

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, May 6, 2012

Members Present:

Jim Derocher, Negaunee
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Fred Smith, Buchanan
John Thompson, Brighton

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.

Grand Ledge, Fowlerville and Lansing-Waverly High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – A request was made to waive the 3,500-student enrollment limitation to allow one 12th-grade student from Waverly High School to be grandfathered into a newly forming ice hockey cooperative program between these three schools for the 2012-13 school year. Since 1995-96, Waverly and Grand Ledge High Schools have operated an ice hockey cooperative program. It is anticipated that only 12 students will be involved in this agreement without the addition of Fowlerville, which has nine students interested in participating. If the Executive Committee approves the concept, an application will be submitted for a cooperative program between these three schools for a combined enrollment of 3,695 students and would participate in the Division 1 tournament (in excess of the 3,500-student cap). At the conclusion of the 2012-13 school year, Waverly would no longer participate in the agreement. The Capital Area Activities Conference supports the one-year waiver and future application.

The Executive Committee approved the concept pending approval of the cooperative team application.

Byron Center High School (Regulation I, Section 7) – A request to waive the previous academic credit record regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who is a refugee from the Democratic Republic of the Congo whose academic records were unavailable and have not been submitted. The student is 16 years of age and has been placed with an aunt in the Byron Center School District (Exception 3 of the transfer regulation). The student enrolled at Byron Center High School on April 9, 2012.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Jackson-East Jackson High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student who attended East Jackson Schools from 6th through a portion of 9th grade while living with her mother in the East Jackson district. In late March the student was placed in foster care in Battle Creek and attended Pennfield High School where she played soccer. On May 1, she was placed in the home of a woman who lives in the Jackson School District but works for East Jackson Schools where all her children have attended school.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

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 6th-grade students to participate with and against 7th and/or 8th graders for the sports listed in the 2012-13 school year only (unless otherwise indicated below).

Junior High/ Middle School	Sport(s)	High School Enrollment	Middle School Enrollment
AuGres-Sims	girls volleyball, boys & girls basketball, boys & girls track	111	33 7 th graders 30 8 th graders
North Adams-Jerome	girls volleyball, boys & girls basketball, boys & girls track	144	37 7 th graders 33 8 th graders
Twining-Arenac Eastern	boys & girls basketball	88	25 7 th graders 22 8 th graders

New Member Schools – 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, membership is approved for the following schools pending receipt of documents required under Article II, Section 3 of the MHSAA Constitution:

Detroit-Casa Richard Academy High School originated in 1989 as a remedial tutoring school and was chartered in 1996 by the Wayne County RESA. The school has an onsite enrollment of 100 students in grades 9-12 and is housed in the historic Detroit-St. Anne. There are limited athletic facilities but the school has access to a small non-regulation gym at St. Anne Church. The school is currently interested in forming a cooperative agreement with Detroit-Cesar Chavez Academy in football and may support stand-alone teams in the future. The athletic department code of conduct is in process. A signed 2011-12 MHSAA Membership Resolution was received Feb. 28, 2012. The Preliminary Enrollment Declaration has been received. If the 2012-13 and 2013-14 Membership Resolutions are received prior to the fourth Friday after Labor Day in 2012 and 2013, and provided all other rules are complied with, the school will be eligible for MHSAA tournaments for the 2013-14 school year but more likely will not sponsor its own athletic program. Policy permits students to participate in cooperative programs with member schools during the initial year of membership (2012-13).

Hazel Park-Michigan Math and Science Academy is chartered by Grand Valley State University and managed by Concept Schools. It has an onsite enrollment of 75 students in grades 9-10 along with a middle school that also desires to become an MHSAA member with an enrollment of 118 7th and 8th grade students. The school is in its fourth year of operation and intends to add an 11th grade in 2012-13 and a 12th grade in 2013-14. The school is currently housed in the former Hazel Park-St. Mary Magdalene School and plans to relocate its building over the summer to the former Center Line-St. Clement High School which has full indoor and outdoor athletic facilities. The school sponsored boys and girls basketball and boys and girls track & field in 2011-12 and intends to add girls volleyball and competitive cheer in the future. Its athletic department code of conduct is in process. A signed 2011-12 MHSAA Membership Resolution was received Jan. 5, 2012. The Preliminary Enrollment Declaration has been received. If the 2012-13 and 2013-14 Membership Resolutions are received prior to the fourth Friday after Labor Day in 2012 and 2013, and provided all other rules are complied with, the school will be eligible for MHSAA tournaments for the 2013-14 school year.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Executive Committee are scheduled for 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.