

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

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

East Lansing, September 11, 2012

Members Present:

Jim Derocher, Negaunee  
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven  
Fred Smith, Buchanan  
Ken Dietz, Watervliet  
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.

Holt, Eaton Rapids and Potterville High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee tabled until not later than its Oct. 3, 2012 meeting a partially completed application for a cooperative program in ice hockey between these three schools whose combined enrollment of 3,122 students would continue placement of a team in the Division 1 tournament. Holt sponsored ice hockey previously and would be the primary school. Support from the Capital Area Activities Association has been submitted. Potterville’s application and board approval is in process.

Mayville and Owendale-Gagetown High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in wrestling between these two schools whose combined enrollment of 318 students will continue placement of one team in the Division 4 tournament. Both schools sponsored wrestling previously; Mayville will be the primary school. Support from five future opponents was received.

Rudyard, Cedarville and Pickford High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee tabled until not later than its Oct. 3, 2012 meeting a partially completed application, pending support from future opponents and the addition of Cedarville High School, for a cooperative program in boys and girls swimming & diving. The combined enrollment is 467 students. Rudyard sponsored boys and girls swimming previously and would be the primary school. Support from future opponents and approvals from Rudyard and Pickford for the late addition of Cedarville are in process.

Grand Rapids-NorthPointe Christian High School (Regulation I, Sections 2, 4, 5 & 9) – A request was made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student to interpret documentation to establish a student’s age is 17 years and to waive the transfer regulation. The student was rescued from Ethiopia by a faith-based project and placed in a Christian orphanage. The student’s date of birth was reported to be in 1995 but appears on his passport and other documents to be in 1992. NorthPointe Christian is the closest nonpublic school to the host family where the student was placed over the summer.

The Executive Committee determined that the documentation that was provided indicated the student completed the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades in Ethiopia before enrollment in Michigan and has no more interscholastic eligibility at any MHSAA member school, irrespective of issues related to age and transfer rules.

Madison Heights-Lamphere 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 has been a sideline cheerleader and competitive cheer team member and had hip problems starting in January 2012 which prevented the student from attending school and led to hip surgery in May 2012. The student began homebound status on April 20, 2012 and passed three of four courses as a homebound student in the second semester of 2011-12.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Adrian High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – On Aug. 8, 2012, the Executive Committee did not approve a request to waive the transfer regulation on behalf of 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade brothers who previously attended high school in Ohio and participated in athletics while residing with their parents. The mother’s job had been relocated to Adrian and the mother and students have moved in with the grandparents pending relocation to a home of their own. The father is unemployed and remains in Ohio until the home is sold. The school submitted additional information including that the residential change was due to both parents losing their jobs; the father remains in Ohio to maintain the property, avoid it being vacant, work with realtors and avoid foreclosure; and the father is remaining in Ohio to collect the family’s only source of income (unemployment compensation) which would be lost if he moved to Michigan.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Alma 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 an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade foreign exchange student from a CSIET-approved program whose host family lives in the Ithaca School District. The host family has a 10<sup>th</sup> grade daughter enrolled at Alma High School since 2010.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Battle Creek-Central 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 foreign exchange student from a CSIET-approved program whose host family lives in the Richland-Gull Lake School District which had reached its maximum of foreign exchange students and would not enroll the student. The host family has an 11<sup>th</sup> grade daughter enrolled shared-time at Battle Creek-Central and St. Philip Catholic Central and has previously hosted an exchange student at Battle Creek-Central.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Bloomfield Hills-Roeper 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 Roeper for the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Due to her illness and that of her father, she enrolled at Bloomfield Hills-Andover for two days before reenrolling at Roeper on Sept. 7, 2012. The student did not play in a scrimmage or a game at Andover.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

DeTour 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 moved from Nevada to Michigan in May 2012 with his mother and stepfather. The mother found employment but not adequate housing for the family in the Grand Rapids area. The student, a younger brother and the stepfather moved into the stepfather's parents' home in DeTour where they could help care for the stepfather's parents; and the student enrolled at DeTour to begin the 2012-13 school year.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Detroit-Cass Technical High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who attended Southfield High School for the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and participated in athletics. The student could not enroll prior to the fourth Friday of February because the Detroit Public Schools were on winter recess Feb. 20-24, 2012. The student's first day at Cass Tech was Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2012.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment at Cass Technical High School starting Feb. 28, 2012.

Grand Ledge 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 father is incarcerated and whose mother is incapable of caring for the student due to an auto accident. The student lived with his grandmother and attended East Lansing High School. The grandmother has had to relocate and take in the student's mother to care for her. The student now resides with an uncle in Grand Ledge. The student has no prior participation in athletics and enrolled at Grand Ledge to begin the 2012-13 school year.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Holland Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12<sup>th</sup>-grade foreign exchange student from Pannonia Christian Educational Exchange which is not listed by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET). On Aug. 28, 2012, the Executive Committee approved a request for a 12<sup>th</sup>-grade student from Grand Rapids-South Christian placed by this same organization to have eligibility for the 2012-13 school year only. This request has been approved several times in previous years. There are three students in Michigan from PCEE. It was learned after the Aug. 28 meeting that this student would like to participate in girls swimming & diving at Holland Christian. Holland Christian is the closest nonpublic school to the host family's new residence.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for this student at this school for the current school year only.

Lansing-Everett High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 73 (practicing with another school in August) was made on behalf of a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only in football. The student practiced football with Lansing-Eastern High School for seven to eight days (Aug. 7-15, 2012) prior to being denied school of choice enrollment. The student did not participate in a scrimmage or contest.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level only for football. The student is immediately eligible in all other sports.

Lansing-Everett High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 73 (practicing with another school in August) was made on behalf of a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only in football. The student practiced football with Lansing-Sexton High School for three days (Aug. 13-15, 2012) prior to being informed by the school district that his home was in the Everett School District. The student did not participate in a scrimmage or contest.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level only for football. The student is immediately eligible in all other sports.

Lansing-Everett High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 73 (practicing with another school in August) was made on behalf of a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only in football. The student practiced football with Okemos High School on Aug. 6, 2012, after which the family decided not to complete a residential change to Okemos but remain in the Everett attendance area. The student did not participate in a scrimmage or contest.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level only for football. The student is immediately eligible in all other sports.

Lansing-Everett High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 73 (practicing with another school in August) was made on behalf of a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only in football. The student practiced football for approximately ten days with Sexton High School from Aug. 6-17, 2012, and did not play in a scrimmage or game. The student practiced with Sexton in anticipation of acceptance under school of choice, which did not occur.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level only for football. The student is immediately eligible in all other sports.

Negaunee High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 61 (public school of residence) is made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade foreign exchange student from a CSIET-approved program whose host family lives in the Marquette School District. The host family has a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student enrolled in Negaunee Schools since 2009.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Negaunee 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 10<sup>th</sup>-grade foreign exchange student from a CSIET-approved program whose host family lives in the Ishpeming School District. The host family has students attending the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and Kindergarten who have been enrolled in Negaunee Schools since 2003.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Romulus-Summit Academy North High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 61 (closest charter school) was made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who is moving between divorced parents and enrolling at the former high school, which is not the closest charter school to his new residence. The student attended Summit Academy Schools since the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade except for the second semester of the 2011-12 school year when he moved to Kentucky with his father. The student has returned to the residence of his mother in Wyandotte and reenrolled at Summit Academy North to begin the 2012-13 school year. An otherwise completed Educational Transfer Form was submitted.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

St. Clair Shores-South Lake High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 73 (practicing with another school in August) was made on behalf of a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only in football. The student practiced football with St. Clair Shores-Lake Shore for six to eight days (Aug. 6-15, 2012) prior to deciding to enroll at South Lake. The student did not participate in a scrimmage or contest.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level only for football. The student is immediately eligible in all other sports.

St. Clair Shores-South Lake 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 10<sup>th</sup>-grade foreign exchange student from a CSIET-approved program whose host family resides in the East Detroit School District but has two children (grades 9 and 10) who attend International Academy of Macomb with credit at South Lake High School. The students entered South Lake Schools under school of choice in 2003.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

St. Clair Shores-South Lake 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 attended Warren-De LaSalle for eight school days and participated in five soccer games before enrolling at South Lake on Sept. 10, 2012. The student attended South Lake Middle School.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Westland-Lutheran High School Westland (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 73 was made on behalf of a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student who practiced volleyball for two days with Ypsilanti-Calvary Christian on Aug. 10 and 15, 2012, and attended classes for one-half day before enrolling at Lutheran Westland on Sept. 4, 2012. The request was for full eligibility but if not approved, then subvarsity eligibility as the student had not participated in a scrimmage or contest.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level only for girls volleyball. The student is immediately eligible in all other sports.

Ypsilanti-Lincoln 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 family is transient and lived with his mother and brother in Saline in the summer of 2011. On Aug. 26, 2011, the family moved to the home of friends in the Lincoln School District and continued to attend Saline for the remainder of the 2011-12 school year. Saline provided transportation. The student enrolled at Lincoln to begin the 2012-13 school year.

The Executive Committee determined that the student is eligible under the rules, without waiver: under MHSAA rules, the student was considered enrolled in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade as he scrimmaged with Saline in 2011 as a 9<sup>th</sup> grader; and as the student's residential change is valid, he may enroll with immediate eligibility in that district of residence any time after the residential change.

Waterford Kettering High School (Regulation I, Section 9 and Regulation V, Section 3) – A request to waive or interpret the transfer regulation and possibly not require forfeiture of two varsity boys soccer contests is made on behalf of a 12<sup>th</sup>-grade foreign exchange student from a CSIET-approved program (AYUSA Foreign Exchange). The grade conversion chart dated March 2011 and submitted with the student's application showed the student had completed the 11<sup>th</sup> grade in 2010-11 and was recommended for the 12<sup>th</sup> grade as a foreign exchange student. It was later learned that the student had completed the requirements for graduation in his home country but had not accepted a diploma.

Under Interpretation 86, if a student has received a diploma or completed the courses to graduate from a secondary school in another country, that student is not eligible for interscholastic athletic competition as a representative of an MHSAA member school. The Executive Committee did not approve waiver of this provision or of the requirement of forfeiture for participation by an ineligible student.

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 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-Huron	10	Ann Arbor-Clonlara	Sept. 4, 2012	Jan. 21, 2013
Armada	10	New Haven-Merritt Academy	Sept. 4, 2012	Jan. 21, 2013

Requesting High School	Grade	Former High School	Date of Enrollment	Length of Subvarsity Eligibility Status
Corunna	10	Northville	Sept. 4, 2012	Jan. 21, 2013
Fowler	9	Grand Ledge	Sept. 6, 2012	Jan. 21, 2013
Morenci	10	Pittsford	Sept. 4, 2012	Jan. 21, 2013
Westland-Lutheran Westland	10	Hartland	Aug. 27, 2012	Jan. 21, 2013

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 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 2012-13 school year only (unless otherwise indicated below).

Junior High/ Middle School	Sport(s)	High School Enrollment	Middle School Enrollment
Battle Creek-Calhoun Christian	girls volleyball, boys & girls basketball	45	21 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> graders
Ontonagon	7 <sup>th</sup> grade boys & girls basketball	138	36 7 <sup>th</sup> graders
Republic-Michigamme	boys & girls basketball	35	6 7 <sup>th</sup> graders 13 8 <sup>th</sup> graders

Lincoln-Alcona Community Schools (Regulation III, Section 1) – The Executive Committee did not approve the request of Alcona Community Schools to permit 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls to participate with and against 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls in basketball.

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, the Executive Committee approved membership for the following school (with MHSAA tournament participation to begin in 2013-14 if the school is in good standing at that time and its 2013-14 MHSAA membership Resolution is received by Sept. 27, 2013):

Detroit-University Prep Science and Math High School began in 2008 with assistance from the Compuware Corporation and the Thompson Foundation and is housed on the grounds of the Detroit Science Center. It is chartered by Grand Valley State University and under the management of Detroit 90-90. Reported onsite enrollment from the visit to the school is 350 students in grades 9-12 and 400 middle school students grades 7 & 8. The school sponsors the following sports at the high school and middle school levels: football, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls track & field and boys golf. Future sponsorship includes several other sports. There are no outside athletic facilities on the grounds, but space is available at a nearby campus where a K-6 building is under construction. Membership would include the companion middle school.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Executive Committee are scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2012, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; 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.