

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Virtual, September 6, 2023

9:00 a.m.

Committee Members:

Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
John Thompson, Brighton
Eric Albright, Midland
Kris Isom, Adrian
Jay Alexander, Detroit

Staff Members:

Cody Inglis
Mark Uyl (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 MHSAA is a private, nonprofit corporation, made up of voluntary membership; it is neither a state agency nor a court of law, and is not bound by any particular legal standard of review or burden of proof when applying its Regulations or while administering an internal appeal. The *MHSAA Handbook* may identify which party bears the burden of proof, depending on the particular situation or if a particular Regulation is at issue. The MHSAA staff, its Executive Committee, or its Representative Council, where appropriate, shall determine whether the circumstances in each situation, as presented to the MHSAA, warrant application or waiver of a particular Regulation or Interpretation. To make that determination, the MHSAA considers what a reasonable person given the same information would decide.

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 was 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 vacated.

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 agreement 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.

Baldwin High School (Regulation I, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a request to waive Regulation I, Section 1 (D), to allow the use of 8th-grade student-athletes in their high school athletic programs. Baldwin will have 109 students in grades 9-12 for the 2023-24 school year. The request was made for 8th graders at Baldwin to be eligible in all sports in 2023-24.

Allen Park-Cabrini and Riverview-Gabriel Richard High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys swimming & diving (varsity only) between these schools. The combined enrollment of 453 students will place the team in Division 3. Allen Park-Cabrini will be the primary school. Support from the Catholic High School League was submitted.

Chesaning and St Charles High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys swimming & diving (JV and varsity) between these schools. The combined enrollment of 599 students will place the team in Division 3. Chesaning will be the primary school. Support from the Independent Swim Conference was submitted.

Flint-The New Standard Academy and Burton-Madison Academy High Schools (Regulation 1, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys and girls bowling (varsity only), wrestling (varsity only), boys and girls cross country (varsity only) and football (JV only) between these schools. The combined enrollment of 307 students will place the team in Division 3 for boys and girls cross country and in Division 4 for boys and girls bowling and wrestling. The New Standard Academy will be the primary school. Support from the Genesee Area Conference was submitted.

Harris-Bark River-Harris, Carney-Nadeau, Iron Mountain and Escanaba-Holy Name High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in gymnastics (varsity only) between these schools. The combined enrollment of 564. Bark River-Harris will be the primary school. Support from four potential opponents was submitted.

Harris-Bark River-Harris and Wilson-Hannahville Nah Tah Wahsh High Schools (Regulation 1, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in wrestling (varsity only) between these schools. The combined enrollment of 266 students will place the team in Division 4. Bark River-Harris will be the primary school. Support from potential competing schools was submitted.

Petoskey-St Michael, Harbor Springs-Harbor Light and Pellston High Schools (Regulation I, section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys and girls skiing (varsity only) between these schools. The combined enrollment of 235 students will place the combined team in Division 2. St Michael will be the primary school. Support from potential competing schools was submitted.

Tecumseh, Brooklyn-Columbia Central and Clinton High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F-1]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in gymnastics (varsity only) between these schools. The combined enrollment of 1,572 students will keep the team in Division 1. Tecumseh will be the primary school. Support from the South Central Gymnastics League was submitted.

Vassar, Bay City-Central, Frankenmuth, Caro, Millington, Mayville and Reese High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F-1]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in gymnastics (varsity only) between these schools. The combined enrollment of 2,921 students will keep the team in Division 1. Vassar will be the primary schools. Support from the Greater Thumb Conference was submitted.

Commerce-Walled Lake Northern and Walled Lake Central High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F-2]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in ice hockey (JV and varsity) between these schools. The combined enrollment of 2,725 will place the team in Division 2. Walled Lake Northern will be the primary school. Support from the Lakes Valley Conference was submitted.

Grand Rapids-Kenowa Hills, Fremont, Greenville and Kent City High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F-2]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in ice hockey (varsity only) between these schools. The combined enrollment of 3,104 students will place the combined team in Division 2. Kenowa Hills will be the primary school. Support from the OK Conference was submitted.

Sparta, Coopersville, Grand Rapids-Northview, Comstock Park, Howard City-Tri County Area, and Grand Rapids-NorthPointe Christian High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F-2]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in ice hockey (varsity only) between these schools. The combined enrollment of 4,143 students will place the combined team in Division 1. Sparta will be the primary school. Support from the OK Conference was submitted.

Comstock Park High School (Regulation I, Section 2) – A request to waive the age rule was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student (D.O.B. Sept. 7, 2003) who is from Cameroon. The student has “aged out” of the foster system but has been “adopted” by a family and is here in the USA on a “trafficking visa”. The school presented supporting documentation for an age waiver, including several letters of support and background on the student’s trials and his journey to Michigan. There is not a documented disability, but the waiver is asked for because of the student’s refugee status. The school asked for immediate eligibility in soccer at Comstock Park.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Coopersville High School (Regulation I, Section 7) – A request to waive the previous academic credit record regulation was made for a 10th-grade student who attended Coopersville as a 9th grader before she was unenrolled to care for her mental health. The student took Michigan Virtual online classes while recovering from her health issues but passed 5 of 8 online courses in the spring semester of the 2022-23 school year. After several events involving her estranged father, the student experienced multiple anxiety attacks throughout the year. This led to medical care for her health issues. The student could not attend in-person classes, so Coopersville worked to allow her access to online education, where she struggled with other challenges during this time. The school asked for a waiver of the previous academic credit record because of the health challenges the student went through during her first year. This would allow the student to participate in volleyball this school year as she recovers and again attends Coopersville in person.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver as the student would become eligible by passing one class from the previous semester with credit recovery.

Auburn Hills-Oakland Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an incoming 11th-grade student who has transferred from Oakdale Academy, a non-MHSAA member school. The student needed a new academic and social change because of a toxic environment, including bullying at her previous school, which resulted in her seeing a therapist who recommended a new school environment. Documentation includes a letter describing the student's stressors. The new school requests immediate eligibility in volleyball, which the student participated in at Oakdale Academy.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Bath High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation, specifically Interpretation 74b, was made on behalf of an incoming 9th-grade student who practiced and competed in one tournament for St Johns in JV volleyball and has now transferred to Bath. The student applied to Bath for the school of choice because the student's older brother has attended there since he was a 9th grader but was not notified of the acceptance window at Bath, under the school of choice, closed on August 11th. The school asked for immediate eligibility in subvarsity volleyball for the student, given that she will have sat out 3 JV matches since her enrollment at Bath. A timeline was given for communication and participation. St John's confirmed the timeline and indicated they support the transfer.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver in subvarsity volleyball.

Battle Creek Academy (Regulation I, Section 9) – A second request to waive the transfer regulation was made for incoming 11th and 12th-grade siblings who attended Factoryville Christian High School, a non-MHSAA member school, during the 2022-23 school year. The students both played basketball and the 12th grader also played volleyball. The students left Factoryville Christian because of bullying and an issue related to another student. The request was for eligibility for both students in all sports at Battle Creek Academy. New information includes emails from the AD and principal at Factoryville Christian, social media posts, a therapist's letter indicating health challenges, and a timeline of events describing the situation which ultimately led to the family determining that a new school environment was needed for their children. The former school does support the student's athletic eligibility at Battle Creek Academy but did not see a reason why they left Factoryville Christian.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Battle Creek-Pennfield High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A second request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an incoming 12th-grade student transferring to Pennfield after attending summer workouts and the first two days of football practice at Calhoun Christian. The potential cancellation of the football program at Calhoun Christian was considered and the transfer is primarily because the student would like to participate in football and couldn't be assured that Calhoun Christian would have a football team this fall. So far, Calhoun Christian has played their first two regular season 8-player games this fall. In addition, the student has a previous connection with Pennfield Public Schools, having attended there from grades 3-7 before transferring to Calhoun Christian, along with three siblings having attended there. New information included that the family now has accepted an offer on their old house and has a purchase agreement on a new home in the Pennfield High School District. The move is not full and complete at this time, but given the unique circumstances, the school asked for further consideration of the appeal.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Bloomfield Hills-Marian High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A second request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an incoming 11th-grade student who transferred to Marian during the second semester of the 2022-2023 school year. The student transferred to Marian after attending Clarkston during her 9th-grade year. The student participated in volleyball at Clarkston. The student transferred after experiencing health issues, culminating in weekly sessions with a therapist. The anxiety was exacerbated by security issues and drills at the former school. Marian was chosen because of its' close proximity to her mother's work and because it is a single-gender school that faces less violent incidents. Documentation from the family was also provided as a rationale for their choice of Marian. New information was presented as letters of support from the student's medical doctor, therapist, and a former school administrator.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Bronson High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A second request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who has transferred to Bronson after attending Quincy as a 9th-grade student. The student participated on the JV basketball team at Quincy during the 2022-23 school year. The student experienced social and emotional struggles that led to him being homeschooled for the final two months of the school year. The student's mother recently accepted a teaching job in Bronson where several family members attend school. The family hopes this new change will help with some of the challenges the student has previously experienced. The new information was a letter from the student-athlete describing his situation and his subvarsity only request for eligibility in basketball.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

East Lansing High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an incoming 10th-grade student who transferred to East Lansing from Lansing Catholic after attending Lansing Catholic for his 9th-grade year. While at Lansing Catholic, the student experienced multiple negative experiences, including watching a classmate being forced to transfer because of bullying and racism. These uncomfortable experiences with diversity were the main determining factor for the student desiring to go back to his home district, where he had attended from K to 8th grade. The parents feel a new start at East Lansing can alleviate these issues and help with a more diverse cultural educational setting. The student competed in football, basketball, and track at Lansing Catholic, and the request was for subvarsity eligibility in all three sports at East Lansing.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Farmington Hills-Mercy High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A second request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an incoming 10th-grade student who transferred to Mercy from Grosse Pointe South at the start of the 2023-24 school year. The student has experienced health challenges related to persistent asthma that caused her to miss over 10 school days at Grosse Pointe South. This resulted in Grosse Pointe South communicating with the family that she would lose credit with continued absences. The student participated in volleyball at the former school. The student desires a new change where Mercy can accommodate working with her medical condition with their school nurse. The request was for immediate eligibility in volleyball at Mercy. New information provided by the family indicated that the family pursued a 504 plan to deal with the asthma at the former school.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Hanover-Horton High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A second request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an incoming 10th-grade student who transferred to Hanover-Horton from Addison, where he attended through his 9th-grade year. The student competed in football at Addison as a 9th grader. The student struggled academically and upon losing a fellow teammate at Addison and another teammate diagnosed with leukemia. Hanover-Horton is the student's home district and will allow him the fresh start needed to help the student overcome his health challenges. Hanover-Horton is requested subvarsity eligibility for the student in all sports. New support from the former school was also received, including the fact that the student is the son of the HS/MS principal at Addison, along with an updated grade level of the student and a subvarsity request for eligibility.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver in subvarsity sports.

Haslett High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an incoming 10th-grade student who transferred to Haslett from Lansing Catholic after attending Lansing Catholic for his 9th-grade year. While at Lansing Catholic, the student struggled without the support expected in dealing with his IEP and a lack of academic support as well as experiencing several instances of bullying and racism with comments from students throughout his 9th-grade year. These negative experiences with diversity were the main determining factor for the student desiring to return to his home district, Haslett. The parents feel a new start at Haslett can alleviate some of the academic issues and help with a more diverse cultural educational setting where bullying and racism are not the norm. The student competed in basketball at Lansing Catholic and the request was for immediate eligibility.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Ida High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an incoming 10th-grade student who played baseball while a student at Monroe on the 9th-grade baseball team during the 2022-23 school year. The transfer to Ida was made to start the 2023-24 school year. The student was involved in an altercation at practice with a teammate which resulted in the other student being prosecuted and suspended from the team. The student was allowed to return to the team after his suspension. The family felt the environment was unsafe for their son and determined that a new school should be considered. The request was for immediate subvarsity eligibility in baseball. Documentation from the former school was supplied.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver in subvarsity baseball.

Johannesburg-Lewiston High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an incoming 10th-grade student who has transferred to Johannesburg-Lewiston after attending Gaylord as a 9th-grade student. The student participated on the 9th-grade football team at Gaylord during the 2022-23 school year for only four games before he stopped playing. The student, who is adopted, has experienced significant childhood trauma, and has been in 11 foster homes after being separated from his biological parents. His adoptive parents live in Johannesburg and desire to have him in the school district where he lives. The family hopes this new change will help with the health issues that the student experienced during his 9th-grade year. The request was for subvarsity-only eligibility in football.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver in subvarsity sports immediately.

Kentwood-East Kentwood High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an incoming 10th-grade student who practiced and competed in one football scrimmage for Oak Park in August of 2023 before the student re-enrolled at East Kentwood where he was a student as a 9th grader. The student moved to live with his mother in Oak Park over the summer and decided it was not the best fit for him, so he moved back with his father in the East Kentwood District. The school requested immediate subvarsity eligibility for the student based on the student not playing in week one or week two football games. The previous school has verbally confirmed the timing and dates of practice and the scrimmage.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver in subvarsity sports.

Kentwood-East Kentwood High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an incoming 11th-grade student who attended Hudsonville for his 9th and 10th-grade years. The student desired to receive a more diverse cultural and educational experience that East Kentwood HS will provide. The student competed in track and field at Hudsonville. The school asked for immediate eligibility in track and field at East Kentwood.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Kentwood-East Kentwood High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an incoming 10th-grade student who attended Grand Rapids Christian for her 9th-grade year. The student and family desire to receive a more diverse educational experience and the family's financial situation has changed, resulting in a challenge to pay for tuition at Grand Rapids Christian. The student competed in girls basketball at Grand Rapids Christian. The school asked for immediate eligibility in girls basketball, and if that couldn't be granted, then subvarsity eligibility.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Kentwood-East Kentwood High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an incoming 10th-grade student who attended East Grand Rapids for his 9th-grade year. The student has struggled with health challenges for much of his life and desires a new school environment to help cope with these challenges. The student competed in boys basketball at East Grand Rapids. The school asked for eligibility in subvarsity boys basketball at East Kentwood.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Lansing Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an incoming 10th-grade student who transferred to Lansing Christian from Okemos for the start of the 2023-24 school year. The student has been in the foster care system for the past 9 years before being adopted by a family in Okemos. The student experienced some inappropriate communication between a male student and herself which resulted in a "no contact" order being in place at school during her 9th-grade year. The student attended sessions with a medical professional to work through the situation. The family felt a new school experience would be best for the student's mental, spiritual, and physical health. The student competed in volleyball, lacrosse, and track and field at Okemos. The school request was for immediate eligibility in all sports at Lansing Christian.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Macomb-Dakota High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A second request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an incoming 10th grader who previously attended De La Salle and participated in soccer during the 2022-23 school year. The student experienced struggles after attending Macomb Public Schools from elementary school. The change of schools was difficult, yet the student made it through the year. There is now a need to get a fresh start. New information included letters from the De La Salle JV soccer coach and the Dakota JV soccer coach describing the challenges the student experienced last year. The continued request was for subvarsity eligibility in soccer at Dakota.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Macomb-L'Anse Creuse North High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an incoming 10th-grade student who transferred to L'Anse Creuse North from Warren-De La Salle for the start of the 2023-24 school year. The student experienced hardship with his mother's diagnosis of cancer which led to a decision to return to his home school, L'Anse Creuse North, where he attended from 1st grade through 8th grade. This family health issue has led to stress and forced the family to rely upon a support system for travel and other issues that do not exist in the De La Salle community but do in their home district. The student participated in tennis and basketball at De La Salle during his 9th-grade year. The request was for eligibility at L'Anse Creuse North in tennis and basketball.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver in tennis and basketball.

Maple City-Glen Lake High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation, specifically Interpretation 62 (public school of residence), was made on behalf of an incoming 12th-grade student, who recently moved between divorced parents, to live with his mother. The student attended North Farmington as a 9th–11th grader and competed in tennis, bowling, and baseball. The new residence with his mother is in the Leland Public School District. The new blended family has students (stepsiblings) who have attended Glen Lake Public Schools. The new school requested immediate eligibility in all sports at Glen Lake.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver with an otherwise completed Educational Transfer Form.

Novi-Detroit Catholic Central High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A second request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an incoming 10th-grade student from Brighton. The student attended Brighton as a freshman during the first semester of the 2022-2023 school year and transferred to Detroit Catholic Central at the start of the second semester due to bad experiences at Brighton. While at Brighton, the student played on the 9th-grade football team. The student desired to transfer earlier in the semester to Detroit Catholic Central but the admissions window was closed until the semester. The student played baseball in the spring at Detroit Catholic Central. New information provided included a letter from a former varsity volleyball coach and family friend at Brighton along with a letter from the student describing why he needed a new school environment. The second request was for subvarsity eligibility in football.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Novi-Detroit Catholic Central High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A second request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an incoming 10th-grade student from North Farmington. The student attended North Farmington as a freshman during the first semester of the 2022-2023 school year and transferred to Detroit Catholic Central at the start of the second semester due to some bad experiences that the family felt were unaddressed by the North Farmington administration. This included witnessing drug and narcotic sales and vaping in the restrooms. While at North Farmington, the student played on the 9th/JV-grade football team. The student desired to transfer to Detroit Catholic Central earlier in the semester, but the admissions window was closed until the semester. The student played basketball in the winter at Detroit Catholic Central. The new school offers a fresh start, and so far, the result has been a better experience, and the transition has been smooth. The new information was an “anonymous” letter from a North Farmington coach and family friend and email documentation that the father had with North Farmington administrators about the issues from the fall. The continued request was for subvarsity eligibility in football.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Pellston High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an incoming 11th-grade student who transferred to Pellston from Inland Lakes in the spring of the 2022-23 school year. The student has experienced significant hardships in his life. The student attended Inland Lakes at the start of the 2022-23 school year before enrollment in the Michigan Youth Challenge Academy in Battle Creek where he proceeded to run away. The student has worked with a pediatric trauma expert to cope with his ADHD. Given a past positive experience with the Pellston superintendent, the single mother determined that attending Pellston High School, where he enrolled last spring, was his last and best chance to graduate high school. The student is now driving 80 miles each day to attend Pellston from his residence in Wolverine. While at Inland Lakes, the student competed in JV football. The request was for eligibility at Pellston in football. Inland Lakes provided documentation on behalf of the student and supports the transfer.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver in football.

Sandusky High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation, specifically Interpretation 74a, was made on behalf of an incoming 9th-grade student who practiced for five days at Cass City in football and has now transferred to Sandusky. The school asked for immediate eligibility in football for the student. The student’s family is in the process of making a full and complete move into the Sandusky district that will not be complete until late September or early October. The former school confirmed the days of practice for the student. With this transfer, the student has missed two games of competition at the new school.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver in football.

Saugatuck High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request was made to waive the transfer regulation for an incoming 10th-grade student who transferred back to Saugatuck from Holland Christian. The student attended Saugatuck for her entire academic career before transferring to Holland Christian for her 9th-grade year following the recommendation of several health professionals who suggested a change to a new district was warranted to alleviate her symptoms. The student competed in cross country and track at Holland Christian as a 9th grader as a varsity athlete. The student was adopted from Russia and struggled with dealing with health issues related to bullying. Saugatuck is where the student feels at home and desired to return to the district she has always attended. Saugatuck is requested immediate eligibility in cross country and track, and if not able to be granted, then subvarsity eligibility for the student.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Tekonsha High School (Regulation I, Section 9[C]) – A request was made to waive Regulation I, Section 9 (C) for an incoming 11th-grade student who transferred from Marshall Academy to Tekonsha in the Spring of 2023. During the 2022-23 school year, the student participated in cross country. Tekonsha and Marshall Academy have a cooperative agreement in cross country, so 9 (C) would apply by rule as a request. Marshall Academy provided email documentation showing written support for this student's eligibility in cross country at Tekonsha during the 2023-24 school year.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver in cross country.

Utica High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an incoming 10th-grade student who transferred within the same district from Utica Eisenhower. The student experienced hazing and bullying in football during the 2022-23 school year and needed a change because of these issues. While the Utica Public Schools supported the transfer, the family was verbally notified that changing schools would result in the loss of football for the student's 10th-grade year. Documentation included a video of the incident and the investigation and transfer paperwork. The new school requests immediate subvarsity eligibility in football at Utica.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Westland-Lutheran Westland High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an incoming 10th-grade student who transferred to Lutheran Westland for the start of the 2023-24 school year after attending Redford-Thurston for his 9th-grade year. The student competed in football and wrestling at Thurston. The student was the victim of a crime that required law enforcement involvement. The student suffered embarrassment and humiliation due to this investigation. The family desired a new beginning because of the situation and his grades slipping. They desired a Christian faith-based school close to their residence, and while Lutheran Westland is not the closest faith-based school to their residence, it is the closest Lutheran high school. The student transferred to Lutheran Westland to get a fresh start and leave the harassment behind. The school asked for immediate eligibility in football and wrestling.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver in football and wrestling.

Whitehall High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an incoming 11th-grade student. The student transferred from Belding for the start of the 2023-24 school year. The student participated in football and wrestling while at Belding. The student has been categorized by Whitehall as homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act. The student transferred to Whitehall to live with his aunt because of safety issues while living with his mother and her boyfriend in Belding. The student's grandparents also worked to house him but do not live in Michigan year-round. The student's father is not in his life and is not an American citizen. The request was for immediate eligibility in all sports at Whitehall. Documentation included information regarding his McKinney-Vento status and a letter from Belding High School supporting the transfer.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Dundee High School (Regulation II, Section 11) – Pursuant to Interpretation 240, a request to waive the four-player rule was made on behalf of the Dundee head boys and girls swim and dive coach, also employed by Tecumseh Public Schools. The coach is also the head coach for the Tecumseh Club swim team that operates out of the Tecumseh pool. It is a requirement of the job with the pool to coach the resident club team and supervise all competitive programs that use the facility.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Eaton Rapids and Eaton Rapids-Island City Academy Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys and girls cross country (6th, 7th and 8th grades combined) and boys and girls track & field (6th, 7th and 8th grades combined) between these schools. Eaton Rapids will be the primary school.

Gladstone and Escanaba-Holy Name Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in football (7th and 8th grades combined) between these schools. Gladstone will be the primary school.

Kalkaska and Kalkaska-Crawford Excelsior Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in football (7th & 8th grades combined) between these schools. Kalkaska will be the primary school.

Whitmore Lake and Brighton-Charyl Stockwell Academy Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in football (6th, 7th and 8th grades combined) between these schools. Whitmore Lake will be the primary school.

Allegan High School – A request to allow Allegan High School to add 35 students in their online program to their current enrollment of 566 would make their 2023-24 school enrollment 601 for purposes of MHSAA classification. Since 2020, Allegan has offered an online program where credit has been placed on that transcript, allowing online students to participate in athletics. During February of 2023, Allegan did not count the online students as they planned not to allow participation for online students. The Allegan Public School Board of Education determined that this policy should be changed effective in August of 2023. The school now asks that their online students be allowed to compete; they will count these students in future enrollment declarations. The potential change will impact one sport, girls tennis, moving Allegan from Division 4 to Division 3. This spring sport has not yet made its tournament assignments so it could be accommodated.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

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 schools:

Ann Arbor Christian High School is a private Christian high school initially opened by the Christian Reformed Church of Ann Arbor and now operated by the Christian School Association of Ann Arbor. The high school has grown out of a Middle School with grades 6-8 started in 2006. The 2023-24 school year will mark the high school's first year, and the school plans to add one grade at a time. They currently have 21 students in their 9th grade and their first graduating class will be in 2027. The goal is to become a high school with 100-150 students. The K-8 building is the same building that has housed the school since its inception, while the high school is a new facility rented for the next three years. The school seeks to add additional opportunities outside of the classroom for its students, including interscholastic athletics in volleyball, cross country, soccer, basketball, baseball, and softball, as soon as the 2024-25 school year. Starting this school year, they also plan to add cooperative sports with Ann Arbor Father Gabriel Richard in football and boys and girls soccer. MHSAA staff conducted an on-site visit on August 31, 2023. An Athletic Department Code of Conduct and Handbook was submitted. A signed 2023-24 Membership Resolution and Preliminary Classification Form were received on June 22, 2023. The school will be eligible for MHSAA tournaments for the 2024-25 school year. Under the regulations, a new member school may participate in cooperative programs once the Executive Committee approves.

Burton-St. Thomas More Academy is an independent private school associated with but not governed by the Lansing Diocese. It operates within its own building that houses grades K-12. The academy opened its' doors in 1989 and operates in the same building since its inception. The school follows a traditional Catholic school curriculum with Mass at least three times per week. The enrollment is approximately 70 students in grades K-12 with approximately 20 in the 9-12 grade level. The school desires to focus more on providing opportunities to students in the extracurricular area as a way to continue to hold on to enrollment. This includes athletic participation. The school currently sponsors their own teams in volleyball, soccer, basketball, and baseball. The school will concentrate on building its own programs before seeking any cooperative agreements. MHSAA staff conducted an on-site visit on August 28, 2023. An Athletic Department Code of Conduct and Handbook was submitted. A signed 2023-24 Membership Resolution and Preliminary Classification Form were received on August 17, 2023. The school will be eligible for MHSAA tournaments for the 2024-25 school year.

Farmington Hills-Aim High School is a private tuition-based school. It operates within its building that houses grades 6-12. Aim High School opened its doors in 2011. The school focuses on providing students with learning disabilities with a quality education individualized to their needs. The enrollment is approximately 90 students in grades 6-12, with about 55 in the 9-12 grade level. The school has no plans to sponsor its athletic programs, and all athletic participation will occur via cooperative agreements with other MHSAA member schools. MHSAA staff conducted an on-site visit on August 14, 2023. An Athletic Department Code of Conduct and Handbook was submitted. A signed 2023-24 Membership Resolution and Preliminary Classification Form were received on July 31, 2023. The school will be eligible for MHSAA tournaments for the 2024-25 school year. Under the regulations, a new member school may immediately participate in approved cooperative programs once the Executive Committee approves membership.

Traverse City-Greenspire High School is a public charter school authorized by Grand Valley State University. It operates within its own building connected to the Northwestern Michigan College University Center on the shores of Boardman Lake in Traverse City. The high school has grown out of a Michigan Dept. of Education grant awarded in 2020 and opened its' doors in 2021. The Greenspire Middle School operates at a separate location and started 11 years ago. The school is a project-based, environmentally-focused small school, whose enrollment will be capped at 220 in grades 9-12 at total capacity. The school started as a private school, then was authorized by Traverse City Public Schools before GVSU became its' authorizing agency. The mission of project-based environmentally focused education has not changed in that time. The Greenspire School has been adding a grade each year and in 2024 they will have their first graduating class. No sports are currently sponsored. The school will seek cooperative agreements initially and may start a few individual sports by themselves in XC and Track. MHSAA staff conducted an on-site visit on August 9, 2023. The school has no athletic facilities for practice or competition. An Athletic Department Code of Conduct and Handbook was submitted. A signed 2023-24 Membership Resolution and Preliminary Classification Form were received on June 27, 2023. The school will be eligible for MHSAA tournaments for the 2024-25 school year. Under the regulations, a new member school may participate in cooperative programs once approved by the Executive Committee.

Next Meetings – Thursday, Oct. 5 at 9 a.m. – Virtual; Wednesday, Nov. 1 at 9 a.m. – Virtual; Thursday, Nov. 30 at 1:30 p.m. in East Lansing (Representative Council meets the next day); Wednesday, January 10 at 1 p.m. – Virtual; Wednesday, Feb. 14 at 9 a.m. – Virtual (Audit & Finance Committee follows); Thursday, March 21 at 9 a.m. – Virtual (Representative Council meets the next day); Wednesday, April 17 at 9 a.m. – Virtual; Friday, May 3 at 9 a.m. – Virtual; Thursday, June 13 at 9 a.m. - Virtual