were added. This approval removes Onkama and returns Traverse City-Grand Traverse Academy to the program. Support from eight future opponents was submitted.

Gladwin, Beaverton, Harrison, Houghton Lake and West Branch-Ogemaw Heights High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of Ogemaw Heights to a cooperative program in ice hockey which has existed between the other four schools since 2001. The combined enrollment of 2,734 students will continue placement of a team in the Division 1 tournament. Gladwin will continue as the primary school. Support from the Northern Michigan Hockey League was submitted.

Jackson, Jackson-Northwest and Parma-Western High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in ice hockey between these three schools whose combined enrollment of 3,171 students will continue placement of a team in the Division 1 tournament. Jackson and Parma-Western were previously in a cooperative program with Vandercook Lake and Springport which recently dissolved. Jackson will continue as the primary school. Support from the CAAC was submitted.

Kalamazoo-Heritage Christian and Kalamazoo-Reformed Heritage Christian High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program between Heritage Christian and Reformed Heritage Christian High School in boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, boys and girls cross country, girls volleyball and baseball. Fall sports will not activate until 2012-13. The combined enrollment will be 122 students; Heritage Christian will be the primary school. Support from the Alliance League was submitted. MHSAA membership for Reformed Heritage Christian is approved later in these minutes.

Rochester and Rochester Hills-Stoney Creek High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – A request was made to waive the 3,500-student enrollment cap to permit six 12th-grade Rochester High School students to be grandfathered onto their previous boys lacrosse team and participate with Stoney Creek High School during the 2011-12 school year only. A cooperative program between these two schools was dissolved at the end of the 2010-11 school year due to the combined enrollment exceeding 3,500 students. It is planned that in 2011-12, Stoney Creek will sponsor a varsity and junior varsity team and Rochester High School a junior varsity non-MHSAA tournament team only. The following year, Rochester will attempt to sponsor a varsity and junior varsity team. The Stoney Creek team would participate in the Division 1 tournament.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for these six students only for 2011-12 only.

Flushing High School (Regulation I, Section 7) – A request to waive the previous academic credit record regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student whose home environment in Maryland contributed to poor academic performance. The student was removed from the home of an abusive stepfather and now resides with his mother in Flushing. The student passed three of seven classes in the second semester of 2010-11 and one summer school class; one course short of 66 percent of full credit load potential for a full-time student. The student did not participate in athletics at his former high school. The student enrolled to begin the 2011-12 school year at Flushing High School. An Educational Transfer Form is anticipated.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Athens 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 10th- or 11th-grade foreign exchange student from a CSJET-listed program who lives with a host family in the Colon School District. The host family has three children attending Athens Schools for several years and the mother is employed by the school district. A waiver was approved for this host family previously.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Auburn-Bay City Western High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 17 year old 12th-grade student who moved from his parents' home in Midland to the residence of a family in the Bay City Western attendance area. The father has approved of the living arrangement and the former school, Midland-Dow, has no objection to the student's participation if deemed eligible.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Climax-Scotts High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who attended Kalamazoo-Hackett Catholic Central for the 9th grade and participated in JV soccer. Climax-Scotts does not sponsor soccer. The student is enrolling at Climax-Scotts to begin the 2011-12 school year and is interested in playing football.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Custer-Mason County Eastern High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf a 12th-grade student who is returning to Mason County Eastern after spending the 11th grade at Mason County Central because of harassment and physical confrontations during the 9th and 10th grades at Mason County Eastern. The student did not participate in athletics in the first semester of the 11th grade at Mason County Central and wishes to bowl for Mason County Eastern.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Flint-Powers Catholic High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 73 (practicing with another school in August) was made to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only. The student had practiced football for two days with Grand Blanc High School (Aug. 8-9, 2011) and did not participate in a scrimmage or contest. The student enrolled at Powers Catholic on Aug. 30, 2011.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for subvarsity football until Jan. 16, 2012. The student is eligible immediately at any level in other sports.

Fowler High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student whose father is in the military and who has been most recently stationed in Alaska and Oklahoma. Rather than relocate to Oklahoma, the student and his mother have returned to their hometown of Fowler and the student enrolled to begin the 2011-12 school year. The father has remained stationed in Oklahoma and will return to Fowler upon his retirement from the military in two years.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Fowlerville High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who attended Fowlerville since the 9th grade except for Tuesday, Sept. 6, when the student attended Lansing Christian High School. The family had moved to Lansing but the student wishes to remain in attendance at Fowlerville and reenrolled there on Sept. 7.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Grand Rapids-Forest Hills Northern High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who began the 9th grade at Forest Hills Northern and attended Grand Rapids-NorthPointe Christian for the 10th grade before reenrolling in the 11th grade to begin the 2011-12 school year at Forest Hills Northern. The student was ineligible when he transferred to begin the 10th grade and sought to be eligible at the school of his residence, preferring its academics.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Houghton 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 12th-grade student who moved to Hawaii with her family in January of 2011 and is returning with her family to the same school (Houghton) but to the former home located in the Hancock School District. The student has attended Houghton Schools since the 3rd grade. The school inadvertently allowed the student to participate while ineligible for two volleyball dates which the school is forfeiting. The student has also been withheld for two dates of competition pending Executive Committee approval.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Hudson 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 12th-grade foreign exchange student from a CSIET-listed program whose host family does not live in the Hudson School District but has three children enrolled in Hudson Schools their entire career.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Lansing-Everett High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 73 (practicing with another school in August) was made to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only. The student had practiced football for four-five days with Lansing-Sexton High School (Aug. 8-12, 2011) and did not participate in a scrimmage or contest. The student was anticipating being accepted under School of Choice at Sexton but was denied, and enrolled at Everett on Sept. 6, 2011.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for subvarsity football until Jan. 16, 2012. The student is eligible immediately at any level in other sports.

Lansing-Everett 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 Chicago Math & Science Academy and participated in athletics. The student enrolled at Everett High School on March 2, 2011.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91st school day of enrollment at Everett High School beginning March 2, 2011.

Leslie 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 two 12th-grade foreign exchange students from CSIET-listed programs whose host families do not live in the Leslie School District but have their own children enrolled in the Leslie School District.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Leslie High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 61 (public school of residence) is made on behalf of a 12th-grade foreign exchange student from a CSIET-listed program whose host family lives in the Mason School District. Mason High School would not accept any more foreign exchange students for the current school year.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Marlette High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an incoming 9th-grade student who practiced volleyball and participated in a scrimmage with Sandusky High School before enrolling at Marlette High School to begin the 2011-12 school year.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Perry 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 18 year old 12th-grade student who was forced to leave home in May 2011. The student is residing with a family in Morrice. The student was in an orphanage until age three and lived with adopted parents for five years until they divorced. The student was enrolled at Eaton Rapids High School, ran cross country in the 2010-11 school year, enrolled at Perry to begin the 2011-12 school year and wishes to play soccer. An Educational Transfer Form is in process.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Remus-Chippewa Hills 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 12th-grade student who has moved into the residence of his divorced mother just outside the border of the Chippewa Hills School District. The student's uncle, who resides in the same house with his mother, is a 12th grader at Chippewa Hills High School. An Educational Transfer Form is in process.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Saginaw 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 Bridgeport High School for grades 9-11 and filed a complaint with the Michigan Department of Civil Rights in the spring of 2008. The student enrolled to begin the 2011-12 school year at Saginaw High School.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Warren-Regina High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of 9th and 10th grade sisters who attended Richmond-St. Joseph Academy for six days, did not participate in athletics and enrolled at Regina High School on Sept. 6, 2011. The 10th-grade student had attended Regina for the 9th grade and is reenrolling.

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 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
Adrian-Lenawee Christian	10	Kanakee, IL– Trinity Academy	Sept. 2011	Jan. 16, 2012
Grand Rapids Christian	10	East Kentwood	Sept. 2011	Jan. 16, 2012
Lake Linden-Hubbell	9	Dollar Bay	Sept. 2011	Jan. 16, 2012
Madison Heights-Bishop Foley	10	Southfield	Sept. 2011	Jan. 16, 2012
Oxford	10	Tecamachiro, Mex-Miraflores Academy	Sept. 2011	Jan. 16, 2012

Oscoda High School (Regulation II, Section 11[H]) – Pursuant to Interpretation 236, a request to waive the three-/four-player rule for the 2011-12 school year was made on behalf the boys and girls swimming & diving coach who is a teacher in the district and also the administrator of the Otter Community Swim Program. It is anticipated that the Otter Swim Program will have approximately 125 participants ages 5-18 years with participants from four neighboring school districts. It is estimated that 70 percent of the students are below high school age. Oscoda typically has 10-15 students in its swim program. Oscoda is the only school of the neighboring four with a pool. Because of the limited resources of this community, the Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for this coach for the 2009-10 and 2010-11 school years.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for the 2011-12 school year.

Owosso High School (Regulation II, Section 11[H]) – Pursuant to Interpretation 236, a request to waive the three- (or four-) player rule for the 2011-12 school year was made on behalf of the head girls bowling coach who is also employed part-time by Capitol Bowl in Owosso as a youth bowling coordinator for students from several communities in the area. The coach is employed full-time at an automobile dealership.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Regulation III, Section 1(C) – Pursuant to 2011-12 *Handbook* Interpretation 261, the Executive Committee approved waiver of the enrollment regulation for the following 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 2011-12 school year only.

Junior High/ Middle School	Sport(s)	High School Enrollment	Middle School Enrollment
Camden Frontier	girls volleyball	166	28 7 th grade girls 18 8 th grade girls
Traverse City Christian & Pathfinder Coop Program	girls volleyball	95	17 7 th grade girls 10 8 th grade girls <u>Pathfinder:</u> 4 7 th grade girls 9 8 th grade girls

New Member School – 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:

Kalamazoo-Reformed Heritage Christian High School has been in existence for 18 years and has an onsite enrollment of 16 students in grades 9-12; 43 students in grades K-12 (6 in the 7th and 8th grades), all of whom attend the same school/same campus. There are no athletic facilities on the grounds. They are currently included in an application for a cooperative program with Kalamazoo-Heritage Christian in the following sports: girls volleyball, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer and baseball. The athletic department code of conduct has been received. A signed 2011-12 MHSAA Membership Resolution was received Aug. 5, 2011. The Preliminary Enrollment Declaration Form has been received. If a 2012-13 Membership Resolution is received prior to Sept. 28, 2012 and provided all other rules are complied with, the school will be eligible for MHSAA tournaments for the 2012-13 school year. Policy permits students to participate in MHSAA tournaments as a part of cooperative agreements with member schools during the initial year of membership.

The Executive Committee noted that the middle school's current enrollment is so small as to suggest it may cause the high school to fail to meet the minimum enrollment require for an MHSAA member school for 2012-13 (15 students); and if this should occur, membership would be suspended and this cooperative program would be dissolved for the 2012-13 school year.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Executive Committee are scheduled for Monday, Oct. 3, 2011, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2011, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; and Thursday, Dec. 1, 2011, at 1:30 p.m. in East Lansing.