

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, April 23, 2014

Members Present:

Jim Derocher, Negaunee
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Fred Smith, Buchanan
Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake
Pete Ryan, Saginaw

Staff Members Present:

Tom Rashid
Jack Roberts (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 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 is 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 null and void.

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. 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 contract 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 post-season 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.

Burton-Faith and Swartz Creek-The Valley High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of girls volleyball to a cooperative agreement which currently exists between these two schools in boys golf and girls soccer. The combined 2014-15 enrollment is 46 students. The Valley School sponsored volleyball previously; Burton-Faith will be the primary school. Support from the Inner State Athletic Conference was submitted.

Custer-Mason County Eastern and Manistee Catholic Central High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of boys and girls cross country to a cooperative agreement which currently exists between these two schools in boys and girls soccer. The combined 2014-15 enrollment is 206 students, which will place one team in the Division 4 tournament. Both schools sponsored cross country previously; Mason County Eastern will be the primary school. Support from the West Michigan D League was submitted.

Detroit-Westside Christian Academy and Detroit Public Safety Academy High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee was requested to approve a cooperative program in football between these two new member schools whose combined enrollment is 219 students. Detroit Public Safety Academy is in its first year of MHSAA membership and Westside Christian is seeking to renew its membership after it lapsed for the 2013-14 school year. Westside Christian requested a regular season cooperative agreement in football without participation in the 2014 MHSAA tournament in football.

The school also asked that consideration be given to allow its boys and girls basketball teams entry into the 2014-15 MHSAA tournaments.

The Executive Committee approved the application for the cooperative program pending completion of all membership application procedures for both the returning and the new MHSAA member schools. Consistent with the policy adopted by the Representative Council, the Executive Committee did not approve participation in the 2014-15 MHSAA Basketball Tournaments for either school.

Gaylord-St. Mary Cathedral and Alba High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in football between these two schools whose combined 2014-15 enrollment is 131 students. St. Mary Cathedral sponsored football previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Ski Valley Conference was submitted.

Kalamazoo-Hackett Catholic Central, Kalamazoo-Heritage Christian and Kalamazoo Christian High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of Kalamazoo Christian to a cooperative agreement in football which exists between Hackett and Heritage. The combined 2014-15 enrollment is 635 students. Hackett will continue as the primary school. Support from the Kalamazoo Valley Association was submitted.

Kinde-North Huron and Port Hope High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of all sports sponsored by North Huron to a cooperative agreement which has existed between these two schools in football since 2012. On March 20, 2014, the Executive Committee approved a request to permit Port Hope High School students to be eligible for athletics in the 2014-15 school year in these cooperative programs whose actual application has now been received. The request was based on an arrangement of contracted educational services with North Huron where Port Hope students will be receiving active credit on a Port Hope transcript for instruction at North Huron. The Port Hope Board of Education has scheduled an election in November 2014 for annexation of its district to North Huron and wishes to grant diplomas to its 2014-15 12th-grade students. Eligibility for students enrolled in Port Hope during 2014-15 will only be in cooperative programs with North Huron. Eligibility in 2015-16, when Port Hope is closed due to annexation, will be to any school under Exception 6.

In addition to eight-player football, the new programs will be in baseball, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls bowling, girls softball, boys and girls track & field and girls volleyball. North Huron will be the primary school. The combined 2014-15 enrollment will be 172 students and will continue placement of teams in the Division 4 tournaments. Support from the North Central Thumb League was submitted.

Swartz Creek and Flushing High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys and girls swimming & diving between these two schools whose combined 2014-15 enrollment of 2,545 students will place a new team in the Division 1 tournament. Both Schools sponsored swimming & diving previously; Swartz Creek will be the primary school. Support from the Flint Metro League was submitted. A corresponding middle school application was also submitted.

Tekonsha and Marshall Academy High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of boys and girls cross country to a cooperative agreement in baseball, football and girls softball which has existed between these schools since 2006. Both schools sponsored the sport previously; Tekonsha will be the primary school. The combined 2014-15 enrollment of 146 students will continue placement of one team in the Division 4 tournaments. Support from the Southern Central Athletic Association was submitted.

Ann Arbor-Pioneer High School (Regulation I, Section 7) – A request to waive the previous academic credit record regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who had been under medication and treatment for many years and was unable to attend classes in the winter of 2013-14, resulting in an unsatisfactory previous academic credit record. This student has a satisfactory current academic credit record.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver of Section 7 and noted that the first semester of the 2013-14 school year counts toward the maximum number of semesters permitted under Sections 4 and 5.

Berkley High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student whose mother abandoned the student and whose father was unable to care for him and an older brother. The student previously lived and attended school in Nashville, Tennessee where he participated in athletics. An aunt and uncle in Berkley took the student into their home. The student enrolled at Berkley on Jan. 23, 2014.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Brethren High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who has several medical issues. The student has attended both Manistee Catholic Central and Manistee High School and has no prior participation in extracurricular activities. The student enrolled at her school of residence, Brethren, on Nov. 8, 2013.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Charlevoix High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 61 (public school of residence) was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student who returned with his family from Florida to East Jordan and enrolled at his former school (Charlevoix) on March 28, 2014, but not his school of residence. The student attended Charlevoix Schools through the 8th grade before his family relocated to Florida for employment reasons at the end of the 2012-13 school year. The student did not participate in athletics while in Florida.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Charlevoix High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student who left an unstable family situation in Hudsonville (single father of three children) to reside with an aunt and uncle in Charlevoix. The father is remarried with two small children and has a history of lack of support for the student. The former school (Hudsonville) wrote in support of eligibility. The student participated in athletics at Hudsonville and enrolled at Charlevoix on March 24, 2014.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

DeWitt High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who previously attended Grand Ledge before enrolling at DeWitt on March 10, 2014.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91st school day of enrollment at DeWitt High School starting March 10, 2014.

Muskegon—Reeths-Puffer High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who reenrolled at Reeths-Puffer on Feb. 11, 2014, after his mother and stepfather reconciled and the family returned to the stepfather's home in the Reeths-Puffer district. The stepfather had kicked the mother and older brother out of his home because of conduct by the older brother, and this student moved with his brother into a property in the Muskegon-Oakridge School District where he enrolled on Dec. 2, 2013. The older brother has enrolled in alternative education seeking a GED.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

North Branch High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 61 (public school of residence) was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who is returning to the home of his guardians in Marlette after placement in a residential treatment facility in Saginaw. The guardians have raised the student since the 1st grade. The student's mother committed suicide and the father is not in the student's life. The student has been diagnosed with and is under treatment for mental health issues. The student previously attended Marlette prior to his residential placement and enrolled at North Branch on Jan. 9, 2014, preferring a different school and environment than previously. An Educational Transfer Form was received.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Ortonville-Brandon High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who was the subject of harassment. The student attended Brandon Schools through the 8th grade – also his school of residence – and enrolled at Brandon High School on March 3, 2014. Support for the eligibility from Our Lady of the Lakes administration was submitted.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Powers-North Central High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student who previously attended Bark River-Harris before enrolling at North Central on March 10, 2014. An allegation that the change of schools is primarily for athletic reasons was submitted by the former school and is being processed by MHSAA staff.

The Executive Committee tabled the request for waiver until the investigation of an athletic-motivated transfer is complete.

Richmond High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – On Feb. 19, 2014, the Executive Committee did not approve a request to waive the transfer regulation on behalf of a 10th-grade student who reenrolled on Jan. 27, 2014 at Richmond after starting the school year there and then enrolling a few days into the first semester at Rochester Hills-Stoney Creek. The withdrawal from Richmond occurred because of an altercation with another student and issues involving that student's mother in the summer of 2013. The student received assistance from the Stoney Creek academic support center and school psychologist. The student and parent involved in the incidents are no longer attending Richmond. The student did not participate in sports at Stoney Creek but did play JV soccer at Richmond High School in 2012-13. The school requested reconsideration based on additional information.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Waterford Mott High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who previously attended Waterford Kettering, a school of the same district, and enrolled at Waterford Mott on April 1, 2014 due to significant stress as a result of his relationship with a coach at Kettering.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Watervliet High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student who lived with her grandmother from the 3rd through 8th grades and is returning to live with the grandmother after moving to Arizona in August 2013 to live with her divorced father. The mother is incarcerated and will be returning to the grandmother's residence in Watervliet when released. An Educational Transfer Form is in process, considering the student is moving between divorced parents and the grandmother has had custody for most of the student's life. The student enrolled at Watervliet on April 7 and has no athletic history, but Watervliet does not have subvarsity soccer.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Wyoming-Tri-unity Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) - A request to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who previously attended Caledonia before enrolling at Tri-unity on March 17, 2014.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91st school day of enrollment at Tri-unity Christian High School starting March 17, 2014.

Subvarsity Waiver Requests Meeting All Conditions of Section 9(B) – The Executive Committee approved immediate eligibility at the subvarsity level for the following transferring 9th- or 10th-grade students (after entering 9th grade, before completing 10th grade) **who have not previously participated in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest in any MHSAA sport at the high school level** (whether MHSAA member schools or not) and who do not qualify for one of the 15 stated exceptions to the transfer regulation and have transferred for reasons having nothing to do with athletics, discipline or family finances and would not require Executive Committee evaluation or comparison of school demographics or curriculum:

Requesting High School	Grade	Former High School	Date of Enrollment	Length of Subvarsity Eligibility Status
Grand Rapids Christian	9	East Grand Rapids	Jan. 20, 2014	Remainder of 13-14 school year
Grand Rapids Christian	9	Grand Rapids-Catholic Central	Jan. 20, 2014	Remainder of 13-14 school year

Requesting High School	Grade	Former High School	Date of Enrollment	Length of Subvarsity Eligibility Status
Holly	9	Lake Orion	Feb. 4, 2014	Remainder of 13-14 school year
Riverview-Gabriel Richard	9	Brownstown-Woodhaven	Dec. 9, 2013	Remainder of 13-14 school year

Bessemer-AD Johnston High School (Regulation II, Section 9[B]) – A request was made to play the first varsity football game one week earlier than permitted, on Aug. 22, 2014. AD Johnston has seven games scheduled and could only connect with a Wisconsin team on the first week of football in Wisconsin.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request.

Northern Lights Conference (Regulation II, Section 11[F]) – A request was made to permit boys basketball games for teams in this conference to open the season with league games three days earlier (Friday, Dec. 5, 2014), corresponding to the first weekend of the girls season. The league includes two schools located on islands and others spread across the Upper Peninsula. Due to travel, the schools typically play boys and girls double-headers on a Friday night and Saturday morning. There are no JV teams in the league. The league attempts to schedule longer trips earlier in the season when weather may be less threatening.

Noting the unusual circumstances of this league and that there will be no waiver of the earliest practice date or the minimum days of practice before the first contest, the Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for 2014, as it did in 2013.

Grosse Pointe North High School (Regulation II, Section 11[H]) – Pursuant to Interpretation 237, a request to waive the three-/four-player rule for the 2014-15 school year was made on behalf of the boys and girls swimming & diving coach who is employed full-time by the Pointe Aquatics Club. The Pointe Aquatics Club will have approximately 74 participants, 16 who are in 7th-12th grades and 58 who are below the 6th grade. Ten of the 7th-12th graders do not attend Grosse Pointe Schools but are enrolled at four other schools: Grosse Pointe Woods-University Liggett, Grosse Pointe-St. Paul, Our Lady Star of the Sea and St. Clair Shores-Lakeview. Five of the participants are Grosse Pointe Public School students, grades 7-12. A similar request has been granted for this coach and program annually since 2006.

The Executive Committee approved the request for this boys and girls swimming & diving coach for the 2014-15 school year.

Okemos High School (Regulation II, Section 11[H]) – Pursuant to Interpretation 237, a request to waive the three-/four-player rule for the 2014-15 school year was made on behalf of the head boys and girls varsity swimming coach who is also employed full-time by the Spartan Swim Club which operates from multiple pools in the area. The program is open to the general public ages 6-18 and anticipates 200 participants in 2014-15 of which 25-30 are Okemos students grades 7-12. The program involves students from 10 school districts including Okemos (Haslett, East Lansing, Williamston, Lansing, Holt, DeWitt, St. Johns, Jackson and Mason). Approval has been granted for this coach and this program annually since 2010.

The Executive Committee approved the request for this boys and girls swimming coach for the 2014-15 school year.

Regulation II, Section 15(B) – On April 17, 2014, the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee expressed to MHSAA staff its request that because of snow accumulation and other weather conditions, schools may not be able to comply with the tournament condition of having participated against MHSAA member schools in four or more contests in all sports, but especially golf, tennis and track & field during the current season.

The Executive Committee approved a motion to waive the four-contest MHSAA tournament entry requirement for all Upper Peninsula schools in all sports this spring and authorized staff to consider on a case-by-case basis similar requests from other schools regarding the four-contest minimum.

Regulation III, Section 1(C) – The Executive Committee did not approve waiver of the enrollment regulation for the following junior high/middle school to permit 6th-grade students to participate with and against 7th- and/or 8th-graders for the sports listed in the 2013-14 school year only.

Junior High/ Middle School	Sport(s)	High School Enrollment	Middle School Enrollment
Onaway	boys & girls track & field	2012-13: 191 Feb 2014: 201	20 7 th -Grade Boys 31 7 th -Grade Girls 19 8 th -Grade Boys 40 8 th -Grade Girls

Manistee Catholic Central and Custer-Mason Country Eastern Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in football between these two member middle schools. Manistee Catholic Central Middle School was previously in a cooperative program in several sports with Manistee-Trinity Lutheran and Manistee-Casman Academy which dissolved when these schools withdrew from MHSAA membership due to enrollments of less than 15 students. Manistee Catholic Central will be the primary school.

Swartz Creek and Flushing Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys and girls swimming & diving between these two middle schools that both sponsored swimming & diving previously. Swartz Creek will be the primary school. A corresponding high school cooperative program application was also approved.

Representative Council – The Executive Committee reviewed the agenda for the May 4-5, 2014, to be mailed April 24, 2014.

Approved International Student Programs – The Executive Committee reviewed a draft of application to be released near April 30, 2014 on MHSAA.com.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Executive Committee are scheduled for Sunday, May 4, at 10:30 a.m. in Gaylord (Representative Council in p.m.); Wednesday, June 11, at 9 a.m. in East Lansing; Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2014, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2014, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2014, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2014, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2014, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; and Thursday, Dec. 4, 2014, at 1:30 p.m. in East Lansing.