

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

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

East Lansing, March 23, 2016

Members Present:

Scott Grimes, Grand Haven  
Fred Smith, Benton Harbor  
Vic Michaels, Detroit  
Kris Isom, Adrian  
Pat Watson, West Bloomfield

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 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.

Byron Center, Grand Rapids-South Christian & Wayland Union High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in ice hockey between these three schools whose combined 2016-17 enrollment of 2,501 students will place a new team in the Division 1 tournament. Byron Center will be the primary school. Byron Center was previously in an agreement with Grandville and Grandville-Calvin Christian which has dissolved. Support from the OK Conference was submitted.

Watervliet-Grace Christian and Benton Harbor-Countryside Academy High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of boys soccer to a cooperative program which already exists between these two schools in baseball. The combined 2016-17 enrollment of 172 students will continue placement of a team in the Division 4 tournament. Grace Christian sponsored boys soccer previously and will be the primary school. Support from the BCS League was submitted.

Fenton 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 whose residence changed between divorced parents from Ohio to Fenton and who was enrolled in a school in Ohio that only grants credit at the end of the school year, as all classes are year-long classes. When the student moved and enrolled at Fenton in January 2016, he had passing grades in six of six courses and was in good standing with the former school. Fenton has paired the student up into similar classes and does not wish to grant half-year credit until the equivalent courses scheduled at Fenton are completed at the end of the 2015-16 school year. The student does have a satisfactory previous academic credit record ending in June of 2015.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Allen Park-Cabrini 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 Dearborn-Divine Child, participated in athletics, and enrolled at Cabrini on March 10, 2016.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment at Cabrini beginning March 10, 2016.

Ann Arbor-Father Gabriel Richard 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 an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who previously attended South Lyon East and enrolled at Gabriel Richard on Oct. 26, 2015.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Bay City-All Saints 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 All Saints from the second semester of her 9<sup>th</sup> grade until Oct. 19 and 20, 2015, when the student enrolled at Bay City-John Glenn for two school days. The student did not attend school Oct. 21-23, 2015, and reenrolled at All Saints on Oct. 26, 2015.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Camden-Frontier 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 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student who previously attended Reading, participated in athletics, and enrolled at Camden-Frontier on March 10, 2016.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment at Camden-Frontier beginning March 10, 2016.

Coloma High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B &D]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation to permit subvarsity eligibility on the 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment was made on behalf of a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student who previously attended Watervliet, participated in athletics, and enrolled at Coloma on Nov. 13, 2015. Coloma has only ten players in JV girls softball.

Noting that the student has previously participated in sports and the late date of transfer, the Executive Committee did not approve waiver of either Section 9(B) or 9(D).

Coopersville 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 an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who previously attended Allendale and enrolled at Coopersville on March 7, 2016.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment at Coopersville beginning March 7, 2016.

Coopersville 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 Section 9(D) 2, that a student must be enrolled on the fourth Friday of February (Feb. 26, 2016) in order to be eligible Aug. 1, 2016. The student was previously enrolled at Grand Rapids-Kenowa Hills and had intended to begin classes at Coopersville on Thursday, Feb. 25, 2016, but school was cancelled due to snow. Coopersville had a scheduled day off on Friday, Feb. 26, 2016, and the student began classes at Coopersville on Monday, Feb. 29, 2016.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver. The student will be eligible insofar as the transfer regulation is concerned on Aug. 1, 2016.

Fife Lake-Forest Area 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 12<sup>th</sup>-grade student who previously attended Kingsley, participated in athletics, and enrolled at Forest Area on Oct. 7, 2015.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment at Forest Area beginning Oct. 7, 2015.

Grayling High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – On Feb. 17, 2016, the Executive Committee did not approve a request to waive the transfer regulation on behalf of a 12<sup>th</sup>-grade student who resides in Grayling and attended Grayling for the 9th grade in the 2012-13 school year. For the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and first half of the 12<sup>th</sup> grade, the student attended Mio-Au Sable, commuting 60 miles round-trip and living with her boyfriend's family during the school week. The student and boyfriend have broken up and the student had a new employment opportunity in Grayling. To cut down on the commute, the student reenrolled at Grayling on Jan. 4, 2016. The student's only sport is softball. The school requested reconsideration of the decision based on additional information including that the student was bullied at Grayling while in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade and the mother was hospitalized. The student only attended Mio-Au Sable for the 11<sup>th</sup> grade in 2014-15 and a portion of the 12<sup>th</sup> grade, not for the 10<sup>th</sup> grade as previously reported.

Noting that the student had never entirely left her mother's residence, the Executive Committee did not find Exception 2 to be applicable; and because other factors were not compelling, the Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Jackson 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 an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who previously attended Jackson-DaVinci Institute and enrolled at Jackson High School on March 15, 2016, which was the first day of the third trimester. The student was unable to attend earlier due to final exams held March 8-10, 2016 and teacher work days March 11 and 14, 2016.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Jackson 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 Jackson Christian and enrolled at Jackson High School on March 15, 2016, which was the first day of the third trimester. The student was unable to attend earlier due to final exams held March 8-10, 2016 and teacher work days March 11 and 14, 2016.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Linden-Lake Fenton High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request was made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Section 9(D) 2, that a student must be enrolled on the fourth Friday of February (Feb. 26, 2016) in order to be eligible Aug. 1, 2016. The student's parents contacted the Lake Fenton athletic office by phone on Feb. 22, 2016 about enrollment. The student was previously enrolled at Corunna which released the student in writing on Feb. 24, 2016. The student had scrimmaged at Lake Fenton in allowed postseason wrestling after the Individual District Tournament during the week of Feb. 15, 2016. Lake Fenton had communicated with MHSAA staff on Feb. 23, 2016 about a possible violation of the athletic-related transfer regulation which was not applicable as the wrestling scrimmages were an in-season permitted activity. Lake Fenton was closed due to snow from Wednesday, Feb 24, through Friday, Feb 26, 2016. The student enrolled at Lake Fenton on Monday, Feb. 29, 2016.

The Executive Committee tabled the request for waiver.

Madison Heights-Lamphere 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 for compelling reasons was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who attended Lamphere Schools through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, began the 9<sup>th</sup> grade at Madison Heights-Bishop Foley, and reenrolled at Lamphere nine weeks into the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. The student has been dealing with medical issues since the fall of 2015 which caused academic deficiencies which the student has made up. The student continues on medication and treatment sessions and is interested in playing baseball. The student participated in athletics at Bishop Foley.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment at Lamphere High School.

Manchester 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 attended Manchester Schools through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and began the 9<sup>th</sup> grade at Adrian-Lenawee Christian because of difficulties with classmates at Manchester. The student reenrolled at Manchester on Jan. 4, 2016, in part to attend school with her older brother who has continued to attend Manchester Schools. The student played volleyball at Lenawee Christian in the fall of 2015.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

North Branch High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Section 9(D) 2, that a student must be enrolled on the fourth Friday of February (Feb. 26, 2016) in order to be eligible Aug. 1, 2016. The student was previously enrolled at Brighton and will be moving into the grandparents' home in North Branch as the grandmother is ill. The parent met with the counselors on Feb. 19, 2016, and had an appointment to begin classes at North Branch on Thursday, Feb. 25, 2016, but school was cancelled due to snow on this day and on Friday, Feb. 26. The student began classes at North Branch on Monday, Feb. 29, 2016.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver. The student becomes eligible insofar as the transfer regulation is concerned on Aug. 1, 2016.

St. Joseph-Michigan Lutheran 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 school in Maple Park, Illinois. The student had a residential change to Eau Claire and enrolled at Michigan Lutheran on Oct. 13, 2015. Michigan Lutheran is not the closest nonpublic school to the new residence.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Southfield Christian 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 whose father obtained a new job in the metro Detroit area on very short notice. The student and two siblings enrolled at Southfield Christian on Nov. 20, 2015 while living in a motel for one month as the father began his new job. The family then relocated to a permanent residence in West Bloomfield. Southfield Christian is not the closest nonpublic school to the student's residence. The student attended Byron Center for the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and participated in athletics before the family moved to Rhode Island over the summer of 2015 for employment, only to return to Michigan in November 2015.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Southfield Christian 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 an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who previously attended Detroit-Renaissance and enrolled at Southfield Christian on March 14, 2016.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment at Southfield Christian beginning March 14, 2016.

Union City 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 foreign exchange student from a CSJET-listed program who enrolled at Union City on Jan. 25, 2016, and was placed with a host family who lives in Bronson but whose two daughters have attended Union City since the fall of 2015. The host family moved into Union City to begin the school year and the two daughters enrolled at Union City. After the school year started and the students were eligible under a full and complete residential change, the family moved to a home in the Bronson School District while the students continue to attend Union City.

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   |
|------------------------------|-------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| Ann Arbor-Huron              | 9     | Ann Arbor-Gabriel Richard           | Feb. 2, 2016       | Remainder of 15-16 school year            |
| Bay City-John Glenn          | 9     | Bay City-All Saints                 | Nov. 17, 2015      | Remainder of 15-16 school year            |
| Carson City-Crystal          | 9     | Stanton-Central Montcalm            | Jan. 25, 2016      | Remainder of 15-16 school year            |
| Galesburg-Augusta            | 9     | Richland-Gull Lake                  | Mar. 14, 2016      | 91 <sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment |
| Grand Blanc                  | 9     | Genesee Early College               | Feb. 5, 2016       | Remainder of 15-16 school year            |
| Holland                      | 10    | Holland-West Ottawa                 | Oct. 26, 2015      | Remainder of 15-16 school year            |
| Jonesville                   | 9     | Adrian-Madison                      | Nov. 30, 2015      | Remainder of 15-16 school year            |
| Lowell                       | 9     | Grand Rapids-West Michigan Aviation | Feb. 9, 2016       | Remainder of 15-16 school year            |
| Owosso                       | 9     | Perry                               | Jan. 26, 2016      | Remainder of 15-16 school year            |
| Owosso                       | 9     | Michigan Great Lakes Virtual        | Jan. 26, 2016      | Remainder of 15-16 school year            |
| Romulus-Summit Academy North | 9     | Flat Rock                           | Feb. 1, 2016       | Remainder of 15-16 school year            |
| Traverse City Central        | 9     | Traverse City Christian             | Dec. 21, 2015      | Remainder of 15-16 school year            |
| Whitehall                    | 9     | Muskegon Cath Central               | Jan. 14, 2016      | Remainder of 15-16 school year            |

Birmingham-Seaholm, Beverly Hills-Detroit Country Day, Birmingham-Brother Rice & and Detroit-U of D Jesuit High Schools (Regulation II, Section 6) – A request was made on behalf of these four schools' boys lacrosse teams to waive a portion of the Contests with Out-of-State Schools regulation and specifically the stipulation that all teams involved in an event are members of their state high school associations. The teams are scheduled to continue participation in the Midwest Lacrosse League Tournament which began before lacrosse was state association sponsored and when fewer teams existed. Eighteen teams from Ohio, Michigan, Indiana and Pennsylvania are involved. The school hosting this spring is Cleveland-Western Reserve which is not a member of the Ohio High School Athletic Association because it is a boarding school which allows foreign students participating in athletics (contrary to OHSAA rules). All participating teams are within 300 miles of the game site. The event has two separate brackets and MHSAA member schools would not participate in the bracket with Western Reserve, the only school which is not a member of its state high school association. The Ohio and Indiana High School Athletic Associations do not sponsor boys lacrosse and would not be involved in sanctioning the event. The request was to allow the MHSAA teams to participate this year only due to the late discovery.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for this final year only, and only if the Ohio school that is not in good standing with the Ohio High School Athletic Association does not compete against any MHSAA member school. No variance to any regulations will be permitted in future years with respect to this event.

East Grand Rapids High School (Regulation II, Section 11[H]) – Pursuant to Interpretation 241, a request to waive the four-player rule for the 2016-17 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 approximately 250 participants ages 6-18 of which approximately 70 are East Grand Rapids students in grades 7-12. Participants come from four other schools or districts (Byron Center, Grand Rapids-Catholic Central, Grand Rapids Christian and Forest Hills). A similar request has been approved for this coach and program since 2012-13.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for this assistant boys and girls swimming coach for the 2016-17 school year.

New Member School – 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 at the senior high and junior high/middle school levels:

**Mancelona-North Central Academy High School:** This school is a public school academy chartered by Lake Superior State University and one of three schools of the Bay City Academy Schools. The school is operated by Mitten Management. It is in its fourth year of operation with a K-12 enrollment of 180 students and a 9-12 enrollment of 40 students. There were 30 7<sup>th</sup>- and 8<sup>th</sup>-grade students enrolled in February 2016. The school is operating from the former buildings of the Concord Academy Schools which closed five years ago. The school has a small, outdated gymnasium but plenty of space adequate for future building and outdoor sports. The school currently sponsors boys and girls cross country and boys and girls track & field and intends to form a cooperative agreement with Gaylord-St. Mary in football for the coming school year, as is permitted under the regulations. A signed 2015-16 Membership Resolution and Preliminary Classification Form were received on Feb. 16, 2016. The Athletic Department Code of Conduct was also submitted. If a 2016-17 Membership Resolution is received prior to Sept. 30, 2016, a 2017-18 Membership Resolution is received prior to Sept. 29, 2017, and all other regulations are followed, the school will be eligible for MHSAA tournaments for the 2017-18 school year.

MHSAA 401(k) Plan – The Executive Committee adopted a resolution that approved the restated plan and trust agreement as required by Federal law and authorized the MHSAA executive director to complete all documents necessary to accomplish this process.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Executive Committee are scheduled for Wednesday, April 20, 2016, at 9:30 am in East Lansing (Audit & Finance Committee follows); Sunday, May 1, 2016, at 11 am in Glen Arbor (Representative Council follows at 1 pm); and Wednesday, June 15, 2016, at 9:30 am in East Lansing.