

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Virtual, May 1, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Committee Members:

John Thompson, Brighton
Sean Jacques, Calumet
Chris Adams, Camden
Jay Alexander, Detroit
Aaron Gaffney, Ellsworth

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.

Birmingham-Roeper High School (Regulation I, Section 1[D]) – A request was made to allow the use of 8th-grade student-athletes in their boys basketball programs. Roeper High School has 123 9-12th-grade students for the 2026-27 school year. The request came to the Executive Committee with a rationale about the positive impact of using 8th-graders in the Roeper basketball program for the 2026-27 school year. League support was submitted.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Waldron High School (Regulation I, Section 1[D]) – A request was made to allow the use of 7th-grade student-athletes in their athletic programs. Waldron High School has 79 9-12th-grade students for the 2026-27 school year. The request came to the Executive Committee with a rationale about the positive impact of using 7th-graders in Waldron athletic programs for the 2026-27 school year. League support was submitted.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Central Lake and Ellsworth High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative in girls basketball (varsity and JV) between these schools. The combined enrollment of 160 students will place the team in Division 4, removing one team from the division. Central Lake will be the primary school. Support from the Ski Valley Conference was submitted.

Dundee and Monroe-St. Mary Catholic Central High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in girls swimming & diving (varsity only) between these schools. The combined enrollment of 778 students will place the team in Division 3, removing one team from the division. Dundee will be the primary school. Support from the Huron League was submitted.

Jackson-Vandercook Lake and Jackson Prep & Early College High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in girls golf (varsity only) between these schools. The combined enrollment of 339 students will place the team in Division 4. Vandercook Lake will be the primary school. Support from the Cascades Conference was submitted.

Jackson-Vandercook Lake and Jackson Prep & Early College High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in football (varsity and JV) between these schools. The combined enrollment of 339 students will place the team in Division 7. Vandercook Lake will be the primary school. Support from the Cascades Conference was submitted.

New Buffalo and Three Oaks-River Valley High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys basketball (varsity, JV and freshman) between these schools. The combined enrollment of 311 students will place the team in Division 3, removing two teams from Division 4. New Buffalo will be the primary school. Support from potential opponents was submitted.

New Buffalo and Three Oaks-River Valley High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys soccer (varsity only) between these schools. The combined enrollment of 311 students will place the team in Division 4. New Buffalo will be the primary school. Support from potential opponents was submitted.

Olivet and Springport High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys soccer (varsity only) between these schools. The combined enrollment of 650 students will place the team in Division 2, removing one school from Division 3. Olivet will be the primary school. Support from the Capital Area Activities Conference was submitted.

Pellston and Alanson High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in 8-player football (varsity and JV) between these schools. The combined enrollment of 197 students will place the team in Division 1, removing one team from Division 2. Pellston will be the primary school. Support from potential future opponents was submitted.

Stephenson and Carney-Nadeau High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E-1]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in 8-player football (JV only) between these schools. Stephenson will be the primary school. Support from the Great Lakes 8 Football Conference was submitted.

Three Oaks-River Valley and New Buffalo High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved cooperative programs in boys and girls cross country (varsity only) between these schools. The combined enrollment of 311 students will place the team in Division 3, removing two teams from Division 4. River Valley will be the primary school. Support from potential opponents was submitted.

Beverly Hills-Birmingham Groves High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an incoming 12th-grade student at Groves High School. The student transferred from Lovejoy High School in Texas to Groves after his mother accepted a job which forced her to travel extensively. The mother changed guardianship, which does not meet a transfer exception, to the student's aunt in Birmingham for support and stability. While at Lovejoy, the student played in one football game in the 2025-26 school year, which was confirmed by the previous school. The school requested immediate eligibility in football, and if that can't be granted, then eligibility after one game.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Coleman High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who transferred to Coleman High School on April 8, 2026, after previously attending Mt. Pleasant High School. The student experienced issues that occurred while at Mt. Pleasant. In addition, the family expressed dissatisfaction with the athletic department. The student competed in sideline cheer, bowling and softball at Mt. Pleasant during the 2025-26 school year. The school requested immediate eligibility 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 on behalf of twin 9th-grade students who competed in swimming at Forest Hills Central High School. The students transferred from Forest Hills Central at the start of the second semester of the 2025-26 school year, desiring a new start. The students were involved with a non-school swim club where issues occurred with another participant. The school worked with the family to accommodate the students by changing class schedules and implementing school protocols, but the constant reminder of the situation forced the family to make a decision in the students' best interest. The former school supports the student's transfer. The school requested eligibility in swimming & diving for the 2026-27 school year.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Kalamazoo-Hackett Catholic Prep (Regulation I, Section 9) – A second request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who transferred from Climax-Scotts High School to Hackett Catholic Prep High School on March 16th, 2026. While at Climax-Scotts, the student participated on the varsity baseball team. The family sought a new school environment to support the student's academic pursuits and escape a challenging educational environment. The student was hindered by the curriculum offered at Climax-Scotts, including insufficient math and AP offerings, changes at the school, including the former baseball coach leaving just prior to the season starting. Information included reasoning about the timing of the move, communication from Climax-Scotts, and a summary of the move from the parents' lawyers. The school requested eligibility in baseball for the 2025-26 spring season.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Montague High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A second request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who enrolled at Montague High School at the start of the 2025-26 school year. The student attended Muskegon Catholic Central High School as a 9th-grader, where he competed in football, wrestling, and golf. The student changed schools to Montague because he needed more structure and an immediate support system due to his father's cancer diagnosis. The student's aunt is a teacher at Montague and having her with him daily created stability in his daily life and learning. New information included a letter clarifying the reason for transfer, as well as a letter from Muskegon Catholic Central. The school requested immediate eligibility in boys golf this spring after the student sat out football and wrestling.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

North Branch High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A second request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who transferred from Flint-Powers Catholic High School to North Branch High School to start the second semester of the 2025-26 school year. The student lives in North Branch but attended Powers Catholic starting with his 9th-grade year. The student experienced challenges with the football coaching staff and teammates, which impacted his health. The family felt that returning to his original school would help ease the challenges the student had faced. Documentation of the issues that occurred at the former school was provided. Information now includes statements from Powers administration about the issues that occurred in the fall of 2025. The school requested eligibility for the 2026-27 football season.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Orchard Lake St. Mary's Preparatory High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who enrolled at Orchard Lake-St. Mary's Preparatory High School to start the 2025-26 school year. The student attended Trenton High School in her 9th-grade year, where she played softball in three games before injuring her ACL and missing the rest of the season. The student competed on the JV softball team at Trenton. The school requested immediate eligibility for softball based on the student being cleared to participate by a medical doctor and the fact that the student has missed 20 games at St. Mary's this school year.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Howell High School (Regulation I, Section 12[C]) – A request was made to waive Regulation I, specifically Section 12(C), Limited Team Membership, which allows for a 12th-grade student who has completed their sport season to compete in one all-star event if it is held after the MHSAA Final in that sport. The student competed for Howell High School in girls basketball for the first time in 2025-26 and participated in the McDonald's All-American game, an all-star event in March. The student was invited to participate in a second all-star event, the Ballislife SeaWorld All-American event, which was held on April 24, 2026. The student is also participating in track & field for Howell and became ineligible for track & field upon participation in a second all-star event. The school requested a waiver of Section 12(C) to allow the student to compete in the second all-star event and continue participation in track & field for the remainder of the spring season.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver and the student is ineligible for the remainder of the 2026 track & field season.

Grandville High School (Regulation II, Section 10[A]) – A request to modify the MHSAA playing rules of boys lacrosse so that Grandville High School can host an 8-team JV boys lacrosse tournament. The tournament will need an allowance for sudden victory overtime to determine a winner in this bracketed tournament. No team will go over the 150 combined minutes in their three games. This modification will apply only to the 2026 season, and if the tournament is held beyond the spring of 2026, a new request would be required. The Executive Committee previously approved this request for the 2024 and 2025 lacrosse seasons.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Dexter High School (Regulation II, Section 11[H]) – A request to waive the four-player rule was submitted on behalf of the Dexter High School head coach, who is coaching a USA Field Hockey Regional Club Championship team on May 30th and 31st at a tournament. Field hockey is among the newest MHSAA sport offerings, and field hockey coaches are scarce. This allowance will allow the coach to step in to coach this club team for one game, which consists of five Dexter girls, all seniors. The tournament starts two days before the summer regulation begins and would result in no lost class time for the graduating seniors. This request applies only to the 2025-26 off-season.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Inclement Spring Weather (Regulation II, Section 15) – The Executive Committee approved a waiver, given the inclement weather for all schools and spring sports, that a school team must have participated in four contests against MHSAA member schools prior to the MHSAA Tournament.

Pellston and Alanson Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in 8-player football (6th, 7th and 8th grades combined) between these schools. Pellston will be the primary school.

Traverse City-St. Francis High School (Football Classification) – The Executive Committee approved a request to opt-up in football from Division 7 to Division 6 was made. St. Francis High School desired to move up to Division 6, which will help with their scheduling, especially since they are working to fill a full non-conference schedule. Under the opt-up policy for football, this request came to the Executive Committee for approval and is for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 school years.

Next Meeting(s) – Thursday, June 11 at 9 a.m. – Virtual; Monday, August 3 at 9 a.m. – Virtual; Wednesday, August 19 at 9 a.m. – Virtual; Wednesday, September 9 at 9 a.m. – Virtual; Thursday, October 1 at 9 a.m. – Virtual; Wednesday, November 4 at 9 a.m. – Virtual; Thursday, December 3 at 9 a.m. – Virtual.