

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Virtual, March 21, 2024

9:00 a.m.

Committee Members:

Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
John Thompson, Brighton
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Anna Rigby, Harbor Springs
Chris Adams, Camden

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.

Gaylord-St Mary High School (Regulation I, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a request to allow the use of 7th-grade student-athletes on their girls softball team. Gaylord-St Mary High School has 63 students in grades 9-12 for the 2023-24 school year. The request came to the Executive Committee with causes and rationale about the positive impact of using 7th graders at Gaylord-St Mary in girls softball.

Harbor Springs-Harbor Light Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a request to allow the use of 8th-grade student-athletes in their cooperative baseball and softball programs that they share with Petoskey-St Michael High School. Harbor Light Christian has 61 students for the 2023-24 school year, while St Michael has 43 students with a combined cooperative enrollment of 104 students. The request came to the Executive Committee with rationale about the positive impact of using 8th graders will have to keep the baseball and softball programs for the 2023-24 school year.

Litchfield High School (Regulation I, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a request to allow the use of 7th-grade student-athletes in their spring sports programs. Litchfield High School has 67 grades 9-12 students for the 2023-24 school year. The request came to the Executive Committee with causes and rationale about the positive impact of using 7th graders at Litchfield in all spring sports, including allowing some teams to have a season.

Peck High School (Regulation I, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a request to allow the use of 8th-grade student-athletes in their girls softball program. Peck High School has 114 grades 9-12 students for the 2023-24 school year. The request came to the Executive Committee with rationale about the positive impact of using 8th graders in the Peck softball program for the 2023-24 school year. A similar request was granted for the Peck girls basketball program in December.

Petoskey-St Michael and Harbor Springs-Harbor Light Christian High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a request to allow the use of 8th-grade student-athletes in their cooperative track & field program with St Michael High School as the host school. The existing cooperative agreement between these two schools has 104 students in grades 9-12 for the 2023-24 school year. The request came to the Executive Committee with specific numbers, causes, and rationale about the positive impact of using 8th graders at St Michael and specific to their cooperative track & field program for spring 2024. A similar request was granted for the schools cooperative program in cross country this fall.

Battle Creek-St Philip and Battle Creek-Calhoun Christian High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys golf (varsity and JV) between these schools beginning in spring 2024. The combined enrollment of 148 students will place the team in Division 4. St Philip will be the primary school. Support from the South Central Athletic Association was submitted.

Sault Ste Marie-Sault Area and Pickford High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in girls soccer (varsity only) between these schools beginning in spring 2024. The combined enrollment of 943 students will place the team in Division 2. Sault Area will be the primary school. Support from future opponents was received.

Southfield Christian, Novi Christian Academy and Waterford-Our Lady of the Lakes High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of Waterford-Our Lady of the Lakes to an already existing softball (varsity only) cooperative program between these schools beginning in spring 2024. The combined enrollment of 353 students will keep the combined team in Division 3. Southfield Christian will remain the primary school. Support from the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference was submitted.

Ann Arbor-Greenhills and Ann Arbor-Rudolf Steiner High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E-1]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program between these schools in baseball (JV only) beginning in spring 2024. The combined enrollment will be 458 students. Greenhills will be the primary schools. Support from the Catholic High School League was submitted.

Three Oaks-River Valley and New Buffalo High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E-1]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program between these schools in baseball (JV only) beginning in spring 2024. The combined enrollment will be 335 students. River Valley will be the primary school. Support was submitted from several potential opponents.

Waterford Kettering and Waterford Mott High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E-1]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program between these schools in girls soccer (JV only) beginning in spring 2024. The combined enrollment will be 2,152 students. Waterford Kettering will be the primary school. Support was received from the Lakes Valley Conference.

Waterford Mott and Waterford Kettering High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E-1]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program between these schools in softball (JV only) beginning in spring 2024. The combined enrollment will be 2,152 students. Waterford Mott would be the primary school. Support was received from the Lakes Valley Conference.

Grandville, Grand Rapids-Kenowa Hills and Grandville-Calvin Christian High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F-1]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in girls swimming & diving (varsity only) between these schools. The combined enrollment of 2,931 students will place the combined team in Division 1. Grandville will be the primary school. Support from the OK Conference was submitted.

Grandville, Grand Rapids West Catholic High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F-1]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in girls lacrosse (varsity only) between these schools beginning spring 2024. The combined enrollment of 2,188 students will place the combined team in Division 1. Grandville will be the primary school. Support from the OK Conference was submitted.

Holland High School (Regulation I, Section 2[B]) – A request to waive the age rule was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student (D.O.B. April 15, 2004). The student is deaf and has other long-term health issues. He will “graduate” with a certificate of completion from Holland High School this spring. The school requested participation for the student in track & field this spring. The student does not appear to present a significant risk of injury to himself, teammates, or opponents or create a competitive advantage in comparison to teammates and opponents. The school gave supporting documentation for an age waiver, including medical documentation, IEP reports, academic transcripts, and athletic participation history.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Belding High School (Regulation I, Sections 4&5) – A second request to waive the eligibility regulation's maximum enrollment and competition portions was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student at Belding High School. The student transferred to Belding from Wyoming High School to start the 2023-24 school year, where he attended for four school years but did not have sufficient credits to graduate. The student has battled depression, attendance issues, and grade challenges throughout his high school career, which resulted in in-patient treatment for depression. While at Wyoming, the student competed in baseball for two of his four years. The new school requested a waiver of the maximum enrollment rule to allow the student full athletic eligibility through the spring of the 2023-24 school year, so the student could compete in baseball. This is the fifth year of high school athletics for the student. New supporting documentation included court records, doctors' visits, treatment plans and hospital visits that the student has gone through in his high school career.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Bloomfield Hills-Brother Rice High School (Regulation I, Sections 4&5) – A request to waive the eligibility regulation's maximum enrollment and competition portions was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student at Brother Rice High School. The student transferred back to Brother Rice from Minnetonka High School in Minnesota in March 2024. The student skipped 8th grade and chose to attend Brother Rice in the fall of 2020 where the student played hockey. The family moved to South Dakota in 2021 and the student attended O'Gorman High School before transitioning to online education. The family then had to move to Minnesota because the student's mother was diagnosed with a severe health condition. The student competed for two seasons in hockey for Minnetonka during the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years. A job change has now brought the family back to Michigan, where the student has enrolled again at Brother Rice. The student will have one more academic year because of his repeating the 10th grade, and he will be considered a 12th-grade student during the 2024-25 school year. He desires to also play hockey for Brother Rice. 2024-25 would be the student's fifth year of high school after repeating a year. Supporting documentation included a letter from a therapist.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Northville High School Regulation I, Section 4) – A third request to interpret Section 4 (Maximum Enrollment) to allow a student who transferred to Northville High School from Canada to start the 2022-23 school year to participate in athletics this spring. The student participated in soccer and track at Northville last school year and desires to do the same this year. The student's first year of high school in Canada, during the 2019-20 school year, was her 9th-grade year, but she was not awarded high school credit because of the Canadian education system. The request is to interpret the Canadian 9th-grade credit as JH/MS credit. New information now includes a transcript from the Government of Alberta indicating that the student took three years of high school classes in Canada and that the student competed in high school athletics as a 9th grader in Canada.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Grand Blanc High School (Regulation I, Section 7) – A request to waive the previous academic credit record regulation was made for a 12th-grade student who has attended Grand Blanc High School for his entire high school career. The student fell ill which required him to be assigned home-bound classes for which the student received no credit during the first semester. The student has now switched to online education but is not eligible given his lack of a previous semester credit record. The school is asking for a waiver of the previous academic credit record because of the health challenges the student went through during the first semester. The student has received clearance to participate in boys lacrosse and will be enrolled in a full credit load online in order to graduate. Strong medical documentation was given as support.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Adrian-Madison High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an 11th-grade student and his 9th-grade brother, who competed in track, cross country and football at Chelsea High School during the 2023-24 school year prior to moving to Adrian and attending Madison High School. The students transferred from Chelsea to escape a negative situation with the mother's live-in boyfriend. The family lived in Adrian and the students attended Madison Public Schools through middle school before they moved to Chelsea in 2021, as the mother got a new job as a nurse at the Chelsea hospital. Upon the issues, the mother and sons moved back to Adrian and lived with a family friend in the Adrian Public Schools attendance area. Because of their prior connection to Madison Public Schools, they desired to go back to their original school that they had been attending. The request was for immediate eligibility in athletics at Madison for both boys, the 11th grader in track and cross country, and the 9th grader in football.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Belleville High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to interpret athletic eligibility was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who transferred to Belleville High School from U of D Jesuit High School during the second semester of 2023-24. The student attended U of D Jesuit and participated in football and track. The family moved from their Lathrup Village address to a Canton address in the Belleville attendance area. The student's 21-year-old special needs brother continues to reside at the Lathrup Village address while the parents and student have made the full and complete residential move to the Belleville District. The student left U of D Jesuit because he intends to graduate early from high school and enroll early in college. U of D Jesuit does not have the option to graduate early. Belleville is asking for an interpretation of this student's athletic eligibility. Documentation of the move was included.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver due to the existing living arrangement at the former residence.

Big Rapids High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who enrolled at Big Rapids High School for the 4th quarter on March 11, 2024. The student competed at Morley Stanwood High School in baseball and football. The student transferred to Big Rapids needing a new start because of the academics that the student desired but could not take at Morley Stanwood. The request was for immediate eligibility in baseball and football.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Birmingham-Seaholm High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who enrolled at Seaholm High School in November 2023. The student transferred from Marian High School where she competed in varsity girls lacrosse during the 2023 season. The student transferred to Seaholm in an attempt to restore her mental health after repeated and documented religious slurs, intimidation, and social exclusion. The request was for immediate eligibility in girls lacrosse. Documentation from the former school was included.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Birmingham-Seaholm High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who enrolled at Seaholm High School in October 2023. The student transferred from Marian High School, where she competed in JV girls lacrosse at Marian during the 2023 season. The student transferred to Seaholm in an attempt to restore her mental health after repeated and documented emotional distress, intimidation, and social exclusion. The request was for immediate eligibility in girls lacrosse. Documentation from the former school was included.

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 for an incoming 10th-grade student who attended Grosse Pointe South High School for her 9th-grade year and the first semester of her 10th-grade year. The student has struggled with socialization while at Grosse Pointe South and in her visit to a medical professional, the family was advised to find a different school environment that better supported the student's needs. Roeper was the recommended high school. The student competed in cross country and track at Grosse Pointe South. The school asked for immediate eligibility in cross country and track to assist in her adjustment there.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Clinton Township-Chippewa Valley High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an 11th-grade student who participated in track the previous year at Parkway Christian High School. The student transferred to Chippewa Valley High School at the start of the 2023-2024 school year for academic reasons, specifically more academic offerings at Chippewa Valley. While at Parkway Christian the student participated in only two track meets as he was recovering from an injury. The request was for immediate varsity track eligibility in the spring of 2024.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver after two track meets.

Corunna High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student who attended Laingsburg High School until November 2023. At that time, he and his two siblings transferred to Corunna Public Schools. The student competed in football while at Laingsburg. The student and brothers transferred to Corunna because of academic opportunities not afforded to them at Laingsburg. The request was for immediate eligibility in subvarsity football for the fall of 2024.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Dansville High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student who transferred to Dansville High School from Williamston High School in January 2024. The student participated in soccer at Williamston in fall 2023. The student was living with his father in Williamston after he was adopted from Mexico at the age of 12. The father has a new baby with a stepmother and the family decided they did not want the student in the house. Child Protective Services was called, and guardianship was transferred to his older sister in Dansville. The school request was for immediate eligibility in soccer for fall 2024.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Grand Rapids-Kenowa Hills High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for a 9th-grade student who enrolled at Kenowa Hills High School in January 2024. The student transferred from Grand Rapids Catholic Central High School after starting his 9th-grade year at Frost MS/HS in Grand Rapids Public Schools and playing football at Union High School. The student's father has now been hired at Kenowa Hills as the head football coach. While playing football for Union, the student played in three varsity games and one JV game. When the student transferred to Catholic Central, the student played 9th-grade basketball for three games before being injured. The request was for immediate football and basketball eligibility.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver after four football games and three basketball games.

Grand Rapids-Kenowa Hills High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an 11th-grade student who enrolled at Kenowa Hills High School in January 2024. The student transferred from Frost MS/HS in Grand Rapids Public Schools and competed in football and wrestling at Union High School. The student is a ward of the court and foster child of a newly hired Kenowa Hills assistant coach who also coached at Union. The family has always lived in the Kenowa Hills District. The student desires to play for his foster dad at Kenowa Hills for his senior year. The request was for immediate football and wrestling eligibility.

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 for an 11th-grade student who enrolled at Kenowa Hills High School in January 2024. The student transferred from Grand Rapids West Catholic High School and competed in basketball and golf at West Catholic. The student experienced negative interactions with his basketball coach as well as anxiety. The student desired a new start and left in the middle of basketball season to go to Kenowa Hills. The request was for immediate golf and basketball eligibility.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Grand Rapids-NorthPointe Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A second request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who transferred to NorthPointe Christian High School from Fruitport Calvary Christian High School for the start of the 2023-24 school year. The student competed in cross country, basketball, and track at Calvary Christian as a 9th and 10th grader. The student's transfer is related to needing a new start due to a stark decline in enrollment and a reorganization of Calvary's school structure, including the loss of the school's headmaster and several longstanding teachers. The request was for immediate eligibility in track. New information included several letters of support, rationale and reasons by the family.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Grand Rapids-South Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who competed for the previous school year in JV golf at Caledonia High School. The student transferred from Caledonia at the start of the second semester of the 2023-2024 school year, needing a new start because of harassment that occurred. The request was for immediate eligibility in golf. Caledonia provided documentation of the incident.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Grand Rapids-South Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A second request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an 11th-grade student who transferred to South Christian High School from Jenison High School after attending for her 9th and 10th-grade years. While at Jenison, the student experienced several hardships, including anxiety regarding a highly publicized racial incident, safety issues regarding gun and bomb threats, and issues with a physical move that required a long daily commute. The parents felt a new start could alleviate these hardships and the student has been successful at South Christian. The student has sat out both golf and basketball seasons at South Christian. The latest request was for immediate soccer eligibility after 90 school days per Regulation I, Section 9(B-3).

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Grand Rapids-West Catholic High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an 11th-grade student who enrolled at West Catholic High School in January 2024. The student transferred from Kenowa Hills High School, needing a new start because his father was removed as the head football coach at Kenowa Hills in December of 2023. The family decided to go to West Catholic after the student's social and mental health was negatively impacted making it difficult for him to stay at Kenowa Hills. The former school provided letters of support for the student to be immediately eligible at a new school. The request was for immediate eligibility in track, football, and basketball.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Grand Rapids-West Catholic High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A second request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who competed for the previous school year in baseball at Allendale High School. The student transferred from Allendale at the start of the 2023-24 school year, needing a new start because of incidents at school, which included bullying from a teammate via social media. The family made the decision to go to West Catholic High School as the student previously attended there and has a 12th-grade sister that attends West Catholic. The former school has now provided documentation that there were bullying allegations, and an investigation was conducted. The request was for immediate eligibility in baseball this spring.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Harrison Township-L'Anse Creuse High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who competed in boys lacrosse during his 10th and 11th-grade years at Sterling Heights-Stevenson High School. The student had attended L'Anse Creuse High School for his 9th-grade year before the student enrolled at Stevenson. Family dynamics forced the student to move to Sterling Heights and out of L'Anse Creuse, despite the student's desire to stay. The school requests eligibility for the student during the spring 2024 boys lacrosse season.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Haslett High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who participated in baseball for the past three seasons while at Lansing Catholic Central High School. The student was diagnosed with ADHD and GAD. The parents felt a change in schools would be beneficial for his cognitive, physical, and overall mental health. Letters from a doctor and his therapist also accompanied the appeal. The request was for immediate eligibility in baseball.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Hastings High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an 11th-grade student who competed in baseball and basketball for the previous school year at Barry County Christian High School. The student transferred from Barry County Christian at the start of the 2023-2024 school year after being expelled because of "not following school policy". The student lives in Hastings. The request was for immediate eligibility in baseball for the spring of 2024.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Highland-Milford High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A second request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who participated in softball for the past three seasons while at Detroit Country Day High School. The student experienced mental health challenges while at Detroit Country Day in addition to a significant loss of income with her family. She has attended Milford High School since the start of the school year, has adapted well, and would like to continue participating in softball for her senior season. The new information is a letter from Detroit Country Day and their counseling department indicating some of the challenges the student faced.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Houghton High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation, specifically Interpretation 62 (closest public school to the residence), was made on behalf of an incoming 12th-grade student who attended Muskegon-Reeths-Puffer High School as a 9th - 11th-grade student. While at Reeths-Puffer, the student played baseball and lived with his mother. The student's parents are divorced, the student's father lives in the Baraga School District and is a professor at Michigan Tech University and would like to get the student to school each day. The student participated in only eight JV baseball games at Reeths-Puffer because of an injury during the 2022-23 school year. The request was for the student to be able to participate in baseball after eight games pending a completed and approved ETF.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver with a completed and approved Educational Transfer Form.

Howell High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an 11th-grade student who competed in baseball the previous two years at Orchard Lake-St Mary Prep High School. The student transferred to Howell High School at the start of the 2023-2024 school year needing a fresh start after his grades declined following negative issues that he and his family experienced. The request was for immediate eligibility in baseball in the spring of 2024.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Kalamazoo-Hackett Catholic Prep (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation for a 10th-grade student who transferred from Mattawan High School to Hackett Catholic Prep High School for the start of the 2023-24 school year. The student participated in boys swimming this winter with an approved Regulation I, Section 9(C) waiver granted in November by the Executive Committee. The new request outlines challenges which the student experienced at Mattawan with a teacher and supplemental discipline given to him because of his religious views in an English class. Mattawan and Hackett have provided documentation of the incident and communication between the family and schools. The request was for immediate eligibility in baseball.

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 11th-grade student who competed in soccer the previous year at Wayland Union High School. The student transferred to East Kentwood High School at the start of the 2023-2024 school year for diversity reasons. The request was for immediate subvarsity eligibility in soccer in the spring of 2024.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Laingsburg High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A second request to waive the transfer regulation was made for a 10th-grade student who competed in volleyball, basketball, and softball at Corunna High School. The student transferred from Corunna to get a fresh start after experiencing a list of challenges, including repeated bullying and harassment from classmates both in-person and via social media. This poor environment for the student continued even after multiple visits to counselors and administration. The family decided to go to Laingsburg High School for a fresh start in January 2024. The request was for immediate eligibility in athletics. New evidence included the former school supplying evidence of the issues and strong support for the transfer.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Lincoln Park High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who transferred from Wyandotte-Roosevelt High School to Lincoln Park High School at the start of the 2023-24 school year. While at Wyandotte-Roosevelt, the student participated in soccer as a 9th grader on the Roosevelt varsity girls soccer team. The request outlined various social issues and school environment challenges that the student dealt with while at Roosevelt. The request was for immediate eligibility in soccer this spring. The former school supported the transfer request.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Macomb-Dakota High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9th grader who started his freshman year at Dakota High School and played in three JV football games before breaking his femur during an early September game. The student was then soon unenrolled from Dakota and enrolled at Cousino High School to live with his mother, who desired to have him closer to his recovery and injury rehabilitation. The student's parents are in the middle of a divorce, and once challenged by the student's father, the student was transferred back to Dakota for the start of the second semester in January 2024. While at Cousino, the student did not participate in any athletics. The request was for full eligibility in football, given the unique circumstances of his departure.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Macomb-Lutheran North High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation, and specifically Interpretation 62 (closest nonpublic school), was made on behalf of an incoming 10th-grade student who made a full and complete residential change to Lake Orion from Howell, where she attended Howell High School and played JV soccer. The student's father serves as a Bishop and President of the Lutheran Church Synod, which requires extensive travel. Lutheran Northwest High School is the closest non-public school to their new residence, but because of the travel for the father's job, the student stays with her uncle many times during the week, who is her ride to school each day and works at Lutheran North. The school requested immediate athletic eligibility in soccer on behalf of the student.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Monroe-Jefferson High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who transferred to Jefferson High School during the second semester of his 10th-grade year after attending Airport High School for his 9th-grade year and the start of his 10th-grade year. The student competed in football at Airport and lives in the Jefferson attendance area. The student transferred to Jefferson because of a physical altercation and multiple bullying incidents at Wagar Middle School and Airport that led to school administrative involvement and police reports being filed. They desired to attend Jefferson for a fresh start because of the effect that repeated bullying had on the student. The request was for eligibility in football at Jefferson. The former school has supplied evidence of the issues and support of the transfer.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Northville High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for a 10th-grade student who competed in lacrosse the previous year at Detroit Catholic Central High School. The student transferred to Northville High School at the start of the 2023-2024 school year for academic reasons, specifically math support not offered at Detroit Catholic Central. The request was for immediate eligibility in lacrosse in the spring of 2024.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Novi High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an incoming 10th-grade student recently enrolled at Novi High School. The student transferred from Divine Child High School to Novi early in the 2023-24 school year. The student attended Novi as a 9th grader and participated in football and track during the 2022-23 school year. The student competed in football at Divine Child in the fall of 2023. The student experienced issues at Divine Child including racial remarks. The student no longer felt comfortable at Divine Child and determined that going back to Novi was in his best interest. The request was for immediate eligibility in football and track.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Petoskey High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A second request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student at Petoskey High School. The student changed residences from Illinois, where the student attended Hinckley-Big Rock High School and participated in softball. The family moved to the Petoskey area with every intention of living in the Petoskey attendance area after the father changed jobs as a golf course superintendent. Despite numerous attempts to find a house or rental in the Petoskey area, the family could not find a suitable residence and went to the Harbor Springs area to find housing. The family's desire to come to Petoskey was unrelated to athletics. Given the challenging housing market and unique transfer situation, the continued request was for immediate eligibility in softball this spring at Petoskey. The new documentation included a letter from a social worker and the father describing the attempts to secure housing in Petoskey.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Pickford High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for a 10th-grade student who competed in volleyball at Rudyard High School. The student transferred to Pickford to get a fresh start after experiencing challenges, including repeated bullying and harassment from teammates and classmates both in-person and via social media for two years. This poor environment for the student continued after multiple visits to counselors and administration and also included a law enforcement report. The family decided to go to Pickford for a fresh start during the second quarter of the 2023-24 school year. The request was for immediate eligibility in volleyball. The former school has supplied evidence of the issues and support of the transfer.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Riverview High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who transferred from Lincoln Park High School to Riverview High School in November 2024. While at Lincoln Park, the student participated in track as a 9th grader. The request outlined various safety issues the student dealt with while at Lincoln Park and the student's transfer was strictly for his personal safety. The request was for immediate eligibility in track this spring. The former school supports the transfer request.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

St Charles High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who participated in track, baseball, football, and basketball while at Hemlock High School until September 28, 2023, when he transferred and enrolled at St Charles High School. The student and his mother moved in with her sister in the St Charles District, but the student's 21-year-old brother and the brother's girlfriend still live in the Hemlock home. The brother attends Northwood University and will continue to live there after his graduation. The student had challenges at Hemlock and with staff members that required him to leave Hemlock and get a fresh start. The request was for immediate eligibility.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Sault Ste Marie-Sault Area High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who competed in the previous school year in track and volleyball at Brimley High School. The student transferred from Brimley at the start of the second semester of the 2023-2024 school year needing a new start because of challenges at Brimley. This toxic environment was a result of issues with bullying and a poor environment for her at school. Brimley investigated the allegations which were handled by school policy. The student is also seeing a therapist, who wrote a letter of support for the change. The request was for immediate eligibility in track and volleyball.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Southgate-Anderson High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an incoming 10th-grade student recently enrolled at Southgate Anderson High School. The student transferred from Gibraltar-Carlson High School to Anderson in the 2023-24 school year. The student was in Southgate School District from kindergarten to 8th grade when she started attending Carlson as a 9th-grade student. The student competed in exhibition and JV only track meets at Carlson in the spring of 2023. The student no longer felt comfortable at Carlson because of poor interactions with other students and determined that returning to Anderson was in her best interest. The request was for immediate eligibility in track & field. Carlson has also submitted documentation on the request.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Waterford Mott High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student at Waterford Mott High School. The student transferred from Orchard Lake-St Mary's Prep High School for the start of the second semester of the 2023-24 school year. The student participated in JV baseball and football while at St Mary's Prep on a limited basis because of injury. The student's parents have gone through a separation and are in the process of getting a divorce which will not be finalized for months. While an approved and completed ETF would grant the student eligibility in a move between divorced parents, it does not fit that requirement. The request was for immediate eligibility in baseball and football after six games of baseball and three games in football.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver. The Executive Committee approved eligibility after six baseball games and three football games. The student becomes fully eligible upon approval of a completed Educational Transfer Form.

White Cloud High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who transferred from Newaygo High School to White Cloud High School in October of 2023. While at Newaygo, the student participated in three track meets as a 9th grader in one event only. The student was bullied while at Newaygo and wanted a fresh start at White Cloud. The request was for immediate eligibility in track this spring after three meets. The former school supported the transfer request.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver after three track meets.

Whitehall High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who transferred to Whitehall High School from Muskegon-Orchard View High School in January 2023. The student is classified as homeless by Whitehall Public Schools under the McKinney-Vento Act. The student is living with an extended family member in Whitehall, as the dad works out of the state much of the year. The student experienced issues while living with her mother, and her grandparents had health issues where they could not care for her. The student participated in softball and volleyball last school year at Orchard View. Supporting information includes documentation of the student's homeless status. The school request was for immediate eligibility in softball and volleyball.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Wyandotte-Roosevelt High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who attended Armada High School as a 10th-grade student, where she competed in girls soccer in the spring of 2023. At that time the student transferred to Wyandotte-Roosevelt High School. The student's mother passed in 2017, and the student has been moving between guardian's homes and has been considered homeless by Armada Public Schools under the McKinney-Vento Federal law. The student returned to Wyandotte to live with her now permanent guardian for stability and a better high school experience. The request was for immediate eligibility in girls soccer at Roosevelt for the spring of 2024. Supporting documentation and support of the transfer from the former school were also supplied.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Ypsilanti-Lincoln High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who recently enrolled at Lincoln High School through their Early College Alliance program after attending Ypsilanti Community High School for her 9th and 10th-grade years. The student participated in two softball games at Ypsilanti Community during the 2022-23 school year before the softball season was canceled by the school. The request was for eligibility in softball after sitting out two games this season.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver after two softball games.

Grandville High School (Regulation II, Section 10) – A request to modify the MHSAA playing rules of boys lacrosse so that Grandville High School can host an 8-team JV boys lacrosse tournament. The tournament will need an allowance for sudden victory overtime to determine a winner in this bracketed tournament. No team will go over the 150 combined minutes in their three games. This modification will be for the 2024 season only, and if the tournament is conducted beyond the spring of 2024, a new request will need to be received.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Northern Lights League (Regulation II, Section 10) – A request was made on behalf of this league which must use several alternative travel methods. Given these circumstances, the schools of this league wish to play multiple competitions in a day; the maximum allowed number would be double the published allowed *Handbook* limits (e.g., two basketball games). The members of this league are Beaver Island, Brimley-Ojibwe Charter, Cooks-Big Bay de Noc, Grand Marais-Burt Township, Hannahville-Nah Tah Wahsh, Kinross-Maplewood Baptist, Mackinac Island, Wetmore-Munising Baptist and Paradise-Whitefish Township. Executive Committee approved this annual request in April of 2023 for the 2023-24 school year. The new request was for the 2024-25 school year.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Pigeon-Laker and Pigeon-Cross Lutheran Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys and girls track & field (6th, 7th and 8th grades combined) between these schools. Pigeon-Laker will be the primary school.

Saginaw Valley Middle School Athletic League (Regulation IV, Section 10[B]) – A request to allow this league to begin middle school football practice seven days earlier than allowed by the regulation on Monday, Aug. 19, 2024. Practice is permitted on the 14th Monday before Thanksgiving (Aug. 26, 2024). The early start date would allow schools to have five days of practice (they do not practice on the weekends) prior to their first contest. It would also permit the league to complete their league schedule in mid-October. The Saginaw Valley Middle School League offers four seasons of participation with winter sports beginning on Monday, Oct. 21, 2024, and this would permit some time off between the fall and winter seasons.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Tournament Calendar Change – After being held at separate sites for numerous years, the 2024 Boys and Girls Lacrosse Finals will be conducted jointly at the University of Michigan Lacrosse Stadium. In this first year of the combined Finals event, MHSAA staff is considering a two-day schedule, with EITHER the boys or girls games being held on Friday and the opposite-gender games being held on Saturday. MHSAA staff requested an alteration from the published 2023-24 Tournament Calendar, allowing for the Finals of one gender be held on Friday, June 7th, and for the preceding Semifinal games to be held on Tuesday, June 4th to maintain the same two-day period between the Semifinal and Final games for the purposes of rest, preparation, and potential rescheduling.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Next Meetings – Wednesday, April 17 at 9 a.m. – Virtual; Friday, May 3 at 9 a.m. – Virtual; Thursday, June 13 at 9 a.m. – Virtual; Monday, August 5 at 9 a.m. – Virtual; Wednesday, August 21 at 9 a.m. – Virtual; Thursday, September 5 at 9 a.m. – Virtual; Thursday, October 3 at 9 a.m. – Virtual; Wednesday, November 6 at 9 a.m. – Virtual; Thursday, December 5 at 3 p.m. in East Lansing (Representative Council meets the next day).