

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, April 24, 2013

Members Present:

Jim Derocher, Negaunee
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake
Pete Ryan, Saginaw

Staff Members Present:

Tom Rashid
Jack Roberts (Recorder)

Executive Committee Authority and Responsibility – The Executive Committee reviewed its authority under Article VII of the MHSAA Constitution and specifically its responsibility to consider each application for waiver of an eligibility requirement on its individual merits, determining if the regulation serves the purpose for which it was intended in each case or if the regulation works an undue hardship on any student who is the subject of a request for waiver. (These underlying criteria may not be restated for every subject of these minutes.)

The Executive Committee was reminded that it was the responsibility of each member school involved to provide sufficient factual information about the specific request for the Executive Committee to reach a decision without further investigation. If information is incomplete, contradictory or otherwise unclear or has been received too late to be studied completely, the Executive Committee may deny the request for waiver or delay action. Such requests may be resubmitted to the Executive Committee with additional information at a subsequent meeting or appealed to the full Representative Council.

It is possible that some of the information presented as facts to the Executive Committee by school personnel and others may be inaccurate. However, to avoid constant repetition in this report of phrases such as “it was alleged” or “it was reported,” no attempt is made in the introduction of each waiver request to distinguish between truth, allegation, hearsay, opinion, summary or conclusion. If any information provided to the Executive Committee is inaccurate, any decision of the Executive Committee to grant waiver of a regulation shall be null and void.

The Executive Committee is not authorized to approve waiver based on alleged or actual differences between schools based on “environment,” demographics, curriculum or extracurricular offerings. A determination of undue hardship is a matter addressed to the discretion of the Executive Committee within the educational philosophy and secondary role of voluntary extracurricular competitive athletics in the academic environment. The Executive Committee will avoid making exceptions that would create precedent that effectively changes a rule without Representative Council action or local board of education adoption, which would exceed Executive Committee authority. The contract the MHSAA has with member schools obligates the MHSAA to not change rules during the school year.

Students for whom waiver of a particular regulation is approved must be eligible in all other respects under all sections and interpretations of the regulations prior to their participation.

Adoption of these regulations, as well as policies, procedures and schedules of MHSAA tournaments, is a choice schools make locally when they consider their option of MHSAA membership. Consistent with rulings of the Attorney General and Michigan Supreme Court, schools are not bound by the decisions of the Executive Committee, but the association may limit participation in the post-season tournaments it sponsors to those schools which choose to apply rules and penalties as promulgated by the MHSAA and adopted by each member school's board of education. The MHSAA exercises no independent authority over schools or students.

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

- Grand Rapids-Forest Hills Northern, Grand Rapids-Forest Hills Central and Ada-Forest Hills Eastern High Schools in girls competitive cheer (combined 2013-14 enrollment is 3,186 students).
- Zeeland East and Zeeland West High Schools in boys and girls bowling (combined 2013-14 enrollment is 1,904 students).

In each case, the Executive Committee instructed staff to communicate to the schools involved that participation numbers and success rates are such that this approval is a close call and not likely to be continued beyond the next two years.

Battle Creek-Central, Battle Creek-Pennfield, Battle Creek-St. Phillip and Climax-Scotts High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – The Executive Committee tabled until not later than its June 12, 2013 meeting a partially completed application for the addition of Climax-Scotts to a girls swimming & diving cooperative program which already exists between Central, Pennfield and St. Philip High Schools in boys and girls swimming. Signatures and board approvals from all schools are pending. Support from the Southwestern Michigan Athletic Conference has been received.

Bloomfield Hills-Andover and Bloomfield Hills-Lahser High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – A request to form a junior varsity softball cooperative program was made by these two schools of the same district which will be changing boundaries to form Bloomfield Hills High School at the end of this school year. Both schools have insufficient participation to field a JV team on their own and requested to form one JV team for the remainder of the 2012-13 season and not permit any JV softball participants to play at the varsity level. On Feb. 20, 2013, the Executive Committee permitted the schools to form an agreement for 9th grade baseball this spring which did not materialize due to lower than expected numbers. The schools were permitted to form one subvarsity football team this past fall.

Because the schools are merging after the current school year and the request is for the subvarsity level only, the Executive Committee approved this cooperative program in junior varsity girls softball.

Concord and Albion High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee tabled until not later than its June 12, 2013 meeting a partially completed application for a cooperative program between these two schools in football, boys and girls soccer and boys and girls swimming & diving. The combined 2013-14 enrollment of 448 students would place teams in the Division 4 Soccer and Division 3 Swimming & Diving Tournaments. Concord sponsored football previously and would be the primary school. League and Board of Education approvals are pending.

Farwell and Coleman High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in girls golf between these two schools whose combined 2013-14 enrollment of 650 students will place a new team in the Division 3 tournament. Farwell sponsored the sport previously and will be the primary school. Support from four future opponents was submitted.

Grand Rapids-Ottawa Hills and Grand Rapids-Union High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys and girls swimming & diving between these two schools of the same district whose projected 2013-14 enrollment will be 2,797 students and place a new team in the Division 1 tournaments of both sports. Both schools sponsored the sport previously; Ottawa Hills will be the primary school. Support from the OK Conference was submitted.

Grandville-Calvin Christian and Grand Rapids-NorthPointe Christian High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in girls swimming & diving between these two schools whose combined 2013-14 enrollment of 719 students will continue placement of one team in the Division 3 tournament. Calvin Christian and Wyoming-Kelloggville were previously in an agreement which has been dissolved. Calvin Christian sponsored the sport previously and will be the primary school. Support from the OK Conference was submitted.

Highland Park-Renaissance Academy and Detroit-Henry Ford Academy School for Creative Studies (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee tabled until not later than its June 12, 2013 meeting a partially completed application for a cooperative program in football between these two schools whose combined 2013-14 enrollment is 714 students. Highland Park sponsored football previously and would be the primary school. Signatures from both schools and support from the Michigan Metro Athletic Conference are pending.

Madison Heights-Lamphere and Clawson High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in girls swimming & diving between these two schools whose combined 2013-14 enrollment of 1,340 students will place a new team in the Division 2 tournament. Lamphere sponsored the sport previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Macomb Area Conference was submitted.

New Haven High School and Ray Township-Austin Catholic Academy (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in several sports (some to be finalized prior to established deadlines) between these two schools whose combined 2013-14 enrollment is 360 students. Austin Academy is in its second year as a school of the Archdiocese of Detroit and reached a 9-12 grade enrollment of 21 students during 2012-13. New Haven will be the primary school in all sports. The combined enrollment does not change the tournament classification for 2013-14: baseball (Division 3), boys and girls basketball (Class C), boys and girls bowling (Division 4), girls competitive cheer (Division 4), boys and girls cross country (Division 4), football, boys soccer (Division 4), girls soccer (Division 4), girls softball (Division 3), boys and girls track & field (Division 3), girls volleyball (Class C), and wrestling (Division 4). Support from both the Macomb Area Conference and the Catholic High School League was submitted.

Royal Oak-Shrine, Clarkston-Everest Collegiate and Waterford-Our Lady of the Lakes High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys lacrosse between these three schools whose combined 2013-14 enrollment of 561 students will place a new team in the Division 2 tournament. None of the schools sponsored lacrosse previously; Shrine will be the primary school. Support from the Catholic High School League was received.

South Lyon and South Lyon East High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – An application and request were submitted for a cooperative program in boys tennis between these two schools of the same district in excess of 1,000 students under the “startup” provision that the sport was not sponsored previously. South Lyon has been unable to field a team the past two seasons and South Lyon East had six participants, four of whom were 9th graders in the fall of 2012. The school district requested that, due to the inability of one school to sponsor a team and low participation levels at the other school, the program be allowed for three school years only, as allowed under Section 1(F). If approved, the team’s final season as a cooperative program would be the 2015-16 season. The combined 2013-14 enrollment of 2,178 students would place a team in the Division 1 tournament. The Kensington Lakes Activities Association is in support of the agreement

Noting that this request would require two exceptions to the accommodation previously established by the Representative Council and exceed its authority, the Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver that would permit the cooperative program.

Traverse City Central, Traverse City West and Traverse City-St. Francis High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in girls swimming & diving between these three schools that was dissolved from 2007-2009 due to the implementation of the 3,500-student enrollment cap which the agreement exceeded at that time. St. Francis remained in the program with Central until 2010 when Central and West formed their own agreement slightly under the 3,500-student cap. The three schools requested reinstatement of the girls swim cooperative program for the 2013-14 school year and beyond as the combined enrollment is below the cap and now at 3,392 students. This combined enrollment will continue placement of a team in the Division 1 tournament. Traverse City Central will continue as the primary school.

Detroit-Martin Luther King Jr. High School (Regulation I, Sections 1 & 8) – A request to waive the enrollment and current academic credit record regulations was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who previously attended ML King and participated in track & field as a 9th grader in 2011-12. For safety reasons, the student transferred to Detroit-Cesar Chavez Academy which does not have a track team. The school requested that the student be allowed to run track for ML King. Cesar Chavez is a charter school that has a traditional curriculum.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Bay City-All Saints High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who previously attended Essexville-Garber High School and enrolled at All Saints on Oct. 10, 2012.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91st school day of enrollment at All Saints High School starting Oct. 10, 2012.

Crystal Falls-Forest Park High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student who previously attended Houghton High School before enrolling at Forest Park on Oct. 8, 2012.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91st school day of enrollment at Forest Park High School starting Oct. 8, 2012.

Northville High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student who previously attended Detroit-U of D Jesuit, played football and enrolled at Northville High School on March 11, 2013.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91st school day of enrollment at Northville High School starting March 11, 2013.

Posen High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who previously attended Alpena High School and enrolled at Posen on March 7, 2013.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91st school day of enrollment at Posen High School starting March 7, 2013.

Reed City High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who has been living with a family other than his own since 2008 because his mother was unable to care for him and two siblings. In the fall of 2012, the family the student was living with underwent a divorce which included domestic problems. With no other options, the student moved to his birth mother's residence and enrolled at Big Rapids High School on Nov. 26, 2012. The student did not participate in athletics at Big Rapids. The mother again was unable to care for her children and was detained by authorities. A suitable family has been found for the student in Reed City and the student reenrolled at Reed City on March 18, 2013.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Shelby High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student who has been the subject of harassment from classmates at Montague which caused the parents to contact school administration and the police and the student to enroll at Shelby on Jan. 7, 2013. The student's parents are divorced but he is not changing residence. The student has lived with his mother in Shelby while his father lives in Montague.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Subvarsity Waiver Requests Meeting All Conditions of Regulation I, Section 9(B) – The Executive Committee approved immediate eligibility at the subvarsity level for the following transferring 9th- or 10th-grade students (after entering 9th grade, before completing 10th grade) **who have not previously participated in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest in any MHSAA sport at the high school level** (whether MHSAA member schools or not) and who do not qualify for one of the 15 stated exceptions to the transfer regulation and have transferred for reasons having nothing to do with athletics, discipline or family finances and would not require Executive Committee evaluation or comparison of school demographics or curriculum:

Requesting High School	Grade	Former High School	Date of Enrollment	Length of Subvarsity Eligibility Status
Alma	10	Walter Sickles, Tampa, FL	Jan. 23, 2013	Remainder of 12-13 school year
Grand Rapids-Kenowa Hills	10	Grand Rapids-Wellspring Prep	Jan. 25, 2013	Remainder of 12-13 school year
Livonia-Ladywood	10	Experimental School, HeBei Normal University	Jan. 7, 2013	Remainder of 12-13 school year
Livonia-Ladywood	9	Shanghai Shangde Experimental School	Jan. 7, 2013	Remainder of 12-13 school year
Livonia-Ladywood	10	Shanghai East Experimental School	Jan. 7, 2013	Remainder of 12-13 school year
Taylor-Truman	10	Gibraltar-Carlson	Dec. 3, 2012	Remainder of 12-13 school year
Warren Woods-Tower	9	Warren-DeLaSalle Collegiate	Jan. 3, 2013	Remainder of 12-13 school year

Regulation II, Section 10 [10 & 12] – Due to weather conditions this spring, MHSAA staff has received numerous requests in girls soccer and boys and girls lacrosse to permit four games in one week, Monday through Sunday, so that schools may complete schedules. Currently, a student or team may compete in no more than three games and/or scrimmages in one week (Monday through Sunday) including regular season and MHSAA tournament play. Other spring sports have no limit to the number of contests or days of competition in one week.

The Executive Committee approved a motion to allow all MHSAA member high schools up to two additional non-school-day multi-team events during the current season in the sports of boys lacrosse, girls lacrosse and girls soccer, provided there is compliance with all conditions for doing so under Regulation II, Section 10(A) 10 and 12.

Northern Lights Conference (Regulation II, Section 11[F]) – A request was made to permit boys basketball games for teams in this conference to open the season with league games three days earlier (Friday, Dec. 6, 2013), corresponding to the first weekend of the girls season. The league includes two schools located on islands and others spread across the Upper Peninsula. Due to travel, the schools typically play boys and girls double-headers on a Friday night and Saturday morning. There are no JV teams in the league. The league attempts to schedule longer trips earlier in the season when weather may be less threatening.

Noting the unusual circumstances of this league and that there will be no waiver of the earliest practice date or the minimum days of practice before the first contest, the Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Grosse Pointe North High School (Regulation II, Section 11[H]) – Pursuant to Interpretation 236, a request to waive the three- (or four-)player rule for the 2013-14 school year was made on behalf of the head boys and girls varsity tennis coach who is also a contracted tennis teaching professional employed full time by the Wimbledon Racquet Club which houses the Wimbledon Junior Development program. The program contracts court time and tennis professionals to run coed year-round tennis camps. The program currently has 90 participants, and approximately 45 of these are in grades 7-12 from eight different schools including the two Grosse Pointe Public Schools (13 students from Grosse Pointe North, eight from Grosse Pointe South). With limited numbers of available indoor tennis courts in the area and a limited supply of five courts, it is typical to have eight or more students on a court during the winter months. In 2012-13 the Executive Committee approved the request only to the extent that the coach is allowed to work with three students from Grosse Pointe North on one court at one time while others may be present from other Grosse Pointe Public Schools (i.e., apply the three-player rule to students of the high school only in this specific employment situation and not the entire district). It was verbally reported that the coach does not believe he has had to use this allowance in 2012-13 but it has allowed more flexibility in his scheduling.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for 2013-14 for this coach in boys and girls tennis with the same limitations as in 2012-13.

Grosse Pointe North High School (Regulation II, Section 11[H]) – Pursuant to Interpretation 236, a request to waive the three-/four-player rule for the 2013-14 school year was made on behalf of the boys and girls swimming & diving coach who is employed full time by the Pointe Aquatics Club. The Pointe Aquatics Club will have approximately 78 participants of which 17 are 7-12 graders and 61 are below the 6th grade. Eleven of the 7-12 graders do not attend Grosse Pointe Schools but are enrolled at four other schools: Grosse Pointe Woods-University Liggett, Grosse Pointe-St. Paul, Our Lady Star of the Sea and Harrison Township-L'Anse Creuse. Six of the participants are Grosse Pointe Public Schools students grades 7-12. A similar request has been granted for this coach and program annually since 2006.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for this coach for this sport for 2013-14 only.

Okemos High School (Regulation II, Section 11[H]) – Pursuant to Interpretation 236, a request to waive the three-/four-player rule for the 2013-14 school year was made on behalf of the head boys and girls varsity swimming coach who is also employed full time by the Spartan Swim Club which operates from several pools in the area but primarily out of Haslett High School and Michigan State University pools. The program is open to the general public ages 6-18 and anticipates 100 participants in 2013-14 of which 25-30 are Okemos students grades 7-12. The program involves students from seven school districts including Okemos (East Lansing, Williamston, Lansing, Holt, DeWitt and Mason). Approval has been granted for this coach and this program annually since 2010.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for this coach for this sport for 2013-14 only.

Trenton High School (Regulation II, Section 11[H]) – Pursuant to Interpretation 236, a request to waive the three-/four-player rule for the 2013-14 school year was made on behalf of the assistant boys and girls swimming & diving coach who is a college student employed full time as the head coach of the Trenton Swim Club. The Trenton Swim Club will have approximately 80-100 participants ages 6-18 in the winter season, of which 25 are Trenton High School students. Participants come from seven school districts including Trenton: Allen Park, Gibraltar, Grosse Ile, Riverview, Southgate and Woodhaven.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for this coach for this sport for 2013-14 only.

Regulation II, Section 15(B) – On April 19, 2013, 30 Upper Peninsula athletic directors in attendance at an Athletic Director In-Service expressed to MHSAA staff their concern that because of snow accumulation and other weather conditions, schools may not be able to comply with the tournament condition of having participated against MHSAA member schools in four or more contests in track & field, golf and tennis during the current season.

The Executive Committee approved a motion to waive the four contest MHSAA tournament entry requirement for all Upper Peninsula schools in all sports this spring and to authorize staff to consider similar requests from other schools on a case-by-case basis.

Regulation III, Section 1(C) – Pursuant to *Handbook* Interpretation 261, the Executive Committee approved waiver of the enrollment regulation for the following junior high/middle schools to permit 6th-grade students to participate with and against 7th and/or 8th graders for the sports listed in the 2012-13 school year only (unless otherwise indicated below).

Junior High/ Middle School	Sport(s)	High School Enrollment	Middle School Enrollment
Cooks-Big Bay de Noc	boys & girls basketball	88	20 7 th graders 19 8 th graders
Engadine	12-13 and 13-14 boys & girls track & field; 13-14 boys & girls basketball, volleyball	88	20 7 th graders 17 8 th graders
Gaylord-St. Mary	boys & girls cross country, boys & girls basketball, boys & girls track & field, volleyball	77	19 7 th graders 24 8 th graders

Ontonagon and Ewen-Trout Creek Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in football between these two member middle schools. Ontonagon sponsored football previously and will be the primary school.

MKO Middle School Conference (Regulation IV, Section 10[B]) – A request was made to permit an earlier start to fall football practice on Wednesday, Aug. 21, 2013, as opposed to the fourth Monday of August (Aug. 26, 2013). The earlier start would allow flexibility for teams to conduct the required 12 practices without practicing on the Friday and Monday of Labor Day. Schools could have three days of practice in helmets only, Wednesday through Friday, Aug. 21-23. Many schools hold middle school scrimmages the Wednesday after Labor Day (Sept. 4, 2013). The required nine days of practice prior to a scrimmage would be achieved if a team practiced every day but Sunday and Labor Day in that period. The league's first of six games is Sept. 11, the final game falling on Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2013.

The Executive Committee tabled this request so that it could be considered by the full Representative Council at its meeting May 5-6, 2013.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Executive Committee are scheduled for Sunday, May 5, 2013, at 10:30 a.m. in Gaylord; and Wednesday, June 12, 2013, at 9 a.m. in East Lansing.