

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

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

East Lansing, May 5, 2013

Committee Members:

Jim Derocher, Negaunee  
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven  
Vic Michaels, Detroit  
Fred Smith, Buchanan  
John Thompson, Brighton

Staff Members:

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.

Cooperative Program Renewals (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – Pursuant to instructions by the Representative Council in December 2006, the MHSAA staff identified Cooperative Team Renewal Forms that required Executive Committee review, including those involving Class A or B schools or three or more schools of any size which indicated large numbers of students trying out or being cut, or a significant win/loss record. All agreements included conference approvals. The Executive Committee approved the following renewals:

- Farmington Hills-North Farmington and Farmington Hills-Harrison in boys lacrosse
- South Lyon and South Lyon East in boys lacrosse and girls swimming & diving

Vestaburg 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 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student whose father's job was relocated and who changed residence to a home in the Blanchard-Montabella School District on the border of the Vestaburg School District. The student plays three sports. Vestaburg is closer to the student's new residence than is Montabella. Vestaburg High School is also closer for the father's commute home from work, better enabling his attendance at Vestaburg events. The student previously attended Farwell High School and will be enrolling to begin the 2013-14 10<sup>th</sup> grade at Vestaburg.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Hudson High School (Regulation II, Section 11[F]) – A request was made to permit participation in the Archbold Invitational two-day dual team wrestling tournament in Defiance, Ohio which begins one day prior (Friday, Dec. 6, 2013) to the date allowed for starting competition (Saturday, Dec. 7, 2013). The Defiance College Fieldhouse is 33 miles from Hudson High School. Hudson competed in the event last year. Conflicts only occur in years when there are 15 Saturdays in the season. The event would count as two of the allowed 14 dates of competition.

Based on the history of this school's participation in the event and its close proximity, the Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Regulation III, Section 1(C) – Pursuant to *Handbook* Interpretation 261, the Executive Committee approved waiver of the enrollment regulation for the following junior high/middle schools to permit 6<sup>th</sup>-grade students to participate with and against 7<sup>th</sup> and/or 8<sup>th</sup> graders for the sports listed in the 2012-13 school year only (unless otherwise indicated below).

<b>Junior High/ Middle School</b>	<b>Sport(s)</b>	<b>High School Enrollment</b>	<b>Middle School Enrollment</b>
Buckley	boys & girls cross country, boys soccer, girls volleyball, boys & girls basketball	127	31 7 <sup>th</sup> graders 43 8 <sup>th</sup> graders
Cooks-Big Bay de Noc	boys & girls track & field	88	20 7 <sup>th</sup> graders 19 8 <sup>th</sup> graders
Lake Leelanau-St. Mary	boys & girls basketball, boys & girls cross country	50	17 7 <sup>th</sup> graders 14 8 <sup>th</sup> graders

Next Meeting – The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, June 12, 2013, at 9 a.m. in East Lansing.