

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, March 22, 2012

Members Present:

Jim Derocher, Negaunee
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Fred Smith, Buchanan
Jason Mellema, Pewamo-Westphalia

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.

Carleton-Airport and Flat Rock High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in ice hockey between these two schools whose combined 2012-13 enrollment of 1,454 students will place a new team in the Division 2 Ice Hockey Tournament. Airport sponsored the sport previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Huron League was submitted.

Manistee Catholic Central and Custer-Mason County Eastern High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in football between these two schools whose combined 2012-13 enrollment will be 219 students. Manistee Catholic Central sponsored football previously and will be the primary school. Support from the West Michigan D League was submitted.

Carson City-Crystal High School (Regulation I, Sections 4 & 5) – A request to waive the maximum enrollment and competition portions of the eligibility regulation was made on behalf of two 12th-grade brothers who have been recently diagnosed with a condition which inhibits involvement in academic, social and extracurricular activities. The students previously attended Central Montcalm Schools and failed several classes which prevented them from being eligible for seven semesters of potential competition and resulted in their current fifth year of high school.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Yale High School (Regulation I, Section 5) – A request to waive the maximum competition regulation and specifically Interpretation 32 was made on behalf of three female students (grades 9, 11 and 12) who participated in boys soccer during a full regular season and the first and only MHSAA tournament game in 2011. The school began its boys soccer program in 2010 and wishes to start a girls soccer program this spring which would include these three female students. Currently there are a total of 14 students interested in girls soccer.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver with the condition that these three girls may not participate in the 2012 MHSAA Girls Soccer Tournament.

Grosse Ile High School (Regulation I, Section 7) – A request to waive the previous academic credit record regulation is made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who has health disorders that became apparent in January 2011. The student is undergoing treatment and has been taking some courses at school and other courses from home. The previous academic credit record shows the student passing three courses, two short of 66 percent of full credit load potential. Due to her illness, the student is now enrolled in three classes for the current semester and four credit recovery classes. The student played softball in the 9th grade.

Noting that the student has not met the minimum academic requirement since the first semester of the 2010-11 school year, the Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Holland High School (Regulation I, Section 7) – A request to waive the previous academic credit record regulation was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student who is a refugee from Zimbabwe whose records are unclear but show the student left secondary school on Nov. 25, 2011. The student did not attend any school until enrolling at Holland High School as a ward of the state placed with a family in Holland on Feb. 15, 2012 (Exception 3). The student is 15 years of age and will turn 16 in May 2012.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Lansing-Waverly High School (Regulation I, Section 7) – A request to waive the previous academic credit record regulation and the requirement of forfeiture was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who was hospitalized late in the first semester of 2011-12 which prevented the student from completing first semester classes. The student returned to school in February and participated in three basketball games before it was discovered that the incompletes remained on the transcript.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Almont High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student who has attended Almont Schools his entire career except for one and one-half days on March 5-6, 2012, when the student attended Marlette High School. The student lives with his grandmother during the week and enrolled at Marlette because his father began a new job in the Marlette area.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Bloomfield Hills-Academy of the Sacred Heart (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 61 (closest nonpublic school) was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who lived with her divorced mother in Northville and now resides with her father in Birmingham. The closest nonpublic school to their residence is Roeper School. The family is Catholic and prefers to attend Sacred Heart which is two miles from the new residence. An otherwise completed Educational Transfer Form is in process.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver, pending completion of the Educational Transfer Form.

Boyne City High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who was hospitalized for 11 days in December 2011 and also in February 2012. The student transferred from Petoskey High School to Boyne City High School under medical advisement on March 8, 2012. The student participated in track at Petoskey. Support from the principal and counselor/girls track coach at Petoskey High School was submitted.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Bridgeport 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 Birch Run Schools in December 2011 in anticipation of his parents purchasing a home in that school district. When the inspection of the new house was not approved by the bank and the purchase fell through, the student reenrolled at Bridgeport on Jan. 17, 2012.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Bronson High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who has moved between parents twice in two years. The student began the 9th grade at Bronson, living with her mother, and moved to Missouri in January 2011 to live with her father. To begin the 2011-12 school year, the student returned to her mother in Bronson and enrolled at a local alternative school not connected to Bronson High School. Because the student did not feel safe at the alternative school, she reenrolled at Bronson High School on Jan. 9, 2012. The student had no prior participation in athletics.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level only for the remainder of the 2011-12 school year.

Bronson 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 attended Bronson Schools for the 6th and 7th grades. The student began the 9th grade in 2011-12 at Coldwater High School and participated in athletics. The student reenrolled at Bronson on March 5, 2012.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91st school day of enrollment at Bronson High School beginning March 5, 2012.

Carleton-Airport 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 the residence of her mother and stepfather this summer and participated in athletics in the fall of 2011-12 at Mendon High School with a completed Educational Transfer Form. The student returned to the residence of her birth father when the student was the victim of assault. The student reenrolled at Airport on Oct. 31, 2011. Criminal court proceedings were held March 12, 2012.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Cassopolis-Ross Beatty High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student whose parents relocated the family at least 30 times in 14 years and were neglectful and abusive. The student began the 9th grade at Niles-Brandywine High School and participated in athletics. He then was placed with his aunt's family who lives in Cassopolis, and he enrolled at Ross Beatty High School on Feb. 24, 2012. The family in Cassopolis became the student's guardians in March 2011 but did not realize they were to be guardians of the student for more than one year (until age 18), so they enrolled the student at Brandywine originally, not Cassopolis.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Clio High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of two 10th-grade sisters who previously lived with their mother, attended Burton-Atherton High School and participated in athletics. The grandparents, who reside in Clio, have recently been granted Power of Attorney over the students who enrolled at Clio on Dec. 7, 2011.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Durand High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who previously attended Corunna High School while living with his adoptive parents. The student's mother died when the student was very young and his adoptive parents have used the student's beneficiary funds for their own benefit and personal living expenses. On Dec. 1, 2011, the student moved in with an aunt and uncle in the Durand School District. The student enrolled at Durand on March 2, 2012. If full eligibility is not granted, the school requested eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment at Durand.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91st school day of enrollment at Durand High School beginning March 2, 2012.

Fenton High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student who was removed from his parents' home by Child Protective Services and placed by Child Protective Services into the home of his paternal grandmother in the Fenton School District on March 1, 2012. The student previously attended Wayne Memorial High School and enrolled at Fenton High School on March 8, 2012.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Flint-Powers Catholic 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 Grand Blanc High School. The student reenrolled at Powers on March 1, 2012.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91st school day of enrollment at Powers Catholic High School beginning March 1, 2012.

Greenville High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who attended Greenville High School for the 9th and 10th grades except for three days on March 7, 8 and 9 when the student was enrolled at Cedar Springs High School. The student reenrolled at Greenville on Monday, March 12, 2012.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Grosse Pointe South High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – 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 attended Grosse Pointe Woods-University Liggett and did not participate in athletics. The student enrolled at Grosse Pointe South on Oct. 24, 2011. The student has made the varsity girls lacrosse team.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for eligibility during the remainder of the 2011-12 school year, except at the subvarsity level.

Hart High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who previously attended Shelby High School and participated in athletics before enrolling at Hart High School on Jan. 30, 2012. The student changed schools because the poor choices by his older sister took an emotional toll on the student.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Hillsdale 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 Jonesville High School before enrolling at Hillsdale High School on Feb. 14, 2012, because of bullying and harassment at her former school.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Kalamazoo-Comstock 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 his father and stepmother while enrolled at Mattawan High School. Child Protective Services had been involved for many years until the student was removed from the father's home by the grandmother on Dec. 8, 2011. The student moved into the grandmother's home in Comstock and enrolled at Comstock High School on Jan. 11, 2012. The courts prohibited the student's birth mother from any contact until the student turns 18.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

LeRoy-Pine River 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 12th-grade student who previously attended Custer-Mason County Eastern High School before enrolling at Pine River on Oct. 10, 2011.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91st school day of enrollment at Pine River High School beginning Oct. 10, 2011.

Novi-Franklin Road Christian 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 attended Franklin Road Christian for the 9th grade and began the 10th grade in 2011-12 at Hartland High School before reenrolling at Franklin Road Christian on March 7, 2012. The student participated in athletics after Jan. 16, 2012 at Hartland High School.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91st school day of enrollment at Franklin Road Christian High School beginning March 7, 2012.

Onsted High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who attended Onsted High School for the 9th and 10th grades except for one day (March 12, 2012) when the student attended Addison High School. The student reenrolled at Onsted on March 13, 2012.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Reading High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only. The student previously attended Dundee High School and has no prior participation in athletics. The student's date of enrollment at Reading is March 19, 2012.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level only until Jan. 17, 2013.

Rockford High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who attended Rockford High School for the 9th and 10th grades until his parents lost their jobs and the family moved in the summer of 2011 to Florida for employment. The student attended school in Florida for three semesters and did not participate in athletics. The student has returned to Rockford to live with his grandparents in order to graduate with his classmates. The parents remained in Florida.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Stockbridge High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade adopted student who moved to the home of his birth mother in Stockbridge and enrolled on Jan. 25, 2012. The student previously attended Romeo High School and participated in athletics. The adoptive parents have delegated parental powers to the birth mother who has begun the process to gain adoption and full legal guardianship.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver, but determined this would be the student's one and only use of Exception 2 of Section 9(A).

Three Oaks-River Valley High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of 9th and 11th grade siblings who made a full and complete residential change from Texas to the home of relatives in Three Oaks and enrolled at New Buffalo High School to begin the 2011-12 school year. The family enrolled its children in New Buffalo while not living in the district. In October 2011, the students were asked to leave New Buffalo High School. The students enrolled at River Valley on Nov. 7, 2011. The 11th-grade student participated while ineligible in contests which are to be forfeited to opponents. The 9th-grade student has no previous participation and wants to play soccer but River Valley has no JV soccer team.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Vermontville-Maple Valley High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only. The student previously attended Olivet High School and has no prior participation in athletics. The student's date of enrollment at Maple Valley is March 5, 2012.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level only until the student's 91st school day of enrollment at Maple Valley High School beginning March 5, 2012.

Warren Woods-Tower High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who was evicted from her mother's home in Redford on Feb. 13, 2012, and whose father lives in Florida. The student has taken up residence with her grandfather and enrolled at Warren Woods-Tower on March 14, 2012. Child Protective Services interviewed the student on the first day of school.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Whittemore-Prescott High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who discontinued residing with both remarried parents and began residing with a friend's family in Prescott on Jan. 22, 2012. The birth mother and stepfather are gone for many days at a time, leaving the student alone. The student previously attended West Branch-Ogemaw Heights High School before enrolling at Whittemore-Prescott on Jan. 24, 2012.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Wyoming-Rogers High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student who was subject to threats at Wyoming Park High School to the point where the school principal allowed the student to transfer to Rogers, a school of the same district. The same person is the principal of both high schools, and the student who was the cause of the transferring student's difficulties was disciplined by Wyoming Park High School.

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 a 9th-grade student who previously attended Dearborn-Divine Child High School and played in two subvarsity football games. At the school's request, the student withdrew at the end of the first semester for academic reasons. The father lost his job in June 2010 and his home in the Lincoln School District in June 2011. The student enrolled at Ypsilanti-Lincoln on Jan. 27, 2012.

The Executive Committee did not approve 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
Coldwater	10	Bronson	Jan. 30, 2012	Remainder of 11-12 school year
Durand	10	2 High Schools in Virginia	Nov. 22, 2011	Remainder of 11-12 school year
Escanaba	9	Gladstone	Jan. 23, 2012	Remainder of 11-12 school year

Requesting High School	Grade	Former High School	Date of Enrollment	Length of Subvarsity Eligibility Status
Ferndale	9	Livonia-Stevenson	March 26, 2012	Jan. 17, 2013
Flint-Powers Catholic	9	Genesee Early College	Jan. 31, 2012	Remainder of 11-12 school year
Grand Rapids-NorthPointe Christian	10	Grand Rapids-Northview	Jan. 23, 2012	Remainder of 11-12 school year
Warren-Cousino	9	Warren-Regina	Jan. 23, 2012	Remainder of 11-12 school year

Flint-Michigan School for the Deaf (Regulation II, Section 6) – A request to waive the travel limitation was made to allow Michigan School for the Deaf to compete in the Spike-Out Volleyball Tournament on Sept. 28 and 29, 2012, hosted by the Arizona School for the Deaf and intended to be a national championship. The event involves 16 teams from Maryland, Washington, DC, California, Minnesota, Arizona and Indiana.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Mio Au Sable Middle School (Regulation III, Section 1[C]) – A request was made pursuant to 2011-12 *Handbook* Interpretation 261 to permit 6th-grade students to participate with and against 7th and/or 8th graders in boys and girls track & field in the 2011-12 school year. The 2011-12 High School enrollment is 208 students; 203 in 2012-13. There are 45 7th graders and 51 8th graders currently enrolled at Mio Au Sable Middle School.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request.

Hart High School (Regulation III, Section 2[C]) – A request to waive the participation provision of the Eligibility Advancement Application was made on behalf of an 8th-grade 17 year old student who attends Hart-Oceana Christian School (an MHSAA member middle school) and would like to participate in soccer at Hart High School. The provision of the regulation states that students with a completed application “may participate in a 9-12 grade program of that school district, even if it is in a separate building.” Oceana Christian does not have a high school, is located in Hart (the only high school is Hart High School), and recently formed a cooperative program with several Hart Middle School teams, including Oceana Christian School. The student intends to attend Hart High School to begin the 9th grade in 2012-13. A completed Eligibility Advancement Application was submitted. A similar request was granted these two member schools in August 2011 for a 15 year old 8th grader.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Executive Committee are scheduled for Wednesday, April 25, 2012, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing (Audit and Finance Committee meeting follows); Sunday, May 6, 2012, time TBD, in Gaylord (Representative Council meeting follows); Wednesday, June 13, 2012, at 9 a.m. in East Lansing; Wednesday, Aug. 8, 2012, at 9 a.m. in East Lansing; Tuesday, Aug. 28, 2012, at 9 a.m. in East Lansing; Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2012, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2012, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; and Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2012, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing.