

**MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

East Lansing, August 5, 2015

**9:00 a.m.**

**Committee Members:**

Scott Grimes, Grand Haven  
Vic Michaels, Detroit  
Fred Smith, Benton Harbor  
Kris Isom, Adrian  
Jason Mellema, Pewamo-Westphalia

**Staff Members:**

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.

Summary of 2014-15 Waivers – During the 2014-15 program year, there were 467 (versus 449 in 2013-14, 522 in 2012-13, 506 in 2011-12, 462 in 2010-11, 500 in 2009-10, 540 in 2008-09, 524 in 2007-08, 448 in 2006-07, 518 in 2005-06, 436 in 2004-05, 355 in 2003-04 and 408 in 2002-03) requests by member schools to waive regulations, of which 362 (versus 345 in 2013-14, 416 in 2012-13, 386 in 2011-12, 337 in 2010-11, 366 in 2009-10, 419 in 2008-09, 396 in 2007-08, 326 in 2006-07, 387 in 2005-06, 297 in 2004-05, 214 in 2003-04 and 215 in 2002-03) were approved by the Executive Committee. Of the total, 300 (versus 316 in 2013-14, 338 in 2012-13, 352 in 2011-12, 320 in 2010-11, 320 in 2009-10, 354 in 2008-09, 372 in 2007-08, 282 in 2006-07, 276 in 2005-06, 295 in 2004-05, 232 in 2003-04 and 291 in 2002-03) requests involved the transfer regulation, of which 213 were approved (229 in 2013-14, 259 in 2012-13, 265 in 2011-12, 219 in 2010-11, 217 in 2009-10, 263 in 2008-09, 275 in 2007-08, 198 in 2006-07, 204 in 2005-06, 196 in 2004-05, 144 in 2003-04 and 130 in 2002-03).

Rationale for Transfer Regulation – The following rationale for the transfer regulation, first established by the Executive Committee on Aug. 6, 1985 and last reviewed Aug. 6, 2014, was reaffirmed:

- a. The rule tends to insure equality of competition in that each school plays students who have been in that school and established their eligibility in that school.
- b. The rule tends to prevent students from "jumping" from one school to another.
- c. The rule prevents the "bumping" of students who have previously gained eligibility in a school system by persons coming from outside the school system.
- d. The rule tends to prevent interscholastic athletic recruiting.
- e. The rule tends to prevent or discourage dominance of one sport at one school with a successful program, i.e., the concentration of excellent baseball players at one school to the detriment of surrounding schools through transfers and to the detriment of the natural school population and ability mix.
- f. The rule tends to create and maintain stability in that age group, i.e., it promotes team stability and team work expectation fulfillment.
- g. The rule is designed to discourage parents from "school shopping" for athletic purposes.
- h. The rule is consistent with educational philosophy of going to school for academics first and athletics second.
- i. It eliminates family financial status from becoming a factor on eligibility, thus making a uniform rule for all students across the state of Michigan (i.e., tuition and millage considerations).
- j. It tends to encourage competition between nonpublic and public schools, rather than discourage that competition.
- k. It tends to reduce friction or threat of students changing schools because of problems they may have created or because of their misconduct, etc.

Beaver Island High School (Regulation I, Section 1[D]) – A request was made to waive or interpret Article II, Section 1 of the MHSAA Constitution to allow Beaver Island's 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades to continue MHSAA membership at the junior high/middle school level with fewer than 15 students in total enrolled in those grades. Because the 9-12 enrollment of the high school is 20 students, the school finds it necessary for 7<sup>th</sup>- and 8<sup>th</sup>-grade students to participate with the high school teams, pursuant to Section 1(D).

The Executive Committee noted that the Northern Lights League relies on Beaver Island for competition and supports this request, which would become an unnecessary request if 6<sup>th</sup>-grade students could be included in the junior high/middle school enrollment through the amendment to the MHSAA Constitution which schools will vote on in October. The request to permit membership at the junior high/middle school level for the 2015-16 school year was approved.

Erie-Mason and Ida High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys swimming & diving between these two schools whose combined enrollment of 911 students will continue placement of a team in the Division 3 tournament. Erie-Mason sponsored swimming previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Southern Michigan Independent Swim League was received.

Houghton, Lake Linden-Hubbell, Hancock and Painesdale-Jeffers High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of Lake Linden-Hubbell to a cooperative program in boys and girls alpine skiing which already exists between the other three schools. The combined enrollment of 1,013 students will continue placement of a team in the Division 2 tournament. Houghton will continue as the primary school. Support from two other UP schools was submitted.

Madison Heights-Bishop Foley and Madison Heights-Madison High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in wrestling between these two schools whose combined enrollment of 688 students will place a new team in the Division 2 tournament. Both schools sponsored wrestling previously. Bishop Foley will be the primary school. Support from the Macomb Area Conference was submitted.

Swartz Creek, Clio and Flushing High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of Flushing to a cooperative program in ice hockey which exists between Swartz Creek and Clio. The combined enrollment of 3,474 students will continue placement of a team in the Division 1 tournament. Support from the Flint Metro League was submitted.

Troy and Troy-Athens High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F-3]) – Application was made for a cooperative program in ice hockey in excess of the 3,500-student enrollment limit for these two schools of the same district for a three-year period because of a demonstrated lack of participation in 2014-15. Athens did not sponsor the sport in 2014-15. Troy High School graduated ten seniors and has no subvarsity program. Attempts at forming an agreement under the 3,500-student limit with other schools have not been successful. Support from the Oakland Activities Association was submitted.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver. The team will be allowed to operate as a cooperative program through the end of the 2017-18 season, after which teams must stand alone or reconfigure to an enrollment within the established limit (3,500). The combined enrollment of 4,482 students will continue placement of one team in the Division 1 tournament.

Warren-Mott and Warren-Cousino High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in ice hockey between these two schools of the same district whose combined enrollment of 3,328 students will continue placement of one team in the Division 1 tournament. Sterling Heights, which was also a school of the same district, withdrew from the agreement with Mott due to low participation from its students. Mott will be the primary school. Support from the Macomb Area 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 12<sup>th</sup>-grade student born May 16, 1996 whose diagnosis of Pervasive Developmental Disorder and borderline intellectual functioning from the 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

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.

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.

Ann Arbor-Greenhills 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 father died two years ago and who has struggled emotionally with his death. In 2014-15 while a 10<sup>th</sup>-grader, the student's life was threatened by a teacher at his former school. The teacher was placed on administrative leave and the student has been in counseling since that time. The student has no history of athletic participation.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Battle Creek-Calhoun Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive or interpret the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 78 (home school closing or achieving the highest grade available) was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who has been home schooled his entire life and who is enrolling at Calhoun Christian to begin the 2015-16 school year. The student's older 12<sup>th</sup>-grade sister has enrolled in two classes at a local community college and two classes at home as an independent study. The student's mother has been hired as a teacher at Calhoun Christian and can no longer provide instruction at home. The student has no history of athletic participation, but Calhoun Christian sponsors no subvarsity sports.

The Executive Committee noted that because the student's older sibling has not graduated from high school and continues to be enrolled in home school studies, it cannot be interpreted that the home school has ceased to operate or that the student has completed that home school's highest grade. The request for waiver was not approved.

Beverly Hills-Detroit Country Day 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 10<sup>th</sup>- and 12<sup>th</sup>-grade brothers whose parents have moved from Virginia due to the mother's change in employment. The student attended an independent college preparatory school in Virginia. Bloomfield Hills-Roeper is 0.8 miles from the family's new home; Detroit Country Day is six miles from the new home.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Big Rapids 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 family moved from California to a home in the Reed City School District on March 7, 2015. The student was unaware of school of choice options and the transfer rule and enrolled at Reed City High School. The student now wishes to enroll at Big Rapids High School to begin the 2015-16 school year because of academic and extracurricular opportunities. The student has cousins in attendance at Big Rapids High School.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Blissfield 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 lived with his uncle in Florida since February 2015 when his mother became ill. The student's uncle has been incarcerated in Lenawee County, causing the student to move into the home of a cousin who resides in the Blissfield School District. The student's mother resides in the Adrian-Madison School District and has a chronic disease that requires hospitalization and complex inpatient and outpatient medical treatment which impair her ability to care for her son. The father has not been in the student's life.

The Executive Committee noted that this student's eligibility was approved previously by waiver after a transfer from Adrian High School to Adrian-Madison and that the student has siblings who remain at Adrian-Madison High School. The request for waiver was not approved.

Boyne Falls 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 had a relationship with another student at East Jordan High School. The student's probation officer, parents and former school all recommended that the student enroll at Boyne Falls for his final year of high school in the interest of the female student and other students involved. The student was suspended from athletics for the remainder of the 11<sup>th</sup> grade. The former school and probation officer submitted written support for eligibility at Boyne Falls.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Byron Center 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 and struggled with emotional stability at her previous schools and is enrolling at Byron Center High School to begin the 2015-16 school year, seeking a larger school adding greater diversity in social groups. She attended smaller schools for the 2<sup>nd</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> grades (Legacy Christian) and Wyoming-Tri Unity Christian for the 9<sup>th</sup> grade after a year at Byron Center Middle School for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The student participated in athletics in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and has undergone counseling since December 2012.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Byron Center High School (Regulation I, Section 9[C]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who attended Grand Rapids-South Christian and participated in the boys swimming & diving cooperative program between Byron Center, South Christian and Caledonia High Schools. The student will be enrolling at Byron Center to begin the 2015-16 school year. Support from South Christian was submitted.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for boys swimming & diving until Jan. 18, 2016, after which the student is eligible for other sports as well.

Byron Center 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 has struggled with health issues since 2013 and was hospitalized on two occasions during the 2014-15 school year. The student attempted online courses through Byron Center in the 2013-14 school year and entered the North Star program through the Grand Rapids Public Schools in 2014-15. The student has progressed and would like to return to Byron Center for the 2015-16 school year and participate in cross country.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Canton-Salem 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 previously attended Ann Arbor-Greenhills and is enrolling at Salem to begin the 2015-16 school year because a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade sister is starting school at Salem and an academic offering was not available at Salem when the student originally decided to enroll at Greenhills.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Concord 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 was in ill health and hospitalized for several months in the winter and spring of 2014-15, during which the student engaged in behavior that resulted in a suspension from Marshall High School.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Grand Rapids-Forest Hills Central High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 77 (full and complete residential change) was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student whose family has moved from Kentucky due to the father's employment change and is building a home in the Forest Hills Central attendance area which will not be completed until Sept. 15, 2015. The family entered into a new home construction contract on March 2, 2015. Because there were no rental properties available in the Forest Hills Central attendance area, the family has a lease for an apartment during the summer months in the Forest Hills Northern attendance area. The former residence in Kentucky has been sold.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Grand Rapids Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – On June 10, 2015, the Executive Committee did not approve a request to waive the transfer regulation on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student whose mother has been diagnosed with cancer and who changed residences but within the Grand Rapids-Ottawa Hills attendance area. It was incorrectly reported that the student attended Grand Rapids Christian Middle School through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade before enrolling at Grand Rapids-NorthPointe Christian for the 9<sup>th</sup> grade where he participated in JV soccer. It was also incorrectly reported that two younger siblings attended Grand Rapids Christian Middle School. The student will enroll to begin the 2015-16 school year at Grand Rapids Christian which is the closest nonpublic school to the new residence.

Additional significant information was submitted which clarifies that, after the residential move within the Ottawa Hills attendance area, the distance from the new home is four blocks from Grand Rapids Christian while NorthPointe is 11 miles from the new home. In addition, a 12<sup>th</sup>-grade brother has been in attendance at Grand Rapids Christian High School since middle school and an 8<sup>th</sup>-grade brother has been attending Grand Rapids Christian Middle School for several years. The student attended Grand Rapids Christian Schools through the 5<sup>th</sup> grade and changed schools due to educational needs in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The student wants to try out for JV soccer.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Grand Rapids 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 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student whose parents have joint custody and who attended Grand Rapids-Forest Hills Central High School for the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades. The parenting calendar beginning in January 2015 states that the student lives with his mother during the weeks of the school year in the Forest Hills Northern attendance area and with the father on weekends and in the summer in the Forest Hills Eastern attendance area. The mother previously lived in the Forest Hills Central attendance area before recently moving into the Northern attendance area. The student continued to attend Forest Hills Central through the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Grand Rapids-NorthPointe Christian is the closest nonpublic school to both the mother's and father's residences. The student has cousins who attend Grand Rapids Christian. The father has cited racial and diversity concerns as the reason for changing schools. An otherwise completed Educational Transfer Form has been submitted.

The Executive Committee noted that the student lacks a connection to Grand Rapids Christian High School that is sufficiently compelling to justify a waiver when the student is eligible by rule (without waiver) at any one of four other high schools. The request for waiver was not approved.

Grand Rapids-West Michigan Aviation Academy High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive or interpret the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 78 (home school history of 270 days) was made on behalf of a 12<sup>th</sup>-grade student who took two courses at Comstock Park High School in the first semester of 2014-15 and was home schooled for all other courses that semester and through the end of the 2014-15 school year. The student attended West Michigan Aviation for the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades, was mostly home schooled for the 11<sup>th</sup> grade and is reenrolling at West Michigan Aviation to begin the 2015-16 school year.

The Executive Committee determined that this student is eligible by rule at West Michigan Aviation Academy High School.

Haslett 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 student who attended Haslett Schools from the 1<sup>st</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> grades before moving to Ohio with her birth mother for the 11<sup>th</sup> grade. The student and mother have made a full and complete move into the Okemos School District and will be enrolling to begin the 2015-16 school year at her former school, Haslett, but not the school of residence (Okemos).

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Highland-Milford 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 a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who attended Novi-Detroit Catholic Central High School for the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and will be enrolling at Milford High School to begin the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. The student participated in football and lacrosse previously.

Noting the specific condition of this Section – that the student must not have participated previously in high school athletics – the Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Lawton High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of two 11<sup>th</sup>-grade stepbrothers whose parents married five years ago and who attended Lawton High School for the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and first semester of the 10<sup>th</sup> grade before the father's job was transferred, causing the family to move to Arizona. Both students were unhappy in Arizona, did not participate in athletics and have returned to live with family friends in Lawton. The students will be reenrolling to begin the 2015-16 school year.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Marysville 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 attended Marysville Schools through the 7<sup>th</sup> grade during which the family moved to neighboring St. Clair School District. The student continued to attend Marysville. For the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, the student's school of choice application was turned down by Marysville and the student enrolled in St. Clair Schools for the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades. The student has three older siblings who graduated from Marysville.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Morenci 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 moved into the home of his mother's unmarried male partner with whom the student lived in the same household previously for ten years. The couple split up when the student was 12 years old. On March 17, 2015, the student moved into the home of the only man the student associates as her father. The student continued to attend Adrian through the end of the 2014-15 school year and will enroll at Morenci to begin the 2015-16 school year. The school contends that had these adults married and divorced, an Educational Transfer Form would have served to grant immediate eligibility.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver pending completion of the Educational Transfer Form by both schools and the MHSAA.

Morenci 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 whose guardianship was changed to the residence of a cousin in Morenci due to an abusive home situation. The student's mother gave up legal rights when the student was two years old. The student lived with her grandparents and then her father until he was incarcerated, after which the student lived with the stepmother. This became an abusive situation after her father and stepmother divorced. The student previously attended Clinton Township-Chippewa Valley before the enrolling at Morenci on March 27, 2015.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Richmond 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 previously attended Macomb-Lutheran North before enrolling at Richmond to begin the 2015-16 school year. Richmond has been the school of his family's residence for 20 years. The change of schools is due to financial strains, including a job loss the family is experiencing.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Romulus High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A late request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-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, but was recently located in order to sign over Power of Attorney to the family the student now resides with in Romulus. The student 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.

The Executive Committee tabled the request for waiver.

Saginaw-Heritage 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 was diagnosed and treated with health disorders since 2013. The student attended Heritage to begin the 9<sup>th</sup> grade in the 2013-14 school year and New Millennium Academy from the second semester of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade through the end of the 2014-15 school year. The student attended the Saginaw Career Complex half-time during the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. The student will be reenrolling as a full-time student at Heritage to begin the 2015-16 school year. The student is on medication, has a strong academic record and made progress with her illness.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

St. Charles 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 attended St. Charles for the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and Saginaw-Swan Valley for the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades and is reenrolling at St. Charles to graduate and attend a vocational education program through St. Charles. The student continued to reside in St. Charles, no longer wishes to commute to Swan Valley and can lessen transportation costs by enrolling at St. Charles.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.



Schoolcraft 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 student who is moving between divorced parents from his father in Iowa to his mother who resides in the Vicksburg School District. The student attended Schoolcraft for the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and first semester of the 10<sup>th</sup> grade before moving to Iowa with his father until the end of the 2014-15 school year. The student will be reenrolling at Schoolcraft to begin the 2015-16 school year. An otherwise completed Educational Transfer Form was submitted.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Scottville-Mason County Central 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 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who has moved between his divorced mother in Kansas to his father's residence in the Baldwin School District. The student has undergone a separation from his mother, and the father prefers the student enroll at Mason County Central as the student has several friends there and is more familiar with the school due to visits with the father. Mason County Central is closer to the father's workplace and equidistance from the residence in Baldwin. The student participated in athletics in Kansas.

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 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
Adrian-Lenawee Christian	10	Saline-Washtenaw Christian	Aug. 21, 2015	Jan. 18, 2016
Adrian-Lenawee Christian	10	Manchester	Aug. 21, 2015	Jan. 18, 2016
Farwell	10	Clare	Sept. 8, 2015	Jan. 18, 2016
Grand Rapids-Catholic Central	10	Hope Academy	Aug. 26, 2015	Jan. 18, 2016
Grand Rapids Christian	10	Valor Christian, Colorado	Aug. 18, 2015	Jan. 18, 2016
Litchfield	10	Hillsdale	Sept. 8, 2015	Jan. 18, 2016
Macomb-Lutheran North	10	Macomb-Dakota	Sept. 2015	Jan. 18, 2016
Royal Oak-Shrine	10	Farmington Hills-Mercy	Aug. 2015	Jan. 18, 2016
Saginaw-Heritage	10	BVS, Karachi, Pakistan	Sept. 8, 2015	Jan. 18, 2016
West Bloomfield	10	Walled Lake Central	Sept. 8, 2015	Jan. 18, 2016

Approved International Student Programs (AISP) – Exception 4 of Regulation I, Section 9(A) allows immediate eligibility for one academic year for an otherwise eligible international student on either a J-1 or F-1 visa who is placed in a residence in a public high school district or school service area through an MHSAA Approved International Student Program. Pursuant to Interpretation 83, the Executive Committee reviewed an additional F-1 inbound student program which is in its first year of operation (it placed only one student in the US during 2014-15) and therefore was not eligible for the review and listing process of the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) for 2015-16. The program is Discoveries Academic Student Homestay (DASH) which has a goal of placing 15 students in Michigan schools for 2015-16. The Babylon, NY company submitted extensive documentation with its “Approved International Student Program” application.

The Executive Committee approved DASH for the 2015-16 school year only, during which it should seek CSIET listing for 2016-17.

Allen Park High School (Regulation II, Section 11[H]) – Pursuant to Interpretation 241, a request to waive the four-player rule for the 2015-16 school year was made on behalf of the head girls and boys swimming & diving coach whose primary employment is with the Downriver YMCA and who coaches the Downriver Gators Swim Program. It is anticipated that the Gators program will have 60-95 participants ages 4-18, involving students from several neighboring schools and districts including Allen Park: Cabrini, Southgate Anderson, Gibraltar-Carlson, Wyandotte, Riverview, Woodhaven and Lincoln Park. It is estimated that 5-8 swimmers grades 7-12 from Allen Park Public Schools will participate in the Gators program in 2015-16.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for this coach for the 2015-16 school year.

Okemos High School (Regulation II, Section 11[H]) – Pursuant to Interpretation 241, a request to waive the four-player rule for the 2015-16 school year was made on behalf of the head boys and girls varsity swimming coach who is also employed full-time by the Spartan Swim Club which operates from multiple pools in the area. The program is open to the general public ages 6-18 and anticipates 200 participants in 2015-16 of which 25-30 are Okemos students grades 7-12. The program involves students from ten school districts including Okemos (Haslett, East Lansing, Williamston, Lansing, Holt, DeWitt, St. Johns, Jackson and Mason). Approval has been granted for this coach and this program annually since 2010.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for this coach for the 2015-16 school year.

Oscoda High School (Regulation II, Section 11[H]) – Pursuant to Interpretation 241, a request to waive the four-player rule for the 2015-16 school year was made on behalf of the boys and girls swimming & diving coach who is a teacher in the district who, along with his wife, is also the administrator of the Otter Community Swim Program. It is anticipated that the Otter Swim Program will have approximately 125 participants ages 5-18, including students from four neighboring school districts (Hale, Lincoln-Alcona, Tawas and Whittemore-Prescott). It is estimated that 70 percent of the students are below high school age. Oscoda typically has 10-15 students in its swim program. Oscoda is the only school of the neighboring four with a pool. Because of the limited resources of this community, the Executive Committee has approved the request for waiver for this coach annually since 2009.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for this coach for the 2015-16 school year.

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 6<sup>th</sup>-grade students to participate with and against 7<sup>th</sup>- and/or 8<sup>th</sup>-graders for the sports listed in the 2015-16 school year only:

<b>Junior High/ Middle School</b>	<b>Sport(s)</b>	<b>High School Enrollment</b>	<b>Middle School Enrollment</b>
AuGres-Sims	boys & girls basketball, boys & girls track & field, girls volleyball	148	69 7 <sup>th</sup> - & 8 <sup>th</sup> -graders
Battle Creek-Calhoun Christian	boys & girls basketball, girls volleyball	56	39 7 <sup>th</sup> - & 8 <sup>th</sup> -graders
Brimley	boys & girls basketball, boys & girls cross country, boys & girls track & field, girls volleyball	142	32 7 <sup>th</sup> -graders 33 8 <sup>th</sup> -graders
Escanaba-Holy Name	boys & girls basketball, boys soccer, boys & girls track & field, girls volleyball	N/A	43 7 <sup>th</sup> - & 8 <sup>th</sup> -graders
Fairview	boys & girls basketball, boys & girls cross country, boys & girls track & field, girls volleyball	95	24 7 <sup>th</sup> -graders 24 8 <sup>th</sup> -graders
Gaylord-St. Mary	boys & girls basketball, boys & girls cross country, boys & girls track & field, girls volleyball	91	22 7 <sup>th</sup> -graders 20 8 <sup>th</sup> -graders
Hillsdale Academy (& Hillsdale Prep Coop*)	boys & girls basketball, boys & girls cross country*, boys & girls track & field*, girls volleyball	82	70* 7 <sup>th</sup> - & 8 <sup>th</sup> -graders
Hillsdale Preparatory	boys & girls basketball, boys & girls cross country, boys & girls track & field, girls volleyball, boys soccer	N/A	15 7 <sup>th</sup> - & 8 <sup>th</sup> -graders
Marion	boys & girls basketball, boys & girls cross country, boys & girls track & field, girls volleyball	145	85 7 <sup>th</sup> - & 8 <sup>th</sup> -graders
Northport	boys & girls basketball, girls volleyball	55	21 7 <sup>th</sup> - & 8 <sup>th</sup> -graders
Pewamo-St. Joseph	girls competitive cheer	N/A	23 7 <sup>th</sup> - & 8 <sup>th</sup> -graders
Tekonsha	boys & girls basketball, boys & girls cross country, boys & girls track & field, girls volleyball	81	40 7 <sup>th</sup> - & 8 <sup>th</sup> -graders
Walkerville	boys & girls basketball, boys & girls cross country, boys & girls track & field, girls volleyball	64	31 7 <sup>th</sup> -graders 18 8 <sup>th</sup> -graders
Watersmeet	boys & girls basketball, boys & girls track & field	52	14 7 <sup>th</sup> - & 8 <sup>th</sup> -graders

Hillsdale Academy and Hillsdale Preparatory Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of boys and girls cross country to a cooperative program which exists between these two member middle schools in track & field. Hillsdale Academy will be the primary school.

Muskegon-Mona Shores, Muskegon—Reeths-Puffer, North Muskegon, Muskegon-Catholic Central and Montague-NBC Middle Schools Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program for these five middle schools in boys and girls swimming & diving that parallels a recently approved high school swimming & diving cooperative program. Mona Shores Middle will be the primary school.

Onokama and Bear Lake Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of football to a cooperative program which exists between these member middle schools in cross country and track & field. Onokama sponsored football 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 is to consider membership for the following school:

Detroit-Delta Preparatory Academy for Social Justice High School – This school (DPASJ) is chartered by Ferris State University, located in a former Detroit Public School building (Paul Robson/Malcom X High School) and is run by an alumni chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. It is operated by Equity Education Management Solutions.

The school's athletic director has served in several area charter schools and also attended an MHSAA AD Orientation. The school opened in September 2014 and currently has an enrollment of 250 students grades 9-12. It intends to sponsor boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls track & field, football, boys soccer, girls volleyball, baseball, girls softball and girls competitive cheer. It is expected that an influx of new students may enroll from the recent closings of Highland Park-Renaissance Academy and the Plymouth Education Center High School. The school has no competition gym or outdoor facilities but will use the football equipment and facilities of the former Plymouth Educational Center. The athletic program will join the Michigan Metro league. A signed 2015-16 Membership Resolution and Preliminary Classification Form were received on June, 19, 2015. The Athletic Department Code of Conduct has been submitted. The Executive Committee approved membership for this school at the high school level. 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. As an MHSAA member school, football games which DPASJ plays against other MHSAA member schools will count for Football Playoff points for those other member schools, but DPASJ will not be eligible for the MHSAA Football Playoffs in the 2015-16 school year.

MHSAA Committees – The Executive Committee reviewed and approved appointments of membership on MHSAA committees meeting prior to Jan. 1, 2016. Committee meeting dates for the 2015-16 school year were also provided.

Executive Director Performance Agreement – The Executive Committee reviewed and approved the executive director's 2015-16 Standards of Performance and contract extension.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Executive Committee are scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2015, at 9 a.m. in East Lansing; Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2015, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2015, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2015, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; and Thursday, Dec. 3, 2015, at 1 p.m. in East Lansing.