

# MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Virtual, February 13, 2025

9:00 a.m.

### Committee Members:

Eric Albright, Midland  
John Thompson, Brighton  
Vic Michaels, Detroit  
Fred Smith, Bangor  
Sean Jacques, Calumet

### Staff Members:

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 nor to change schools for athletics, discipline, or family finances. 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.

Colon and Burr Oak High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys and girls track & field (varsity only) between these schools. The combined enrollment of 214 students will place the team in Division 4, removing one team from the Division. Colon will be the primary school. Support from the Southern Central Athletic Association was submitted.

Wixom-St. Catherine of Siena Academy and Novi Christian Academy High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program, pending league/conference support, in girls soccer (varsity only) between these schools. The combined enrollment of 521 students will place the team in Division 3, making no changes to divisional assignments. St. Catherine will be the primary school.

Traverse City Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – A request to allow eligibility for two students who have participated in a cooperative agreement in track & field between Grand Traverse Academy and Traverse City Christian High Schools. The two schools decided to end their long-standing cooperative agreement in 2024-25 based upon the lack of participation of Traverse City Christian students in the cooperative track & field program led by Grand Traverse Academy. The combined enrollment placed the program in Division 3, and without Traverse City Christian, the program drops to D4. The request is for the two students from Traverse City Christian, a 12<sup>th</sup>-grader and a 10<sup>th</sup>-grader, to continue to be eligible for one year with Grand Traverse Academy. No new students would be allowed to join the cooperative program from Traverse City Christian. This one-year request will not be continued past this spring season in track & field and will allow Traverse City Christian to either build their numbers for a program or join another school in a cooperative program.

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 on behalf of an incoming 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who transferred to Gabriel Richard High School for the start of the second semester of the 2024-25 school year after attending Detroit Catholic Central High School for their high school career. The student competed in freshmen baseball at Detroit Catholic Central. The student has experienced many issues at Detroit Catholic Central, which has led to counseling sessions to work on his health and well-being. The school request was for immediate eligibility in baseball at Gabriel Richard, and if that couldn't be granted then eligibility at the subvarsity level.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Bangor High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who enrolled at Bangor High School in November of the 2024-25 school year. The student left Bloomingdale High School to live with his aunt and uncle in Bangor. While in Bloomingdale, the student lived with his grandparents because his mother passed away in 2022, and his father has never been in his life. During the course of an argument with his sibling, the student's grandfather threatened him. The student participated in baseball and football at Bloomingdale. The school requests eligibility in baseball for the 2024-25 school year and football for the 2025 season.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Bath High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who previously attended Holt High School and competed in softball. The student transferred to Bath High School to start the 2024-25 school year after experiencing challenges with other students. The issues resulted in a no-contact order, and ultimately, the family determined that a new start was needed at a different school. The request was for immediate eligibility in softball.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Bloomfield Hills-Brother Rice High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who transferred from Lansing Catholic High School to Brother Rice High School following the first semester of the 2024-25 school year. The student played in one scrimmage for Lansing Catholic in the 2024 football season before sustaining a season-ending shoulder injury. The school requested eligibility after the student sits out the scrimmage at Brother Rice in football during the 2025 football season.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver beginning with game 1 of the 2025 football season.

Brighton High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who transferred from Pinckney High School to start the second semester of the 2024-25 school year. While at Pinckney, the student participated in track & field and football on a limited basis. The new school asked for eligibility in track & field this spring after two meets and in football after one scrimmage. Documentation from the former school was received confirming the number of contests.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver after two track meets and beginning with game 1 of the 2025 football season.

Brighton High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who transferred from Detroit Catholic Central High School to start the second semester of the 2024-25 school year. While at Detroit Catholic Central, the student participated in boys basketball including 10 games this season. The student experienced a negative environment at Detroit Catholic Central within the basketball program, which resulted in the family determining a new start was immediately desired. The new school asked for eligibility in boys basketball in 2025-26 based on the circumstances.

The Executive Committee tabled the request for waiver pending further information.

Calumet High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who attended Houghton High School through her 10<sup>th</sup>-grade year before transferring to Calumet High School in August of the 2024-25 school year. While at Houghton the student experienced challenges with other students and desired a fresh start in a new school environment. The student competed in softball while at Houghton and the request was for eligibility in softball at Calumet this year. Letters of support were provided by the previous school.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Clarkston-Everest Collegiate High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who transferred to Everest Collegiate High School from Royal Oak-Shrine Catholic High School for the start of the second semester of the 2024-25 school year. The student competed in football at Shrine for his 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>-grade seasons. The student's transfer to Everest Collegiate is to leave a challenging situation that has been ongoing since before his 9<sup>th</sup>-grade year and is only made worse by the coaching situation. The student and family determined a new start was desired. The request was for immediate eligibility in football and baseball.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Detroit-Cass Technical High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who transferred to Cass Technical High School from Pontiac High School. The student attended Pontiac for his 9<sup>th</sup>-grade year, where he lived with his mother and played basketball in three games before transferring to Cass Tech in December of 2023 after being admitted via their testing procedures. During this time, he lived with his father in Detroit. The student started his 10<sup>th</sup>-grade year back at his mother's home in Pontiac and attended Pontiac until late September of 2024. He then moved back to his father's home and reenrolled at Cass Tech. The school asked for immediate eligibility in basketball for the 2024-25 season given the challenging home life.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Grand Haven High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12<sup>th</sup>-grade student, who previously attended and participated in track & field at Spring Lake High School. The student now attends Grand Haven High School after leaving Spring Lake to start the second semester of the 2024-25 school year. The student experienced discrimination from another student at Spring Lake. The family felt changing schools and environments was a necessary step for his safety and well-being and the request was for immediate eligibility in track & field. The former school fully supports immediate eligibility and supporting documentation was provided.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Grand Rapids-East Grand Rapids High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who transferred to East Grand Rapids High School from Grand Rapids City High School for the start of the 2024-25 school year. The student competed in track & field at Grand Rapids-Union High School as a 9<sup>th</sup>-grader. The student's transfer to East Grand Rapids is back to the public District where he lives. The student previously attended East Grand Rapids and transferred to City HS/MS in middle school to leave a challenging situation. The alleged bully subsequently transferred to City HS/MS from East Grand Rapids, and the bullying commenced again. The family determined that going back to East Grand Rapids would help alleviate the challenge. The request was for immediate eligibility in track & field at East Grand Rapids.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Grand Rapids-Wellspring Prep High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who competed in JV basketball at Grand Rapids-Ottawa Hills High School for 8 games in the 2023-24 school year. The student transferred to Wellspring Prep High School in the fall of the 2024-25 school year after the student's mother passed which impacted his health. The student now lives with his grandmother full-time. The request was for immediate eligibility in basketball at Wellspring Prep given that the student has missed the entire basketball season at Wellspring Prep.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Grand Rapids-West Michigan Aviation Academy High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who transferred to West Michigan Aviation Academy from Wyoming High School after attending the 2023-24 school year. The student competed as a 9<sup>th</sup>-grader at Wyoming in girls soccer. While the student attended Wyoming, the student desired to attend WMAA, and admission at WMAA is by random lottery. The student was not selected before her 9<sup>th</sup>-grade year or during the second semester. Just before school started in August 2024, she was notified and admitted to WMAA. She chose to attend WMAA just before school began in late August of 2024. The school asked for immediate eligibility in girls soccer for the student, given that WMAA was her original school of choice as a 9<sup>th</sup>-grader, but she was not selected.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Highland-Milford High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an incoming 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who transferred to Milford High School for the start of the second semester of the 2024-25 school year after attending Detroit Catholic Central High School for their high school career. The student competed in freshman and JV football at Detroit Catholic Central. The student has experienced challenges at Detroit Catholic Central, which has led to counseling sessions to work on his health and well-being. The former school supports the transfer. The school request was for immediate eligibility in football.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Lansing Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who attended Lansing Christian High School in his 9<sup>th</sup>-grade year before transferring to Williamston High School to start the 2024-25 school year. During the student's 9<sup>th</sup>-grade year at Lansing Christian, the student played basketball and baseball, and in the fall of his 10<sup>th</sup>-grade year, he played football at Williamston. The family experienced constraints that made the move from Lansing Christian to Williamston necessary, but they found that the new school was a tough fit. The student returned to Lansing Christian to start the second semester of the 2024-25 school year. The request was for the student to be able to participate in baseball this spring at Lansing Christian.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Parma-Western High School (Regulation I, Section 9[C]) – A request to waive Regulation I, Section 9(C), for a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student who transferred from Hanover-Horton High School to Western High School for the start of the second semester of the 2024-25 school year. The student participated in gymnastics during the 2024-25 school year in the first semester. Parma-Western and Hanover-Horton have a cooperative agreement in gymnastics, so 9(C) would apply by rule as a request. Hanover-Horton provided documentation showing written support for the student's eligibility in the gymnastics cooperative program as a student at Western for the rest of the 2024-25 school year and beyond.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Wayne Memorial High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A second request to waive the transfer regulation, was made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who transferred from East Lansing High School to Wayne Memorial High School on November 26, 2024. While at East Lansing, the student competed in basketball. The student's mother was in a negative relationship with the student's father and determined that a new start at a new school was needed. The mother picked Wayne Memorial because of some connections with the school, including that the student played summer travel basketball with girls on the Wayne Memorial basketball team, which was coached by the JV girls basketball coach at Wayne Memorial. The mother wanted the daughter to be around someone she felt comfortable. New information was provided to clarify the living situation at the current and former residences.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

West Bloomfield High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an incoming 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who transferred from University of Detroit Jesuit High School to West Bloomfield High School during the first semester of the 2024-25 school year. The student struggled with U of D Jesuit not being able to meet the academic needs of the student. While at U of D, the student played JV baseball. The request was for immediate eligibility in baseball, and if that couldn't be granted, then subvarsity eligibility.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Wyoming-Godwin Heights High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for two 10<sup>th</sup>-grade students who competed in basketball the previous two years at Grand Rapids-Union High School. The students transferred to Godwin Heights High School in the fall of the 2024-25 school year because the mother lost her job and needed to get her sons to a better living environment. The twin brothers are living with their older brother in the Godwin Heights attendance area. The request was for immediate eligibility in basketball

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for the 2025-26 basketball season.

Wyoming-Lee High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who participated in basketball at Wyoming Lee High School as a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student. The student was struggled to fit in and adjust to Kelloggsville High School. A new environment was desired for the student's health and educational future and Lee was selected as that school. The new school asked for immediate eligibility in basketball for the rest of the season.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for the 2025-26 basketball season.

Kalkaska and Kalkaska-Crawford Excelsior Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys and girls cross country (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades combined), boys and girls basketball (7<sup>th</sup> grade, 8<sup>th</sup> grade and 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades combined), boys and girls track & field (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades combined), softball (7<sup>th</sup> grade, 8<sup>th</sup> grade and 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades combined), and volleyball (7<sup>th</sup> grade, 8<sup>th</sup> grade and 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades combined) between these schools. Kalkaska will be the primary school.

Maple City-Glen Lake, Leland and Lake Leelanau-St Mary Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys and girls tennis (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades combined) between these schools. Glen Lake will be the primary school.

Next Meetings – Thursday, March 20 at 9 a.m. – Virtual; Wednesday, April 9 at 9 a.m. – Virtual; Friday, May 2 at 9 a.m. – Virtual; Thursday, June 12 at 9 a.m. – Virtual.