

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, August 26, 2015

Members Present:

Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
Fred Smith, Benton Harbor
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Kris Isom, Adrian
Maureen Klocke, Yale

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.

Auburn Hills-Oakland Christian and Clarkston-Everest Collegiate High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of girls competitive cheer to a cooperative agreement between these two schools which exists in several sports. The combined enrollment of 328 students will place one team in the Division 4 tournament. Both schools sponsored the sport previously; Oakland Christian will be the primary school. Support from four future opponents was received.

Colon and Burr Oak High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in wrestling between these two schools whose combined enrollment of 228 students will continue placement of a team in the Division 4 tournament. Colon sponsored wrestling previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Southern Central Athletic Association was submitted.

Custer-Mason County Eastern and Manistee-Catholic Central High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – Because the 2015-16 MHSAA Membership Resolution had not been received for Catholic Central, the Executive Committee tabled the request to approve the addition of boys and girls bowling to a cooperative agreement which exists in football between these two schools with a combined enrollment of 195 students and would continue placement of a team in the Division 4 tournament. Mason County Eastern sponsored bowling previously and would be the primary school. Support from the West Michigan D League was submitted.

Holt, Eaton Rapids, Portland and Pewamo-Westphalia High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of Pewamo-Westphalia to a cooperative program in ice hockey which exists between the other three schools. Potterville was in this program previously and withdrew due to participation. The combined enrollment of 3,438 students will continue placement of a team in the Division 1 tournament. Holt will continue as the primary school. Support from the Capital Area Activities Conference was received.

Iron Mountain and Norway High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of wrestling to a cooperative agreement which exists between these two schools in boys and girl soccer. Both schools sponsored wrestling previously; Iron Mountain will be the primary school. The combined enrollment of 539 students will place a new team in the Division 3 tournament. Support from the Mid-Peninsula Conference was submitted.

Jackson, Jackson-Northwest, Parma-Western and Springport High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of Springport to a cooperative program which exists between the other three schools in ice hockey. The combined enrollment of 3,284 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.

Lansing-Sexton and Lansing-New Covenant Christian High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – Because the 2015-16 MHSAA Membership Resolution had not been received for New Covenant Christian, the Executive Committee tabled a request to approve a cooperative program in wrestling between these two schools whose combined enrollment of 681 students would place a new team in the Division 3 tournament. Sexton sponsored wrestling previously and would be the primary school. Support from the Capital Area Activities Conference was submitted.

Marquette-North Star Academy High School (Regulation I, Section 2) – A request to waive the maximum age limitation for up to one year was made on behalf of a 19-year-old 12th-grade student born May 16, 1996 whose diagnosis of Pervasive Developmental Disorder and borderline intellectual functioning from the 8th grade (Sept. 26, 2011) was reaffirmed by his physician on July 21, 2015. The student is 5'8" tall, weighs 137 pounds and has participated in cross country for the past two seasons.

In considering this matter at its Aug. 5 meeting, the Executive Committee recalled that the specific and limited purpose of adopting an age rule waiver process was to facilitate one additional year of eligibility in the very obvious cases where a student's educational process prior to high school had been delayed solely because of a disability and who at the time of the waiver request has a disability that clearly, directly and substantively impairs both the student's physical capabilities and either intellectual or emotional capabilities, and it is obvious the student does not have a competitive advantage over other students and does not pose a physical risk to him or herself or other students if allowed to participate.

At its Aug. 5 meeting, the Executive Committee noted that the failure to provide all required information in the form requested made this student's situation difficult to assess; but even if viewed in its most favorable light for the student with respect to a waiver request, the documentation that was provided describes the kind of situation for which the MHSAA rule does not require the Executive Committee to make a determination, the "near-impossible determinations" which the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit has labeled "unreasonable" and an "undue burden" for school officials to discern. It is not clear that this student's educational progress was delayed solely by the existence of a disability, and it is not clear that the student at this time has a disability that directly or significantly limits both his physical and either intellectual or emotional capabilities. Absent demonstration of the causal connections required, the request for waiver was not approved.

In response to this action, the school submitted a local news story, three letters from opposing coaches who advocated that the student be allowed to participate, a six-year comparison of the student's height and weight, and a letter from the UP Health System which states that the student has physical disabilities "which decrease his competitive advantage."

In part because the 2015-16 MHSAA Membership Resolution had not been received for North Star Academy, the Executive Committee tabled the request for waiver. Before taking this matter up, the MHSAA must have received the completed Membership Resolution as well as narratives from the school that respond with specific detail to questions that remain inadequately answered with respect to the degree that a disability delayed the student's educational progress prior to 9th grade and the degree to which current physical and either emotional or intellectual disabilities affect the student's ability to participate in interscholastic athletics currently.

Ann Arbor-Skyline High School (Regulation I, Section 7) – A request to waive the previous trimester record regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who experienced debilitating medical issues in October 2014 which caused the student to complete only two courses in the third trimester of the 2014-15 school year. The student attempted to complete three courses but was withdrawn for these same medical reasons. The student would participate on the JV tennis team and is scheduled to take a full class load (five classes) in the fall of 2015.

The Executive Committee granted the request for waiver. The third trimester of 2014-15 is included in the maximum of 12 trimesters during which this student may be eligible for interscholastic athletics since first enrolling in the 9th grade.

Addison High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who has attended Addison Schools since the 2012-13 school year except for three school days starting May 29, 2015 when the student was enrolled in the alternative school at Jackson-Northwest. As a result of a failed relationship with a live-in boyfriend, the student's mother and the student moved into the Northwest district in late May 2015. The student will reenroll at Addison to begin the 2015-16 school year and has returned to live with a family in Addison pending the mother's return.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Auburn Hills-Avondale High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who lived with his parents in Royal Oak until July 29 when the student and his mother only moved into the grandparents' home in the Avondale School District. The parents are currently separated. The student participated in football in the 9th grade and would only participate in subvarsity sports at Avondale.

Citing the specific requirement of Section 9(B) – that the student has not previously participated in high school sports – the Executive Committee did not approve the request for subvarsity participation.

Benton Harbor High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who attended Benton Harbor most of his life and lived with his grandmother except for the last two months of the 2014-15 school year. On April 17, 2015, the student moved to South Bend, Indiana with his stepfather and four stepbrothers to help care for his mother who was ill. The student enrolled in school there and did not participate in athletics. The student has returned to his grandmother's home and is reenrolling at Benton Harbor to begin the 2015-16 school year.

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 11th-grade student who attended Millington while living with his mother and stepfather. The student has moved to the residence of his uncle in Berkley who is his temporary guardian because of abuse in his previous living situation. A court-appointed attorney has written as the student's Guardian Ad Litem that he moved to Berkley to avoid an adverse living situation.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Clarkston-Everest Collegiate High School (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 9th-grade student to permit eligibility in football. The student lives in Clarkston and practiced football for three days with Clarkston High School (Aug. 10, 11 and 12) before taking an entrance exam and registering to enroll at Everest Collegiate on Aug. 13, 2015. The student did not participate in a scrimmage or contest. Everest Collegiate only has a varsity football team.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level only for football and at any level of play for all other sports.

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 a 10th-grade student from an Approved International Student Program whose host family lives in the Athens School District but whose 11th-grade son has attended Climax-Scotts for the past two years.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Constantine High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 74 (practicing with another school in August) was made on behalf of an incoming 9th-grade student to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only in football. The student lives in the White Pigeon School District and practiced football for two days with White Pigeon High School (Aug. 10-11, 2015) before registering to enroll at Constantine on Aug. 14, 2015. The student did not participate in a scrimmage or contest. The student had previously attended Constantine Schools through 3rd grade prior to his family moving to White Pigeon.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level only for football and at any level of play for all other sports.

Erie-Mason High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who attended Monroe-Jefferson High School, played varsity volleyball and whose mother was terminated as the coach at Jefferson High School in 2014-15. After the start of the 2015-16 volleyball season, the student transferred to Erie-Mason.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Farmington Hills-North Farmington High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive or interpret the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who was granted an administrative transfer between Farmington Hills-Harrison and North Farmington, two schools of the same district. The student is taking a class not offered at Harrison but offered at North Farmington. The student also takes a class at Oakland Community College. To ensure the student's safety and limit his traveling between three buildings, the student was transferred into North Farmington so he need only travel between OCC and North Farmington High School.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Fruitport High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically the language of Exception 2, that a student returns to live with “the parents, the single parent if divorced or only living parent,” was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who lived with his grandparents in Florida. The student has moved to the residence of his father in Fruitport and will enroll at Fruitport to begin the 2015-16 school year. The parents never married; the father is listed on the birth certificate. The student has not lived with the mother in nearly three years.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver. This is the only time the student may utilize this exception to the transfer regulation.

Hancock High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 74 (practicing with another school in August) was made on behalf of an incoming 9th-grade student to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only in girls volleyball. The student lives in Calumet and practiced volleyball for one day with Calumet High School (Aug. 12, 2015) before registering to enroll at Hancock High School on Aug. 13, 2015. The student did not participate in a scrimmage or contest at either school.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level only for volleyball and at any level of play for all other sports.

Haslett High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 74 (practicing with another school in August) was made on behalf of an incoming 9th-grade student to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only in football. The student lives in the Bath School District, registered to enroll at Haslett in June 2015 and practiced football for five days with Laingsburg High School (Aug. 10-14, 2015) before returning to enroll at Haslett on Aug 17, 2015. The student did not participate in a scrimmage or contest. The student's 11th-grade brother is also enrolling at Haslett.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level only for football and at any level of play for all other sports.

Hazel Park 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 who is moving from his father's home in Allen Park to his mother's home in the Warren Consolidated School District and enrolling at his former school, Hazel Park, but not his school of residence. The student attended the 10th grade at Hazel Park in 2013-14 while living with his grandmother. The student's parents never married, and an otherwise completed Educational Transfer Form is in process.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver provided the student was eligible when he participated at Allen Park High School during the first semester of the 2014-15 school year. If not, the student is subject to Interpretation 296.

Holt High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation, and specifically Interpretation 74 (practicing with another school in August) was made on behalf of an incoming 9th-grade student to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only in volleyball. The student lives in the Lansing-Everett School District and practiced volleyball for eight days with Everett High School (Aug. 12-19, 2015). The student was on the waiting list at Holt and was accepted at Holt on Aug. 20, 2015. The student did not participate in a scrimmage or contest.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level only for volleyball and at any level of play for all other sports.

Jenison High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who has experienced emotional trauma due to verbal abuse and social media attacks over the past two years at her previous school. The student has been in treatment and diagnosed with emotional health issues. The student has experienced a physiological response to psychological trauma from her peers. Support from the former school was submitted.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Kalamazoo Central High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who moved from Florida with his Jamaican born father over the summer of 2015. The student lived only with the father in Florida. The father must return to Jamaica for a short time to care for his father who is dying. The student will be remaining to reside with his 28-year-old brother in the Kalamazoo Central attendance area (the brother is the only family in the US). Jamaica would not allow the student to return to a high school but must enroll in college there. The mother is not a US citizen. The father will return to Kalamazoo in the near future.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Leland High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who previously attended Benzie Central High School and experienced aggressive behavior and bullying on the part of a coach and administrator who was terminated from coaching by the district and PCMI on May 12, 2015 and placed on unpaid leave as an administrator due to the incidents. The Benzie Central Board of Education reversed these decisions on June 8, 2015, causing the student to seek enrollment at Leland. The family and student have experienced continued difficulties from others in the school community over their complaint.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Leland High School Regulation I, Section 9[C] – A request to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility in boys soccer was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who previously attended Lake Leelanau-St. Mary and participated in the boys soccer cooperative program between these two schools. The student will be enrolling at Leland to begin the 2015-16 school year. Support from St. Mary was provided.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for the sport of boys soccer only.

Linden-Lake Fenton High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who had conflicts with his wrestling coach at his former high school that included attempts to dissuade the student from transferring to Lake Fenton. The student will be enrolling at Lake Fenton to begin the 2015-16 school year.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Macomb-Dakota 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 who is returning to Michigan after six years of residing out of state due to the parent's employment. The family has moved into the Romeo School District but reenrolled at Macomb-Dakota because the student attended Iroquois Middle School which feeds Dakota High School.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Mancelona High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who was removed from his mother's home by Child Protective Services in November 2014 and placed with his grandmother in Mancelona. The student continued to attend Kalkaska High School through the end of the 2014-15 school year. In February 2015, the student moved in with a family in Mancelona because the grandmother could no longer care for the student. The student will enroll at Mancelona to begin the 2015-16 school year.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Midland-Bullock Creek High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student whose mother moved to Arizona and who was neglected by his father in the midst of a divorce and custody battle. The student attended Bullock Creek elementary schools and began the 9th grade at Bullock Creek High School. The student played in three JV football games, after which the father removed the student from the home of the family he was living with and enrolled him at Houghton Lake where the father was living with his girlfriend. Due to an abusive home life with his father, the student was sent to live with his mother and three minor siblings in Arizona. The student played no sports at Houghton Lake or in Arizona. This summer he has returned to live with the same family in the Bullock Creek School District as the student had lived with previously and is enrolled to begin the 2015-16 school year.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver. This is the only time this student may seek waiver of the transfer regulation.

Monroe High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who was removed from an abusive father in November 2014 and placed with her grandmother in the Monroe School District and attended Carleton-Airport High School and participated in athletics. The student completed the 2014-15 school year at Airport and wishes to enroll at Monroe High School to begin the 2015-16 school year. The student's mother, who also lives in Monroe, is seeking custody of the student.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Munising High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of 10th- and 12th-grade brothers who attended Marquette-North Star Academy and participated in athletics. The family has changed residences closer to the grandmother's home because she is in need of care. The students attended Munising Schools previously and reenrolled to begin the 2015-16 school year. The family moved from one part of the Munising School District to another. Both students participate in cross country.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Negaunee 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 student from an Approved International Student Program whose host family lives in the Marquette School District but whose children have attended Negaunee Schools for the past five years.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

North Branch High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 18 year old 12th-grade student whose adoptive parents moved from North Branch to Lapeer in June 2015 and who remained living with a family in North Branch and attending Davison-Faith Baptist School through the end of the 2014-15 school year. The student was in foster care prior to his adoption in 2005 and home schooled for most of his career prior to enrolling at Faith Baptist for the 2014-15 school year. The student will be enrolling at North Branch High School to begin the 2015-16 school year but is not moving from one school district into another, even though his parents now reside in Lapeer. An otherwise completed Educational Transfer Form was submitted.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Owosso High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 74 (practicing with another school in August) was made on behalf of an incoming 9th-grade student to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only in football. The student lives in Owosso and practiced football for six days with Corunna High School (Aug. 10-17, 2015) before registering to enroll at Owosso High School on Aug. 18, 2015. The student did not participate in a scrimmage or contest. The student's 4th-grade sister is also enrolling at Owosso.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level only for football and at any level of play for all other sports.

Pigeon—Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port Laker 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 Unionville-Sebewaing School District but whose children have attended Laker Schools for three years.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Richmond High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – On Aug. 5, 2015, the Executive Committee did not approve a request to waive the transfer regulation made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who previously attended Macomb-Lutheran North before enrolling at Richmond to begin the 2015-16 school year due to financial strains, including a job loss the family is experiencing. Richmond is the school of his family's residence for 20 years. The school requested reconsideration based on additional documentation including a letter from the mother's employer that she will be laid off in October and that the former school does not find the transfer athletically motivated.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Romulus High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – On Aug. 5, 2015, the Executive Committee tabled a request to waive the transfer regulation made on behalf of an 11th-grade student who has lived in Ohio in unhealthy conditions with her grandmother and 15 or more additional occupants for the past two years. Over the summer, a home was found for the student with a family in Romulus. The student's father is not in her life. Her mother is not involved with the student and was recently located in order to sign over Power of Attorney to the family the student now resides with in Romulus. The student has begun counseling for the effects of neglect that have been with her most of her life. She had lived with numerous relatives other than her parents most of her life and has relied on her former club volleyball coach from 2013 from Ohio and the athletic director at Lima High School to assist her in times of need. Additional information has been submitted regarding the student's siblings, the host family and current and former coaches.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Royal Oak High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only is made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who attended Bloomfield Hills-Academy of the Sacred Heart and participated in soccer. The student would like to participate in swimming & diving which her former school did not sponsor.

Citing the specific condition of this Section – that the student has not previously participated in a high school sport – the Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Saginaw-Valley Lutheran High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 74 (practicing with another school in August) was made on behalf of an incoming 9th-grade student to permit eligibility at the subvarsity level only in football. The student attended a Lutheran grade school and practiced football for eight days with Saginaw-Nouvel Catholic (Aug. 10-19, 2015) before registering to enroll at Valley Lutheran on Aug. 21, 2015. The student did not participate in a scrimmage or contest.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level only for football and at any level for all other sports.

St. Clair High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who previously attended Marine City-Cardinal Mooney Catholic and enrolled at St. Clair on March 20, 2015 due to multiple medical diagnoses for which she is under treatment. The student has participated in cross country previously.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

St. Clair Shores-South Lake High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student whose father is not in his life and whose mother is in ill health in Illinois. For the 9th and 10th grades, the student lived with an aunt and attended Detroit-Denby High School. The aunt can no longer care for the student, who has moved into the home of the grandparents in the South Lake School District and will be enrolling to begin the 2015-16 school year.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Tawas 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 10th-grade student who moved from her divorced mother in Utah to the home of her father in the Whittemore-Prescott School District. The student attended Tawas Schools in 2012 before moving to Utah in April 2015. She returned to live with her father and will be reenrolling at Tawas to begin the 2015-16 school year. An otherwise completed Educational Transfer Form is in process.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Ubyly 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 Cass City High School, participated in athletics and resides on the border of the Ubyly School District. The change of schools is for convenience of transportation, work schedules and educational preference. A 9th-grade sister will also be enrolling at Ubyly.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Vicksburg 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 whose father's job was relocated from Connecticut to Michigan and whose family moved over the summer to a home in the Portage Central attendance area. The student signed up for two classes provided by the county intermediate school district at Vicksburg High School and would prefer to be enrolled at Vicksburg for all classes. The student had originally intended to enroll at Kalamazoo-Hackett Catholic Central. The family moved to the area one month ago and closed on a home on July 31, 2015.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Westland-Huron Valley Lutheran High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student whose family lost their home, moved in with friends and attended Walled Lake Central until April 24, 2015 and then Hazel Park High School for the remainder of the second semester of 2014-15. The student attended Huron Valley Lutheran for the 9th grade and until Jan. 30, 2015 of the 10th grade. The student has been in Lutheran schools all his life except for the family's time as homeless. The mother has found government subsidized housing in Kalkaska and moved there with a daughter who is under treatment for health issues. The student wishes to continue his eligibility at Huron Valley Lutheran and has moved in with a family whose children attend Huron Valley Lutheran.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Whittemore-Prescott 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 student whose custody has been court ordered from his father's home in Tawas to his mother's home located in the Hale School District just outside the border of the Whittemore-Prescott School District. Tawas is 15 miles further from the mother's home than is Whittemore-Prescott. The student has had previous involvement with the 4-H program involving many students from Whittemore-Prescott. The student played subvarsity sports at Tawas as a 9th grader and would participate in subvarsity sports at Whittemore-Prescott.

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
Adrian-Lenawee Christian	10	Adrian-Madison	Sept. 8, 2015	Jan. 18, 2016
Colon	10	Sturgis E-School	Sept. 8, 2015	Jan. 18, 2016
Flint—Carman-Ainsworth	10	Genesee Academy	Sept. 8, 2015	Jan. 18, 2016
Flint-Powers Catholic	10	Grand Blanc	Sept. 1, 2015	Jan. 18, 2016
Grand Rapids-West Michigan Aviation	10	East Kentwood	Sept. 8, 2015	Jan. 18, 2016
Kalamazoo-Hackett Catholic Central	10	Garfield Hts, OH – Trinity Catholic	Aug. 24, 2015	Jan. 18, 2016
Linden	10	Genesee Early College	Sept. 8, 2015	Jan. 18, 2016
Warren-Cousino	10	Warren Woods-Tower	Sept. 8, 2015	Jan. 18, 2016
Westland-Huron Valley Lutheran	10	Canton Preparatory	Aug. 27, 2015	Jan. 18, 2016
Westland-Huron Valley Lutheran	10	Canton Preparatory	Aug. 27, 2015	Jan. 18, 2016
Westland-Lutheran Westland	10	Canton-Salem	Aug. 31, 2015	Jan. 18, 2016

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 2015-16 school year only.

Junior High/ Middle School	Sport(s)	High School Enrollment	Middle School Enrollment
Ashley	boys & girls basketball, girls volleyball	96	42 7 th - & 8 th -graders
Byron Center-Zion Christian	boys & girls basketball, boys & girls soccer, baseball, girls volleyball	99	40 7 th - & 8 th -graders
Climax-Scotts	boys & girls basketball, boys & girls track & field, girls volleyball	163	32 7 th -graders 43 8 th -graders
Lake Leelanau-St. Mary	boys & girls basketball, girls volleyball	43	12 7 th -graders 15 8 th -graders
Pentwater	boys & girls basketball, boys & girls cross country, boys & girls soccer, girls volleyball	70	25 7 th -graders 23 8 th -graders
Watervliet-Grace Christian	boys & girls basketball, boys & girls track & field, boys soccer, girls volleyball	55	20 7 th - & 8 th -graders

Berrien Springs and Berrien Springs-Trinity Lutheran Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in football, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls soccer, boys and girls track & field and wrestling between these two member middle schools. Berrien Springs will be the primary school.

Big Rapids and Big Rapids-St. Mary Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program between these two member middle schools in boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, girls volleyball, wrestling and boys and girls track & field. Big Rapids sponsored these sports previously and will be the primary school.

Ortonville-Brandon and Ortonville-Brandon Academy of Arts & Sciences Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in all sports sponsored by these two member schools of the same district, including boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls swimming & diving, boys and girls track & field, girls volleyball, girls competitive cheer, wrestling and football. Brandon Middle School sponsored athletics previously and 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 school:

Jackson Preparatory and Early College High School – This school (JPEC) is located on the campus of Jackson College which serves as the authorizing agency and management company. The school athletic director attended an MHSAA AD Orientation and met with MHSAA staff. The school currently has an enrollment of 116 students in grades 9-11. The school intends to offer a grade 13 of college credit in the future. It should be clear that students will only be eligible for athletics in the first eight semesters of enrollment and not eligible in “grade 13.” It intends to sponsor the following sports for both boys and girls: cross country, soccer, tennis, and basketball, as well as baseball, girls volleyball, girls softball and girls competitive cheer. The school has limited use of athletic fields and facilities on the campus and rents baseball and softball fields from the Jackson Parks & Recreation Department. It will not play any home volleyball or basketball games in 2015-16.

The athletic program is seeking membership in the Mid-South Conference. A signed 2015-16 Membership Resolution and Preliminary Classification Form were received on July 6, 2015. The Athletic Department Code of Conduct has been submitted. If a 2016-17 Membership Resolution is received prior to Sept. 30, 2016, and all other regulations are followed, the school will be eligible for MHSAA tournaments for the 2016-17 school year.

Regulation II, Section 15(F) – Tournament Conditions – At its May, 2015 meeting, the Representative Council approved a proposal to require in ice hockey and soccer (as is already the case in alpine skiing) that a student must have participated as a team member in that sport for his or her school team in at least four meets or games against other MHSAA school teams in order to represent that school team in the MHSAA tournament in that sport. Staff was directed to provide a waiver procedure for ice hockey and soccer (as in alpine skiing) for approval by the Executive Committee and included in the Tournament Managers Manual and Participating School Tournament Information for each sport.

The Executive Committee approved the wording for inclusion in these documents for 2015-16.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Executive Committee are scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2015, at 9 a.m. in East Lansing; Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2015, at 9 a.m. in East Lansing; Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2015, at 9 a.m. in East Lansing; and Thursday, Dec. 3, 2015, at 1 p.m. in East Lansing.