

**MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

East Lansing, March 21, 2013

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.

Clarkston-Everest Collegiate, Royal Oak-Shrine and Waterford-Our Lady of the Lakes High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee tabled a request to add Shrine High School to a cooperative program in boys soccer which previously existed between Everest Collegiate and Our Lady of the Lakes. The combined 2013-14 enrollment of 561 students would place a new team in the Division 3 tournament. Everest Collegiate would continue as the primary school. Shrine sponsored boys soccer previously. Support from the Catholic High School League was received.

Grandville-Calvin Christian & Grand Rapids-NorthPointe Christian High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee tabled an application for a cooperative program in girls swimming & diving between these two schools whose combined 2013-14 enrollment of 561 students would continue placement of one team in the Division 3 tournament. Calvin Christian was previously in a cooperative program with Wyoming-Kelloggsville which has been dissolved. Calvin Christian sponsored the sport previously and would be the primary school. Support from the OK Conference is in process.

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

St. Joseph-Lake Michigan Catholic and Benton Harbor-Countryside Academy High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in football between these two schools whose combined 2013-14 enrollment is 279 students. Lake Michigan Catholic sponsored football previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Red Arrow Conference was submitted.

Ann Arbor-Pioneer High School (Regulation I, Section 7) – A request to waive the previous academic credit record regulation was made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who has diabetes and struggled with severe illness during the first semester of the 2012-13 school year which resulted in the student receiving credit in an insufficient number of classes for the first semester. The student is working to finalize grades for two classes from the previous term and is currently enrolled in four classes with the hope of adding another. The student has been hospitalized for five weeks and continues to receive medication and treatment.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver, noting that the first semester of 2012-13 must count toward the maximum number of semesters allowed.

Redford Union High School (Regulation I, Section 7) – A request to waive the previous academic credit record regulation was made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who has suffered multiple medical disorders since early in his 9<sup>th</sup> grade year when the student discovered his brother's body after he committed suicide.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver, noting that the first semester of 2012-13 must count toward the maximum number of semesters allowed.

Warren-Cousino High School (Regulation I, Section 7) – A request to waive the previous academic credit record regulation was made on behalf of a 12<sup>th</sup>-grade foreign exchange student from a CSJET-approved program who had to leave before the completion of the semester in Germany so as to enroll at Cousino on Jan. 22, 2013 to begin the second semester of 2012-13. The student was passing all classes with two weeks remaining and will return to Germany to complete her course work at the end of the 2012-13 school year.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Adrian-Lenawee Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who previously attended Blissfield High School. In January 2013, the student had inquired about attendance and visited the school. In February 2013, the student was tested, registered to enroll and paid tuition. The student was to attend classes on Friday, Feb. 22, 2013 (the fourth Friday of February) due to trimester calendars, but Lenawee Christian and all surrounding schools were closed due to snow. The student participated in athletics previously. The school requested eligibility on Aug. 1, 2013 for fall sports when the student would have been otherwise eligible except for the cancellation of school due to the weather.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Bangor High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment was made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who previously attended Covert High School before enrolling at Bangor on Oct. 3, 2012.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment at Bangor High School starting Oct. 3, 2012.

Big Rapids-Crossroads Charter Academy (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who previously attended Crossroads since the 9<sup>th</sup> grade except for three school days (Jan. 22-24, 2013) when the student attended Reed City High School. The student reenrolled at Crossroads on Jan. 25, 2013.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Brownstown-Woodhaven High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who attended Woodhaven for the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Over the summer the student and a sister moved to the home of her divorced mother in Taylor from their father's residence in Brownstown, although some of their belongings remained there and school mailings continued to be received there. The student enrolled at Taylor-Kennedy to begin the 2012-13 school year. The sister remained in attendance at Woodhaven. On Nov. 26, 2012, the student reenrolled at Woodhaven.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Buchanan High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment was made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who previously attended Clay High School in South Bend, IN, before reenrolling at Buchanan on Feb. 26, 2013. The student withdrew from Buchanan on Nov. 12, 2012 after moving between parents who are not divorced.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment at Buchanan High School starting Feb. 26, 2013.

Commerce-Walled Lake Northern High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who previously attended Orchard Lake-St. Mary's. Twitter accounts were created to ridicule the student. The administration at St. Mary's suspended students as a result of the posts. The student enrolled at Walled Lake Northern on Jan. 22, 2013.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Dearborn Heights-Robichaud 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 an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who attended Robichaud for the second semester of 2011-12 while living with his father in Detroit. In the summer of 2012, the student moved with his father to North Carolina and has returned with his father to the former residence in Detroit (Exception 1). The student reenrolled at Robichaud on Jan. 16, 2013, and is seeking eligibility at his former school but not his school of residence.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Detroit-Communication Media Arts High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of two 10<sup>th</sup>-grade students who previously attended Detroit-Martin Luther King High School and enrolled at CMA on Monday, Feb. 25, 2013. The Detroit Public Schools were on mid-winter break and the students were unable to enroll on Friday, Feb. 22, 2013, the fourth Friday of February.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for immediate eligibility but did approve waiver effective with the student's 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment at Communication Media Arts High School beginning Feb. 25, 2013.

Elk Rapids High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who previously attended Kalkaska High School and participated in football while living with his parents and brother in Kalkaska. Due to abusive behavior by the father toward the student's mother, the student and her mother and younger brother moved to Elk Rapids. The student enrolled at Elk Rapids on March 12, 2013.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Grand Rapids-Forest Hills Northern High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A confidential request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade sisters who enrolled at Forest Hills Northern on Feb. 11, 2013 after a matter occurred there that was not of their doing.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Greenville High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12<sup>th</sup>-grade foreign exchange student from a CSIET-listed program (CETUSA) who arrived in the United States two weeks after school started and Greenville had closed registration and capped its exchange student placement. The student was enrolled at Grattan Academic High School. The host family had stayed in contact with Greenville High School, and when a space opened up at the start of the second semester of 2012-13, the student enrolled. The host family resides in Greenville and has two daughters who previously attended. The student's attendance at Greenville ends in June 2013 and he returns home.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Horton—Hanover-Horton High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment was made on behalf of a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student who previously attended Stockbridge High School before reenrolling at Hanover-Horton on March 6, 2013. The family is in the process of purchasing a home in the school district.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment at Hanover-Horton High School beginning March 6, 2013.

Leroy-Pine River High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who previously lived with her mother and attended Linden High School. Due to domestic issues with the mother, the student moved in February 2013 to the home of a family friend in Leroy and enrolled at Pine River on Feb. 12, 2013. Three years ago, the student moved to the home of her father in Reed City as he was dying of cancer. When the father died, the student returned to the mother and again experienced difficulty.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Manistee High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student who previously attended Manistee Catholic Central before enrolling at Manistee on Feb. 25, 2013. The student participated in athletics. If eligibility for fall sports 2013 is not granted, the school requested eligibility on the 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for immediate eligibility but did approve waiver effective with the student's 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment at Manistee High School starting Feb. 25, 2013.

Manistee High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who previously attended Manistee Catholic Central before enrolling at Manistee on Feb 25, 2013. The student's parents contacted the school on Feb. 22, 2013, the fourth Friday of February. If eligibility for fall sports 2013 is not granted, the school requested eligibility on the 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for immediate eligibility but did approve waiver effective with the student's 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment at Manistee High School starting Feb. 25, 2013.

Marlette High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student who previously lived in New Hampshire with her father and moved in with grandparents in Marlette when the father was sent to sea as a member of the US Coast Guard. The student enrolled on Nov. 26, 2012, and has no previous high school athletic participation. Marlette only sponsors one softball team. The student's parents were divorced in 2003 and the student had lived with the father. The student previously attended Marlette Schools in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, also while living with the grandparents.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Pigeon—Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port Laker High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who, on Nov. 7, 2012, filed a criminal complaint against an older student at Laker High. When charges were pressed against the other student, the environment at school was such that the student felt compelled to enroll at Unionville-Sebewaing Area High School on Nov. 27, 2013. She did not participate in athletics there. The case is currently at the prosecuting attorney's level. The student reenrolled at Laker High on March 8, 2013 and hopes to play JV softball.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Portage Northern High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request was made on behalf of a 12<sup>th</sup>-grade student to waive the transfer regulation or otherwise interpret the enrollment and current academic credit record portions of the eligibility regulation (Interpretation 46) to permit immediate eligibility. For the previous two first semesters of the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades, the student was enrolled in separate out-of-state programs with classes in a specialized field: Environmental Sustainability. The student remained on the records of Portage Northern and credit was given for the work done in both semesters toward graduation at Portage Northern. If the attendance at the out-of-state programs is considered a transfer, the student would have used the one-time allowance of Exception 2 (not living with parents, returning to live with parents) when he returned from Wisconsin in 2011-12. Eligibility for the return this school year from a program in California would require Executive Committee action.

Noting that the specialized academic course work was unavailable at or near Portage Northern High School, that the student remained on the records of Portage Northern, that the academic credit counts toward graduation at Portage Northern, and that the student did not participate in athletics during the remote academic course work, the Executive Committee approved the request to permit the student a second transfer with eligibility under Exception 2.

Ravenna High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12<sup>th</sup>-grade student whose parents have lived apart since before the student began high school and whose family attempted to reconnect with the father in California in the fall of 2012. The student was enrolled in school in California while the family lived at the father's residence until returning to their home in Ravenna and reenrolling on Jan. 21, 2013. Because the parents are not divorced but have lived apart since June 2009, an Educational Transfer Form was submitted.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver

Southfield Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment was made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who previously attended Peterson-Warren Academy before enrolling at Southfield Christian on Feb. 25, 2013.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment at Southfield Christian High School beginning Feb. 25, 2013.

Vestaburg High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student whose mother struggles with addiction. The student lived on and off with his paternal grandfather in Arizona or maternal grandparents in Michigan. At age six, to be closer to his mother, the student moved to Lansing to live with his maternal grandparents. While in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade, the student moved to Georgia, attempting to reconnect with his mother. Because the mother was unstable, the student returned to live with an aunt in Arizona for grades 5-9. The student spent every summer with his maternal grandparents in Vestaburg and has now moved into their home, enrolling on March 19, 2013 at Vestaburg High School. The student has participated previously in athletics.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for this one time only in grades 9-12.

Warren-Macomb Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student who had attended Macomb Christian Schools from grades 3-8 and enrolled at Warren-Cousino to begin the 2012-13 school year. The student did not participate in athletics at Cousino, and enrolled at Macomb Christian on Jan. 22, 2013. Macomb Christian has 23 boys in the high school and does not sponsor a JV baseball team.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Subvarsity Waiver Requests Meeting All Conditions of Section 9(B) – The Executive Committee is requested to approve immediate eligibility at the subvarsity level for the following transferring 9<sup>th</sup>- or 10<sup>th</sup>-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:

<b>Requesting High School</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Former High School</b>	<b>Date of Enrollment</b>	<b>Length of Subvarsity Eligibility Status</b>
Buchanan	9	South Bend (IN)-Penn	Mar. 6, 2013	91st school day of enrollment
Burton-Atherton	9	Goodrich	Feb. 5, 2013	Remainder of 12-13 school year
Goodrich	10	Genesee Early College	Jan. 29, 2013	Remainder of 12-13 school year
Orchard Lake-St. Mary's	9	Bloomfield Hills-Brother Rice	Jan. 16, 2013	Remainder of 12-13 school year
Portage Northern	9	Portage Central	Jan. 28, 2013	Remainder of 12-13 school year
Vestaburg	9	Stanton-Central Mont-calm	Jan. 21, 2013	Remainder of 12-13 school year
Warren –Cousino	10	Detroit-Old Redford	Feb. 8, 2013	Remainder of 12-13 school year
Warren Woods-Tower	9	Warren-Cousino	Jan. 28, 2013	Remainder of 12-13 school year
Warren Woods-Tower	9	St. Clair Shores- Lake Shore	Jan. 28, 2013	Remainder of 12-13 school year

Byron Center 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 girls and assistant boys swimming & diving coach who is employed as the aquatics director of the Byron Center Community Pool and also coaches the BCD swim program. It is anticipated that the BCD swim program will have approximately 175 participants ages 5-24, including students from several neighboring schools and districts: Grand Rapids-South Christian, Caledonia, Zeeland East and West, Holland, Holland Christian, East Kentwood, Jenison, Grandville, Wayland and Byron Center. It is estimated that eight girls and seven boys from Byron Center Schools in grades 7-12 will participate in the BCD program in 2013-14. This coach has been previously granted a waiver for employment while with Holland High School.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for girls and boys swimming & diving for the 2013-14 school year.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Executive Committee are scheduled for Wednesday, April 24, 2013, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; Sunday, May 5, 2013, at 10:30 a.m. in Gaylord; and Wednesday, June 12, 2013, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing.