

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, October 1, 2014

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 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 and Bloomfield Hills-Academy of the Sacred Heart High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in girls soccer between these two schools whose combined enrollment of 242 students will continue placement of a team in the Division 4 tournament. Everest sponsored girls soccer previously in a cooperative program with Waterford-Our Lady of the Lakes which has dissolved. Everest will be the primary school. Support from the Catholic High School League was submitted.

Grandville, Grand Rapids-Kenowa Hills and Grandville-Calvin Christian High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of Calvin Christian to a cooperative agreement in boys swimming & diving which exists between Grandville and Kenowa Hills. The combined enrollment of 3,305 students will continue placement of a team in the Division 1 tournament. Grandville will continue as the primary school. Support from the OK Conference was submitted.

Marine City-Cardinal Mooney Catholic and Clarkston-Everest Collegiate High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of boys and girls track & field to a cooperative agreement which exists between these two schools in boys and girls cross country and boys soccer. The combined enrollment of 262 students will continue placement of teams in the Division 4 tournaments. Cardinal Mooney sponsored track & field previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Catholic High School League was submitted.

North Adams-Jerome and Hillsdale-Will Carleton Academy High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of baseball and softball to a cooperative agreement which exists in football and girls track & field between these two schools whose combined enrollment of 202 students will continue placement of teams in the Division 4 tournaments. North Adams sponsored both sports previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Southern Central Athletic Association and the Mid-South Conference was received.

Watervliet-Grace Christian and Benton Harbor-Countryside Academy High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in baseball between these two schools whose combined enrollment of 197 students will place a new team in the Division 4 tournament. Grace Christian will be the primary school and sponsored a team in the past but had insufficient players to sponsor a team last year. Support from the Red Arrow Conference was submitted.

Grand Rapids-Ottawa Hills High School (Regulation I, Section 7) – A request to waive the previous academic credit record regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who has battled mental health issues which resulted in academic deficiencies at the end of the 2013-14 school year and outpatient counseling. The student previously attended Grand Rapids Christian High School before enrolling at Ottawa Hills in December 2013. The student is enrolled in online learning courses. It is undetermined if the online courses are for active credit at Ottawa Hills.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Auburn Hills-Oakland Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 62 (closest nonpublic school) was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who is moving from his divorced mother in France to his father's residence in Lake Orion which is less than one mile closer to Auburn Hills Christian than to Oakland Christian. The request was for eligibility in football, and the two schools are in a cooperative program. An otherwise completed Educational Transfer Form was submitted.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Dansville 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 10th-grade international student from an Approved International Student Program (AISP) whose host family resides in Mason. Mason High School would not accept the student because the school had met its quota of six international students. The student enrolled at Dansville to begin the 2014-15 school year.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Grand Rapids-Wellspring Preparatory High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and Interpretation 62 (closest charter school) was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student from an Approved International Student Program (AISP) who arrived in the US on Sept. 7, 2014 and enrolled at Nexus Online Academy for four days to begin the 2014-15 school year because his host family brother was also enrolled in that program. Realizing the mistake in placing the student in an online school, the agency found placement at Wellspring Prep which was the only school that was accepting new international students at that late date. The student enrolled on Sept. 15, 2014. The host family lives in Zeeland; Wellspring Prep is not the closest charter school to the host family's residence.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Hanover-Horton 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 an 11th-grade student who attended Michigan Center High School from the 9th grade until Sept. 30, 2014 of the 11th grade when the student reenrolled at Hanover-Horton.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91st school day of enrollment at Hanover-Horton High School beginning Sept. 30, 2014.

Hudsonville-Unity Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 62 (closest nonpublic school) was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who is moving from his mother and stepfather's residence in Hamilton to his father's home in West Olive. The parents never married, and an otherwise completed Educational Transfer Form was submitted. Two other Christian schools are approximately two miles closer to the student's new home with his birth father, but the student's mother's husband (stepfather) whom he recently lived with in Hamilton is a Unity Christian graduate and the grandmother is a teacher at Unity Christian.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Manton High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who was neglected by his mother while enrolled at Ewart High School and sought out residency on Sept. 13, 2014 with his grandparents in Manton. The student lived with his father in Vestaburg from grades 7-10 until the father moved to the state of Wyoming. Over the summer of 2014, the student moved in with his mother and began the 11th grade at Ewart to begin the 2014-15 school year. The student completed an Educational Transfer Form and participated in football at Ewart. The student moved into his grandparents' home and enrolled at Manton on Sept. 29, 2014.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Romulus-Summit Academy North High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who attended Summit Academy Schools since kindergarten except for two days (April 8-9, 2014) when the student attended Taylor-Trillium Academy due to social issues. The student reenrolled at Summit on April 29, 2014.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver, provided only a small number of school days elapsed between the student's departure from Summit Academy and the two days of attendance at Trillium Academy.

Sandusky High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment. The student previously attended Peck High School before enrolling at Sandusky on March 3, 2014.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91st school day of enrollment at Sandusky High School starting March 3, 2014.

Unionville Sebawaing Area 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 12th-grade student from an Approved International Student Program whose host family resides in the Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port School District but whose own son has been enrolled at USA since November 2013.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Unionville Sebawaing Area 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 USA Schools before enrolling at Cass City to begin the 2014-15 school year. The student reenrolled at Unionville Sebawaing on Sept. 30, 2014, and participated in athletics in the 9th grade.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for immediate eligibility; however, the Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91st school day of enrollment at Unionville Sebawaing Area starting Sept. 30, 2014.

West Bloomfield High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of two 12th-grade students who previously attended Orchard Lake-St. Mary's and have enrolled at Oakland Early College which is a non-traditional school of West Bloomfield High School. Both students have limited experience in hockey and the school is in need of more players to field a team.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver for these students.

Westland-John Glenn 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 an 11th-grade student who is moving from his mother's residence in the Livonia-Clarenceville School District to his father's home in Lincoln Park. The student's 9th-grade cousin, who lives in another residence in Lincoln Park, enrolled at John Glenn to begin the 2014-15 school year. The student often stays at the aunt's house who can help transport the student to school. The father and stepmother also have a business near John Glenn High School.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Wyoming-The Potter's House Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 62 (closest nonpublic school) was made on behalf of an 18-year-old 12th-grade student who is returning to live with his grandparents after moving to Florida with his mother and attending school there before reenrolling at Potter's House on Sept. 12, 2014. The student attended school in Florida for the 9th grade and Potter's House for the 10th and 11th grades while living with his grandparents before attempting to reunite with his mother over the summer. An Educational Transfer Form has been submitted for his return to the former school but not the closest nonpublic school (Grand Rapids Christian).

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Wyoming-Tri-unity Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who would have attended Tri-unity in the 10th grade but was not accepted due to his previous conduct and departure from Calvin Christian High School where he attended from 3rd through most of the 9th grade. Because of the unfavorable reports from Calvin Christian, the student attended Wyoming-Godfrey Lee High School for the third trimester of the 9th grade and his entire 10th grade (2012-14 school years). The student has finally been accepted and enrolled at Tri-unity to begin the 2014-15 school year.

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
Mio-AuSable	9	Houston, TX	Sept. 8, 2014	Jan. 19, 2015
Pontiac-Notre Dame Prep	10	Mexico	Jan. 6, 2015	Remainder of 14-15 school year
Pontiac-Notre Dame Prep	10	Michigan School for the Arts	Fall 2014	Jan. 19, 2015
Traverse City Christian	10	Traverse City Central	Sept. 5, 2014	Jan. 19, 2015
Westland-John Glenn	10	Detroit-Renaissance	Sept. 2, 2014	Jan. 19, 2015

Regulation III, Section 1(C) – Pursuant to *Handbook* Interpretation 265, 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).

Junior High/ Middle School	Sport(s)	High School Enrollment	Middle School Enrollment
Custer-Mason County Eastern	boys & girls basketball, boys & girls cross country, boys & girls track & field, girls volleyball	142	29 7 th -graders 31 8 th -graders
Hillsdale Preparatory (new member)	boys & girls basketball, boys & girls cross country, boys & girls track & field, girls volleyball	N/A	16 7 th - & 8 th -graders
Pentwater	boys & girls basketball, boys & girls cross country, boys & girls soccer, boys & girls track & field, girls volleyball	69	22 7 th -graders

Volleyball Tournament Pairings – The MHSAA Volleyball Site Selection Committee which met in May 2014 determined that Volleyball Regional 24 (Class C) will have 3 District winners from the UP playing a District winner from the LP in the Regional assigned to Indian River-Inland Lakes in the LP. The Executive Committee determined that winners of Districts 96 and 95 will play their semifinal in the UP at a neutral site in the UP, and the other two District winners will play at Inland Lakes, pursuant to the site selection committee draw. If a LP team wins the other Regional semifinal between Districts 94 and 93, then the Regional finals will stay in the LP at Inland Lakes. If a UP school would win that semifinal, then the Regional finals would be at Negaunee High School.

The Executive Committee reviewed Volleyball Regional 31 (Class D) and determined that travel concerns were less than for Regional 24 and do not necessitate Executive Committee action. In the draw determined for the Regional semifinals, District 124 (Rudyard) plays 123 (Mackinac Island) and 122 (Harbor Springs) plays 120 (Onaway), with both semifinals and the finals at Pellston High School.

Drone Policy – The Executive Committee adopted the following policy generally prohibiting unmanned aerial vehicles at MHSAA tournament venues:

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (Drone) Policy
For MHSAA Tournaments
October 1, 2014

The use of unmanned aerial vehicles (“UAV”), also known as drones, is prohibited for any purpose by any persons at MHSAA tournament venues. Tournament management shall refuse admission or entry to anyone attempting to use a UAV; and if necessary, tournament management shall remove anyone attempting to use a UAV and/or confiscate the UAV until the event has been completed.

For purposes of this policy, a UAV is any aircraft without a human pilot aboard the device.

An exception to this policy may be made in specific cases for MHSAA broadcast partners, provided the management of the tournament facility permits the presence of UAVs for broadcast purposes under the control of the MHSAA.

MHSAA Membership – **Manistee-Trinity Lutheran School** has been an MHSAA member school at the grade 7 and 8 level but its enrollment has dropped below the 15-student minimum required by the MHSAA Constitution. An amendment to the MHSAA Constitution that would provide flexibility to this minimum requirement has been approved by the Representative Council for submission to the MHSAA membership for vote this fall and, if adopted, for full effect Aug. 1, 2015. The Representative Council authorized the Executive Committee to take actions consistent with the amendment during 2014-15. By sponsoring a stand-alone cross country program for both boys and girls, Trinity Lutheran is meeting the conditions for membership that would be permitted by the proposed amendment.

At its Aug. 26, 2014 meeting, the Executive Committee approved MHSAA membership for this school for the 2014-15 school year, subject to the condition stated. Subsequently, it was learned that the school had just five students in grades 7 and 8 and little prospect of meeting the 15-student minimum in 2015-16.

The Executive Committee reviewed the history of this school’s membership and enrollment. Because of its history of membership and the initial approval it had received for MHSAA membership during 2014-15, the Executive Committee reaffirmed its earlier action to permit MHSAA membership for 2014-15.

Decisions regarding the future membership of this and other schools whose MHSAA membership is inconsistent because their enrollments fluctuate above and below 15 students will be considered by the Executive Committee and/or Representative Council in March after the October vote on the MHSAA Constitutional amendment, input of the MHSAA Classification Committee in January and collection of all member school enrollments in February.

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 approved membership for the following schools:

Canton Preparatory Academy High School: This charter school chartered by Grand Valley State University, is located in a newly constructed building and is operated by PREPNET, a network of college preparatory high schools which includes Grand River Prep, Wellspring Prep, Taylor Prep and Ypsilanti-Arbor Prep. The school athletic director has a strong background serving with veteran athletic directors in previous positions. The school has a 9th and 10th grade at present with an enrollment of 250 students and will add a class each year. It intends to sponsor boys and girls soccer, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls bowling and baseball. New athletic facilities, including a 500-seat gymnasium and outdoor fields, are under construction. The athletic program will be independent and not join a league at this time. A signed 2014-15 Membership Resolution and Preliminary Classification Form were received on July 30, 2014. The Athletic Department Code of Conduct has been submitted and the school was represented at an Athletic Director Orientation this fall. If a 2015-16 Membership Resolution is received prior to Oct. 2, 2015, and all other regulations are followed, the school would be eligible for MHSAA tournaments for the 2015-16 school year.

Grand Rapids-Hope Academy of West Michigan High School is in its fourth year of operation as a charter school through Ferris State University with a K-12 operation that includes somewhat less than the projected 115 high school students and a 7th- and 8th-grade enrollment of 60 students (it is not requesting to join at the middle school level at the present time). The school is made up mostly of minority students who are on free or reduced lunch and considered by the school as “at-risk students.” The school currently offers boys and girls soccer as interscholastic sports and is considering basketball in the future. The school has no athletic facilities except for a low-ceiling multi-purpose room and will use a public park or nearby Salvation Army field for practice and competition. The school has a strong relationship with Westwood Christian Services which assists the school in many ways including after-school care. A signed 2014-15 Membership Resolution and Preliminary Classification Form were received on July 21, 2014. The Athletic Department Code of Conduct has been submitted and the school was represented at an Athletic Director Orientation this fall. If a 2015-16 Membership Resolution is received prior to Oct. 2, 2015, and all other regulations are followed, the school would be eligible for MHSAA tournaments for the 2015-16 school year.

Representative Council – The Executive Committee reviewed a draft of the schedule and agenda for the Dec. 5, 2014 meeting of the Council.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Executive Committee are scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2014, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; and Thursday, Dec. 4, 2014, at 1 p.m. in East Lansing.