

# MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Virtual, March 20, 2025

9:00 a.m.

### Committee Members:

Eric Albright, Midland  
John Thompson, Brighton  
Vic Michaels, Detroit  
Anna Rigby, Harbor Springs  
Jennifer Thunberg, Freeland

### 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.

Adrian-Lenawee Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a request to allow the use of 8<sup>th</sup>-grade student-athletes in their spring athletic programs. Lenawee Christian High School has 114 9-12 students for the 2024-25 school year. The request came to the Executive Committee with rationale about the positive impact of using 8<sup>th</sup>-graders in the Lenawee Christian athletic program for the remainder of the 2024-25 school year. League support from the Tri-County Conference was also received.

Wyoming-Tri-Unity Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a request to allow the use of 8<sup>th</sup>-grade student-athletes in their girls soccer and boys and girls track & field programs for the spring of 2025. Tri-Unity Christian High School has 119 students in grades 9-12 for the 2024-25 school year. The request came to the Executive Committee with specific numbers, causes, and rationale about the positive impact of using 8<sup>th</sup>-graders at Tri-Unity Christian. The Executive Committee previously granted 8<sup>th</sup> grade eligibility to Tri-Unity Christian for their basketball teams, and it comes with league support.

Coopersville and Allendale High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F-1]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in girls lacrosse (varsity only) between these schools. The combined enrollment of 1,657 students will place the team in Division 2, adding one team to the division. Coopersville will be the primary schools. Support from the River Cities Alliance was submitted.

Novi Christian Academy and Sterling Heights-Parkway Christian High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in baseball (varsity only) between these schools. The combined enrollment of 204 students will place the team in Division 4, removing one team from the division. Novi Christian will be the primary school. Support from the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference was submitted.

Pentwater and Walkerville High School (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in softball (varsity only) between these schools. The combined enrollment of 141 students will place the team in Division 4, removing one team from the division. Pentwater will be the primary school. Support from the West Michigan D League was submitted.

Waterford-Our Lady of the Lakes and Madison Heights-Bishop Foley High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program, beginning in the spring 2025, in boys golf (varsity only) between these schools. The combined enrollment of 357 students will place the team in Division 3, removing one team from Division 4. Our Lady of the Lakes will be the primary school. Support from the Catholic High School League was submitted.

Farmington High School (Regulation I, Section 7) – A request to waive the previous academic credit record was made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who, because of situations outside of her control, did not complete a satisfactory first semester of the 2024-25 school after attending Traverse City West High School, Henry Ford High School and a Michigan online school to start the 2024-25 school year. The student was living in both Traverse City and Farmington through the process of a divorce, experienced a family member's domestic violence charge and ultimately enrolled at Farmington for a new start after the challenges were settled in the court system. The student's grades were exceptional both at Traverse City West and since she has been at Farmington. The student played softball at Traverse City West last school year. The request was for immediate eligibility in softball given the student's lack of support and challenging situation.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Ortonville-Brandon High School (Regulation I, Section 7) – A request to waive the previous academic credit record was made on behalf of a 12<sup>th</sup>-grade student who, due to health and medical issues, was not able to complete a satisfactory first semester of the 2024-25 school year at Ortonville-Brandon High School. The student has an academic plan because of a medical disorder, and the academic plan was not implemented on time at either Brandon or the Oakland School Technical campus where he attends. Given the student's challenging issues and situation, the request was for immediate eligibility in baseball.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Ann Arbor-Father Gabriel Richard High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A second request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an incoming 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who transferred to Father 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 distress at Catholic Central, which has led to medical interventions. The school request was for immediate eligibility in baseball at Father Gabriel Richard, and if that couldn't be granted, then eligibility at the subvarsity level. New documentation included letters from health professionals advocating for the student to be eligible.

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

Ann Arbor-Father Gabriel Richard High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A second request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who transferred to Father Gabriel Richard High School for the start of the 2024-25 school year after attending Ann Arbor-Pioneer High School for her 9<sup>th</sup>-grade year. The student competed in golf and soccer at Pioneer. The student and family desired a new beginning because of the cyberbullying she experienced from classmates at Pioneer. This led to a police report being filed and the former school did confirm an incident took place. The new school request was for immediate eligibility in soccer.

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 a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who transferred to Father Gabriel Richard High School for the start of the 2024-25 school year after attending Mercy High School for their 9<sup>th</sup>-grade year. The student competed in girls lacrosse at Mercy in five games before being injured. The student determined a new start at Gabriel Richard was desired. The school request was for eligibility in girls lacrosse after five games, the same number of games she competed in at Mercy in the spring 2024 season.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver after five (5) games in girls lacrosse.

Au Gres-Sims High School (Regulation I, Section 9[C]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and regulation 9(C) was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student at Au Gres-Sims High School. The student transferred from Standish-Sterling High School for the start of the second semester of the 2024-25 school year. The student participated in the cooperative swim program between Au Gres-Sims and Standish-Sterling and in JV softball at Standish-Sterling. The student struggled with online harassment from a classmate, which resulted in a police investigation. The request was for immediate eligibility in the girls swim cooperative program in the fall of 2025 and immediate eligibility in softball, and if that couldn't be granted, then eligibility after 15 contests in softball this spring. The former school supported eligibility in girls swim for the student.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver in swimming & diving. The student was not granted eligibility in softball.

Bay City-Central 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 Carrollton High School and also competed in baseball during the 2023-24 school year. The student and family determined that Central High School provided a better social and academic fit than Carrollton. The school asked for immediate subvarsity eligibility in baseball.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Beverly Hills-Birmingham Groves High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who attended Groves High School in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, transferred to Cranbrook High School for 10<sup>th</sup> grade and the first semester of the 2024-25 school year, and then returned to Groves for the second semester of the 2024-25 school year. The student competed in football at Cranbrook and experienced health challenges. The former school supported the transfer, and a medical professional recommended a fresh start back at his original high school. The school request was for immediate eligibility in football at Groves.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Beverly Hills-Birmingham Groves High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student who attended Walled Lake Northern High School in the first semester of 9<sup>th</sup> grade, transferred to Groves High School for the second semester of the 2024-25 school year. The student competed in football at Walled Lake Northern. The student has experienced challenges at Walled Lake Northern because of his father's overseas deployment in the military, which has led to counseling sessions. The student's mother is a teacher at Groves and she can be around him to support him during his father's absence. The former school supported the transfer, and a medical professional recommended a new start. The school request was for immediate subvarsity eligibility in football.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Birch Run High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer rule was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who has transferred from Midland High School to Birch Run High School to start the 2024-25 school year. The student competed in volleyball and softball at Midland before moving between divorced parents between her mother's home in Midland to her father's home in Bridgeport. The father stated that they have a Birch Run address and never knew they were in the Bridgeport School District until they enrolled the student in Birch Run. The father's home is just inside the Bridgeport School District. The father indicated that the family chose Birch Run over Bridgeport because of the comfort level and school safety. The request was for immediate eligibility in volleyball in the fall of 2025-26.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Birmingham-Seaholm 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 Seaholm High School from Orchard Lake-St. Mary's Prep at the end of the first semester of the 2024-25 school year. The student participated in JV baseball at St. Mary's Prep during the spring of the 2023-24 school year. The student transferred to Seaholm for better academic support and to improve his mental well-being after challenges at St. Mary's Prep. The request was for eligibility in baseball for the spring of 2025.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Breckenridge High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student who attended St. Louis High School before transferring to Breckenridge High School on September 24, 2024. While at St. Louis the student experienced significant documented bullying incidents and voluntarily left the school for a fresh start in a new school environment. The request was for immediate eligibility in volleyball at Breckenridge for the 2025-26 school year, and if that couldn't be granted, then after the first 6 dates of competition for Breckenridge in the 2025 season. Letters of support were provided by the previous school superintendent, the student's previous volleyball coach, as well as a therapist in addition to evidence of the bullying.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for immediate eligibility in volleyball.

Canton Preparatory 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 Livonia-Franklin High School for the start of the 2024-25 school year. The student transferred to Canton Preparatory High school after attending Franklin at the start of her high school career. The student desired to attend Canton Prep, needing a fresh start from the issues that she experienced while at Franklin. While at Franklin, the student played girls soccer. The new school asked for immediate eligibility in girls soccer.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Colon High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student who transferred to Colon High School from Climax-Scotts High School for the start of the second semester of the 2024-25 school year. This student participated in volleyball at Climax-Scotts in the fall of 2024. She experienced bullying from peers after a relationship ended and the family determined that a new start was desired. The school requested immediate athletic eligibility for the student in volleyball for the 2025-26 school year. The former school supplied documentation of efforts to alleviate the challenging situations that occurred.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

East Lansing High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who attended East Lansing High School from elementary school through 9<sup>th</sup> grade, prior to transferring to Des Moines-Roosevelt High School in Iowa, to live with his mother who got a new job there. The student attended Roosevelt from 10<sup>th</sup> grade through the first semester of his 11<sup>th</sup>-grade year. He was a victim of an off-campus assault that was investigated by police early in 2025. The family determined that coming back to East Lansing would be in the best interest of the student. The student's father lives at the family home in East Lansing and the student started at East Lansing for the second semester of the 2024-25 school year. While in Iowa, the student competed in track & field. The school request was for immediate eligibility in track and field.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Gibraltar-Carlson 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 has transferred to Carlson High School to begin the second semester of the 2024-25 school year. The student attended Grosse Ile High School for his first two and a half years of high school and competed in boys tennis and ice hockey. The student transferred to Carlson because of health concerns that required counseling, and he experienced stress and anxiety. The student desired a fresh start and the student's mother is a teacher at Carlson Middle School so there was familiarity with the school. The request was for eligibility in tennis and hockey for the 2025-26 school year.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Grand Rapids-West Catholic High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who participated in soccer previously at Sparta High School. The student transferred to West Catholic High School in August of 2024 after previously attending Sparta. The student left the Sparta girls soccer team because of traumatic experiences after four games in the 2024 spring season. Because of the situation, the student desired a fresh start and the former school supported the transfer. The request was for immediate eligibility in soccer, and if that couldn't be granted, then eligibility after four games in soccer this spring.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver after four (4) soccer games.

Kalamazoo-Hackett Catholic Prep (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student who transferred from Gull Lake High School to Hackett Catholic Prep High School at the start of the second semester of the 2024-25 school year. While at Gull Lake, the student participated in one scrimmage and three games on the freshman boys basketball team. The family desired a new school environment for the student's health and educational future. The request was for eligibility in basketball after one scrimmage and three contests in the 2025-26 school year. The former school supported the transfer request.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver after one scrimmage and three (3) basketball games.

Macomb-Dakota High School (Regulation 1, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grader who previously attended Grosse Pointe Woods-University Liggett High School, where they participated in football, baseball, and track. The student experienced ongoing home challenges. The student and family decided that a move with his mother to Dakota High School for stability and to support his mother during the second semester of the 2024-25 school year was necessary. The request was for immediate eligibility in all sports, and if that couldn't be granted, then eligibility after three track meets.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver after three meets in track. The student remains ineligible in football and baseball.

Martin High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A third request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who attended Centreville High School during their 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>-grade years and participated in football, wrestling, and baseball. The student transferred to Martin High School to live with a family friend he knows from playing travel baseball. The student and family determined a new start was needed because the head coach removed the student from the Centreville baseball team because of a poor attitude. The student struggled immediately at Centreville with this decision, and the family took the critical step to get a fresh start at Martin for his 11<sup>th</sup>-grade year. The new request was for eligibility in baseball after the first 12 contests for the 2024-25 school year at Martin. New documentation about the situation was included in the form of a letter from the family.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Middleton-Fulton 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 competed for the previous school year in track & field at Alma High School. The student transferred to Fulton High School, via school of choice, in October 2024. The student struggled with ongoing bullying and harassment that included vandalism to her truck which resulted in police reports. The family made the decision after the first two months of this school year to go to Fulton to get a fresh start. The request was for immediate eligibility in track & field.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Midland High School (Regulation I, Section 9[A]) – A request to waive Exception 9 and Interpretation 80 on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student moved by the Midland Public School Board of Education in January of 2025 from HH Dow High School to Midland High School because of more suitable academic programming provided for the student's IEP. While Exception #9 allows immediate eligibility for a student transferred within a school district, Interpretation 80 narrowly defines the reasons for this transfer. The student has been a Dow student since his 9<sup>th</sup>-grade year and competed in football for Dow in the 2024 season. The school requested immediate eligibility in football.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Northville High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who competed in golf the previous year at Snowy Peaks High School in Colorado. The student transferred to Northville High School after moving to his grandparents' home in Northville where they are his legal guardians. The student moved from Colorado needing a new start following the arrest of his father. The student's mother moved to another area in Colorado with the younger brother, and the family felt the stability of his grandparent's home would help in the student's healing. The request was for immediate eligibility in golf.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Pinckney High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who competed for the previous school year in freshman baseball at Brighton High School. The student transferred to Pinckney High School, via school of choice, to start the second semester of the 2024-25 school year. The student struggles with anxiety which resulted in isolation from peers at Brighton. The student has seen a therapist for the last year. The family made the decision to go to Pinckney to get a fresh start. Information included documentation and letters from the parents. The request was for immediate eligibility in subvarsity baseball.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Schoolcraft 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 to Schoolcraft High School from Kalamazoo-Heritage Christian Academy to start the 2024-25 school year. The student attended Heritage Christian for her entire high school career and played soccer. The student was assaulted and that experience has now affected her safety. The family desired a new start for the daughter, and they enrolled in Schoolcraft to start this school year. Supporting documentation included emails, letters and reports of the timeline of events and the interactions between the family and school. The new school request was for immediate eligibility in girls soccer.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

West Bloomfield High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A second request to waive the transfer rule was made for an incoming 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who transferred from the 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 their academic plan. While at U of D Jesuit, the student played JV baseball. The request was for immediate eligibility in baseball, and if that couldn't be granted, then subvarsity eligibility. New information included a letter from the school president indicating that U of D Jesuit could not support accommodations of the student's academic plan.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Wyandotte-Roosevelt 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 Riverview-Gabriel Richard High School to Wyandotte-Roosevelt High School at the start of the second semester of the 2024-25 school year. The student started as a 9<sup>th</sup>-grader at Roosevelt and participated in basketball and track before transferring for the first semester of his 10<sup>th</sup>-grade year. The request outlines various health issues, as well as his parent's separation, as challenges. A new school environment at Gabriel Richard was thought to help the situation, but the student struggled to leave Roosevelt, where he had always attended. The request was for immediate eligibility in track and basketball. The former school supported the transfer request.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Northville High School (Regulation II, Section 10) – A request to waive the Limitations of Competition regulation regarding the maximum allowed race distance in cross country from 5,000 meters (3.1 miles) to 6,000 meters so that the Northville High School cross country team can travel to Ontario to compete in a 6K high school cross country invitational in Brampton, Ontario on Sept. 26, 2025. Canada conducts their cross country races at the 6K distance for their high school varsity races, 5K for their JV races and 4K for their 9<sup>th</sup>-grade races. Northville will not be able to attend unless the rules are waived. Northville indicated that they would comply with all MHSAA travel and sanctioning regulations if granted this waiver.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for this specific meet on Sept. 26, 2025, only.

Grand Rapids Christian High School (Regulation II, Section 11) – Pursuant to Interpretation 240, a request to waive the four-player rule for the 2024-25 school year was made on behalf of two girls tennis coaches who are employed by the MVP Sportsplex. MVP Sportsplex is both coach's primary income. The business is open to the public and MVP is not promoted in Grand Rapids Christian High School. MVP serves the greater Grand Rapids area and has many students who attend a variety of Grand Rapids area high schools.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Next Meetings – Wednesday, April 9 at 9 a.m. – Virtual; Friday, May 2 at 9 a.m. – Virtual; Thursday, June 12 at 9 a.m. – Virtual; Monday, August 4 at 9 a.m. – Virtual; Wednesday, August 20 at 9 a.m. – Virtual; Thursday, September 4 at 9 a.m. – Virtual; Thursday, October 2 at 9 a.m. – Virtual.