

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Virtual, January 7, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Committee Members:

John Thompson, Brighton
Sean Jacques, Calumet
Fred Smith, Bangor
Jay Alexander, Detroit
Karyn Furlong, Richland

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.

Holt, Mason, Lansing Catholic and Lansing Christian High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F-1]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of Lansing Catholic and Lansing Christian High Schools to an existing cooperative program in boys lacrosse (varsity only) between Mason and Holt, and the addition of a JV boys lacrosse program. The combined enrollment of 2,979 students will place the team in Division 1, removing one team from Division 2. Holt will be the primary school. Support from the Capital Area Activities Conference was submitted.

Swartz Creek High School (Regulation I, Section 6) – A request to waive the undergraduate standing regulation was made on behalf of an AISP 12th-grade student from France who is an exchange student placed with a family to start the 2025-26 school year at Swartz Creek High School. The student fulfilled her graduation requirements in her home country of France and is considered a “graduate” of their high school education system, having received her diploma. The school requested consideration of the graduate regulation and immediate eligibility in skiing so that the student could experience competitive American athletics.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Ann Arbor-Skyline High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student at Skyline High School, who previously participated at Pioneer High School in boys basketball as a 9th-grader. The student transferred to Skyline due to family challenges and transportation issues. The student's parents are separated but not divorced. The school requested immediate eligibility in basketball.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Benton Harbor-Countryside Academy (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an 11th-grade student who attended St. Joseph High School for his 9th and 10th-grade years and competed in basketball. The family determined a new start was needed at a smaller school, Countryside Academy, because of a move from his mother's home to his father's home. Both residences are in Benton Harbor. The school requested eligibility in basketball for the student, given the unique circumstances surrounding the move between parents.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver with the use of the Educational Transfer Form.

Burton-Bentley High School (Regulation I, Section 6) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who attended Bentley High School as a 9th and 10th-grader, where he also competed in basketball. The student and the family determined that moving to a new school would help him so they transferred him to Flint-New Standard Academy. He enrolled on October 20th and returned to Bentley on November 18th of 2025. The school requests eligibility in basketball.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Custer-Mason County Eastern High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who transferred from Mason County Central High School in September of 2025. The student transferred to Mason County Eastern High School because of his desire to be in a smaller school setting. The student participated in cross country at Mason County Central in five meets. The school requested eligibility after five cross country meets for the 2026-27 school year.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver after five cross country meets.

Dearborn Heights-Annapolis High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who competed in basketball at Detroit Community High School in 2024-25 and then transferred to Annapolis High School for the start of the 2025-26 school year. The student transferred from Detroit Community because of safety concerns. The student moved from his mother's residence to his father's in Wayne, but the father determined Annapolis would fit the student's academic needs. The school requested immediate eligibility in basketball.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Hudson High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A second request was made to waive the transfer regulation for an incoming 11th-grade student who transferred from Adrian High School to Hudson High School on November 12th, 2025 at the end of the first trimester. The student participated in football and basketball at Adrian. The student attended Hudson Schools from Kindergarten to 7th-grade, when his mother accepted a teaching assignment in Adrian. As a result, the student and his siblings all transferred to Adrian Schools, where they lived. The student has struggled with the transition, and he desired to return to Hudson to be with his peers and childhood friends. Adrian submitted letters of support for this transfer. New information received included additional letters of support from the Adrian and Hudson administrations, indicating that they fully support the transfer and eligibility. The school requested immediate eligibility in basketball and football.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Hudsonville-Unity Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who attended Hudsonville-Unity Christian High School as a 9th and 10th-grader, where he also competed in wrestling and track & field. The student battled medical issues and the family determined that moving him to online classes would help in his recovery. He enrolled in online classes for the first semester of his 11th-grade year and has reenrolled at Unity Christian. The school requested eligibility in wrestling and track & field.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Jackson-East Jackson High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who transferred to East Jackson High School from Vandercook Lake High School in December of 2025. The student played basketball at Vandercook Lake for the 2024-25 school year. On November 17, the student's cousin was the victim of an assault at Vandercook Lake. This incident has had a significant impact on the student's well-being and safety at school, and the family determined that a new start is needed. The school requested immediate eligibility in basketball.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Lansing-Sexton 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 Waverly High School to Sexton High School. While at Waverly, the student experienced harassment from a fellow student that resulted in an investigation. The family felt that the circumstances around the student's education at Waverly would have made it difficult to continue there and made the decision to transfer to the Capital Area K-12 Online program of the Lansing Public Schools, which is an alternative school of Sexton for athletic purposes. The student competed in basketball as a 9th-grader at Waverly. Documents, including emails, were submitted to outline the situation and provide details of some of the harassment that occurred. Additional information included a letter providing support and context for the student's transfer to the online program and his athletic eligibility request. The school requested immediate eligibility in basketball.

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

Macomb-L'Anse Creuse North High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who transferred to L'Anse Creuse North High School on December 19, 2025 from Ferndale High School. The student transferred to L'Anse Creuse North to leave an unsafe home situation that also impacted on his school and basketball environment. The student and his father moved from Ferndale, where he also lived with his mother. The student hoped to gain a fresh, stable start. The school requested eligibility in basketball.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver. No future exceptions to the transfer rule can be used for this student.

Marshall High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who attended Olivet High School. The student transferred to Marshall High School to start the 2025-26 school year after struggling with academics, leadership changes and her school experience at Olivet. While at Olivet, the student played volleyball and softball. The school requested eligibility in softball.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Merrill High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who attended Chesaning High School, where he played basketball as a 9th-grader, and transferred to Merrill High School to start the 2025-26 school year. The student desired to attend Merrill because of the option for dual enrollment in a 5th-year program through Merrill, which did not exist at Chesaning. The school requested eligibility in basketball.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Monroe-Jefferson 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 Jefferson High School to start the second semester of the 2025-26 school year after attending Walled Lake Western High School where he participated in football, wrestling, and baseball. The student and his sister transferred to Jefferson due to a legal issue. His grandfather was granted guardianship, along with his mother, both of whom reside in the Monroe School District. The grandfather graduated from Jefferson and feels more comfortable sending his grandkids to Jefferson. The former school supported the transfer, given it was out of the student's control and not for athletic reasons. The school requested immediate eligibility in all sports.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Oscoda High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who transferred back to Oscoda High School, where he previously attended from 7th to 10th-grade. The student's mother accepted a job in Frankenmuth, and the entire family moved there to start the 2025-26 school year. The student did not participate in athletics at Frankenmuth and has struggled with health issues and the adjustment to a much larger school. The student and his father have moved back to Oscoda, and the student reenrolled there. The student's mother and sister continue to reside in Frankenmuth. The school requested eligibility in basketball and track & field.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Pontiac-Arts & Technology Academy (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who transferred from Pontiac High School into the Pontiac-Arts and Technology Academy online program to start the 2025-26 school year. The student and his family had to leave their housing because of a family situation. The family is considered to be homeless under the McKinney-Vento Federal law. The school requested immediate eligibility in basketball.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Troy-Athens High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who enrolled at Troy-Athens High School on November 1, 2025, after attending Parkway Christian High School for his 9th-grade year and the start of the 2025-26 school year. The student played JV basketball and golf at Parkway Christian. The student's parents felt that he needed a new, safe, and secure environment after threats were made to the family, father, and student. The former school supported the transfer and did not believe it to be about athletics. The school requested immediate eligibility in basketball and golf.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Union City High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for a 10th-grade student who transferred to Union City High School from Olivet High School to start the second semester of the 2025-26 school year. Ultimately, the family determined a new start was needed after issues within the basketball program. The student played in two games at Olivet this school year. The school requested eligibility in basketball after two games for the 2026-27 school year.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver after two basketball games in 2026-27.

Wayne Memorial High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who transferred from Plymouth-Canton High School to start the 2025-26 school year. The student's mother is employed by Wayne Westland Public Schools, and the new job duties and demands on her schedule, including transportation, have presented challenges to the family. The mother desired to have the students in the same district where she works. The 9th-grade sister is immediately eligible, but because the 10th-grade student played basketball at Canton as a 9th-grader, she is not eligible by regulation. The school requested eligibility in girls basketball.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Wixom-St. Catherine of Siena Academy (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a St. Catherine of Siena Academy student who has transferred from South Lyon East High school to start the second semester of the 2025-26 school year. While at South Lyon East, the student played in one JV girls basketball game. The school requested subvarsity eligibility after sitting out one girls basketball game.

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

Wyoming-Kelloggsville High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A second request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who played basketball while at Caledonia High School as a 9th and 10th-grade student. The transfer to Kelloggsville High School was made because of issues at the former school. The family made the decision to enroll both students at Kelloggsville. New information and documentation showing the challenges that the brother went through were provided, along with letters of reference from staff at Kelloggsville. The school requested immediate eligibility in girls basketball.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Ypsilanti-Arbor Preparatory High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B-1]) – A request to waive the sport-specific transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who transferred from Ann Arbor-Huron High School to start the 2025-26 school year. The student participated in two girls basketball games at Huron before the transfer to Arbor Prep High School. The school requested eligibility after two games in girls basketball.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver after two basketball games.

DeWitt High School (Regulation II, Section 11[H]) – Pursuant to Interpretation 240, a request to waive the four-player rule was made on behalf of the DeWitt High School girls swimming & diving head and assistant coaches. The coaches were hired by the Community Education Department to teach swimming lessons and assist with club sessions. They are also the lead coaches for the Mid-Michigan Aquatics Swim Club, a non-school club. The program is open to students in grades K-12 and the general public. Students from around the Lansing area, representing various school districts including Lansing, St. Johns, and East Lansing, are involved in the non-school club. This waiver was granted by the Executive Committee in 2024.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Next Meeting(s) – Thursday, February 12 at 9 a.m. – Virtual (Audit & Finance Committee follows); Thursday, March 19 at 9 a.m. – Virtual (Representative Council meets the next day); Wednesday, April 8 at 9 a.m. – Virtual (Audit & Finance Committee follows) ; 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.