

**MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Virtual, April 8, 2026

**9:00 a.m.**

Committee Members:

John Thompson, Brighton  
Sean Jacques, Calumet  
Chris Adams, Camden  
Fred Smith, Bangor  
Michael Bakker, Fenton

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.

Athens High School (Regulation I, Section 1[D]) – A request was made to allow the use of 8<sup>th</sup>-grade student-athletes in their athletic programs. Athens High School has 124 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>-grade students for the 2026-27 school year. The request came to the Executive Committee with a rationale about the positive impact of using 8<sup>th</sup>-graders in Athens athletic programs for the 2026-27 school year. League support was also received.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Pittsford High School (Regulation I, Section 1[D]) – A request was made to allow the use of 8<sup>th</sup>-grade student-athletes in their athletic programs. Pittsford High School has 115 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>-grade students for the 2026-27 school year. The request came to the Executive Committee with a rationale about the positive impact of using 8<sup>th</sup>-graders in Pittsford athletic programs for the 2026-27 school year. League support was also received.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Cedarville and DeTour High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved cooperative programs in baseball (varsity only) and softball (varsity only) between these schools beginning in spring 2026. The combined enrollment of 113 students will place the team in Division 4, making no changes to divisional assignments. Cedarville will be the primary school. Support from the Eastern Upper Peninsula Conference was received.

Clinton Township-Clintondale and Sterling Heights-Parkway Christian High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive committee approved a cooperative program in baseball (varsity only) beginning the spring of 2026. The combined enrollment of 471 students will place the team in Division 2, removing one team from both Division 3 and Division 4. Clintondale will be the primary school. Support from the Macomb Area Conference and the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference were received.

Hesperia and Walkerville High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive committee approved a cooperative program in football (varsity, JV and freshman) between these schools. The combined enrollment of 287 students will place the team in Division 7. Hesperia will be the primary school. Support from the West Michigan Conference is pending.

Kalamazoo-Comstock and Parchment High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive committee approved a cooperative program in girls golf (varsity and JV) between these schools. The combined enrollment of 701 students will place the team in Division 3. Comstock will be the primary school. Support from potential future opponents was received.

St. Joseph-Michigan Lutheran High School (Regulation I, Section 4) – A request was made to waive the maximum enrollment regulation was made for two 11<sup>th</sup>-grade students who enrolled at St. Joseph-Michigan Lutheran High School as 9<sup>th</sup>-grade international students from the Democratic Republic of the Congo in January 2023. The students struggled academically as incoming 9<sup>th</sup>-graders at the semester and did not pass their classes. Michigan Lutheran had them repeat their entire 9<sup>th</sup>-grade year, and neither student participated in athletics. Since then, the students have participated in soccer and basketball. The school requested that the students be allowed to participate in what would be their 8<sup>th</sup> semester of American education or 9<sup>th</sup> semester overall during the fall semester of the 2026-27 school year.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Troy-Athens High School (Regulation I, Section 7) – A request was made to waive the previous academic credit record on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who dealt with medical challenges during the start of the 2025-26 school year. The student enrolled in the Troy Public Schools' online platform to recover credit and has made significant progress but has only taken three classes during this program. Given these hardships and circumstances, and a strong plan of school and counselor support, the school requested immediate eligibility in girls soccer, waiving the 60-day ineligibility period.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Benton Harbor 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 St. Joseph High School for the start of his 9<sup>th</sup>-grade year in the 2025-26 school year and competed in football and basketball. The student had negative interactions, which were frightening and stressful. While these incidents were not shared with St. Joseph administration, the family determined a new start was needed at Benton Harbor High School. The school requested eligibility in football and basketball for the student, given the hardship the student faced.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Goodrich High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation, specifically Interpretation #62, was made on behalf of a 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who transferred to Goodrich High School at the start of the 2025-26 school year after previously attending Tri-Valley High School in Ohio. The student and family made a full and complete residential move from Ohio to the Grand Blanc High School attendance area. The family felt that Grand Blanc was too big of a school for their son, given that the student was at a school of around 1,000 prior to the move and felt that Goodrich would be a better fit academically and socially. The student played golf in Ohio during the 2024-25 school year. The school requested immediate eligibility for boys golf.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Houghton 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 attended Warroad High School through the first semester of the 2025-26 school year before transferring to Houghton High School. While in Warroad, the student played in eight JV ice hockey games as a goaltender. The student moved back to Dollar Bay, where his family home was located. Dollar Bay High School competes in a cooperative hockey program with Jeffers High School, but the student and family desire to attend Houghton. New information included a letter from the family explaining why the move to Houghton, rather than Dollar Bay, where he lives. Additionally, the Jeffers athletic director supplied a letter indicating that the program and school have no issues with this student being eligible at Houghton. The school requested immediate eligibility for the 2026-27 school year, as the student did not compete in ice hockey during the second semester at Houghton. If that can't be granted, then eligibility after eight varsity ice hockey contests.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Kalamazoo-Hackett Catholic Prep 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 Climax-Scotts High School to Hackett Catholic Prep High School on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 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. The student was hindered by the curriculum offered at Climax-Scotts, including insufficient math and AP offerings, as well as a challenging environment, given changes in personnel at the school. The school requested immediate eligibility in baseball.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Lake Linden-Hubbell 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 volleyball, basketball, and softball at Calumet High School before her transfer to Lake Linden-Hubbell High School on March 31<sup>st</sup>. The student transferred from Calumet to start anew and improve her health and emotional well-being. The student has struggled with anxiety, forcing her to try to improve her health. The family felt that leaving Calumet was the only option for the student. The school requested immediate eligibility in volleyball, basketball, and softball.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Lansing-Eastern 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 has transferred from Lansing-Waverly High School to Lansing-Eastern High School. While at Waverly, the student experienced harassment from a fellow student that resulted in a PPO being pursued. The student competed in track & field as a 9<sup>th</sup>-grader at Waverly. Documents were provided for context. The school requested immediate eligibility in track & field.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Monroe-St. Mary Catholic Central 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 Temperance-Bedford High School. The student competed in softball at Bedford, and because of health challenges, the student went to virtual learning while attending treatment centers. The student also played in four softball games before injuring her knee. The student and family desired a new, in-person learning format and a fresh start. The school requested eligibility in softball after sitting out four games.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver after four softball games.

Montague 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 enrolled at Montague High School at the start of the 2025-26 school year. The student attended Muskegon Catholic Central High School as a 9<sup>th</sup>-grader, where he competed in football, wrestling, and golf. The student transferred to Montague to receive more academic support and improve his social and emotional well-being. The school requested immediate eligibility in boys golf this spring, after the student sat out football and wrestling.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Novi-Detroit Catholic Central High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation, specifically Interpretation 62 (closest nonpublic school), was made on behalf of an incoming 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who made a full and complete residential change from Commerce Township to Novi, where he attended Orchard Lake-St. Mary's Prep High School. The student moved from his mother's home in Commerce to his father's home with an otherwise completed and approved Educational Transfer Form. Novi Christian High School is the closest nonpublic school to the father's residence, but the family desires to continue with Catholic faith-based education at an all-boys Catholic high school. The school requested immediate athletic eligibility in track & field.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Pittsford 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 has transferred to Pittsford High School from Hillsdale High School on October 27, 2025. The student transferred because of documented incidents of bullying at Hillsdale that had been ongoing since her 7<sup>th</sup>-grade year. Despite attempts from the school and family to solve the bullying it continued. The former school supports the transfer. The student played JV volleyball at Hillsdale in the fall of 2025. The school requested eligibility in volleyball for the 2026-27 school year.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Warren-De La Salle High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who attended Parkway Christian High School, where he played football. The student transferred to De La Salle High School at the start of the second semester of the 2025-26 school year. The student’s legal guardian is his godmother’s mother, who resides in Eastpointe. The student will now be living with his godmother’s sister in Warren as it is closer to De La Salle. The student felt that because of some personal hardships a new start was needed at De La Salle. The school requested immediate eligibility in football.

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 Taylor High School to Wyandotte-Roosevelt High School to start the 2025-26 school year. The student started as a 9<sup>th</sup>-grader at Taylor and participated in girls soccer. The former school supports the transfer. The request outlines reasons for changing schools after the student’s 9<sup>th</sup>-grade year. The school requested immediate eligibility in girls soccer.

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

Lapeer-Zemmer, Lapeer-Rolland-Warner and Lapeer-Chatfield Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive committee approved cooperative programs in boys and girls cross country (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades combined) and boys and girls track & field (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades combined) between these schools. Zemmer will be the primary school.

Next Meeting(s) –Friday, May 1 at 9 a.m.; 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.