

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, April 22, 2015

Members Present:

Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
Fred Smith, Buchanan
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake
Pete Ryan, Saginaw

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.

Bloomfield Hills-Marian and Wixom-St. Catherine of Siena Academy High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in girls swimming & diving between these two all-girls schools whose combined 2015-16 enrollment of 1,318 students (doubled) will continue placement of a team in the Division 2 tournament. Marian sponsored swimming & diving previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Catholic High School League was submitted.

Clarkston-Everest Collegiate and Auburn Hills-Oakland Christian High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of girls golf to a cooperative program which already exists in girls softball, girls tennis and boys and girls bowling between these two schools whose combined 2015-16 enrollment of 328 students will place a new team in the Division 4 tournament. Neither school sponsored girls golf previously; Everest Collegiate will be the primary school. Support from the Catholic High School League was submitted.

Ferndale and Ferndale-University High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys and girls swimming & diving between these two schools of the same district whose combined 2015-16 enrollment of 1,072 students will place a new team in the Division 2 tournament. Ferndale sponsored swimming & diving previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Oakland Activities Association was submitted.

Grand Rapids-Union, Grand Rapids-West Michigan Aviation Academy and Grand Rapids-Ottawa Hills High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – A request to waive the 3,500-student enrollment cap was made for an ice hockey cooperative program to permit one 12th-grade student in 2015-16 from Grand Rapids-Ottawa Hills to continue participation until graduation in a cooperative program whose combined 2015-16 enrollment of 3,611 students exceeds the 3,500-student maximum. The program would continue with all three schools for the 2015-16 school year only. Ottawa Hills would be removed from the agreement after the 2015-16 school year. This student participated previously from Ottawa Hills and requested to be grandfathered into the program for his senior year. The combined enrollment for all three schools would continue the team in Division 1 through the end of the 2015-16 season.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for the 2015-16 school year only. Only this one student of Ottawa Hills is eligible to participate in this cooperative program. Ottawa Hills will be removed from the cooperative program beginning in the 2016-17 school year.

Harbor Springs-Harbor Light Christian and Petoskey-St. Michael Academy High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – Application was made for a cooperative program in boys soccer between these schools. St. Michael's MHSAA membership was approved at this meeting later in these minutes for the 2015-16 school year. The projected enrollment for St. Michael is 20 students in 2015-16. Harbor Light's enrollment is 30 students. The combined enrollment of 50 students would continue placement of a team in the Division 4 tournament. Harbor Light sponsored boys soccer previously and would be the primary school. Support from the Northern Michigan Soccer League was submitted.

The Executive Committee approved the cooperative program for 2015-16, provided St. Michael Academy is approved for and maintains MHSAA membership (see Page 5).

Jackson, Jackson-Lumen Christi, Jackson Christian and Parma-Western High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of Parma-Western and Jackson Christian to a cooperative program in boys and girls swimming & diving which previously existed between Jackson and Lumen Christi. The combined 2015-16 enrollment of 2,664 students will continue placement of a team in the Division 1 tournament. Jackson will continue as the primary school. Support from the Capital Area Activities Conference was submitted.

Marine City-Cardinal Mooney Catholic and Kimball-Landmark Academy High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in 11-player football between these two schools whose combined 2015-16 enrollment is 360 students. Cardinal Mooney sponsored football previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Catholic High School League was submitted.

Scottville-Mason County Central, Custer-Mason County Eastern and Manistee Catholic Central High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program between these schools in boys soccer. Mason County Eastern and Manistee Catholic Central were previously in a cooperative program in boys soccer. The combined enrollment of 571 students will continue placement of one team in the Division 3 tournament. Mason County Central sponsored soccer previously and will be the primary school. Support from the West Michigan D League was submitted.

Suttons Bay, Lake Leelanau-St. Mary and Northport High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of Northport to a cooperative program in 11-player football that exists between Suttons Bay and St. Mary. The combined 2015-16 enrollment will be 264 students. Suttons Bay will continue as the primary school. Support from the Northern Michigan Football League was submitted.

Climax-Scotts 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 divorced father's home in Gobles to his mother's home in the Galesburg-Augusta School District. The student enrolled at Climax-Scotts in November 2014 due to bullying incidents which occurred when the student attended Galesburg-Augusta from Kindergarten to fourth grade. The unhealthy home environment in Gobles where the student had lived since the 5th grade caused the student to return to his mother's home.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Millington High School (Regulation I, Section 9[E]) – A request was made to set aside the decision of the executive director that the transfer in January 2015 of a 10th-grade student from Otisville-Lakeville to Millington was primarily for athletic reasons and the student is ineligible for 180 school days. Millington's initial response did not include information from the student or his family but only from Millington personnel.

The Executive Committee noted that information has been made available that was not provided at the time of the executive director's decision, which was set aside. The student becomes eligible for interscholastic athletics at the start of practices for the 2015-16 school year, insofar as the transfer regulation is concerned.

Pigeon—Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port Laker High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who had a full and complete residential change into Pigeon but was home schooled for over two months (Jan. 23 – April 13, 2015) before enrolling at Laker High School on April 14. The student previously attended Marine City-Cardinal Mooney Catholic before moving to Pigeon. The student had been home schooled earlier in his career and was attempting to return before enrolling at the school of his new residence.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Richmond 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 previously attended St. Clair and enrolled at Richmond on Sept. 29, 2014. It was thought that the student was eligible under Exception 1 as the father and student made a full and complete residential change into Richmond. In April 2014, it was reported that the father has resided occasionally at the former address which is a home/cottage on the St. Clair River. Richmond has forfeited all the contests the student participated in (JV basketball games and three varsity baseball games). Since this was reported on April 14, 2015, the student has been withheld from competition by the school.

The Executive Committee took note of the facts and the delay between the residential change and allegations that a violation of the transfer rule occurred. In view of the residential changes and the forfeitures and the number of games from which the student has been withheld, the Executive Committee determined that the student may be deemed eligible by Richmond High School beginning May 1, 2015.

Saginaw-Arthur Hill High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who previously attended Arthur Hill except for nine school days from Jan. 28 – Feb. 9, 2015 when the student attended Bridgeport High School. The student reenrolled at Arthur Hill on Feb. 10. The request for eligibility is based on the brief number of days at Bridgeport and return to the same school.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Ypsilanti-Lincoln 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 previously attended Ypsilanti-Arbor Preparatory and enrolled at Lincoln High School on Oct. 7, 2014.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91st school day of enrollment at Lincoln High School beginning Oct. 7, 2014.

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
Dearborn	9	Dearborn-Divine Child	Jan. 26, 2015	Remainder of 14-15 school year
Pellston	9	Petoskey	Mar. 24, 2015	Jan. 18, 2016
Riverview-Gabriel Richard	9	Orchard Lake-St. Mary	Mar. 10, 2015	91 st school day of enrollment starting 3/10/15

Flint-Michigan School for the Deaf (Regulation II, Section 6) – A request to waive the 600-mile round-trip travel limitation was made to allow Michigan School for the Deaf to participate in the Kentucky Spike-Out Volleyball Tournament on Sept. 18-20, 2015 in Danville, Kentucky. Six deaf schools including Michigan are invited to attend: Cincinnati-St. Rita, Kentucky, New York, Ohio, and South Carolina. The round-trip mileage is 846 miles.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver; but indicated this waiver is nullified if any states are added to the list of states invited to or which participate in this event.

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	133	31 7 th -graders 34 8 th -graders

Canton-Plymouth High School (Tournament Classification Policy) – A request was made to waive the two-year minimum for opting up into the Division 1 Ice Hockey Tournament. It is policy that these three high schools of the same district to play in the same MHSAA division or classification in all sports. In 2014-15, Plymouth High School opted to play in Division 1 in order to be in the same division with Canton and Salem High Schools. The 2015-16 enrollment declaration placed Salem (2,063 students) and Canton (2,076 students) into Division 2 which includes enrollments of 1,612 to 2,153 students). The 2015-16 Plymouth enrollment is 2,057 students (within the Division 2 range).

The Executive Committee noted the school district's efforts to treat its three high schools equally and to nurture cooperation and mutual support among them, including previous efforts to have all three high schools compete in the same classification or division of MHSAA tournaments. The request for waiver was approved. All three schools will participate in Division 2 of the 2016 Ice Hockey Tournament, pursuant to their submitted enrollments.

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 school:

Petoskey-St. Michael Academy is an independent Catholic tuition-based high school which has eight students in the 9th and 10th 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 asked for expedited consideration in order to enter into cooperative agreements with other schools in the area. The school has plans to form cooperative programs. Approval was received from the Northern Michigan Soccer League but approval was not given 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.

Membership was approved pending receipt of a formal 2015-16 Membership Resolution prior to Aug. 1, 2015 and evidence that at least 15 students are registered to enroll for the start of the 2015-16 school year.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Executive Committee are scheduled for Sunday, May 3, 2015, at 11 a.m. in Glen Arbor; and Wednesday, June 10, 2015, at 9 a.m. in East Lansing.