

**MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

East Lansing, August 24, 2021

Members Present:

Scott Grimes, Grand Haven  
Vic Michaels, Detroit  
Kris Isom, Adrian  
Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake  
Eric Albright, Midland

Staff Members Present:

Tom Rashid  
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 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 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. 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.

Gaylord and Gaylord-St. Mary Cathedral High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program between these schools in boys and girls skiing (varsity only). Gaylord High School sponsored the sports previously and will be the primary school. The combined enrollment of 970 students will keep one team in the Division 2 tournaments. Support from the Big North Conference was submitted.

Gladstone and Escanaba-Holy Name High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E-2]) – The Executive Committee approved a subvarsity only cooperative program in 11-player football. Holy Name is a new member school that will be forming cooperative programs in several sports at the Sept. 9, 2021 Executive Committee meeting for the winter and spring of 2021-22. Gladstone will be the primary school. Holy Name students may not participate in MSHAA Football Tournament contests in 2021. Written support from members of the Great Northern Conference was submitted.

Holt and Mason High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F-1]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program between these schools in girls lacrosse (varsity). A cooperative program at the subvarsity level only was approved previously for this sport. The combined enrollment is 2,702 students and will continue one team in the Division 1 tournament. Holt will be the primary school at both levels of the cooperative program. Support from the Capital Area Activities Conference was submitted.

Kalamazoo-Hackett Catholic Prep and Vicksburg High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program between these schools in boys and girls skiing (varsity only). The combined enrollment of 1,001 students will place new teams in Division 2 of the boys and girls tournaments. These schools are currently in a cooperative program in boys lacrosse. Hackett Catholic Prep will be the primary school. Support from the Southwest Michigan Ski Conference was submitted.

Manistique, Munising and Newberry High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program between these three schools in ice hockey (varsity only). The combined enrollment of 599 students will place one new team in the Division 3 tournament. Manistique will be the primary school. Support from five future opponents was submitted.

Muskegon-Mona Shores, Fruitport, Muskegon—Reeths-Puffer and Muskegon-Western Michigan Christian High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program between these four schools in girls lacrosse (varsity only). Mona Shores, Fruitport and Western Michigan Christian were previously in a cooperative program which included Muskegon-Catholic Central. Catholic Central has dropped from the program and Reeths-Puffer will be added. The combined enrollment of 3,365 students will keep one team in the tournament. Mona Shores will be the primary school. Support from the OK Conference was submitted.

Richland-Gull Lake, Comstock, Kalamazoo Christian, Otsego, Parchment, Paw Paw, Plainwell and Vicksburg High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F-3]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in ice hockey (varsity only) between these eight schools. Gull Lake has had a cooperative agreement with five of these schools for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years under the four-year new program provision. Battle Creek-Harper Creek and Battle Creek-Pennfield dropped from the program and Kalamazoo Christian and Vicksburg will be joining the program for the next two school years. The combined enrollment of 4,986 students will keep one team in the Division 1 tournament. Gull Lake will continue as the primary school. Support from the South Central High School Hockey League was submitted.

Rochester Hills-Lutheran Northwest and Sterling Heights-Parkway Christian High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program between these two schools in wrestling (varsity only) and girls soccer (varsity only). Lutheran Northwest sponsored both sports previously and will be the primary school. The combined enrollment of 359 students will keep one team in Division 4 of both tournaments. Support from the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference was submitted.

Tawas City-Tawas Area, AuGres-Sims, Oscoda and West Branch-Ogemaw Heights High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F-1]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program between these four schools in ice hockey (varsity only) whose combined enrollment will be 1,352 students and will keep one team in the Division 3 tournament. Tawas Area sponsored the sport previously and will be the primary school. Support from future opponents was submitted.

Troy-Athens and Auburn Hills-Avondale High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F-1]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program between these two schools in boys lacrosse (JV and varsity). Both schools sponsored the sport previously; Troy-Athens will be the primary school. The combined enrollment of 2,836 students will move one team from Division 2. Support from the Oakland Activities Association was submitted.

Canton-Plymouth Christian Academy (Regulation I, Section 2) – A request to waive the maximum age regulation was made on behalf of a 12<sup>th</sup>-grade student who turns age 19 on Aug. 28, 2021, four days before Sept. 1. The student's mother and father both died prior to the student starting high school. Hardships and caring for his mother during her illness and spotty enrollment in school during these years while living in rural Florida caused his educational progress to be delayed prior to starting high school. The student was placed in foster care and attended Harbor Beach and enrolled to begin the 9<sup>th</sup> grade in 2018-19 and participated in cross country and track & field for the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades. Over the summer of 2020, the student changed residences and foster care parent to Northville and enrolled at Plymouth Christian to begin the 2020-21 school year, participating in cross country and track & field. The student is 6'1", 160 lbs., has progressed well at his new school and set a Plymouth Christian school record in cross country. The student has interest in college athletics with West Point.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Ann Arbor-Father Gabriel Richard High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – On Aug. 4, 2021, the Executive Committee did not approve a request for waiver of the transfer regulation on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who experienced bullying through social media while a student, football and ice hockey player at Chelsea High School in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, from October 2020 to April 2021. The student's grades began to fail and he became withdrawn and was socially isolated. The school submitted additional information from the former school regarding the extent of the bullying.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Bangor High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 74(a) (practicing with another school in August) was made on behalf of an incoming 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student who practiced volleyball for nine days with Bridgman before deciding to attend Bangor where her mother and father have been recently employed. Bridgman withheld the student from the preseason scrimmage due to the parents' pending job change. Support for eligibility was submitted by the former school.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level in volleyball. The student is eligible in all other sports at any level.

Battle Creek-St. Philip Catholic 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 played varsity volleyball as a 9<sup>th</sup>-grader while enrolled at Harper Creek in the 2020-21 school year. The student enrolled at St. Philip to begin the 2021-22 school year due to challenges with remote learning and school environment. Support for eligibility was submitted by the former school.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Beverly Hills-Detroit Country Day High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility in football was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who played in three JV football games while a student at Berkley in the 2020-21 school year.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver. The student will be withheld from the first three football games of the 2021 season.

Cheboygan Area High School (Regulation I, Section 9[C]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility in ice hockey was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who participated in the cooperative program in this sport between Cheboygan and St. Ignace while a student at St. Ignace during the 2020-21 school year. Support for eligibility was submitted by the former school.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver in ice hockey only.

Clinton High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 74(a) (practicing with another school in August) was made on behalf of an incoming 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student who practiced volleyball for two days with Adrian-Madison before deciding to attend Clinton. The student was accepted into a local middle college program through Clinton High School and registered to enroll on Aug. 17, 2021.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level in volleyball. The student is eligible in all other sports at any level.

East Jackson High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12<sup>th</sup>-grade student who previously attended Michigan Center High School, participated in golf, girls basketball and girls soccer and has been experiencing recurrent medical difficulties due to ongoing issues with her former school. The student began therapy in mid-August 2021. She lives approximately one-half mile from East Jackson, which her mother also attended. The former school's administration has supported eligibility.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

East Jordan High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 62 (public school of residence) was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who lived in joint custody between both parents until the mother abandoned the student in March 2021. The student then moved full-time into the Boyne Falls School District, residing with her father, stepmother and half-brother. The stepmother is an administrator at East Jordan and the half-brother attends the daycare located on the East Jordan campus. Support for eligibility was submitted by the former school. The student played 9<sup>th</sup>-grade volleyball at Boyne Falls before enrolling at East Jordan on Nov. 9, 2020. The request was for subvarsity eligibility.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Grand Rapids-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 attended Wyoming-Godwin Heights and participated in two boys soccer games. The student has enrolled to begin the 2021-22 school year at Catholic Central.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver. The student will be withheld from the first two boys soccer contests of the 2021 season.

Harrison Township-L'Anse Creuse 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 played in four of six JV football games while a student at De La Salle during the 2020-21 school year. The student attended L'Anse Creuse Schools prior to enrolling at De La Salle as a 9<sup>th</sup>-grader. The student changed schools for COVID-19 related reasons.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Imlay City High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 74(a) (practicing with another school in August) was made on behalf of a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student who lives on the border of the Imlay City and North Branch School Districts. The family intends to enroll all of their children in Imlay City for the 2021-22 school year. The student practiced volleyball for two days at her former school district.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level in volleyball. The student is eligible in all other sports at any level.

Lake City High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – On June 16, 2021, the Executive Committee did not approve a request to waive the transfer regulation on behalf of an incoming 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who participated in volleyball, girls basketball and girls soccer while a 9<sup>th</sup>-grader at Houghton Lake High School. The student's mother was a former staff member whose children continued to attend Houghton Lake. Due to academic and district financial issues, the student has enrolled at Lake City, the school of residence for the past 18 years, to begin the 2021-22 school year. Additional information was submitted for reconsideration.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Lowell High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 62 (public school of residence) was made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student whose family moved to Florida for the 11<sup>th</sup> grade where he participated in soccer in 2020-21 and has returned to Michigan. The student attended Lowell for the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades, but the family was unable to find a new residence in Lowell and resides in Rockford. The request was for eligibility at the former school but not the school of residence.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Melvindale 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 returned to Melvindale High School for the 2021-22 school year after enrolling at Riverview-Gabriel Richard for the 2020-21 school year where he played football and baseball. The student changed schools due to the 100 percent online learning at the former school and struggled academically, physically and socially when he changed schools in 2020. Support for eligibility was submitted by the former school.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

New Boston-Huron High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A late request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who was diagnosed at age 7 with a medical condition and always attended Catholic schools and Divine Child for the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades. The student's condition has worsened, and he began having increased health issues during the pandemic. In late April 2020, the student was diagnosed with an additional medical condition. The student's health prohibited him from competing in basketball and baseball, but he did participate in football in the 2021-22 school year.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Olivet 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 whose mother died in May 2020 shortly after the student and a current incoming 9<sup>th</sup>-grade brother moved from their father's home in Whitehall, intending to live with the mother in Olivet. The students spent the summer after the mother's death with the grandparents in Olivet and then returned to the father's home in Whitehall for the 2020-21 school year where the student played JV basketball. In the summer of 2021, the students returned to their grandparents' home in Olivet and will be enrolling to begin the 2021-22 school year on Aug. 25, 2021.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver. This is the only time this exception to the transfer regulation may be used for this student.

Pigeon—Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port Laker High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 62 (public school of residence) was made on behalf of a 12<sup>th</sup>-grade student whose family made a full and complete residential change from Yale where the student participated in basketball and track & field to a home in the Bad Axe School District. The student's mother is a Laker alumnus, and cousins have previously attended the school. An 8<sup>th</sup>-grade brother is also enrolling to begin the 2021-22 school year.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Pontiac-Notre Dame Preparatory High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 62 (closest nonpublic school) was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student whose family made a full and complete residential change from Florida to Michigan. The student attended nonpublic schools in Florida through the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Everest Collegiate is the closest Catholic high school to the new home by 6.2 miles. Notre Dame Prep is the closest International Baccalaureate Catholic school and is also run by the same order, the Marist Fathers and Brothers, which is the same type of Catholic school the father had attended in Mexico.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Portage Northern 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 previously attended Kalamazoo-Loy Norrix, participated in 9<sup>th</sup>-grade football, and experienced health issues including treatment from a therapist since last April. The family and therapist are seeking a new start in a new environment. Support for eligibility was submitted by the former school.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Portage Northern 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 previously attended Portage Central, a school of the same district, played 9<sup>th</sup>-grade football and was allowed to transfer to the other school of the district to begin the 2021-22 school year. The student is a first-generation immigrant and did not fit in well at the former school, which has a less diverse student population. The student's older sister died suddenly which took an emotional toll on the student.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Rockford High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically the elements of a full and complete residential challenge was made on behalf of a 12<sup>th</sup>-grade student who lived with his birth mother and her longtime boyfriend (who is not the student's father) for several years and who participated in football, basketball and track & field at Lowell Schools. The mother and boyfriend recently separated, and the mother moved into a home in Rockford while the boyfriend did not. The student had experienced many racial tensions at the former school and enrolled to begin the 2021-22 school year at Rockford. The mother and boyfriend never married but lived as a family unit with the student.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver pending completion of the Educational Transfer Form.

Roseville 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 lived in Roseville his entire career and attended Roseville Schools until enrolling at Warren Woods-Tower for the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades where he participated in football. The student struggled academically and returned to Roseville High School in March 2021. The mother and stepfather are in the process of a divorce. The mother left the Roseville home and has since returned. The stepfather has since moved out. The student has not changed residences and the parents' divorce is not yet final.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Royal Oak High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12<sup>th</sup>-grade student whose father died this past spring and who moved in with his grandfather and completed the 2020-21 school year at Hazel Park where the student played football. The student's mother has rarely been in his life, and in July 2021 relinquished all parental rights to the grandfather. The student will be enrolling at Royal Oak to begin the 2021-22 school year.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

St. Joseph-Michigan Lutheran High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – Three times since 2018, the Executive Committee has approved requests to waive the condition of Interpretation 94 that a boarding school have a minimum enrollment of 25 students. Michigan Lutheran has offered a boarding program since 2014. In previous years, the school has enrolled very close to 25 students. The school had 26 boarding students in the summer of 2018 and notified the MHSAA of its intention to use the Boarding School Exception and file Educational Transfer Forms for all 10<sup>th</sup>- through 12<sup>th</sup>-grade incoming domestic boarding school students and international students in any grade, including 9<sup>th</sup> grade. In August 2019, the school had 21 students boarding on the first day of school and requested its status be allowed to continue as it anticipated reaching 25 boarding students that school year. The transient nature of some of its troubled boarding school students causes the enrollment to fluctuate. Due to COVID-19, it is not likely that the school will reach the minimum 25 students. To provide more private sleeping quarters, the school will only have accommodations for 18-20 students in 2020-21.

The school did reach 25 boarding school students for the 2018-19 school year and 21 students in 2019-20. Six Educational Transfer Forms were processed in 2019-20 for Michigan Lutheran students and six in 2020-21 as well. The school requested its status as a boarding school continue for 2021-22 and has 20 students currently in its boarding program. The school's total enrollment reported in February 2020 was 118, and in February 2021, 106 students. The school has again been licensed by the Department of Education as a boarding school.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

St. Joseph High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and the elements of a full and complete residential change was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student whose father is a physician and resides four nights in the primary home in St. Joseph and three nights a week in the former home in Chicago working as a physician and caring for the grandfather who lives in the Chicago home. The family relocated to St. Joseph while the father continues to work as a physician in Chicago. The student had a shortened cross country season in Illinois due to the pandemic.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Suttons Bay High School (Regulation I, Section 9[C]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility in 8-player football was made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who was enrolled at Northport High School and participated in the football cooperative program between these two schools and enrolled to begin the 2021-22 school year. Support for eligibility from the former school was submitted.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver in 8-player football only.

Traverse City-St. Francis High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf and an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who was one of five victims of high-level racist-based bullying over social media while a student at Traverse City West High School. The student enrolled at St. Francis on Aug. 18, 2021. An acknowledgement of the activity and support for eligibility was submitted by the former school. National and local media reports were also provided.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Warren-De La Salle Collegiate High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically the requirement of Exception 8 (that the divorce be final) and Interpretation 62 (closest nonpublic school) was made on behalf of a 12<sup>th</sup>-grade student whose parents filed for divorce in March 2021 and whose divorce will be final on Aug. 30, 2021. The school requested that the student be allowed to play in the opening football game of the season on Aug. 27, 2021. The judge set an Aug. 30 divorce hearing date earlier than planned due to a hardship. The student has been enrolled at De La Salle since January 2021 and previously played football while a student at Grosse Pointe South High School. The student is Catholic, and De La Salle is the closest Catholic high school to the new residence. An Educational Transfer Form has been completed.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver of the divorce decree being final. The committee did approve eligibility under Interpretation 62 at De La Salle when the divorce is final and the Educational Transfer Form is completed and returned by the MHSAA.

Waterford Mott High School (Regulation I, Section 9[C]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility in girls golf and gymnastics was made on behalf of a 12<sup>th</sup>-grade student who participated in the cooperative programs in these sports between Waterford Mott and Waterford Kettering, schools of the same district, while a student at Waterford Kettering during the 2020-21 school year.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver in girls golf and gymnastics only.

Wyoming High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 62 (public school of residence) was made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who has moved from his mother's home in Texas to his father's home in Wyoming but not located in the Wyoming High School attendance area. The student's stepsiblings have attended Wyoming Schools for years and lived in the district prior to moving several years ago. The student played football in Texas. A completed Educational Transfer Form was submitted.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.



Zeeland East High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A late request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who has a rare immune system disorder and participated in one football game during the 2021-22 school year while living with his family in Virginia. The family has relocated to west Michigan and enrolled to begin the 2021-22 school year at Zeeland East High School.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver. The student will be withheld from the first football game of the 2021 season.

East Grand Rapids High School (Regulation II, Section 11[H]) – Pursuant to Interpretation 241, a request to waive the four-player rule for the 2021-22 school year was made on behalf of the assistant boys and girls swimming & diving coach who is employed full-time by the East Grand Rapids Aquatics USA Swim Club. The program will have over 260 participants ages 6-18, of which approximately 100 are East Grand Rapids students in grades 7-12. Approximately 40 participants come from four other schools or districts (Byron Center, Grand Rapids-Catholic Central, Grand Rapids Christian, and the Forest Hills Schools). A similar request has been approved for this coach and program since 2012-13.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for this coach for the 2021-22 school year.

Portage Northern High School (Regulation II, Section 11[H]) – Pursuant to Interpretation 241, a request to waive the four-player rule for the 2021-22 school year was made on behalf of the head coach and the assistant coach of the boys and girls swimming & diving programs. The head coach owns a local swim club, the Greater Kalamazoo Crocs, and the assistant coach is also employed there. It is the head coach's primary source of income. It is anticipated that the club program will have 76 participants in grades 7-12, including students from Portage Public Schools, Allegan, Otsego, Plainwell, Mattawan, Schoolcraft and Kalamazoo Public Schools. It is estimated that 15 students from Portage Northern and its feeder schools (grades 7-12) will participate in the Greater Kalamazoo Crocs program. The head coach has been granted a waiver previously as an assistant coach.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for these coaches for the 2021-22 school year.

Bangor and Lawrence Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in 8-player football (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades combined) between these two member middle schools. Bangor sponsored football previously and will be the primary school.

Lapeer-Rolland Warner and Lapeer-Chatfield Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program between these two member middle schools of the same district in boys and girls cross country and boys and girls track & field (grades 6-7 combined). The schools are currently in a cooperative program in football at the 7<sup>th</sup>-grade level. Rolland Warner will be the primary school.

Lapeer-Zemmer and Lapeer-Chatfield Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program between these two member middle schools of the same district in boys and girls cross country and boys and girls track & field (8<sup>th</sup>-grade level). The schools are currently in a cooperative program in football at the 8<sup>th</sup>-grade level. Zemmer will be the primary school.

Watervliet and Watervliet Grace Christian Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – Pending receipt of an MHSAA Membership Resolution from Grace Christian School, the Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in 11-player football (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades combined) between these two middle schools. Watervliet sponsored football previously and will be the primary school.

New Member School and MHSAA Constitutional Membership Provision – Pursuant to the MHSAA Constitution adopted by member schools and according to procedures for MHSAA membership adopted by the Representative Council on March 27, 1997, the Executive Committee approved membership for the following school:

**Escanaba-Holy Name Catholic School** is a nonpublic Catholic High School which has been a member at the junior high/middle school level for many years and was previously a member at the high school level until closing 50 years ago. The school is affiliated with a national network of Catholic schools and will be known as Escanaba Holy Name – A Chesterton Academy. There are currently 11 students enrolled in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades and the school projects being at 15 high school students each year in the future, considering the middle school has a current enrollment of 73 students in grades 6-8. The MHSAA Constitution allows for a school which has been a member in good standing and whose membership lapsed on what is a temporary basis to maintain MHSAA membership for a period approved by the Executive Committee. This allowance has been applied previously to smaller sized current member schools. Holy Name, also in accord with the Constitution, will be sponsoring a stand-alone boys and girls cross country team this fall that will not be eligible for MHSAA tournaments. An application for cooperative programs with Gladstone High School in several winter and spring sports will be submitted this fall. Only subvarsity fall sports agreements will be permitted for 2021-22. An Athletic Department Code of Conduct was submitted. A signed Membership Resolution and Preliminary Classification Form were received on July 15, 2021. If a 2022-23 Membership Resolution is received prior to Oct. 1, 2022, and all other regulations are followed, the school will be eligible for MHSAA tournaments for the 2022-23 school year. As is permitted by rule, cooperative programs with new member schools and existing members may participate in the MHSAA tournaments in the probationary non-MHSAA tournament year.

Future Meetings – The next meetings of the Executive Committee are scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 9, 2021, at 9 a.m. in East Lansing; Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2021, at 9 a.m. in East Lansing; Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2021, at 9 a.m. in East Lansing; Thursday, Dec. 2, 2021, at 1 p.m. in East Lansing (Representative Council meets following day); and Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2022, at 1 p.m. in East Lansing (after Classification Committee meeting).