

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

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

East Lansing, February 22, 2012

Members Present:

Jim Derocher, Negaunee  
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven  
Vic Michaels, Detroit  
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 factual 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.

Bloomfield Hills—Cranbrook-Kingswood High School (Regulation I, Sections 4 & 5) – A request to waive the maximum enrollment and competition portions of the eligibility regulation was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who is currently repeating the 9<sup>th</sup> grade to be with his age group for maturity reasons. The student attended Mackinaw City High School for the 9<sup>th</sup> grade in 2010-11 and participated on the only basketball team the school sponsored (varsity). The request was for an additional two semesters of eligibility in his senior year (2014-15).

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Okemos High School (Regulation I, Section 7) – A request to waive the previous academic credit record regulation was made on behalf of a 12<sup>th</sup>-grade student who missed 59 days of school due to a health professional's recommendation that he not attend school while being treated for mental health issues.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Allen Park-Cabrini High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and Interpretation 61 (closest nonpublic school) was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who reenrolled at Cabrini High School on Jan. 4, 2012, after attending Linden High School for the first semester of the 2011-12 school year and participating in athletics. The family relocated to their cottage in the Fenton area and partially vacated their former home which was unsold and not for sale. The family was traveling a long distance to work and returned to their Allen Park home. The student lives closer to Allen Park—Inter-City Baptist than to the former school where the student was enrolled for grades 1-9. The family continues to own the cottage.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver and, due to the initial incomplete residential change, instructed staff to enforce forfeits of contests in which the student participated at the previous school during the 2011-12 school year.

Bay City-John Glenn 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 Auburn-Bay City Western High School where she was the victim of assault and battery on Oct. 28, 2011. The student suffered multiple injuries including a concussion. The student who committed the act was charged by the police and suspended by the school. The attack and reported return of the assailant to Bay City Western caused the student to enroll at John Glenn High School on Jan. 23, 2012.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Blanchard-Montabella 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 attended Montabella Schools since January 2006 except for eight school days (Jan. 30-Feb. 10, 2012) when the student was enrolled at Mendon Schools.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Brighton High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and Interpretation 61 (public school of residence) was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade foreign exchange student from a CSJET-approved program whose host family placement was changed by the agency due to conflicts with the host family and siblings who attend Howell High School. The new host family also resides in Howell, but it is preferred that the student enroll in a school different than the former host family. Brighton High School is one mile from the student's new residence.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Burr Oak 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 Burr Oak Schools her entire career except for two months when the student was enrolled at Bronson High School (Nov. 11, 2011- Feb. 3, 2012). The student's parents are divorced with joint custody. The student last lived with her father from January 2010 to September 2011 but may now live with him frequently. The student's mother lives in Burr Oak, the father in Sturgis. The student enrolled on Feb. 6, 2011 at Burr Oak.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Ecorse High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made to permit eligibility on the 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who previously attended Melvindale High School before enrolling at Ecorse High School on Oct. 4, 2011. The student participated in four contests while ineligible this school year which have been forfeited to opponents.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment at Ecorse High School beginning Oct. 4, 2011, plus the next four dates of competition for this student's teams during the remainder of the 2011-12 school year.

Ecorse High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who previously attended Detroit-Westside Christian High School before enrolling at Ecorse High School on Oct. 3, 2011. The student participated in four contests while ineligible this school year which have been forfeited to opponents.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment at Ecorse High School beginning Oct. 3, 2011, plus the next four dates of competition for this student's teams during the remainder of the 2011-12 school year.

Fairgrove—Akron-Fairgrove 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 attended Akron-Fairgrove Schools for his entire career except for a period of time this winter (Dec. 5, 2011-Jan. 9, 2012; 16 school days) when the student's family moved to Kalkaska and still remain there due to their employment. The student was considering remaining at Akron-Fairgrove, did move with his family, but prefers to graduate from Akron-Fairgrove High School. The student did not participate in athletics at Kalkaska, has moved in with friends in the district and reenrolled at Akron-Fairgrove on Jan. 9, 2012.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Holly High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student who previously lived with her family at the paternal grandmother's home while attending Farmington Hills-Harrison High School where she participated in athletics. For safety reasons, the student, mother and siblings moved to the maternal grandparents' home in Holly, enrolling on Feb. 14, 2012.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Lake Orion High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – On Jan. 20, 2012, the Executive Committee did not approve a request to waive the transfer regulation on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who on two occasions was the victim of a sexual assault by other students at Oxford High School which resulted in the student becoming the focus of ridicule and threats. The student has entered into professional counseling and enrolled at Lake Orion High School on Dec. 13, 2011 because her father is an employee of the school district. Lake Orion High School has submitted additional information including hospital and clinic reports following the incident.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Memphis 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 12<sup>th</sup>-grade student who attended Yale High School until voluntarily entering the Michigan Youth Challenge, a military-style residential treatment program for troubled youth. The student has returned to the residence of his parents in Yale. The student would be eligible at Yale under Exception 2 but enrolled at Memphis High School on Jan. 4, 2012, because the former and current principal agree he should not return to the previous high school and environment.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Merrill 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 moved into the home of his grandparents in Merrill due to an unstable and unsafe environment. The police were called to the student's residence several times since October 2011. The student's birth parents are divorced; the birth father is in prison. The student previously attended Hale High School before enrolling at Merrill on Jan. 11, 2012.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

New Haven High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request was made on behalf of a 12<sup>th</sup>-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment. The student previously attended Sterling Heights-Utica Ford II High School while living with her parents. In the fall, the student moved to a friend's home in New Haven and enrolled Oct. 17, 2011.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment beginning Oct. 17, 2011.

Ontonagon 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 attended Ontonagon Schools his entire life except for the first semester of 2011-12. The family relocated to Virginia in August 2011 because the local paper mill which employed the father closed. The father found employment in Virginia. The student was experiencing difficulty and bullying in the new school, and the mother and student returned to the former home in Ontonagon, enrolling on Jan. 23, 2012. The father remained in Virginia due to his employment.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Portland High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request was made on behalf of a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student to waive the transfer regulation and specifically the language of Exception 2 that a student return to live with "his parents, the single parent if divorced, or only living parent." The student attended Portland Schools his entire life until the end of his 8<sup>th</sup> grade year when he entered a residential youth ranch and began taking 9<sup>th</sup> grade classes at Lake Odessa-Lakewood High School and participated in athletics. After completing the program, the student returned to the same home in Portland with the same parent as previously, his mother. The parents never married and the father has never resided with the student.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Remus-Chippewa Hills 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 attended three different Florida high schools in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and began the 2011-12 school year at a fourth school in Florida because the student's mother's job has her relocating. Seeking stability, the student has moved in with a family in Remus and enrolled at Chippewa Hills on Dec. 8, 2011. The student has no prior athletic participation and is interested in running track.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Saline-Washtenaw Christian Academy (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 Washtenaw Christian Academy for the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, Saline for the 10<sup>th</sup> grade and reenrolled at Washtenaw Christian on Dec. 12, 2011. The student suffered an ACL injury, other health issues and was impacted by the deaths of other students at her former school.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Sparta 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 moved into the residence of his uncle in Sparta due to an abusive situation with a parent. The student enrolled at Sparta High School on Jan. 4, 2012.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Warren-Cousino 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 attended Cousino High School for the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and participated in athletics. To begin the 2011-12 school year the student enrolled at Macomb-Dakota High School as the family anticipated purchasing a home there. The family's home in Warren had sold. In the midst of this, the father lost his job and the family began paying rent on their home in Warren until Feb. 1, 2012, at which time the new buyer took occupancy. The family moved in with an aunt, who also lives in the Cousino attendance area. The student reenrolled at Cousino on Oct. 31, 2011 and did not participate in athletics at Dakota.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Zeeland East 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 the Juvenile Justice Institute for three semesters before enrolling at Zeeland East High School to begin the second semester of the 2011-12 school year. The program is court ordered and students return to their homes each evening. The student lives with her mother in the Zeeland East attendance area and attended Black River Charter Middle School. The student has no prior athletic participation and is interested in running track.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Subvarsity Waiver Requests Meeting All Conditions of Section 9(B) – The Executive Committee approved immediate eligibility at the subvarsity level for the following transferring 9<sup>th</sup>- or 10<sup>th</sup>-grade students (after entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade, before completing 10<sup>th</sup> 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
Bay City-John Glenn	9	Auburn-Bay City Western	Dec. 9, 2011	Remainder of 11-12 school year
Grand Rapids-Catholic Central	9	Grand Rapids-West Michigan Aviation Acad.	Jan. 24, 2012	Remainder of 11-12 school year
Mason	9	Lansing Christian	Dec. 6, 2011	Remainder of 11-12 school year

Requesting High School	Grade	Former High School	Date of Enrollment	Length of Subvarsity Eligibility Status
Pellston	9	Indian River-Inland Lakes	Jan. 17, 2012	Remainder of 11-12 school year
Saranac	9	Elm Creek, Nebraska	Jan. 4, 2012	Remainder of 11-12 school year
Suttons Bay	10	Ypsilanti	Dec. 2, 2011	Remainder of 11-12 school year

Bloomfield Hills—Cranbrook-Kingswood High School (Regulation I, Section 12[A]) – A request was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student to waive or interpret the limited team membership rule to permit participation as an individual student not connected to the school in the USTA Girls Eighteen National Tennis Championships in Mobile, Alabama from March 11-17, 2012. The limited team membership rule activates for tennis on March 12, 2012. The tournament has the potential of lasting seven days (six from when the rule activates) in conflict with the regulation, which states: “An event held on not more than three consecutive calendar days is considered a single meet.” The school requested that this one event be considered as the two non-school events allowed during the season under the regulation.

The Executive Committee interpreted the meaning of this portion of the regulation as follows: (1) that a six-day event counts as two outside meets; (2) that only those days that occur during the defined season contribute to the six-day/two-meet limit; and (3) that if a student who is scheduled for six days completes his or her competition in three or fewer days, it counts as only one outside meet for the purposes of this regulation.

Birmingham-Seaholm and Clarkston High Schools (Regulation II, Section 6) – A request to waive the 600-mile travel limitation was made to permit these two schools’ varsity boys lacrosse teams to play an Oakland Activities Association league game on their spring break while practicing in Hilton Head, South Carolina. The two teams are coincidentally on a mutual spring trip and have a league game scheduled for April 17 which they would like to move from a school night to their spring break (April 2-6, 2012). The teams will be traveling to practice in South Carolina, as allowed under the rules, whether or not they are allowed to play a game. Both schools have already submitted Out-of-State Travel Forms to the MHSAA.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Saginaw Valley League (Regulation II, Section 10) – A request to waive the tennis daily limitation of no more than four matches in a day (provided the first three matches did not exceed six sets) was made by the Saginaw Valley League as it expands membership in 2012-13 to 15 teams. The request is to allow a player to play four matches regardless of how many sets are played prior to the fourth match by making the first two rounds ten-game pro sets. A pro set is in lieu of a regular match format. The request would allow for the league meet to be conducted in one day.

The Executive Committee found that the league’s proposal would not increase the amount of competition for any individual and confirmed that it would allow the league meet to be concluded in a single day. The request for waiver was approved.

Pewamo-Westphalia and Pewamo-St. Joseph Catholic Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[C]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in girls volleyball and boys and girls track & field on behalf these two member schools. Both schools sponsored these sports previously. Pewamo-Westphalia will be the primary school.

Regulation III, Section 1(C) – Pursuant to 2011-12 *Handbook* Interpretation 261, the Executive Committee approved waiver of the enrollment regulation for the following junior high/middle schools to permit 6<sup>th</sup>-grade students to participate with and against 7<sup>th</sup> and/or 8<sup>th</sup> graders for the sports listed in the 2011-12 school year only (unless otherwise indicated below).

<b>Junior High/ Middle School</b>	<b>Sport(s)</b>	<b>High School Enrollment</b>	<b>Middle School Enrollment</b>
Atlantic Mine-EB Holman	boys & girls basketball, boys & girls track & field (2012-13)	N/A	22 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> graders
Engadine	boys & girls basketball, boys & girls track & field, girls volleyball (2012-13)	92	20 7 <sup>th</sup> graders 21 8 <sup>th</sup> graders
Flint-Mich School for the Deaf	boys & girls track & field	41	17 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> graders

Detroit-Consortium College Preparatory High School (Regulation V, Section 3[C]) – On Jan. 14, 2012, a varsity boys basketball game at Saginaw High School between Detroit-Consortium and Gary, Indiana-Bowman Academy ended prematurely due to a breakdown in sportsmanship. Fighting between both benches resulted in the ejection of most team members. The actions of Consortium to prevent an appearance before the Executive Committee were presented. The school suspended team practices and games for one week (two games not played) and one player was suspended an additional week and contest.

The Executive Committee accepted the actions of the school and determined that it was not necessary for school administration to appear before the Executive Committee.

Detroit-Denby and Detroit-Osborn High Schools (Regulation V, Section 3[C]) – On Jan. 18, 2012, a junior varsity boys basketball game between Denby and Osborn High Schools was ended prematurely due to a breakdown in sportsmanship when an Osborn player struck a Denby player and both benches cleared. The Detroit Public Schools athletic office suspended both teams for the next game, placed both teams on probation for the 2011-12 season, and suspended the offending player from school for three days and from the team for the remainder of the season.

The Executive Committee accepted the actions of the school district and determined that it was not necessary for school administration to appear before the Executive Committee.

Detroit-Westside Christian High School (Regulation V, Section 3[A]) – On Feb. 10, 2012, the varsity boys basketball coach at Westside Christian withdrew his team from competition in protest with 3:46 remaining in a game at Inkster High School. The actions of Westside Christian to prevent an appearance before the Executive Committee were presented. The school suspended the coach from team practices for one week and from two games.

The Executive Committee accepted the actions of the school and determined that it was not necessary for school administration and coach to appear before the Executive Committee.

Education Achievement Authority of Michigan – The staff informed the Executive Committee of recent discussions with staff of this initiative and discussed possible participation by member high schools in 2012-13 and beyond.

Signature Authorizations – The Executive Committee approved a resolution authorizing persons to sign for the MHSAA with respect to its checking and savings accounts with PNC Bank.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Executive Committee are scheduled for Thursday, March 22, 2012, at 9 a.m. in East Lansing (Representative Council meeting on Friday, March 23); Wednesday, April 25, 2012, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing (Audit and Finance Committee meeting follows); Sunday, May 6, 2012, time TBA, in Gaylord (Representative Council meeting follows); Wednesday, June 13, 2012, at 9 a.m. in East Lansing; Wednesday, Aug. 8, 2012, at 9 a.m. in East Lansing; Tuesday, Aug. 28, 2012, at 9 a.m. in East Lansing; Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2012, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2012, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; and Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2012, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing.