

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, February 19, 2014

Members Present:

Jim Derocher, Negaunee
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Pete Ryan, Saginaw
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 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.

Adrian-Madison 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 Sand Creek High School before enrolling at Madison on Oct. 8, 2013.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91st school day of enrollment at Madison High School beginning Oct. 8, 2013.

Erie-Mason High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who changed his residence and school due to emotional distress. The student and mother left their home and the father and husband in Bedford and have moved in with a family in Erie. The student enrolled at Erie-Mason on Jan. 21, 2014.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Gaylord-St. Mary High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student who previously attended Petoskey-St. Michael the Archangel before enrolling at St. Mary on Jan. 20, 2014. The former school has a very small enrollment and does not sponsor athletics. The student has not participated in athletics previously. St. Mary does not sponsor subvarsity teams in some sports.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Grand Rapids-Forest Hills Northern High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 61 (public school of residence) was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student who is returning to her former school but not her school of residence. The student attended Forest Hills Northern Schools through the 8th grade before moving with her parents to Illinois in August 2013 due to the father's employment. When the employment opportunity did not work out, the family purchased a home in the Forest Hills Eastern attendance area. The student reenrolled at Forest Hills Northern on Jan. 8, 2014. Two siblings graduated from Forest Hills Northern.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Grand Rapids-NorthPointe Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 61 (closest nonpublic school) was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student whose family relocated to Grand Rapids from Illinois due to the father's employment changing. The new home is 1.2 miles closer to Grand Rapids-Plymouth Christian School than to NorthPointe Christian. The former school is a non-MHSAA member school whose beliefs prohibit participation in competitive athletics. The student played fall sports in Illinois before moving to Michigan and enrolling at NorthPointe Christian on Jan. 21, 2014.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Grosse Pointe South High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who has a history of concussions and unconsciousness and has been hospitalized three times in the past year for severe and complex migraines. Due to the student's medical condition, he was unable to function academically at U of D Jesuit and enrolled at Grosse Pointe South on Nov. 20, 2013. The student participated in baseball while at U of D Jesuit but is no longer able to do so. The student would like to play golf in the spring of 2014.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Lansing-Eastern High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive or interpret the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who previously attended Lansing-Sexton High School while living with his mother and moved into his brother's home in the Lansing-Eastern attendance area on Nov. 20, 2013. The student's mother moved into the same home on Dec. 16, 2013. The terms of the leases of both the former and current residences have been lengthened to one-year agreements. The student enrolled at Eastern on Dec. 2, 2013.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Ludington High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 61 (public school of residence) was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student whose father's employment changed from a company in California to a position in northern Michigan. The family was unable to find a new home in Ludington and resides in the Mason County Eastern School District. The student enrolled at Ludington on Jan. 9, 2014, ran JV cross country in California and would like to run track at Ludington.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Memphis High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who attended Memphis Schools since the 4th grade except for the first semester of the 2013-14 school year when the student enrolled at Richmond High School, seeking to resolve a social situation. The mother's job requirements changed and the student could no longer be transported to Richmond. The student participated in athletics at Memphis in 2012-13 and reenrolled on Jan. 27, 2014 to start the second semester.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Okemos High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student who attended Okemos Schools her entire life except for the first semester of the 2013-14 school year when the student enrolled in Fort Collins, Colorado-Fossil Ridge High School due to the father's employment change and family relocation. After one semester, the student returned with her mother to Okemos, enrolling at Okemos High School on Jan. 27, 2014. The father remains employed in Colorado. The mother will care for one of two college-age siblings who attends Michigan State University and suffered a severe injury requiring surgery and therapy. The student played 9th-grade volleyball in Colorado.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Richmond High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who reenrolled on Jan. 27, 2014 at Richmond after starting the school year there and then enrolling a few days into the first semester at Rochester Hills-Stoney Creek. The withdrawal from Richmond occurred because of harassment by classmates in the 2012-13 school year which led to a physical altercation in the summer of 2013. The student received assistance from the Stoney Creek academic support center and school psychologist. The students involved in the incidents are no longer attending Richmond. The student did not participate in sports at Stoney Creek but did play JV soccer at Richmond High School in 2012-13.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Vicksburg High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A late request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who is returning to Vicksburg High School after withdrawing prior to being expelled as a 10th-grader in December 2012. The student spent two months in a treatment facility and enrolled at Mendon High School in January 2013 where he did not participate in athletics. On Nov. 8, 2013, the student reenrolled at Vicksburg.

The Executive Committee tabled the request for waiver.

Wyandotte-Roosevelt High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student whose grandfather was no longer able to care for the student and who moved to the residence of an aunt in Wyandotte in December 2013. The student previously attended Belleville High School while living with his mother and six siblings. In October 2013, domestic violence between the mother's boyfriend and student caused the student to relocate to the grandfather's home. The student continued to attend Belleville High School to finish the semester before enrolling at Roosevelt on Jan. 22, 2014. The student's father is deceased. The student wishes to participate in track & field.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

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
Clawson	10	Hazel Park	Jan. 21, 2014	Remainder of 13-14 school year
Grand Rapids-NorthPointe Christian	9	Grand Rapids-Forest Hills Northern	Jan. 23, 2014	Remainder of 13-14 school year
Greenville	9	Muskegon	Feb. 5, 2014	Remainder of 13-14 school year
Lake Odessa-Lakewood	9	Home	Mar. 17, 2014	91 st school day of enrollment

Flint-Michigan School for the Deaf (Regulation II, Section 6) – A request was made to waive the 600-mile round-trip travel limitation to permit the boys and girls track & field teams' participation at the Berg Seeger Track & Field Classic on April 12, 2014 in Danville, Kentucky which is 422 miles one way from Flint. On Jan. 8, 2014, the Executive Committee approved participation in a four-school basketball tournament held Feb. 7-9, 2014 at this same location but did not approve a request for this track & field event pending finalization of teams. Approval has been given in years past with some concerns related to NFHS sanctioning as teams were added after sanctioning was granted. An NFHS-MHSAA sanction is in process with teams from the following schools for the deaf invited to participate as of Jan. 27, 2014: Alabama, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky (host), Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Tennessee and Wisconsin.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver. This approval is voided if schools from any additional states are invited to participate.

Regulation III, Section 1(C) – Pursuant to 2013-14 *Handbook* Interpretation 262, 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 2014-15 school year only (unless otherwise indicated below).

Junior High/ Middle School	Sport(s)	High School Enrollment	Middle School Enrollment
Atlantic Mine-EB Holman	boys & girls basketball, boys & girls track & field	N/A	33 7 th - & 8 th -Graders

Representative Council – The Executive Committee reviewed a draft agenda for the March 21, 2014 Representative Council meeting.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Executive Committee are scheduled for Thursday, March 20, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing (Representative Council following day); Wednesday, April 23, at 9 a.m. in East Lansing (Audit & Finance Committee follows); Sunday, May 4, at 10 a.m. in Gaylord (Representative Council in p.m.); and Wednesday, June 11, at 9 a.m. in East Lansing.