

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Gaylord, May 4, 2014

Members Present:

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

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.

Clarkston-Everest Collegiate, Auburn Hills Christian and Waterford-Our Lady of the Lakes High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee tabled a partially completed application for the addition of Auburn Hills Christian to a cooperative agreement which currently exists between Everest Collegiate and Our Lady of the Lakes in boys soccer. The combined 2014-15 enrollment is 330 students, placing one team in the Division 4 tournament. Everest Collegiate would continue as the primary school. Support from the Catholic High School League has been received, but signatures are still needed from Our Lady of the Lakes administrators and governing board.

Detroit Community and Detroit-University YES Academy High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee tabled a partially completed application for a cooperative program in football between these two schools whose combined 2014-15 enrollment is 675 students. Detroit Community sponsored football previously and would be the primary school. University YES is in its first year of MHSAA tournament eligibility in 2014-15. Support from the Michigan Metro Athletic Conference has been received, but signatures are still needed from both schools' administrators and governing boards.

Oscoda, Lincoln-Alcona and Tawas Area High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – The Executive Committee tabled a partially completed application for a cooperative program in girls and boys swimming & diving between these three schools whose combined 2014-15 enrollment of 1,036 students would continue placement of teams in the Division 3 tournaments. Oscoda sponsored the sports previously and would be the primary school. Support from the Independent Swimming Conference and approval from Tawas Area administrators and governing board are still needed.

Suttons Bay and Northport High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys soccer between these two schools whose combined enrollment of 235 students will place one team in the Division 4 tournament. Both schools sponsored boys soccer previously; Suttons Bay will be the primary school. Support from the Northwest Conference was submitted.

Cooperative Program Renewals (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – Pursuant to instructions of the Representative Council in 1997, the Executive Committee must review Cooperative Team Renewal Forms for cooperative agreements in boys bowling, girls bowling, girls golf and girls competitive cheer where the combined enrollment exceeds 1,000 students. These agreements were formed before these sports reached over 250 schools sponsoring. The Executive Committee reviewed and approved the following programs for renewal:

- Farmington and Farmington Hills-Harrison High Schools in boys and girls bowling (combined 2014-15 enrollment 2,390 students).
- Farmington Hills-North Farmington and Farmington Hills-Harrison High Schools in girls golf (combined 2014-15 enrollment 2,508 students).

Royal Oak-Shrine High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who attended Shrine Schools from grades 6-9 before enrolling at Farmington Hills-Mercy High School to begin the 2013-14 school year. The student was unhappy at the former school and reenrolled at Shrine on Jan. 6, 2014. The student did not participate in athletics at Mercy but did participate at Shrine in the 9th grade.

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
Farmington Hills-Harrison	9	Orchard Lake-St. Mary	Dec. 4, 2013	Remainder of 13-14 school year
Romulus	9	Taylor Preparatory	Mar. 14, 2014	91 st school day of enrollment

Midland-HH Dow High School (Regulation II, Section 11[H]) – Pursuant to Interpretation 237, a request to waive the three-/four-player rule for the 2014-15 school year was made on behalf of the boys and girls swimming & diving coach who is employed full-time by the Kronos Aquatics Club. The Kronos Aquatics Club is open to the general public, and for 2014-15 is anticipated to include approximately 18-22 participants ages 15-21. The program involves college-age students, four students from Bay City Western High School and nine participants from the Midland Public Schools. A similar request has been granted for this coach and program each year since 2012-13.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for boys and girls swimming & diving for the 2014-15 school year.

Regulation III, Section 1(C) – Pursuant to 2013-14 *Handbook* Interpretation 262, 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 (unless otherwise indicated below).

Junior High/Middle School	Sport(s)	High School Enrollment	Middle School Enrollment
Jackson Christian	boys & girls basketball, boys & girls cross country, boys & girls track & field, boys soccer, girls volleyball	124	18 7 th -graders 23 8 th -graders
North Adams-Jerome	boys & girls basketball, boys & girls track & field, girls volleyball	133	49 7 th - & 8 th -graders
Wakefield-Marenisco	boys & girls basketball, boys & girls track & field	81	13 7 th -graders 16 8 th -graders

Representative Council – The Executive Committee reviewed the schedule for the May 4-5, 2014 meeting.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Executive Committee are scheduled for Wednesday, June 11, at 9 a.m. in East Lansing; Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2014, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2014, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2014, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2014, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2014, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; and Thursday, Dec. 4, 2014, at 1:30 p.m. in East Lansing.