

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Virtual, August 7, 2023

9:00 a.m.

Members Present:

Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
John Thompson, Brighton
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Kris Isom, Adrian
Eric Albright, Midland

Staff Members Present:

Cody Inglis
Mark Uyl (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 MHSAA is a private, nonprofit corporation, made up of voluntary membership; it is neither a state agency nor a court of law, and is not bound by any particular legal standard of review or burden of proof when applying its Regulations or while administering an internal appeal. The *MHSAA Handbook* may identify which party bears the burden of proof, depending on the particular situation or if a particular Regulation is at issue. The MHSAA staff, its Executive Committee, or its Representative Council, where appropriate, shall determine whether the circumstances in each situation, as presented to the MHSAA, warrant application or waiver of a particular Regulation or Interpretation. To make that determination, the MHSAA considers what a reasonable person given the same information would decide.

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 was 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 vacated.

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 agreement 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.

Summary of 2022-23 Waivers – During the 2022-23 program year, there were 406 requests by member schools to waive regulations (versus 366 in 2021-22, 269 in 2020-21, 354 in 2019-20, 448 in 2018-19, 461 in 2017-18, 420 in 2016-17, 453 in 2015-16, 467 in 2014-15, 449 in 2013-14, 522 in 2012-13, 506 in 2011-12 and 462 in 2010-11). Of those requests, 264 were approved by the Executive Committee (versus 260 in 2021-22, 198 in 2020-21, 271 in 2019-20, 355 in 2018-19, 379 in 2017-18, 350 in 2016-17, 381 in 2015-16, 362 in 2014-15, 345 in 2013-14, 416 in 2012-13, 386 in 2011-12 and 337 in 2010-11). Of the total, 268 requests involved the transfer regulation (versus 243 in 2021-22, 167 in 2020-21, 226 in 2019-20, 315 in 2018-19, 322 in 2017-18, 285 in 2016-17, 291 in 2015-16, 300 in 2014-15, 316 in 2013-14, 338 in 2012-13, 352 in 2011-12 and 320 in 2010-11). Of those involving the transfer regulation, 138 were approved (versus 144 in 2021-22, 106 in 2020-21, 153 in 2019-20, 238 in 2018-19, 253 in 2017-18, 234 in 2016-17, 224 in 2015-16, 213 in 2014-15, 229 in 2013-14, 259 in 2012-13, 265 in 2011-12 and 219 in 2010-11).

Rationale for Transfer Regulation – The following rationale for the transfer regulation, first established by the Executive Committee on Aug. 6, 1985, and last reviewed Aug. 4, 2022, is reaffirmed:

- a. The rule tends to ensure equality of competition in that each school plays students who have been in that school and established their eligibility in that school.
- b. The rule tends to prevent students from "jumping" from one school to another.
- c. The rule prevents the "bumping" of students who have previously gained eligibility in a school system by persons coming from outside the school system.
- d. The rule tends to prevent interscholastic athletic recruiting.
- e. The rule tends to prevent or discourage dominance of one sport at one school with a successful program, i.e., the concentration of excellent baseball players at one school to the detriment of surrounding schools through transfers and to the detriment of the natural school population and ability mix.
- f. The rule tends to create and maintain stability in that age group, i.e., it promotes team stability and teamwork expectation fulfillment.
- g. The rule is designed to discourage parents from "school shopping" for athletic purposes.
- h. The rule is consistent with educational philosophy of going to school for academics first and athletics second.
- i. It eliminates family financial status from becoming a factor on eligibility, thus making a uniform rule for all students across the state of Michigan (i.e., tuition and millage considerations).
- j. It tends to encourage competition between nonpublic and public schools, rather than discourage that competition.
- k. It tends to reduce friction or threat of students changing schools because of problems they may have created or because of their misconduct, etc.

Custer-Mason County Eastern High School (Regulation I, Section 1[D]) – A request to waive Regulation I, Section 1 (D), to allow the use of 8th-grade student-athletes in their athletic programs. Custer-Mason County Eastern will have 100 students in grades 9-12 for the 2023-24 school year. The request came to the Executive Committee with rationale about the positive impact of using 8th graders at Mason County Eastern in all sports starting in Fall 2023.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Dollar Bay High School (Regulation I, Section 1[D]) – A request to waive Regulation I, Section 1(D), to allow the use of 8th-grade student-athletes in their athletic programs. Dollar Bay will have 113 students in grades 9-12 for the 2023-24 school year. The request came to the Executive Committee with specific numbers, causes, and rationale about the positive impact of using 8th graders at Dollar Bay in all sports starting in Fall 2023.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Midland-Calvary Baptist Academy High School (Regulation I, Section 1[D]) – A request to waive Regulation I, Section 1 (D), to allow the use of 8th-grade student-athletes in their athletic programs. Calvary Baptist Academy will have 100 students in grades 9-12 for the 2023-24 school year. The request came to the Executive Committee with specific numbers, causes, and rationale about the positive impact of using 8th graders at Calvary Baptist Academy in all sports starting in Fall 2023.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Muskegon Catholic Central High School (Regulation I, Section 1[D]) – A request to waive Regulation I, Section 1 (D) to allow the use of 8th-grade student-athletes in their athletic programs. Muskegon Catholic Central will have 124 students in grades 9-12 for the 2023-24 school year. The request came to the Executive Committee with specific numbers, causes, and rationale about the positive impact of using 8th graders at Muskegon Catholic Central. The request is to be able to use 8th graders in all sports that Muskegon Catholic Central does not have a cooperative agreement with another school starting in the Fall of 2023.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Traverse City Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 1[D]) – A request to waive Regulation I, Section 1 (D), to allow the use of 8th-grade student-athletes in their non-cooperative sport athletic programs. Traverse City Christian will have 103 students in grades 9-12 for the 2023-24 school year. The request came to the Executive Committee with cause and rationale about the positive impact of using 8th graders at Traverse City Christian in all sports that TC Christian has a standalone program starting in Fall 2023.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Potterville and Pewamo-Westphalia High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in wrestling (varsity only) between these schools. Neither school currently offers wrestling. The combined enrollment of 534 students will place the team in Division 3, adding one team to the division. Potterville will be the primary schools. Support from the Central Michigan Athletic Conference was submitted.

Commerce Township-Walled Lake Northern, Walled Lake-Central and Walled Lake-Western High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E-2]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in girls lacrosse (varsity and JV) between these schools. Walled Lake-Central and Walled Lake-Western currently have a cooperative agreement. Both schools wished to add Walled Lake-Northern to the cooperative program as the primary school. The combined enrollment of 3,812 students will place the combined team in Division 1 removing one team from Division 2. Support from the Lakes Valley Conference was submitted.

Saginaw-Arthur Hill and Saginaw High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E-2]) – A request to amend previously submitted cooperative applications where a clerical error left off the sport of volleyball (varsity, JV and freshman) from several other cooperative program applications for these two member schools. The two schools will form one school starting in the 2024-25 school year. In anticipation of this consolidation, the schools combined all programs except boys basketball. After MHSAA tournament assignments were released, the school realized that volleyball was left off the request. The schools asked for a late request of a cooperative application to be approved in volleyball. MHSAA staff is able to accommodate the request. The combined enrollment of 1,176 students will result in the elimination of two Division 2 volleyball programs and the addition of one Division 1 volleyball program to the MHSAA tournament. Saginaw-Arthur Hill will be the primary school. Support from the Saginaw Valley League was submitted.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Gladwin, Beaverton and Coleman High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F-2]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in ice hockey (varsity only) between these schools. The combined enrollment of 980 students will place the combined team in Division 3. Gladwin will be the primary school. Support from potential opponents was submitted.

Grand Rapids-Christian and Cedar Springs High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F-2]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in ice hockey (varsity only) between these schools. The combined enrollment of 1,832 students will place the combined team in Division 3. Grand Rapids-Christian will be the primary school. Support from the OK Conference was submitted.

Macomb-L'Anse Creuse North, Harrison Township-L'Anse Creuse and Richmond High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F-2]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in ice hockey (varsity only) between these schools. L'Anse Creuse North and L'Anse Creuse currently have a cooperative agreement but wish to add Richmond. L'Anse Creuse North will remain the primary school. The combined enrollment of 3,504 students will place the combined team in Division 1. Support from the Macomb Area Conference and the Blue Water Area Conference was submitted.

Traverse City-St Francis, Elk Rapids, Suttons Bay, Traverse City Christian, Frankfort, Lake City, Charlevoix and Kalkaska High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F-2]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in ice hockey (varsity only) between these schools. The combined enrollment of 2,224 students will place the team in Division 3. Traverse City-St Francis will be the primary school. Support from potential competing schools was submitted.

McBain-Northern Michigan Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 2) – A request to waive the age rule was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student (D.O.B. August 5, 2004) who has struggled with health and learning issues for several years. The student has undergone several surgeries for his medical conditions, including a congenital heart condition, and has been diagnosed with two disabilities. The student has participated in cross country and track while at Northern Michigan Christian and his times place him consistently in the back of the pack. He does not appear to present a significant risk of injury to himself, teammates, or opponents or create a competitive advantage in comparison to teammates and opponents. Supporting documentation for an age waiver was presented by the school, including medical documentation, academic transcripts, and athletic participation history.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver as this fits the narrow criteria under Regulation I, Section 2.

Alma High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an incoming 10th-grade student who played football while a student at Alma on the 9th-grade football team during the 2022-23 school year. The transfer back to Alma was made in April of 2023 following a short enrollment at Ithaca and then in an online program through High Point Virtual Academy. The request was for immediate subvarsity eligibility in football. Documentation from the former school was supplied and Alma has categorized the student as homeless.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Ann Arbor-Father Gabriel Richard High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an incoming 10th-grade student who transferred to Gabriel Richard for the start of the 2023-24 school year after attending Wixom-St. Catherine of Siena for her 9th-grade year. The student competed in volleyball and lacrosse at St. Catherine of Siena. The student and family desired a new beginning because of the issues she experienced from peers at St. Catherine of Siena. The student transferred to Gabriel Richard to continue the Catholic faith and schooling important to her family and desired to play volleyball and lacrosse at Gabriel Richard.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Ann Arbor-Father Gabriel Richard High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an incoming 10th-grade student who attended Novi-Detroit Catholic Central in his 9th-grade year. The student played football while at Detroit Catholic Central and experienced a violation of privacy, being recorded in the football locker room. The video was shared and the incident had a profound effect on the student, who quit the 9th-grade football team before the season concluded. The student and family desired to have a fresh start at Gabriel Richard and to continue their son's Catholic education. The school request was for immediate eligibility at all levels and if that could not be granted then subvarsity eligibility in football.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Ann Arbor Pioneer High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an incoming 10th-grade student who transferred to Pioneer for the start of the 2023-24 school year after attending Ann Arbor Father Gabriel Richard for his 9th-grade year. The student competed in football, wrestling, and track & field at Gabriel Richard. The student was denied re-enrollment at Gabriel Richard after a school rule issue and violation. There were multiple letters of support provided including from the previous school and medical personnel working with the student. The school asked for immediate eligibility in all sports and if that can't be granted then subvarsity eligibility.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Bloomfield Hills-Brother Rice High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 62 (closest non-public school to the residence) was made on behalf of an incoming 10th-grade student who attended Scottsdale Christian in Arizona as a 9th-grade student. While at Scottsdale Christian, the student played basketball before making a full and complete residential move from Arizona to Bloomfield Hills because of the father's employment. Brother Rice is the closest Catholic and faith-based school to the new residence. The family has a history of their children attending faith-based schools, and the student's younger brother will also attend a Catholic middle school. The request was for the student to be able to participate in basketball at Brother Rice immediately.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Brethren High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an incoming 11th-grade student who transferred from Manistee to Brethren in January of the 2022-23 school year. Before leaving Manistee, the student played JV football in three dates of competition before the JV football season was canceled for Manistee. The student left Manistee after a family move to a separate district and wanted to attend the same school as his brother. The request was for eligibility in football at Brethren beginning in week four of the 2023 season.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver after three games.

Bronson High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who has transferred to Bronson after attending Quincy as a 9th-grade student. The student participated on the JV basketball team at Quincy during the 2022-23 school year. The student experienced social and emotional struggles that lead to him being home-schooled for the final two months of the school year. The student's mother recently accepted a teaching job and moved jobs from Quincy to Bronson, which is her hometown and where several family members live and cousins attend school. The family hopes that this new change will help with some of the challenges the student has previously experienced. The school requested immediate eligibility in basketball for the 2023-24 school year.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Climax-Scotts High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request was made to waive Regulation I, Section 9 (C) for two students who transferred from Battle Creek-St. Philip Catholic Central to Climax-Scotts for the start of the 2023-24 school year. During the 2022-23 school year, the students participated in baseball. St. Philip Catholic Central and Climax-Scotts have a cooperative agreement in baseball, so 9 (C) would apply by rule as a request. St. Philip Catholic Central co-signed the letter of request providing written support for these students' eligibility in baseball, only at Climax-Scotts, during the 2023-24 school year.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Clinton Township-Chippewa Valley High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an incoming 11th-grade student that transferred from Warren-Michigan Collegiate at the start of the 2023-24 school year. The student and family are concerned with safety due to an act of violence and desire a new start in a new district. While at Michigan Collegiate, the student competed on the football team. The new school asked for immediate eligibility at Chippewa Valley to play varsity football.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

East Grand Rapids High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an incoming 11th-grade student who attended Grand Rapids Catholic Central. While at Grand Rapids Catholic Central, the student competed in basketball. The family lives in East Grand Rapids. The student is transferring to East Grand Rapids to start the 2023-24 school year after experiencing racial tensions and no longer feeling supported by the former school. The family has provided email exchanges with GR Catholic Central about the cultural challenges their son experienced. The former school has also submitted support for this transfer. The request was for immediate eligibility in basketball for the 2023-24 season at East Grand Rapids.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Elk Rapids High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an incoming 10th-grade student transferring from Traverse City Central online program at the start of the 2023-24 school year. Traverse City Central is ending their online program and the student lives in Elk Rapids. The student competed in one JV golf match in the 2022-23 school year for Traverse City Central. The new school requested eligibility after the first match of the golf season at Elk Rapids in the 2023-24 school year.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver after the first match of the golf season.

Farmington Hills-Mercy High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an incoming 10th-grade student who transferred to Mercy from Grosse Pointe South at the start of the 2023-24 school year. The student has experienced health challenges related to persistent asthma that caused her to miss over 10 school days at Grosse Pointe South. The student participated in volleyball at the former school. The student desired a new change where Mercy can accommodate working with her medical condition with their school nurse. The request was for immediate eligibility in volleyball at Mercy.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Flint-Powers Catholic High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an incoming 10th-grade student who attended Grand Blanc during their 9th-grade year. While at Grand Blanc, the student competed in two 9th-grade volleyball games before being injured. The student transferred to Powers Catholic to start the 2023-24 school year. The request was for immediate eligibility in volleyball after sitting out two volleyball contest dates at Powers Catholic. Supporting documentation from Grand Blanc was also received.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver after two volleyball dates.

Gaylord High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an incoming 11th-grade student who transferred to Gaylord from Gaylord St. Mary. The student competed in volleyball, basketball, and track at St. Mary as a 9th and 10th grader. While the experience at St. Mary was a positive one, the family and student desired a more challenging academic curriculum including classes that St. Mary couldn't offer. Gaylord will allow her to excel academically, and the desire to also compete in athletics is important to the student. Gaylord requested immediate subvarsity eligibility for the student in all sports.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Grand Rapids Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an incoming 10th-grade student who attended Hudsonville-Unity Christian in the 2022-23 school year and played football and basketball. The student transferred to Grand Rapids Christian to start the 2023-24 school year after experiencing several direct racial issues while at Unity Christian. The family has provided several examples of racial incidents that occurred with the student and his older brother. The family also moved from Jenison after the 2021-22 school year because of similar incidents while at Jenison which were also documented by the family. The request was for immediate eligibility in football and basketball for the 2023-24 season at Grand Rapids Christian for the 10th-grade student. The former school does not oppose the transfer.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Grand Rapids-NorthPointe Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an incoming 10th-grade student who transferred to NorthPointe Christian from Lowell for the start of the second semester of the 2022-23 school year. The student competed in volleyball at Lowell as a 9th grader. The student's transfer was related to medical and anxiety issues and a different academic environment which NorthPointe Christian offers. The new school request was for immediate eligibility in volleyball at NorthPointe, and if that could not be granted, then immediate subvarsity eligibility in volleyball. The former school and several letters of support were submitted regarding the student's transfer.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Grand Rapids-Northview High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation specifically interpretation #62 (the closest public high school to the new residence) was made on behalf of an incoming 11th-grade student who participated in tennis while a student at Wayland Union as a 10th-grade student. The family moved to the Grand Rapids Northview area but could not find a house in the Northview attendance area. They moved into the Comstock Park attendance area but are less than four miles from Northview. The school requested immediate athletic eligibility in tennis at Northview.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Grand Rapids–West Michigan Aviation Academy (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who has transferred to West Michigan Aviation Academy from Caledonia. The student competed as a 9th grader at Caledonia in cross country. While the student attended Caledonia, the student desired to attend WMAA, and admission at WMAA is by random lottery. The student was not selected before his 9th-grade year, but just before the second semester started in January, he was notified and admitted to WMAA. He chose to attend WMAA immediately after the second semester beginning in January 2023. The school asked for immediate eligibility in cross country for the student given that WMAA was his original school of choice as a 9th grader.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Grandville-Calvin Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 62 (closest non-public school to the residence) was made on behalf of an incoming 11th-grade student who transferred from Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy in Ohio to Grandville Calvin Christian for the start of the 2023-24 school year. The student moved after her 7th-grade year to Ohio because of a job change for her father, after attending Calvin Christian Schools since preschool. The family has moved back to the Grand Rapids area, and Grand Rapids South Christian is the closest non-public high school to their new residence. The request was for immediate eligibility in volleyball at Calvin Christian, given their strong previous connection to the school and school community at Grandville Calvin Christian.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Grant High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an incoming 10th-grade student who transferred to Grant from Fremont for the 2023-24 school year. The student has moved to live with his aunt in Grant and was granted legal custody. The student has experienced several challenges including the incarceration of his mother. The student had been living with various family members, including most recently his father, in Fremont. The father requested help from his aunt with the son, hence the change of residence to Grant where the aunt is a school social worker. The student participated in football and wrestling at the former school. The student has struggled with depression and anxiety and this new start at Grant, where he attended until third grade, will allow him to have stability in his life. The request was for eligibility in all sports.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Grosse Pointe North High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an incoming 10th-grade student who transferred from Grosse Pointe South to Grosse Pointe North for the start of the 2023-24 school year. The student had a difficult 9th-grade year at Grosse Pointe South with mental health concerns that caused the family to request a change of schools within the Grosse Pointe Public School system. This intensive process of changing schools within Grosse Pointe was approved as a new start for the student to help with her challenges. The request was for immediate eligibility in volleyball, basketball and soccer at Grosse Pointe North. The previous school supported the transfer.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Holland High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for a 10th-grade student who attended Grand Rapids-Catholic Central during the first semester of their 9th-grade year. While at Grand Rapids-Catholic Central, the student competed on the freshman football team. The student previously attended Holland Public Schools before a job change for the father at Catholic Central took him to Grand Rapids. The student transferred to Holland to start the second semester of the 2022-23 school year and participated on the basketball and baseball teams at Holland. This change has been positive for the student academically and socially, and the family would like to continue this development. The request was for immediate subvarsity eligibility in football for the 2023 season at Holland.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Howard City-Tri County High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an incoming 12th-grade student who attended Montabella in their 9th-grade year and competed in football and basketball. The student has transferred to Tri County to start the 2023-24 school year because of conflicts related to his father's job as the Chief of Police in Home Township, the township that serves Montabella High School. The father's job causes him to enforce laws, that some have not agreed with and have harassed the family in town and via social media. The father's job requires him to live in the township he serves, Home Township, which is why the family can't move. The request came with documentation and support from Montabella and the Township. The request was for immediate eligibility in all sports for the 2023-24 school year at Tri County.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Jackson Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the international student eligibility regulation, specifically interpretation #85 was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student at Jackson Christian. The student is an orphaned refugee from Ethiopia and enrolled at Jackson Christian on January 17, 2023. He lives with guardians that will adopt him officially when he turns 18 years old. The student also lost his brother to illness in the past two years. The student is an international. Jackson Christian does not have many, if any, JV teams, including soccer, for students given their enrollment size. The student desired to play varsity soccer this year at Jackson Christian, the only level available to him.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Kingsley High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A second request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who transferred to Kingsley from Cadillac during the 2022-23 school year. The student competed in varsity volleyball and JV soccer at Cadillac before transferring to Kingsley in December 2022 where she competed in track & field. While at the former school, the student experienced negative interactions with her peers resulting in mental health issues. The student has attended counseling and therapy to help them cope, and the new start has helped in this process. Kingsley is again requesting eligibility in volleyball. New information includes more significant information from the therapist, including all of the appointments and further information on how significant the mental health challenges have been for the student. When contacted, Cadillac did not have any indication that the move is significantly about athletics or volleyball.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Lake Orion High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for a 10th-grade student who attended Pontiac-Notre Dame Prep during their 9th-grade year and played JV soccer. The student transferred to Lake Orion, the public high school that serves his residence, to start the 2023-24 school year to get help with some mental health struggles. This change will help the student get academic and social services to help with his mental health struggles. The request was for immediate subvarsity eligibility in soccer for the 2023 season at Lake Orion.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Lansing Catholic High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – The school requested an interpretation by the Executive Committee regarding an incoming 9th-grade student's status under Regulation I, Section 9. This student has an F1 visa and has lived in East Lansing since the 5th grade, having attended St. Thomas Parish School. The student is fully enrolled to attend Lansing Catholic in the fall of 2023 as 9th grader and has been living in Michigan as an active student for over 6 years. The school is requesting the Executive Committee deem this student as a domestic student. The student will officially become an American citizen by 2024. The request was for eligibility to participate in football for the duration of his enrollment at Lansing Catholic.

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 non-public school to the residence) was made on behalf of an incoming 11th-grade student who attended Charlotte as a 9th and 10th-grade student. While at Charlotte, the student played basketball and baseball. The student's parents are divorced, and an Educational Transfer Form was also submitted with the request. Lansing Christian is not the closest non-public school to their new residence but is the closest Protestant school. The student and family have a demonstrated history of their children attending Lansing Christian schools, including the student who attended from 3rd to 8th grade before moving to live with his father in Charlotte as a 9th grader. In addition, the student's sisters have graduated or are still attending Lansing Christian. The request was for the student to be able to participate in basketball and baseball at Lansing Christian immediately pending a completed ETF.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Leslie High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an incoming 11th-grade student who transferred to Leslie from Webberville to start the 2023-24 school year. The student competed in football and wrestling at Webberville. While at Webberville a significant issue with a staff member occurred. The student's transfer will help their mental, social, and academic recovery and a new start was needed. The request was for immediate eligibility in all sports at Leslie. Webberville also submitted supporting information regarding the transfer.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Madison Heights-Lamphere High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an incoming 11th-grade student who enrolled at Lamphere in the Spring of 2023 after attending Brother Rice for his 9th and 10th-grade years. While at Brother Rice, the student competed in one JV football game in the Fall of 2022 and a full season of basketball. The student transferred to Lamphere to receive more academic assistance, after the death of his father and his family being evicted from their home. The request is for immediate eligibility in football after sitting out the first game for Lamphere. The student would remain ineligible at Lamphere for the 2023-24 basketball season.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver after one football game.

Midland High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation, specifically interpretation #62 (the closest public high school to the new residence) was made on behalf of an incoming 10th-grade student who participated in swimming while a student at Central Hardin in Kentucky as a 9th-grade student. The family moved back to the Midland area where an older daughter attended Midland as a 9th grader in 2018, prior to their move to Kentucky. They desired to have this sibling attend Midland but secured housing in the Midland Dow attendance area. The school requested immediate athletic eligibility in swimming at Midland.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Midland High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation specifically interpretation #62 (the closest public high school to the new residence) was made on behalf of an incoming 10th-grade student who participated in football while a student at St. Clairsville in Ohio as a 9th-grade student. The family moved to the Midland Dow attendance area and desired to have their son attend Midland. The school requested immediate athletic eligibility at Midland. Supporting documentation from the former school, a therapist, and the father's former and current employers was provided.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level.

Paw Paw High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an incoming 10th-grade student who transferred from Bloomingdale at the end of the 2022-23 school year. While at Bloomingdale, the student competed in football, wrestling, and track & field. The family's decision to change schools centered on transporting students to school since the father works in Paw Paw, as well as increased opportunities that exist in Paw Paw. The new school asked for subvarsity eligibility in football, wrestling, and track at Paw Paw.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

St Johns High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an incoming 11th-grade student to St. Johns. The student transferred from East Lansing for the start of the 2023-24 school year. The student participated in football, basketball, and track while at East Lansing. The student transferred because of challenges faced at East Lansing including not feeling safe, anxiety, and mental health changes. The student's anxiety increased so the family desired a new start at his school of residence at St. Johns where he attended from 2nd grade through 7th grade. The request was for immediate eligibility in football, basketball, and track at St. Johns. Letters of support from the former school JV football coach, and medical professionals were included along with letters from the family and student.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Sterling Heights-Parkway Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation, specifically interpretation 62 (closest non-public school) was made on behalf of an incoming 10th-grade student transferring to Parkway Christian from Oakland Christian for the start of the 2023-24 school year. The student has experienced mental health challenges, including anxiety, and with the family's previous connection to Parkway Christian School it was hoped to help the student with her mental health challenges. The student previously attended Parkway Christian as an elementary student before the family moved and changed schools. The student's sister also graduated from Parkway Christian. The family has moved again but Parkway Christian is not the closest non-public school to their new residence but it is the closest Christian high school. The student participated in junior varsity volleyball at the former school. The request was for eligibility in volleyball. The former school supported the transfer and a letter of support was provided from a counselor.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Traverse City Central High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A second request to waive the transfer regulation, specifically interpretation #62 (closest public school attendance area), was made on behalf of an incoming 10th-grade student at Traverse City Central. The student transferred from Homer, Alaska, to the Traverse City area with his father's transfer to the Traverse City Coast Guard Air Base. While the family desired to find a home in the Traverse City Central attendance area, they could not and purchased one in the Suttons Bay attendance area. The student has adjusted well to TC Central, and the family does not wish to transfer him to another school. The student participated in football and soccer while in Alaska during the fall season of 2022-23. The continued request was for subvarsity eligibility only in football and soccer. New evidence submitted included detailed home information within the TC Central attendance area and a letter of support from the US Coast Guard Commanding Officer of Traverse City Coast Guard Air Base.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level.

Traverse City Central High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation, specifically interpretation #62 (closest public school attendance area) was made on behalf of an incoming 10th-grade student at Traverse City Central. The student transferred from St. Mary's Ryken in Maryland to the Traverse City area with his father's transfer to the Traverse City Coast Guard Air Base. While the family desired to find a home in the Traverse City Central attendance area, they were unable to do so and purchased one in the Suttons Bay attendance area. The student participated in cross country and track in Maryland as a 9th grader during the 2022-23 school year. The request was for subvarsity eligibility in cross country and track. Supporting documentation from the US Coast Guard Commanding Officer of Traverse City Coast Guard Air Base was also submitted.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level.

Waterford-Mott High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an incoming 11th-grade student at Waterford-Mott. The student transferred from Orchard Lake-St. Mary's Prep for the start of the 2023-24 school year. The student participated in JV football while at St. Mary's Prep. The student experienced significant emotional and mental health changes that required medical intervention and a therapist. The student's anxiety increased, so the family desired a new start at his school of residence, Waterford Mott. The request was for immediate eligibility in football at Mott.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Wayne Memorial High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an incoming 11th-grade student who transferred from Monroe-St. Mary Catholic Central at the end of the 2022-23 school year. While at St. Mary Catholic Central the student competed in swimming. The student struggles with learning disabilities, and to better accommodate her academically and socially, the student's mother, who is a teacher at Wayne Memorial, is having her daughter make the transition to a new school. The new school request was for eligibility in swimming based on the circumstances. Medical documentation and a letter from the former school's coach and AD were also provided.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Westland-John Glenn High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an incoming 10th-grade student at Westland-John Glenn. The student played in one JV football game at Wayne Memorial in the Fall of 2022 despite being an enrolled student at John Glenn. The student played while ineligible and the school forfeited that game. There was a miscommunication and misunderstanding about the student's football eligibility that occurred causing this mistake. The student did not play any other games at any other schools for the rest of the 2022 football season. The request was for subvarsity eligibility in football at Westland-John Glenn beginning in week two.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver after one football game.

Marquette High School (Regulation II, Section 9) – A request was made to waive Regulation II, Section 9 (B) regarding the first allowable competition date for 11-player subvarsity football. The first allowable date for subvarsity football competition is Wednesday, August 22, 2023, and the school requested to be able to play one day earlier on Tuesday, August 21. The primary reason for this request stems from a lack of 9th-grade football programs in the Upper Peninsula. The constraints of travel and the attempt to find other freshman football opponents have caused extreme travel to the Lower Peninsula or to Wisconsin. Wisconsin only plays subvarsity football games on Monday and thus limits further the contests that Marquette has to play. The August 21st game would allow Marquette to play a group of younger players from Bark River-Harris in a football game and still maintain other scheduled contests.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Byron Center High School (Regulation II, Section 11) – Pursuant to Interpretation 241, a request to waive the four-player rule was made on behalf of the head girls and boys swimming coach, who is also employed by the Byron Center Pool, which provides most of the coach's total income. This position requires the coach to coach the resident club team as well as supervise all competitive programs that use the facility. The program is open to the public and includes 150 participants aged 5-24, of which 60 will attend Byron Center Schools. The program also includes students from 18 other school districts. A similar request has been approved for this coach and program since 2014-15.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

East Grand Rapids High School (Regulation II, Section 11) – Pursuant to Interpretation 241, a request to waive the four-player rule for the 2023-24 school year was made on behalf of the boys and girls swimming & diving assistant coach employed full-time by the East Grand Rapids Aquatics USA Swim Club. The program will have over 200 participants, ages 6-college age, of which approximately 52 are East Grand Rapids students in grades 6-8. Approximately 40 participants come from seven other schools or districts (Byron Center, Caledonia, Grand Rapids-Catholic Central, Grand Rapids Christian, Grand Rapids Public Schools, Rockford, and the Forest Hills Schools). A similar request has been approved for this coach and program since 2012-13. This new request was for an assistant swim coach because the head swim coach will be on medical leave.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Midland-Jefferson Middle School (Regulation II, Section 11) – Pursuant to Interpretation 241, a request to waive the four-player rule for the 2023-24 school year was made on behalf of the boys and girls swimming coach who is a teacher in the district and is also employed by the Midland Dolphins Swim Club. While non-school swimming is not the coach's primary source of income, it is a needed source of additional income. The club is open to the public, and for 2023-24, it is anticipated to include approximately 150-200 participants, ages 5-18. There are 50-75 7-12th grade students involved from Midland, Bay City, Bullock Creek, Saginaw, Caro, and Freeland Public Schools. A similar request has been approved for this coach in the past.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Battle Creek-Northwestern, Springfield, STEM, St Joseph and Pennfield Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys and girls swimming (7th and 8th grades combined) between these schools beginning in the 2023-24 school year. Battle Creek-Northwestern will be the primary school.

Gaylord-St Mary Cathedral, Boyne Falls and Gaylord-Otsego Christian Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in football (6th, 7th and 8th grades combined) for these schools beginning in the 2023-24 school year, provided that Otsego Christian submits a membership resolution. Gaylord-St Mary Cathedral will be the primary school.

Gaylord-St Mary Cathedral and Gaylord-Otsego Christian Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in baseball, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls cross country, softball, boys and girls track & field and volleyball (6th, 7th and 8th grades combined) for these schools beginning in the 2023-24 school year, provided that Otsego Christian submits a membership resolution. Gaylord-St Mary Cathedral will be the primary school.

Potterville and Pewamo-Westphalia Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in wrestling (6th, 7th and 8th grades combined) for these schools beginning in the 2023-24 school year. Potterville will be the primary school.

Reed City and Reed City-Trinity Lutheran Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys and girls cross country, boys and girls track & field and wrestling (6th, 7th and 8th grades combined) for these schools beginning in the 2023-24 school year, provided that Trinity Lutheran submits a membership resolution. Reed City will be the primary school.

New MHSAA Air Quality Policy – The Executive Committee approved the MHSAA Air Quality Policy.

MHSAA Committees – Approve appointments to MHSAA committees that meet prior to Jan. 1, 2023.

Personnel – The Executive Committee approved the employment contract and the 2022-23 Performance Agreement for the executive director.

Next Meetings – Tuesday, Aug. 22 at 9 a.m. – Virtual; Wednesday, Sept. 6 at 9 a.m. – Virtual; Thursday, Oct. 5 at 9 a.m. – Virtual; Wednesday, Nov. 1 at 9 a.m. – Virtual; Thursday, Nov. 30 at 1:30 p.m. in East Lansing (Representative Council meets the next day); Wednesday, January 10 at 1 p.m. – Virtual; Wednesday, Feb. 14 at 9 a.m. – Virtual (Audit & Finance Committee follows); Thursday, March 21 at 9 a.m. – Virtual (Representative Council meets the next day); Wednesday, April 17 at 9 a.m. – Virtual; Friday, May 3 at 9 a.m. – Virtual; Thursday, June 13 at 9 a.m. - Virtual