

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, January 14, 2015

Members Present:

Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
Fred Smith, Buchanan
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Pete Ryan, Saginaw
Al Unger, Kingsford

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.

Bellevue High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who previously attended Vermontville-Maple Valley and enrolled at Bellevue on Oct. 14, 2014, due to vandalism to his vehicle and continued harassment at his former school.

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 9th-grade student who previously attended Detroit-U of D Jesuit and enrolled at Seaholm on Dec. 2, 2014, when academic scheduling issues which arose in mid-September went unresolved. The student participated in athletics.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Burr Oak High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who attended Burr Oak for the 9th and 10th grades and joined her mother and mother's boyfriend in Illinois over the summer of 2014 and enrolled in school there to begin the 2014-15 school year. In late November, the student returned to live with her grandfather who resides in Burr Oak and stays occasionally with her father and his girlfriend in Bronson. The student reenrolled at Burr Oak on Dec. 1, 2014. The student's parents do not live together, have not divorced and have a long history of unstable households. The student has been relocated frequently, often living with friends, and has experienced success at Burr Oak.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Carleton-Airport High School (Regulation I, Section 9[C]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student who began the school year attending Romulus-Summit Academy North High School and participated in the first semester of 2014-15 in the first-year hockey cooperative program conducted by these two schools and Flat Rock High School. The student resides in the Airport School District and will be enrolling to begin the second semester. Summit Academy North has written to support the eligibility.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for ice hockey only until Jan. 19, 2015.

Grand Rapids-NorthPointe Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student who was the victim of activity on Oct. 15, 2015 by a classmate at Kenowa Hills which led to a police report being filed and the student changing schools. The student enrolled at NorthPointe Christian on Oct. 28, 2014. The student has no previous high school athletic participation and is interested in running track. NorthPointe only sponsors a varsity track team.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Jackson High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who moved into his grandparents' home in Jackson because the courts in Indiana issued a no-contact order between the student and his parents. The student enrolled at Jackson High School on Sept. 15, 2014.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Jackson-Vandercook Lake High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student who attended Vandercook Lake Schools his entire career except when he enrolled at Jackson Prep and Early College to begin the 2014-15 school year. The former school's curriculum and sports offerings did not meet expectations. The former school did not offer athletics, and the student has no history of participation. Vandercook Lake only sponsors varsity track and cross country. The student reenrolled at Vandercook Lake on Jan. 5, 2015.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for eligibility at the varsity level but did approve subvarsity participation through the remainder of the 2014-5 school year, provided there was no participation in a game or scrimmage in any sport since the student enrolled in the 9th grade.

Pontiac 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 White Lake-Lakeland High School before enrolling at Pontiac on Nov. 20, 2014. In early October 2014, the student's father was the recipient of a racial comment by student-athletes at the former school and prefers a more diverse environment for his son. The student has not participated previously in athletics.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for eligibility at the varsity level but did approve subvarsity participation through the remainder of the 2014-5 school year, provided there was no participation in a game or scrimmage in any sport since the student enrolled in the 9th grade.

Schoolcraft High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student whose father removed the student from his home and whose mother is not in the student's life. Since December 2014, the student has been living with his aunt and uncle in Schoolcraft and commuting to Comstock High School. The student intends to enroll at Schoolcraft to begin the second semester of 2014-15 on Jan. 26, 2015, and would like to continue wrestling. Support for the transfer and eligibility was submitted from the former school.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Tecumseh High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who attended Tecumseh High School from the 6th grade until the beginning of the 2014-15 school year when the student enrolled at Ypsilanti High School. Shortly after his new enrollment, the student suffered painful medical issues involving numerous hospital visits and loss of school time. To reduce the commute time and place the student closer to his primary care physician, the student reenrolled at Tecumseh on Oct. 15, 2014. The student did not practice or participate with athletic teams at Tecumseh.

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
Allendale	10	Grandville	Jan. 5, 2015	Remainder of 14-15 school year
Ann Arbor-Pioneer	10	Belleville	Oct. 24, 2014	Remainder of 14-15 school year

Requesting High School	Grade	Former High School	Date of Enrollment	Length of Subvarsity Eligibility Status
Canton Preparatory	9	Livonia-Franklin	Dec. 9, 2014	Remainder of 14-15 school year
Pontiac-Notre Dame Prep	9	Rochester-Adams	Jan. 6, 2015	Remainder of 14-15 school year
St. Joseph-Michigan Lutheran	10	St. Joseph	Sept. 2, 2014	Jan. 19, 2015
Three Rivers	9	South Bend, IN	Dec. 1, 2014	Remainder of 14-15 school year

Regulation III, Section 1(C) – Pursuant to *Handbook* Interpretation 265, 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.

Junior High/ Middle School	Sport(s)	High School Enrollment	Middle School Enrollment
Brethren	girls basketball	166	20 7 th -grade girls 15 8 th -grade girls
Camden-Frontier	7 th -grade girls basketball	159	27 7 th -grade girls 16 8 th -grade girls
St. Ignace	boys basketball	211	20 7 th -grade boys 23 8 th -grade boys

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Executive Committee are scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2015, at 9 a.m. in East Lansing (Audit & Finance Committee follows); Thursday, Mar. 26, 2015, at 9 a.m. in East Lansing (Rep Council follows on Mar. 27); Wednesday, Apr. 22, 2015, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing (Audit & Finance Committee follows); Sunday, May 3, 2015, at 10 a.m. in Glen Arbor (Representative Council follows at 1 p.m.); and Wednesday, June 10, 2015, at 9 a.m. in East Lansing.