

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, October 3, 2012

Members Present:

Jim Derocher, Negaunee
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
Fred Smith, Buchanan
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Paula Steele, Perry

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.

Holt, Eaton Rapids and Potterville High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in ice hockey between these three schools whose combined enrollment of 3,122 students will continue placement of a team in the Division 1 tournament. Holt sponsored ice hockey previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Capital Area Activities Association was submitted.

Pickford, Cedarville and Kinross-Maplewood Baptist Academy High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of Maplewood Baptist Academy to a cooperative program in girls softball which has existed between Pickford and Cedarville since 2007. The combined enrollment of 303 students will move the team from the Division 4 to Division 3 tournament. All schools sponsored softball previously; Pickford will continue as the primary school. Support from four future opponents was submitted.

Rudyard, Cedarville and Pickford High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys and girls swimming & diving between these three schools. The combined enrollment is 467 students. Rudyard sponsored boys and girls swimming previously and will be the primary school. Support from five future opponents was received.

Kalamazoo-Loy Norrix 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 12th-grade student who was expelled for the remainder of the 9th grade on Dec. 4, 2008, and received no grades or credit in 2008-09. The student had behavior difficulties as he dealt with family challenges. The student began swimming & diving in the 2009-10 school year and has been taking advanced placement classes and receiving exceptional grades. The current first trimester of 2012-13 is the student's fifth first term since enrolling in 2008-09. The student is on track to graduate in June 2013.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Adrian-Lenawee Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who previously attended Wenzhou High School in China and enrolled at Lenawee Christian on March 9, 2012.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91st school day of enrollment at Lenawee Christian High School beginning March 9, 2012.

Allegan High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment. The student previously attended Hopkins High School before enrolling at Allegan on March 5, 2012.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91st school day of enrollment at Allegan High School beginning March 5, 2012.

Bloomfield Hills-Lahser High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student who has been in the Bloomfield Hills School District her entire career except for the first day of the 2012-13 school year when the student began the 9th grade at Novi High School where the student's family had recently moved. Due to insensitivities by students at Novi High School, the student enrolled at Lahser on the second day of school, Sept. 5, 2012. The student did not participate in practices, scrimmages or contests at Novi High School.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Clarkston-Everest Collegiate High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of six students (one 10th grader, three 11th graders and two 12th graders) who were attending a religious boarding school in Rhode Island operated by the same religious order as Everest Collegiate. The boarding school closed at the end of the 2011-12 school year. The students are residing with an affiliated religious order of women in a residence in Oxford closest to Everest Collegiate and enrolled on Aug, 27, 2012 to begin the 2012-13 school year. A waiver was approved for one 12th-grade student in the same situation on Aug. 28, 2012.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Commerce-Walled Lake Northern 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 9th-grade student who lived with her mother prior to the start of the school year and ran in one cross country meet for Okemos in August before moving to the home of her father in Waterford. The parents never married. The student enrolled at Walled Lake Northern to begin the 2012-13 school year. Her father is a teacher there.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Grand Rapids-Kenowa Hills High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who reenrolled at Kenowa Hills on Sept. 11, 2012, due to issues with other students and adults while briefly enrolled at Grandville High School. The student is a resident of the Kenowa Hills district and had attended Grandville to begin the 9th grade. The student was enrolled in Kenowa Hills Schools prior to 9th grade. The father is unable to transport the student to Grandville.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Grand Rapids-Kenowa Hills High School (Regulation I, Section 9[C]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who previously attended Grandville High School and participated in a girls gymnastics cooperative program between the two schools. The student enrolled at Kenowa Hills on Sept. 17, 2012. Support from Grandville High School is in process.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for girls gymnastics only until Jan. 21, 2013 when the student is eligible for all sports insofar as the transfer regulation is concerned.

Grand Rapids-Kenowa Hills High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – On June 13, 2012, the Executive Committee did not approve a request to waive the transfer regulation made on behalf of 11th and 9th grade brothers (12th and 10th grades in 2012-13) who are residents of the Kenowa Hills School District and previously attended Coopersville High School. In the last week of January 2012, the students obtained enrollment information for Kenowa Hills, intending to enroll the second week of February. A school counselor advised the students to enroll for the school's fourth grading period starting the week of March 19, not realizing the impact of the fourth Friday of February with respect to athletic eligibility. The students enrolled on March 26, 2012. The basis for the school's request for reconsideration is that the school's failure to allow enrollment as originally intended by the family is a compelling circumstance, as under Interpretation 96.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Grandville High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student whose father was hired as a teacher at Grandville Elementary School and is having a home built in the Grandville district which will not be completed until early November. A signed buy/sell agreement was provided for the new home construction. The student previously attended Watervliet. The family has sold their home in South Haven and is renting an apartment there close to the mother's work in South Haven while the new home is being built in Grandville. The student would like to participate in cross country.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Horton—Hanover-Horton High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment. The student previously attended Parma-Western High School before enrolling at Hanover Horton on Oct. 1, 2012.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91st school day of enrollment at Hanover-Horton High School beginning Oct. 1, 2012.

Hudsonville High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who, over the previous three years, experienced stress related to participation in athletics at Hudsonville-Unity Christian. The student enrolled at Hudsonville High School to begin the 2012-13 school year.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Iron Mountain High School (Regulation I, Section 9[C]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who moved from his divorced father in Wisconsin to the home of his mother in the Kingsford School District and enrolled at Iron Mountain to begin the 2012-13 school year. Kingsford and Iron Mountain are in a cooperative program in ice hockey in which the student would like to participate. The student's 12th grade sister was having difficulties at Kingsford and also enrolled to begin the 2012-13 school year.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Kalamazoo-Hackett Catholic Central High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who experienced difficulties with older members of his previous school's basketball program and became more comfortable with members of a non-school basketball team who attended Hackett Catholic Central High School.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Kingsford High School (Regulation I, Section 9[C]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who previously attended Norway High School and participated in a boys swimming & diving cooperative program between the two schools. The student enrolled at Kingsford to begin the 2012-13 school year. Support from Norway High School was submitted.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for boys swimming & diving only until Jan. 21, 2013, at which time the student becomes eligible for all sports insofar as the transfer regulation is concerned.

Royal Oak-Shrine High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who attended Shrine High School since the 9th grade except for four school days (Sept. 4-7, 2012) when the student was enrolled at Renaissance High School. The student was not involved in athletics at Renaissance and reenrolled at Shrine on Sept. 10, 2012.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Scottville-Mason County Central High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who attended Manistee High School for the 9th and 10th grades and enrolled at Mason County Central due to traumatic events at his former school. The former school and health professionals advocate the change of schools. The student attended Mason County Schools through the 9th grade before enrolling at Manistee.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Standish-Sterling High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student whose father accepted a job in Iowa. In May 2012, the student moved into his grandparents' home in the AuGres-Sims School District and enrolled at AuGres-Sims High School. The student enrolled at Standish-Sterling to begin the 2012-13 school year. The student's mother has not been in his life. He participated in wrestling at Big Rapids High School where he began the 9th grade.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Ypsilanti High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student whose family rented an apartment in the Ann Arbor-Huron attendance area. The student enrolled, participated in athletics and completed the 2011-12 school year at Huron. In December 2011, the parents bought a new home in the city of Ypsilanti, closer to Ypsilanti High School than Willow Run, but were unaware that the new home was located in the Willow Run School District. The student enrolled at Ypsilanti to begin the 2012-13 school year.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Ypsilanti High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student whose mother is deceased and whose father has relocated to El Salvador to build a new home. The student has moved in with an aunt who lives in the Ypsilanti School District. The student previously attended Willow Run High School where the father's residence is located and enrolled at Ypsilanti High School to begin the school year.

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 9th- or 10th-grade students (after entering 9th grade, before completing 10th 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- Greenhills	10	Saline	Sept. 4, 2012	Jan. 21, 2013
Detroit-Renaissance	10	Detroit-Communication Media Arts	Sept. 4, 2012	Jan. 21, 2013
Detroit-Renaissance	10	Detroit-University Prep	Sept. 4, 2012	Jan. 21, 2013
Flint—Carman- Ainsworth	10	Genesee Academy	Sept. 4, 2012	Jan. 21, 2013
Grand Rapids- Well-spring Academy	10	Grand Rapids-Creston	Sept. 4, 2012	Jan. 21, 2013
Lansing-Everett	10	Detroit-Southeastern	Sept. 12, 2012	Jan. 21, 2013
McBain-Northern Mich. Christian	10	New Mexico-Hiroshi Miyamura	Sept. 17, 2012	Jan. 21, 2013
Middleton-Fulton	10	DeWitt	Sept. 4, 2012	Jan. 21, 2013
Okemos	10	Mt. Pleasant	Sept. 4, 2012	Jan. 21, 2013
Saranac	10	Grand Rapids-Lighthouse Academy	Sept. 28, 2012	Jan. 21, 2013

Oscoda High School (Regulation II, Section 11[H]) – Pursuant to Interpretation 236, a request to waive the three/four-player rule for the 2012-13 school year was made on behalf of the boys and girls swimming & diving coach who is a teacher in the district and also the administrator of the Otter Community Swim Program. It is anticipated that the Otter Swim Program will have approximately 125 participants ages 5-18 including students from four neighboring school districts (Lincoln-Alcona, Whittemore-Prescott, Tawas Area and AuGres-Sims). It is estimated that 70 percent of the students are below high school age. Oscoda typically has 10-15 students in its swim program. Oscoda is the only school of the neighboring four with a pool. Because of the limited resources of this community, the Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for this coach in 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for this boys and girls swimming & diving coach for the 2012-13 school year.

Regulation III, Section 1(C) – Pursuant to 2012-13 *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
Albion	7 th grade girls basketball	222	18 7 th grade girls
Lake Leelanau-St. Mary	Boys & girls basketball	52	29 7 th & 8 th graders

Hillman Community Schools (Regulation III, Section 1) – The Executive Committee did not approve the request of Hillman Community Schools to permit 6th-grade boys to participate with and against 7th-grade boys in basketball.

Fowlerville and Webberville Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys and girls cross country between these two middle schools. Fowlerville sponsored cross country previously and will be the primary school.

Fennville High School (Regulation V, Section 4[B]) – A request was made to waive the requirement of forfeiture of eight soccer games because three students who participated had invalid physical examination forms. The school administration discovered this through its own initiative and has disciplined the students involved. Letters from athletic directors at two schools were submitted in support of the appeal.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Executive Committee are scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2012, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; and Thursday, Nov. 29, 2012, at 1:30 p.m. in East Lansing.