

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

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

East Lansing, March 26, 2015

Members Present:

Scott Grimes, Grand Haven  
Fred Smith, Buchanan  
Vic Michaels, Detroit  
Kris Isom, Adrian  
Alvin Ward, Detroit

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.

Detroit-West Side Academy and Detroit School of Arts High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E])

– The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball and boys and girls track & field between these two schools of the same district whose combined 2015-16 enrollment is 952 students. West Side Academy sponsored basketball and cross country previously and will be the primary school. The program will be in the Class A Basketball Tournaments. Other sport divisions are being determined at this time. Support from the Detroit Public School League was submitted.

Fenton and Linden High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1 [F])

– A request to waive the Oct. 15, 2014 deadline for spring sports cooperative programs was submitted with a completed application for cooperative programs in boys and girls lacrosse to compete in regular season but not in MHSAA 2015 spring tournaments. The schools have been seeking this agreement since October but encountered delays through their boards of education which have only recently voted their approval. The schools are currently in a cooperative program in boys and girls skiing and ice hockey. The combined 2015-16 enrollment is 2,055 students. Linden would be the primary school for boys lacrosse, Fenton for girls lacrosse. Support from the Flint Metro League is in process.

Because these would be new programs and they will not seek entry in the MHSAA Lacrosse Tournaments in 2015, the Executive Committee waived the deadline and approved the applications pending support of the Flint Metro League.

Ferndale and Ferndale-University High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E])

– A request to waive the 1,000-student enrollment maximum was made to permit the formation of a cooperative program in football between Ferndale and University High Schools. The combined 2015-16 enrollment is 1,079 students. The same request was made and not approved in January of 2014. Administration of both schools met with the Executive Committee.

Ferndale High School's enrollment is declining and University High School's enrollment is limited by facilities to approximately 420 students. The former is school of choice within Oakland County, while the latter is school of choice within Oakland, Macomb and Wayne Counties.

University High School was started as a school which would not sponsor sports, but now conducts girls volleyball, boys and girls basketball and boys and girls track & field. An effort to sponsor boys cross country in the fall failed several years ago, leaving boys without a fall sport. Ferndale High School had a total of 35 football players for its 9<sup>th</sup> grade and varsity football programs in 2014. The varsity team finished with four wins and five losses and has 13 returning players. University High School had more than 40 students express interest in football but realistically expects fewer than 20 students to follow through.

The Executive Committee explored options to address the problems of each school without the necessity of waiving the 1,000-student enrollment limit, including that there are several nearby non-public schools that may welcome a cooperative program in football that stays under the 1,000-student enrollment cap; and eight-player football is an option which is appealing to a growing number of schools in Michigan. It was also noted that more than 200 schools in Michigan with an enrollment equal to or smaller than that of University High School sponsor and conduct 11-player football programs.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Wakefield-Marenisco and Bessemer-AD Johnston High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E])

– The Executive Committee approved the addition of boys and girls cross country to a cooperative program which already exists between these two schools in football. The combined 2015-16 enrollment is 231 students and will likely place a new team in the Division 2 UP Cross Country Tournament (sport divisions are being determined at this time). Wakefield-Marenisco sponsored cross country previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Copper Mountain Conference was submitted.

Battle Creek-Pennfield 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 lived with her mother on and off for portions of the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades and then moved in with her father in the Pennfield School District in October 2014. The student continued to attend Battle Creek-Harper Creek until the start of the second semester in January 2015 when she enrolled at Pennfield. The parents never married. A completed Educational Transfer Form is in process.

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

Bellevue 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 began the 2014-15 school year at Vermontville-Maple Valley and enrolled at Bellevue on Sept. 29, 2014.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment at Bellevue High School beginning Sept. 29, 2014.

Bloomfield Hills-Academy of the Sacred Heart (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 62 (closest nonpublic school) was made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who lived with her divorced father in Florida and attended a tennis academy and online school for the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and first half of the 11<sup>th</sup>-grades. The student has returned to live with her divorced mother in a residence which is closer to Marian High School. The student has a 3<sup>rd</sup>-grade step-sibling enrolled at the elementary school. The student attended Sacred Heart for the 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades and reenrolled on Jan. 15, 2015. An Educational Transfer Form is in process.

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

Buckley High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of 10<sup>th</sup>- and 11<sup>th</sup>-grade sisters whose family home was lost and who moved with their parents from Grand Blanc into the grandparents' home across the street from the Buckley district in the Mesick School District. The students enrolled in Buckley on Jan. 26, 2015, because it was closer to the grandparents' home and they preferred the academics.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Calumet 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 was hospitalized for nine days at the end of the first semester of 2014-15. Upon discharge, her doctors recommended that the student not return to her parent's household. The student is residing with her aunt and uncle in the Calumet School District and enrolled at Calumet on Jan. 26, 2015. The student previously attended Hudson, Wisconsin High School and has no prior athletic participation.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Charlevoix 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 an academy in Utah and is returning to the residence of his father in Charlevoix. The student enrolled at Charlevoix on March 10, 2015. The student had witnessed domestic situations early in life and had violent outbursts. The student lived with his grandfather in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and attended Charlevoix Middle School. At the end of his 8<sup>th</sup>-grade year, the student returned to his parents' home in Gladstone and enrolled there to begin the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. In September 2014, the student attended the facility in Utah. Support for eligibility from Gladstone High School was submitted.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Coldwater 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 Coldwater for her entire school career except for the 9<sup>th</sup> grade in 2013-14 when the student moved with her parents to Arizona. Around March 12, 2015, the student moved back to Michigan with both parents and lived for one day in Coldwater. The parents then split up and the student now resides with her father in Coldwater during the week and with her mother in Adrian on weekends. The student reenrolled at Coldwater on March 16, 2015. The student participated in sports previously at Coldwater.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Farmington Hills-North Farmington High School (Regulation I, Section 9[C]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who previously attended Farmington Hills-Harrison High School and participated in the ice hockey and boys lacrosse cooperative programs between these two schools in the prior seasons. The student enrolled at North Farmington on March 16, 2015. Support from the former school was submitted.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for the sports of ice hockey and boys lacrosse only.

Goodrich 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 Goodrich Schools since the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade except for the first marking period of the 2014-15 school year when the student enrolled at Fenton High School because the father remarried and relocated to Fenton. The student reenrolled at Goodrich on Nov. 3, 2014, and had not participated in athletics at Fenton but played soccer at Goodrich in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Grand Rapids-Catholic Central 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 experienced difficulties with other students while enrolled at Spring Lake High School. The student previously attended St. Mary's Catholic grade school through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and enrolled at Catholic Central on March 16, 2015.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment at Catholic Central High School beginning March 16, 2015.

Holland High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and the language of Exception 2 (parents, single parent if divorced, or only living parent) was made on behalf of a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student who returned to live with her mother in Holland after living with a friend in Indiana. The mother and stepfather moved to South Carolina in the summer of 2014 while the student went to live with a friend. In the first semester of 2014-15, the parents separated and filed for divorce, which is not yet final. The mother lived with an aunt, but not the student, and then moved to a relative's home in Holland accompanied by the student and a twin sister. The student and her twin sister enrolled at Holland on Feb. 4, 2015. There is no relevant connection to the student's birth father.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver. The committee determined that the student could not utilize either Exception 2 or 8 on another occasion.

Jonesville 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 12<sup>th</sup>-grade student who lived with his divorced father and attended school in Ohio until moving into his mother's home in Hillsdale. The student enrolled at Jonesville on Oct. 15, 2014. The student attended Hillsdale for the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades and has four step-siblings who currently attend Jonesville. A completed Educational Transfer Form was submitted.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Leslie 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 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who is moving between divorced parents who have joint custody. The mother lives in Jackson and the father recently moved to the Charlotte School District. The student previously attended Jackson-Lumen Christi and enrolled at Leslie on Feb. 9, 2015, in part because the school is somewhat between the parents' two homes and both parents are Leslie alumni. An Educational Transfer Form is in process.

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

Livonia-Franklin High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made to permit eligibility on the 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who previously attended Garden City High School and enrolled March 6 at Franklin. The family residential change was not full and complete as the former residence in Garden City is still occupied while the family has an address in the Livonia-Franklin attendance area. Eventually the family intends to sell their former home.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment at Franklin High School starting March 6, 2015.

Merrill 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 attended Saginaw-Swan Valley while living with his mother. Because the mother struggles with health problems, the student began living with his grandparents in Merrill in October 2014. The grandparents, who are elderly, could no longer continue driving the student to Saginaw. The student enrolled at Merrill on March 11, 2015 at the end of the trimester at Swan Valley. The student participated in wrestling at Swan Valley, a sport Merrill does not sponsor, and would like to run track at Merrill this spring.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Montague 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 family lost their home to foreclosure and who moved into a relative's basement in the Reeths-Puffer School District. On weekends, the student lived with a friend in the Montague School District nearer her part-time job. The student has attended Montague for most of her school career except for the beginning of the 2014-15 school year when she attended Reeths-Puffer. The student reenrolled at Montague on Nov. 20, 2014.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Mt. Pleasant 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 has returned to the home of a sister in Mt. Pleasant. The student lived with both parents to begin the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, attending Macomb-L'Anse Creuse North in the 2012-13 school year. The mother died in May 2013. Due to the father's instability, the student moved in with her middle sister and enrolled at Warren Woods-Tower to begin the 2013-14 school year. In January 2014, the student moved to Mt. Pleasant to live with an older sister attending CMU. At the request of her father, to begin the 2014-15 school year, the student moved in with him and enrolled at Clinton Township-Chippewa Valley High School. Due to the unresolved issues with the father, the student returned to the older sister and reenrolled at Mt. Pleasant on Jan. 23, 2015.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Novi-Franklin Road Christian 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 experienced difficulties with other students while enrolled at Walled Lake Northern High School that began in middle school and continued through the 11<sup>th</sup> grade. The problems escalated to the point that the student has been in counseling weekly since October 2014. The student enrolled at Franklin Road Christian on Jan. 20, 2015. Support from the former school was submitted.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Traverse City Central 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 was living in an unhealthy, abusive home with her parents in the Benzie Central attendance area and moved into a homeless shelter for youth in the Traverse City Central attendance area on Feb. 19, 2015. The student came to the shelter fleeing a domestic violence situation at her home that is currently under investigation by Child Protective Services and issues of both medical and educational neglect. The student attended Benzie Schools since elementary grades, and enrolled at Traverse City Central on March 2, 2015.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Traverse City Central 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 was living in a neglectful situation with his mother's ex-husband in Louisiana and moved to the home of his grandmother in the Traverse City Central attendance area. The student's home life has been unstable and unhealthy most of his life as the mother was unable to care for the student or other siblings. The student receives both outside and internal school counseling. The student played football in Louisiana and enrolled at Traverse City Central on Jan. 12, 2015.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Vermontville-Maple Valley 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 whose parents are divorcing and who had a violent altercation with his father on March 9, 2015. The student previously attended Lake Odessa-Lakewood, living with both parents until December 2014 when the mother moved to Lansing and the student remained with the father. After the altercation, Child Protective Services was contacted by the mother and the student moved in with the grandmother who lives in the Maple Valley School District. The student participated in wrestling during the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and wishes to golf this spring.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Vestaburg 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 has been diagnosed with several health issues. The student was hospitalized in September 2014 and relocated to the home of an aunt and uncle on Oct. 31, 2014. As a result of her medical condition, the parents could no longer deal with the student's illness and her former school and medical personnel recommended she change residences and schools. The student has no history of previous athletic participation and enrolled at Vestaburg on Nov. 3, 2014. The student's previous school, Grand Ledge, wrote in support of eligibility.

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 a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student who previously attended Memphis High School and did not participate in sports. The student enrolled at Yale on Nov. 3, 2014.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver, but approved eligibility for any subvarsity competition that might be provided.

Subvarsity Waiver Requests Meeting All Conditions of Section 9(B) – The Executive Committee approved immediate eligibility at the subvarsity level for the following transferring 9<sup>th</sup>- or 10<sup>th</sup>-grade students (after entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade, before completing 10<sup>th</sup> 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>
Croswell-Lexington	10	Sabastian River, FL	Oct. 27, 2014	Remainder of 14-15 school year
Flint-Powers Catholic	10	Goodrich	Mar. 4, 2015	91 <sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment
Jackson-East Jackson	9	Michigan Center	Feb. 10, 2015	Remainder of 14-15 school year
Leroy-Pine River	9	Reed City	Feb. 23, 2015	Remainder of 14-15 school year
Macomb-Lutheran North	9	Warren-Regina	Jan. 20, 2015	Remainder of 14-15 school year
Martin	9	Wayland Union	Jan. 19, 2015	Remainder of 14-15 school year
Milan	9	Ypsilanti-Arbor Prep	Jan. 28, 2015	Remainder of 14-15 school year.
Sparta	10	Avon, IN	Feb. 26, 2015	Remainder of 14-15 school year
Stockbridge	10	Bozeman, MT	Jan. 26, 2015	Remainder of 14-15 school year
Troy-Athens	9	Birmingham-Brother Rice	Nov. 3, 2014	Remainder of 14-15 school year
Zeeland West	9	Holland-West Ottawa	Oct. 1, 2014	91 <sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment

East Grand Rapids High School (Regulation II, Section 11[H]) – Pursuant to Interpretation 241, a request to waive the three-/four-player rule for the 2015-16 school year was made on behalf of the assistant boys and girls swimming & diving coach who is employed full-time by the East Grand Rapids Aquatics USA Swim Club. The program will have approximately 240 participants ages 6-18 of which approximately 80 are East Grand Rapids students in grades 7-12. Participants come from five other schools or districts (Grand Rapids-Catholic Central, Grand Rapids Christian and Forest Hills). A similar request has been approved for this coach and program since 2012-13.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for this coach for the 2015-16 school year.

Fremont and Fremont Christian Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of wrestling, boys and girls swimming & diving and boys and girls cross country to a cooperative program which exists in football between these two member middle schools. Fremont will be the primary school.

Hillsdale Academy and Hillsdale Preparatory Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys and girls track & field between these two member middle schools. Hillsdale Academy will be the primary school.

Wakefield-Marenisco and Bessemer Middle Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys and girls cross country between these two member middle schools. Neither school sponsored cross country previously. Wakefield-Marenisco will be the primary school.

Haslett High School (Classification Policy) – A request was made to change the 2015-16 enrollment count from 875 to 870 students because the school included five students in its 2015-16 count who met early graduation requirements and were not enrolled in February 2015. Early graduation was approved for the students at four Haslett Board of Education meetings from September 2014 through January 2015. Past practice included keeping early graduates in the system so these students receive year-end activity notices. In addition, on March 10, 2015, the Ingham Intermediate School District auditor informed the school of a change to “not include” early graduates in its Department of Education enrollment count. The MHSAA mailed notices of classification to member schools on March 13, 2015. The 2015-16 cutoff for Class A is 875 students.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request to lower the school’s enrollment for MHSAA tournament purposes.

New Member Schools – Pursuant to the MHSAA Constitution adopted by member schools and according to procedures for MHSAA membership adopted by the Representative Council on March 27, 1997, the Executive Committee considered membership for the following school:

**Petoskey-St. Michael Academy** is an independent Catholic tuition-based high school which has eight students in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades and anticipates an enrollment of 20 students for 2015-16 as it adds grade 11. A local K-8 grade school, Petoskey-St. Francis Xavier, will contribute to the enrollment of St. Michael. The school has no athletic facilities. St. Michael students have previously participated in non-school athletics with home schooled students. The school has asked for expedited consideration so as to enter into cooperative agreements with other schools in the area. The school has plans to form cooperative programs with Harbor Springs-Harbor Light Christian in girls volleyball, boys soccer, girls softball and boys and girls basketball. Approval has been received from the Northern Michigan Soccer League but not for other sports by the Northern Lights League. A modified 2015-16 Membership Resolution and Preliminary Classification Form were received in January 2015. The Athletic Department Code of Conduct was submitted and the school was visited by MHSAA staff on Feb. 24, 2015.

This matter was tabled.

Representative Council – The Executive Committee reviewed a draft of the Representative Council’s May 3-4, 2015 meeting.

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