

# MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, September 7, 2016

### Members Present:

Scott Grimes, Grand Haven  
Fred Smith, Benton Harbor  
Vic Michaels, Detroit  
Kris Isom, Adrian  
Cheri Meier, Okemos

### 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 postseason 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.

Grand Rapids-West Catholic and Grand Rapids-Catholic Central High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in alpine skiing between these two schools whose combined enrollment of 1,119 students will continue placement of a team in the Division 2 tournament. Both schools sponsored skiing previously; West Catholic will be the primary school. Support from the Greater Grand Rapids Ski Conference was submitted.

New Boston-Huron and Belleville High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – The Executive Committee waived the Aug. 15 deadline and approved a cooperative program in ice hockey between these two schools. The combined enrollment of 2,554 students will place a new team in the Division 1 tournament. New Boston-Huron sponsored ice hockey previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Huron League was submitted.

Grand Rapids Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 7) – A request to waive the previous academic credit record regulation was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who is a recent refugee from Uganda and underwent surgery on June 9, 2016, causing the student to miss final exams on June 18, 2016 and only pass three of seven courses at his former school, Grand Rapids-Union. The student has no history of athletic participation and is the subject of a subvarsity eligibility request on this same agenda.

The Executive Committee approved the request to waive the previous academic credit record regulation and determined the previous term at Union High School counts against the maximum of eight permitted under Regulation I, Sections 4 and 5. The current term is the student's third.

Warren-Cousino High School (Regulation I, Section 7) – A request to waive the previous academic credit record regulation was made on behalf of an adopted 12<sup>th</sup>-grade student whose mother died in July 2016 after battling cancer for months. In the latter part of the mother's illness, the student cared for his mother and his two younger siblings, causing the student to miss some school and become one class short of 66 percent of full credit load potential for a full-time student. The student passed four of seven classes at his former school, Detroit-Allen Academy, which closed at the end of the 2015-16 school year. The student's mother took two other young children into her home who are in the process of being adopted. The student is living with a family from his church who resides in the Cousino attendance area. The student is eligible under the transfer regulation as his school ceased to operate.

The Executive Committee approved the request to waive the previous academic credit record regulation and determined the previous term at Allen Academy counts against the maximum of eight permitted under Regulation I, Sections 4 and 5. The current term is the student's seventh.

Allendale 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 12<sup>th</sup>-grade international student from an Approved International Student Program whose host family resides in Hudsonville and who enrolled at Allendale High School because Hudsonville has reached its capacity of foreign exchange students for the 2016-17 school year.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Alma 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 left his mother in Florida due to an unstable home life. The student attended middle school in Alma and, after efforts to live with family members in Ohio failed, the student returned to Alma this summer to reside with his former middle school basketball coach. He is seeking eligibility for football.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Berkley 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 whose parents have been separated for three years and have lived apart during this time. The student came from out of state and lived with his father and other relatives while attending Southfield-Lathrup, which has merged with Southfield High School to begin the 2016-17 school year. Over the summer, the father moved to Detroit and the mother moved from out of state into Berkley. The student now lives with his mother in Berkley and enrolled to begin the 2016-17 school year. The school requested consideration under Exception 8 (moving between divorced parents with completion of an Educational Transfer Form) because the parents have been separated and living apart for three years and because the student was forced to make a residential change.

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

Bloomfield Hills 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 experienced bullying while enrolled in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade at U of D Jesuit. The student participated in athletics at his former school.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Bloomfield Hills-Brother Rice 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 a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who is moving from his divorced mother in Florida to his father's residence in Waterford. The student attended Bloomfield Hills-St. Hugo Grade School, a Brother Rice feeder school, until the 5<sup>th</sup> grade when the divorce occurred and the student moved to Florida. The student has several uncles and cousins who are Brother Rice graduates. An otherwise completed Educational Transfer Form was submitted.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Boyne City 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 was charged with a crime as a 4<sup>th</sup>-grader at Boyne City Elementary School. The charges were dropped in the summer of 2011. Due to the conflict, the student attended Concord Academy Boyne for grades 6-9 and played soccer in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. The student lives with his mother in Boyne City and the father is not in the student's life.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Brimley 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 whose mother relocated with the student to the Upper Peninsula in December 2015 due to pressure which resulted from prolonged litigation over an assault upon the mother while employed in Battle Creek in April 2013. The student attended Battle Creek-Pennfield for the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and enrolled at Paradise-Whitefish Township in December 2015. To begin the 2016-17 school year, the student enrolled at Brimley over concerns about the teaching staff at the former school.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Carleton-Airport 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 whose mother is sending the student to live with a family in the Airport School District to escape his current living and school environment in Florida.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Cedarville High School (Regulation I, Section 9[C]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility in football is made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who attends Detour and intends to enroll at Cedarville. The student has been a participant for the past two years in a football cooperative program between these two schools. Support for eligibility from the former school was submitted.

The Executive Committee approved the request for football only during the first semester of the 2016-17 school year. The student is eligible for all sports on Jan. 16, 2017.

Detroit-Central Collegiate 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 who moved from his sister's mother's home in Taylor after an eviction, to his grandmother's home very near Detroit-Central Collegiate. The student has not played football since the 9<sup>th</sup> grade at Farmington Hills-Harrison in 2013-14 and was in an assisted living facility for homeless youth in Mt. Clemens for the 10<sup>th</sup> grade in 2014-15. The student attended Taylor-Truman for the 2015-16 school year. His father is incarcerated and he has not had contact with his mother for over two years.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Flint-Powers Catholic 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 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student whose mother's job changed from New York to Michigan, causing the family to relocate to a home one mile closer to Genesee Academy than it is to Powers. The mother moved into Flint in January 2016 and the son and father followed this summer. The father is a graduate of Powers Catholic.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Grand Rapids Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – On Aug. 24, 2016, the Executive Committee did not approve a request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 62 (closest nonpublic school) made on behalf of 10<sup>th</sup>- and 11<sup>th</sup>- grade brothers whose family relocated from Maryland where the students attended Chapelgate Christian Academy. The family lives 2.4 miles closer to NorthPointe Christian. The parents are of the Reformed faith and both parents have been missionaries. The father was head of the World Relief arm of the National Association of Evangelicals and is now leading a foundation in the Grand Rapids area. The school requested reconsideration of the decision based on the parents' professional and personal history and connections to Grand Rapids Christian High School and affiliated organizations.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Grand Rapids-West Michigan Aviation Academy (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 74 (practicing with another school in August) was made on behalf of an incoming 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student who practiced cross country with Grand River Prep for six days from Aug. 16-23, 2016. An opening at West Michigan Aviation Academy became available on Aug. 22 and the student accepted admission. The student was on a waiting list to attend the school since late February 2016. The student has not participated in a contest or scrimmage.

The Executive Committee approved the request to participate at the subvarsity level only for cross country and at any level for all other sports.

Lansing 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 a 12<sup>th</sup>-grade student who was a boarding school student at Cranbrook-Kingswood for the 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grades and is returning to Lansing Christian for the 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Lansing Catholic is three miles closer to the student's home, but he attended Lansing Christian for the 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades before enrolling at Cranbrook.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Manistee Catholic Central High School (Regulation I, Section 9[C]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility in football was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who attends Mason County Eastern and intends to enroll at Manistee Catholic Central. The student has been a participant this fall in an 8-player football cooperative agreement between these two schools but was not a member of the team last year as stipulated in Section 9(C). Support for eligibility was submitted by the former school.

The Executive Committee approved the request for football only during the first semester of the 2016-17 school year. The student is eligible for all sports on Jan. 16, 2017.

Quincy 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 father recently died and who has moved into the home of an aunt and uncle in Quincy. The father had sole custody of the student who previously attended Jonesville and enrolled at Quincy on Aug. 24, 2016.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Royal Oak-Shrine Catholic 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 Bloomfield Hills-Brother Rice before enrolling at Shrine on March 7, 2016.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with this student's 91<sup>st</sup> scheduled school day at Shrine Catholic High School beginning March 7, 2016.

South Haven 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 12<sup>th</sup>-grade international student from an Approved International Student Program whose host family resides in Hartford but whose children have attended South Haven Schools for several years.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Suttons Bay High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only was made on behalf of an incoming 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student who attended Suttons Bay Schools her entire career before trying out for the volleyball team and playing in one tournament for Traverse City West before deciding to return to Suttons Bay High School. The family originally enrolled the student at Traverse City West for transportation purposes.

The Executive Committee did not approve 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 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student whose mother has moved with the student from Italy and whose father is not permitted to move to the US pending issuance of a Green Card, which is in process. The father intends to retire from his employment at the end of the calendar year. The family has purchased a home in the Traverse City Central attendance area. The student has not participated in school sports previously but in community swimming and is interested in swimming for Traverse City Central.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Waterford Kettering 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 is returning to the Waterford Schools from Clarkston Junior High after experiencing situations that led to social anxieties. The student attended Waterford Schools for grades K-7 before moving to Clarkston. The student participated in subvarsity athletics at Clarkston.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Waterford-Our Lady of the Lakes 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 11<sup>th</sup>-grade brothers whose mother inherited her mother's home in West Bloomfield, and moved from North Carolina into that residence over the summer. The family is Catholic and the students attended Catholic elementary and middle schools. When the family moved to Michigan, they registered to join Our Lady of the Lakes Parish and seek to attend its parish high school. Bloomfield Hills-Frankel Jewish Academy is 6.2 miles closer to the new home. Our Lady of the Lakes is two blocks further than is Pontiac-Notre Dame Prep.

The Executive Committee approved 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 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:

Requesting High School	Grade	Former High School	Date of Enrollment	Length of Subvarsity Eligibility Status
Battle Creek-Lakeview	10	Alabama-Clay Chalkville	Aug. 31, 2016	Jan. 16, 2017
Bloomfield Hills-Brother Rice	10	Novi-Detroit Catholic Central	Aug. 24, 2016	Jan. 16, 2017
Brighton-Charyl Stockwell Prep	10	Howell	Aug. 2016	Jan. 16, 2017
Grand Rapids Christian	10	Grand Rapids-Union	Aug. 2016	Jan. 16, 2017
Standish-Sterling	10	Bay City-Central	Sept. 6, 2016	Jan. 16, 2017
Sterling Heights	10	Warren-Cousino	Sept. 6, 2016	Jan. 16, 2017
Waterford Mott	10	Waterford Kettering	Sept. 6, 2016	Jan. 16, 2017

Rockford High School (Regulation II, Section 11[H]) – Pursuant to Interpretation 241, a request to waive the four-player rule for the 2016-17 school year was made on behalf of two coaches whose primary source of income is coaching the Rockford Riptide Swimming Program. The request was on behalf of the Rockford boys varsity swim coach who has been recently hired, and the Rockford assistant girls varsity swim coach. The program is open to the general public and includes over 150 participants from the Rockford and Grand Rapids area including students from Rockford and four other school districts (Cedar Springs, Grand Rapids-Northview, East Kentwood and Sparta). Approximately 20 of the participants are Rockford students in grades 7-12. A similar request was approved for coaches from this program in 2015-16.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for these two coaches for the 2016-17 school year.

Freeland and Hemlock Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in wrestling between these two member middle schools. Freeland sponsored wrestling previously and will be the primary school.

Suttons Bay, Northport and Lake Leelanau-St. Mary Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of boys soccer to a cooperative program which exists in high school and middle school football between these three member schools. Suttons Bay will be the primary school.

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:

**Ann Arbor-Washtenaw Technical Middle College High School (WTMC):** This school is located on the campus of Washtenaw Community College (WCC) which also holds its charter. There are 620 students enrolled in grades 9-12 who enroll full-time at WCC and graduate with a high school diploma from WTMC and an associate's degree from WCC. WTMC is self-managed and governed by its own board of education. The school will not sponsor any sports teams at this time but seeks eligibility for students under Interpretations 52 and 53 regarding member schools with a specialized curriculum. Students who attend another member high school for at least two semesters and then enroll at WTMC would be allowed to continue eligibility at their former school. The school with the athletic program makes the determination if the curriculum is specialized, which appears to be the case for WTMC. A signed 2016-17 Membership Resolution and Preliminary Classification Form were received on June 16, 2016. The Athletic Department Code of Conduct has also been received. If a 2017-18 Membership Resolution is received prior to Sept. 29, 2017, and all other regulations are followed, the school will be eligible for MHSAA tournaments for the 2017-18 school year. Students from other member schools who meet the two-semester criteria will be allowed to continue eligibility at their former school, effective with this school year (2016-17).

**Detroit-Hope of Detroit Academy High School:** This school is currently located on the grounds of the former St. Francis D'Assisi Parish School. It will be a new facility this fall being built one block away which will house the middle school, high school and a competition gymnasium. An elementary school has operated for 115 years and there are now 125 students enrolled in grades 9-10. The school is chartered through Ferris State University and managed by the Leona Group which has several MHSAA member high schools. Hope of Detroit will be a founding member of a new athletic conference – the Detroit Metro Athletic Conference (DMAC) – which will include several other Leona Group managed schools. The school will sponsor boys soccer, boys and girls cross country, girls volleyball, boys and girls basketball and girls softball. The current athletic director is a River Rouge graduate who played for Lofton Greene and is a veteran educator and coach who has attended an MHSAA New AD Orientation in the summer of 2016. A signed 2016-17 Membership Resolution and Preliminary Classification Form were received on July 26, 2016. The Athletic Department Code of Conduct has also been received. If a 2017-18 Membership Resolution is received prior to Sept. 29, 2017, and all other regulations are followed, the school will be eligible for MHSAA tournaments for the 2017-18 school year.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Executive Committee are scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2016, at 8:30 am in East Lansing; Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2016, at 8:30 am in East Lansing; and Thursday, Dec. 1, 2016, at 1 pm in East Lansing (Rep Council next day).