

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, April 26, 2017

Members Present:

Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
Fred Smith, Benton Harbor
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Kris Isom, Adrian
Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake

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 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 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.

Benton Harbor-Countryside Academy and Eau Claire High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys soccer (varsity team) between these two schools whose combined 2017-18 enrollment of 379 students will place a new team in the Division 3 tournament. Neither school sponsored boys soccer previously. Countryside will be the primary school. The team will not have a conference affiliation in 2017. Support from several schools in the BCS Conference where the team will compete in 2018 was submitted.

Bessemer-AD Johnston, Ironwood-LL Wright and Wakefield-Marenisco High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of Ironwood- LL Wright to a cooperative agreement in 11-player football (varsity and JV) that exists between Bessemer and Wakefield-Marenisco. The combined 2017-18 enrollment is 448 students. Bessemer will continue as the primary school. Support from the West Pac Conference was submitted. The team will assume the Ironwood schedule in 2017.

Beverly Hills-Groves and Birmingham-Seaholm High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E-2]) – The Executive Committee approved the continuation of a cooperative program in boys and girls bowling and MHSAA records will be updated to permit this existing agreement to operate under the new Section 1(E-2) which permits agreements between schools of the same district regardless of enrollment when there is a demonstrated lack of participation. The combined 2017-18 enrollment is 2,667 students and will continue placement of each team in the Division 1 tournament. The program was first approved in 2013-14 as a new sport startup team in excess of the 1,000-student enrollment cap with a three-year allowance that was to expire at the end of the 2015-16 school year. Undetected, the program participated in 2016-17, its fourth year of operation. Because 2016-17 was the first year of a three-year experiment for schools of the same district to create new programs in nine sports, the schools requested that their 2016-17 bowling season be considered among those in the first of the new three-year experiment. A history of inadequate participation, as stated in the new regulation, was submitted. The programs are due for renewal for 2017-18, and support from the Oakland Activities Association was submitted.

Brimley and Paradise-Whitefish Township High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in 8-player football (varsity and JV) between these two schools whose combined enrollment is 164 students. Brimley sponsored 8-player football previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Bridge Alliance 8-Player Football League was submitted.

Ishpeming and Republic-Michigamme High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of 11-player football to a cooperative agreement which already exists between these two schools in boys and girls golf and boys tennis. The combined 2017-18 enrollment will be 311 students. Ishpeming sponsored football previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Mid-Peninsula Conference was submitted.

L'Anse and Baraga High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of 11-player football (varsity and JV) to a cooperative program which already exists between these two schools in boys and girls golf and boys and girls bowling. The combined 2017-18 enrollment is 382 students. L'Anse sponsored 11-player football previously and will be the primary school; Baraga sponsored 8-player football. Support from the West Pac Conference was submitted.

Lincoln Park and Southgate Anderson High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F-1]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys and girls swimming & diving (varsity teams) between these two schools whose combined 2017-18 enrollment of 2,554 students will continue placement of teams in the Division 1 tournaments. Southgate Anderson was previously in an agreement with Gibraltar-Carlson which has dissolved. Lincoln Park sponsored swimming previously in Division 2 and will be the primary school. Support from the Downriver League was submitted.

Linden-Lake Fenton and Goodrich High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F-1]) – A late application was submitted to correct an error discovered on April 20, 2017, involving a cooperative program in boys and girls lacrosse which has operated without Executive Committee approval since the 2016 lacrosse season. Both schools' boards of education and the Genesee Area Conference properly approved the agreements in August 2015 but the application was not submitted to the MHSAA for Executive Committee approval. The teams played limited schedules in 2015-16 and did not intend to enter the 2016 MHSAA tournaments. The teams again played limited schedules in 2017 and sought to enter the 2017 MHSAA tournaments, at which time the error was discovered. The school has forfeited all contests from 2016 and 2017 to opponents and cancelled games scheduled prior to the April 26, 2017 Executive Committee meeting. The 2016-17 combined enrollment is 1,398 students; the 2017-18 enrollment will be 1,419 students. The teams would participate in the Division 2 boys and girls tournaments. The schools accept not entering the 2017 tournaments. The request was to play the remaining schedules in the spring of 2017. These are new programs for both schools. Lake Fenton would be the primary school.

The Executive Committee approved the application for a cooperative program with the condition that all previous contests are forfeited and the teams are not eligible for the MHSAA tournaments in 2017.

Memphis and Chesterfield-Austin Catholic High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in 11-player football (varsity and JV) between these two schools whose combined 2017-18 enrollment is 406 students. Memphis sponsored football previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Greater Thumb Conference was submitted.

Ontonagon and Ewen-Trout Creek High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in 8-player football (varsity and JV) between these two schools whose combined 2017-18 enrollment is 187 students. Ewen-Trout Creek was previously in a cooperative program with Watersmeet which is dissolving. Ontonagon will be the primary school. Support from the Western 8 Conference was submitted.

Taylor-Kennedy and Taylor-Truman High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E-2]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys and girls tennis (varsity and JV) in excess of the 1,000-student enrollment limit between these two schools of the same district due to a demonstrated history of a lack of participation. At the end of the 2017-18 school year, the district will reorganize its boundaries and become a school district with one high school. The combined 2017-18 enrollment of 2,061 students will place a new team in the Division 1 tournament. Kennedy sponsored tennis previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Downriver League was submitted.

Vicksburg, Kalamazoo-Hackett Catholic Prep and Schoolcraft High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F-1]) – A request was made to permit a girls lacrosse team operating as a cooperative program, but without an application or Executive Committee approval, to finish its regular season schedule pending completion of the cooperative agreement application process. School administration believed that students could operate jointly as a school "club team" (self-funded, with parents running the program) and not as an approved cooperative program if they did not intend to enter the MHSAA tournament. The schools discovered this on Monday, April 24, 2017, and intend to seek board approval and support from four future opponents, as there is no league. Their request was not to enter the MHSAA tournament at this time but to complete the regular season, following all rules, and pending submission of a cooperative program application. The team has 12 total participants and has had to cancel contests this year. A game scheduled for Tuesday, April 25, 2017 was cancelled pending Executive Committee approval moving forward.

Pending completion of Cooperative Team Application documents, the Executive Committee approved the continuation of this cooperative program with the condition that all previous contests are forfeited and the team is not eligible for the MHSAA tournament in 2017.

Coldwater High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student (2017-18) whose parents are missionaries and moved with the student to Tijuana, Mexico in 2013 when the student was entering the 8th grade. The student was home schooled through elementary school and attended Coldwater-Legg Middle School for the 6th and 7th grades. To begin the 2017-18 school year, the student will be living with family friends in the Coldwater School District and enrolling at Coldwater while the parents continue their missionary work in Mexico. The family previously lived in Coldwater and the student has several friends with whom he played club soccer while in middle school.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Corunna High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – 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 attended Corunna Schools since elementary school except for three school days from Nov. 9-11, 2016, when the student was enrolled at Owosso High School. The student reenrolled at Corunna on Nov. 14, 2016.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver with immediate eligibility.

Holland High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf an 11th-grade student who attended Holland High School for the 9th and 10th grades and whose mother was murdered on Nov. 6, 2015, while the student was in the 10th grade. The student's parents never married. When the student's mother died, the student moved in with his biological father in Grand Rapids on Nov. 23, 2015 and enrolled at Wyoming-Kelloggsville where he played football this past fall in the 11th grade. The student had limited contact with his father prior to the mother's death and only lived with him briefly during the 8th grade. On March 14, 2017, when the student turned 17, he left his father and moved in with his maternal grandmother in the Hamilton School District. The student reenrolled at Holland on March 23, 2017. The student's younger brother previously lived with a friend of his mother and has also moved in with the grandmother.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Holland High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 62 (public school of residence) was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who attended Holland Schools from the 2nd through 8th grades and moved from Manistee to Comstock Park in January 2017. The student resided with and completed a residential change with a family who has had guardianship of the student since August 2015. The student has met Exception 1, moving with all the people the student lived with previously. The request was for eligibility at the former school but not the school of residence.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Kalkaska High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who lived with this father in Mancelona after the parents separated in January 2016, and moved into an apartment in Kalkaska with his mother in February 2016, continuing to attend Mancelona. The parents divorced in June 2016. Eleven months after moving into the Kalkaska School District with his mother, the student enrolled at Kalkaska High School (January 2017).

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Litchfield High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf an 11th-grade student whose parents' divorce in July 2016 caused the student to leave her parents and reside with her boyfriend's family to begin the 2015-16 school year and then with her grandmother this April 2017. The student attended Homer High School in 2015-16. From July 2016 until February 2017, the student lived in Newaygo and attended Newaygo High School. Between February and April 2017, the student attempted to return to live with her mother in Homer, enrolling at Litchfield on Feb. 8, 2017, and eventually moved into the grandmother's home in the Litchfield School District.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver with the condition that no additional waivers of the transfer regulation will be considered for this student.

Muskegon Catholic Central High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request was made to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment, based on compelling circumstances, on behalf of an 11th-grade student who experienced bullying and harassment while enrolled at Holton High School during the 2015-16 school year. The student attended Muskegon-Orchard View for the 9th grade in 2014-15 and has a history of domestic turmoil. Seeking a fresh start to begin the 10th grade, the student enrolled at Holton. On Nov. 10, 2016, due to bad experiences, the student enrolled at Muskegon Catholic Central. The school incorrectly granted the student eligibility for baseball in the spring of 2017 when he played in four games, which have been forfeited to opponents. The 91st school day since Nov. 10, 2016 at Muskegon Catholic Central would have been April 12, 2017.

The Executive Committee tabled this request for waiver.

Negaunee High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 62 (public school of residence) was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who intends to move in with her divorced father in Ishpeming and reenroll at Negaunee as a 12th-grader to begin the 2017-18 school year. The student had attended Negaunee Schools through the 6th grade before her mother's job was transferred to Arizona. The parents divorced when the student was two years old. The student will be spending considerable time at the home of her grandfather in the Negaunee School District. An otherwise completed Educational Transfer Form was submitted.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Yale High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who attended Yale Schools his entire life except for six school days from March 13-21, 2017 when the student attended Crowell-Lexington High School. The student reenrolled at Yale on March 22, 2017. On March 23, the Executive Committee approved a waiver for eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment because the student just missed the fourth Friday of February by a brief number of days. The student actually returned to Yale prior to the waiver.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver with immediate eligibility.

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

Requesting High School	Grade	Former High School	Date of Enrollment	Length of Subvarsity Eligibility Status
Waterford Kettering	10	Waterford Mott	Jan. 30, 2017	Remainder of 16-17 school year

Hartland High School (Regulation II, Section 11[H]) – Pursuant to Interpretation 241, a request to waive the four-player rule for the 2017-18 school year was made on behalf of the head varsity boys and girls swimming & diving coach whose only employment is as a coach of the Hurricane Swim Club and who is also a year-round lifeguard and swim instructor for Hartland Community Education. The Hurricane Swim program is open to students ages 7-18 and anticipates 100-150 participants from six school districts including Hartland (Brighton, Linden, Milford, Howell and Fenton). It is estimated that 20-30 of the participants will be Hartland students in grades 7-12. The coach is new to this position. The Hurricane Swim Club and Hartland coach have been approved for this request in years past.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for this coach for the 2017-18 school year.

Midland High School and Midland-Jefferson Middle School (Regulation II, Section 11[H]) – Pursuant to Interpretation 241, a request to waive the four-player rule for the 2017-18 school year was made on behalf of the head girls swimming & diving coach who is an elementary art teacher and employed as a coach of an age group swim club, the Midland Dolphins. The coach is in her third year as the high school girls head coach, selected from a limited pool of coaching candidates in 2015. Her primary non-school responsibilities are to beginning swimmers and non-competitive middle school age students that practice approximately four hours per week. She is also the coach of the Jefferson Middle School team, as permitted under Interpretation 242. The Dolphins program has 150-200 swimmers ages 5-18 and anticipates 40-50 Midland students grades 7-12. Students from five school districts including Midland are involved in the Dolphins program: Bay City, Bullock Creek, Freeland and Mt. Pleasant. While non-school swimming is not the coach's primary source of income, the income is necessary to support the coach's family. The Executive Committee has approved this waiver for this coach since the 2015-16 school year.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for this coach for the 2017-18 school year.

Bessemer-AD Johnston and Wakefield-Marenisco Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in 11-player football between these two middle schools. One 7th/ 8th-grade combined team is planned. AD Johnston will be the primary school.

Lincoln Park and Southgate-Davidson Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys and girls swimming & diving between these member middle schools (grades 6, 7 and 8 combined). Lincoln Park Middle School will be the primary school.

Ludington Area Catholic and Ludington-Covenant Christian Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program between these two new member middle schools in boys and girls cross country, girls volleyball, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls track & field, boys and girls golf, baseball and girls softball. Neither school sponsored these sports previously; Ludington Area Catholic will be the primary school. All sports will combine 6th-, 7th- and 8th-graders.

Representative Council – The Executive Committee reviewed the agenda for the Representative Council meetings to be held in Glen Arbor on May 7-8, 2017.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Executive Committee are scheduled for Sunday, May 7, 2017, at 10:30 am in Glen Arbor (Rep Council meets that afternoon); Wednesday, June 14, 2017, at 9 am in East Lansing; Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2017, at 9 am in East Lansing; Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2017, at 9 am in East Lansing; Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2017, at 9 am in East Lansing; Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2017, at 9 am in East Lansing; Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2017, at 9 am in East Lansing; and Thursday, Nov. 30, 2017, at 1:30 pm in East Lansing (Rep Council meets next day).