

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

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Glen Arbor, May 7, 2017

Members Present:

Scott Grimes, Grand Haven  
Fred Smith, Benton Harbor  
Vic Michaels, Detroit  
Kris Isom, Adrian  
Sean Jacques, Calumet

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.

Cooperative Program Renewals (Regulation I, Section 1[F-1]) –

a. Pursuant to instructions revised by the Representative Council in December 2006, the MHSAA staff identified Cooperative Team Renewal Forms that require Executive Committee review, including those involving Class A or B schools or three or more schools of any size that indicate large numbers of students trying out or being cut, or a significant win/loss record. All agreements include conference approvals. The Executive Committee reviewed the following renewals:

- South Lyon and South Lyon East High Schools in Boys Lacrosse and Girls Swimming & Diving

The Executive Committee approved these two cooperative programs for the 2017-18 school year only.

b. Pursuant to instructions of the Representative Council in 1997, the Executive Committee must review Cooperative Team Renewal Forms for cooperative agreements in boys bowling, girls bowling, girls golf and girls competitive cheer where the combined enrollment exceeds 1,000 students. These agreements were formed before these sports reached over 250 schools sponsoring. The Executive Committee approved the following programs for renewal:

- Zeeland East and Zeeland West in Boys and Girls Bowling

Warren-Mott, Warren-Cousino and Sterling Heights High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F-3]) –

The Executive Committee approved the addition of Sterling Heights to a cooperative program in ice hockey which currently exists between Mott and Cousino which struggled to complete the season due to low participation. The request to form a cooperative program in excess of the 3,500-student enrollment limit was made in accordance with provisions of this section because Sterling Heights dropped hockey in 2014-15 for two years due to low participation. These are schools of the same district. The combined 2017-18 enrollment of 4,673 students will continue placement of a team in the Division 1 tournament. The program will be allowed to operate for a maximum of four years (must be under 3,500 students combined enrollment to begin the 2021-22 school year. Mott will continue as the primary school. Support from the Macomb Area Conference was submitted.

Grass Lake High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an incoming 12<sup>th</sup>-grade student whose father died suddenly in November 2014 when the student was a 9<sup>th</sup> grader. Since the 2014-15 school year, the student has had no contact with his mother and lived with an uncle in Oregon. To begin the 2017-18 school year, the student will be moving into his grandmother's home and enrolling at Grass Lake. The student attended Rochester High School, where the mother resides, but is not returning due to the environment that existed shortly after his father died.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Lapeer 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 (2017-18) who enrolled at Davison for the 11<sup>th</sup> grade in 2016-17 due to harassment experienced by a classmate who is also a cousin at Lapeer while in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. The student intends to reenroll at Lapeer for her 12<sup>th</sup> grade to begin the 2017-18 school year. The student has undergone counseling.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Muskegon Catholic Central High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – On April 26, 2017, the Executive Committee tabled a request to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment based on compelling circumstances made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student. The student experienced bullying and harassment while enrolled at Holton High School during the 2015-16 school year. The student attended Muskegon-Orchard View for the 9<sup>th</sup> grade in 2014-15 and has a history of domestic turmoil. Seeking a fresh start to begin the 10<sup>th</sup> grade, the student enrolled at Holton. On Nov. 10, 2016, due to bad experiences at the former school, the student enrolled at Muskegon Catholic Central. The school incorrectly granted the student eligibility for baseball in the spring of 2017 when he played in four games, which have been forfeited to opponents. The 91<sup>st</sup> school day since Nov. 10, 2016 at Muskegon Catholic Central would have been April 12, 2017. Additional information was submitted, including correspondence from the student's father, former school athletic director and head football coach.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

White Cloud 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 grandmother was recently granted emergency guardianship of the student due to the mother being unfit to care for the student. The student had health issues and previously attended Kent City, which supports eligibility. The student has moved into the grandmother's home in the White Cloud School District and enrolled on April 19, 2017.

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
Brighton	9	Utah	April 3, 2017	Jan. 15, 2018

Climax-Scotts High School (Regulation II, Section 15 [A]) – A request was made on behalf of six schools in Baseball District 116 to play the District baseball doubleheader on Monday, June 5, 2017, which is the Monday following the traditional Friday or Saturday of District play. The District is one of 17 statewide and six in Divisions 3 and 4 scheduled for Friday, June 2, 2017. District 116 is the one of three Friday Districts in Division 3 or 4 **with five or six teams**, thus requiring a Predistrict game on Tuesday, May 30. The teams prefer to play Friday, June 2, so that students may also participate in the MHSAA Track & Field Finals on Saturday, June 3. The three days of required rest for a student who throws 105 pitches in a Predistrict game makes that pitcher ineligible for the District Semifinal and Final on Friday – and thus, the request to move this round to Monday, a traditional rainout date for District baseball. A student who throws 75 pitches or less on Tuesday would be eligible for Friday games.

The Executive Committee approved Baseball District 116 to play its Predistrict game earlier than the Tuesday after Memorial Day.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Executive Committee are scheduled for Wednesday, June 14, 2017, at 9 am in East Lansing; Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2017, at 9 am in East Lansing; Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2017, at 9 am in East Lansing (all members onsite); Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2017, at 9 am in East Lansing; Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2017, at 9 am in East Lansing; Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2017, at 9 am in East Lansing; and Thursday, Nov. 30, 2017, at 1:30 pm in East Lansing (Rep Council meets next day).