

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

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

East Lansing, March 20, 2014

Members Present:

Jim Derocher, Negaunee  
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven  
Vic Michaels, Detroit  
Fred Smith, Buchanan  
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 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.

Port Hope High School (Membership and Regulation I, Section 1) – A request was made to permit Port Hope High School students to be eligible for athletics in the 2014-15 school year in soon-to-be-approved cooperative programs. The request was based on an arrangement of contracted educational services with North Huron where Port Hope students will be receiving active credit on a Port Hope transcript for instruction at North Huron. The Port Hope Board of Education has scheduled an election in November 2014 for annexation of its district to North Huron and wishes to grant diplomas to its 2014-15 12<sup>th</sup>-grade students. Eligibility for students enrolled in Port Hope during 2014-15 would only be in cooperative programs with North Huron. Eligibility in 2015-16, when Port Hope is closed due to annexation, would be to any school under Exception 6.

For the limited circumstances presented, the Executive Committee interpreted the MHSAA Constitution to permit Port Hope to continue in MHSAA membership and for its students to participate in cooperative programs with Kinde-North Huron that are approved by both school districts and the MHSAA for 2014-15.

Dearborn Heights-Star International and Westland-Universal Learning Academy High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a new cooperative program in seven sports for the 2014-15 school year between these two charter schools which are under the management of the Hamadeh Educational Services and whose combined 2014-15 enrollment is 436 students. Universal Learning Academy is in its first year of MHSAA membership. Universal Learning Academy will also be added to the current cooperative program that exists in football between Star International and Detroit-Universal Academy. The new agreement includes the following sports, all of which are sponsored by Star International which will be the primary school: boys soccer, girls volleyball, girls basketball, boys basketball, girls soccer, girls softball and baseball. Support from the Charter School Conference was submitted.

Holt High School (Regulation I, Section 7) – A request to waive the previous academic credit record regulation was made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who has failed several classes while in high school and is two courses short of 66 percent of full credit load potential for a full-time student for the first semester of 2013-14 because of poor attendance related to medical issues.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Olivet High School (Regulation I, Section 7) – A request to waive the previous academic credit record regulation was made on behalf of a 12<sup>th</sup>-grade student whose class load in the first semester of 2013-14 was cut in half from four block classes as a result of serious injuries from an auto accident on Oct. 13, 2013. The student passed two of four blocks and recently enrolled in a third of four block classes for the second semester of 2013-14.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver and noted that the previous and current terms count toward the maximum number of terms allowed under Regulation I, Sections 4 and 5.

Allendale High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request was made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment. The student previously participated in athletics and attended Kent City High School before enrolling at Allendale on March 10, 2014.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with this student's 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment at Allendale High school starting March 10, 2014.

Battle Creek-Lakeview High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment. The student previously attended Marshall and participated in swimming. The student's father visited Lakeview on March 12, the student registered to enroll on March 17 and began classes on March 18, 2014.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Belding High School (Regulation I, Section 9[B]) – A request to waive the transfer regulation for subvarsity eligibility was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student whose personal issues were significant enough that her doctor recommended she change schools from Belding to Saranac High School on Oct. 23, 2013. In December 2013, the student inquired about returning to Belding but the school advised the student to enroll at the start of the second semester. The student reenrolled at Belding on Feb. 25, 2014. The student played JV softball at Belding in 2013.

Citing the specific condition of this Section that previous participation has not occurred, the Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Brooklyn-Columbia Central High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request was made on behalf of a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment. The student previously participated in athletics and attended Napoleon High School before enrolling at Columbia Central on March 5, 2014.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment at Columbia Central starting March 5, 2014.

Burr Oak High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student whose mother's illness requires hospital treatments in Battle Creek. The student and mother reside in Burr Oak and the student previously attended Bronson Schools before enrolling at Burr Oak on Feb. 25, 2014, because it is five miles closer to their home than Bronson High School.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Canton-Plymouth Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student whose relationship with her stepmother was irreconcilable to the point where the student moved to the residence of an aunt in Canton and enrolled at Plymouth Christian on Jan. 28, 2014. The student previously attended Southgate High School and has no prior history of high school athletics, but the school does not offer JV softball.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Cassopolis-Ross Beatty High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment. The student previously participated in athletics and attended South Bend-John Adams High School before enrolling at Cassopolis on March 12, 2014.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with this student's 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment at Ross Beatty starting March 12, 2014.

Coldwater High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student whose family was in the process of relocating their residence to Sturgis because of the mother's new employment. The student participated in volleyball at Sturgis, and two grade school age siblings enrolled in the Sturgis schools. In October 2013, the new home purchase fell through and the student and siblings reenrolled in the Coldwater School District on Oct. 31, 2013. The student practiced all season but did not play with the Coldwater basketball team.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Fair Haven-Anchorage Bay 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 previously attended Macomb-Lutheran North High School before enrolling at Anchor Bay on Oct. 28, 2013. The student has a desire to attend a military academy or top tier university and changed schools primarily for academic considerations. If immediate eligibility was not approved, the school requested eligibility on the 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver for eligibility immediately or after 90 school days of enrollment.

Fruitport High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 61 (public school of residence) was made on behalf of a 12<sup>th</sup>-grade foreign exchange student from a CSIET-approved program whose host family lives in the Muskegon-Mona Shores School District but whose children have attended Fruitport Schools for several years, including current 3<sup>rd</sup>- and 12<sup>th</sup>-grade students.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Grand Rapids-Wellspring Preparatory High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12<sup>th</sup>-grade student who arrived in the United States and was placed by CETUSA, a CSIET-listed foreign exchange program, in the Grand Rapids Montessori School (a non-traditional school of the Grand Rapids Public Schools). The student arrived in the United States on Jan. 14, 2014, and attended the Montessori School for five school days (Jan. 20-24, 2014). Having realized the school placement was incompatible, the student did not attend school the next week and enrolled at Wellspring on Feb. 4, 2014. The student will only be in Michigan for the second semester and return to Germany at the end of the 2013-14 school year. Wellspring is the closest charter school to the host family's residence.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Harbor Beach High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request was made on behalf of a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment. The student previously attended Port Hope High School and participated in athletics before enrolling at Harbor Beach on March 17, 2014. Port Hope announced its intention to close at the end of the 2014-15 school year and seek contracted services for instruction for its students from Kinde-North Huron Schools pending an annexation election in November 2014. The public announcement of this came after the fourth Friday of February.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with this student's 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment at Harbor Beach starting March 17, 2014.

Hudson High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student whose father died on Feb. 5, 2014, and who moved into the residence of her paternal grandmother in Hudson. The student previously attended Adrian High School while living with her father and enrolled at Hudson on Feb. 25, 2014. The student's mother has not been in her life for four years. The grandmother has had custody of an older sister since she was an infant.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

McBain-Northern Michigan Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment. The student previously participated in athletics and attended Cadillac High School before enrolling at Northern Michigan Christian on Dec. 2, 2013.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Negaunee High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request was made on behalf of a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment. The student previously participated in athletics and attended Ishpeming-Westwood High School before enrolling at Negaunee on March 13, 2014.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with this student's 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment at Negaunee starting March 13, 2014.

Rochester Hills-Stoney Creek High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and Interpretation 61 (public school of residence) was made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who has been raised by her grandparents since 2008 and recently returned to their home after attempting to reconnect with her mother who struggles with substance abuse and mental illness. The student began the 9<sup>th</sup> grade at Rochester High School while living with her grandparents in Rochester. To begin the 10<sup>th</sup> grade, the student moved in with her mother and attended Grosse Pointe South High School through the first semester of the 11<sup>th</sup> grade. During this time, the student experienced anxiety and depression related to her relationship with her mother and went into the care of mental health professionals. Upon her counselor's recommendation, the student returned to the grandparents' home in Rochester and enrolled at Stoney Creek on Jan. 30, 2014. The student did not return to Rochester because of harassment by other students and anxiety over an older brother's reputation.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Romulus-Summit Academy North High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request was made on behalf of a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment. The student has not previously participated in athletics and attended Southgate-Anderson High School before enrolling at Summit Academy North on Oct. 14, 2013.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with this student's 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment at Summit Academy North starting Oct. 14, 2013.

Sterling Heights-Parkway Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – On Dec. 5, 2013, the Executive Committee did not approve immediate eligibility for this 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who attended Parkway Christian Schools from the 6<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> grades before enrolling at Utica Eisenhower to begin the 2013-14 school year. Two siblings remained at Parkway Christian. The student missed his former school and he reenrolled at Parkway Christian when the first trimester at Eisenhower concluded. A request was made to permit eligibility on the 91<sup>st</sup> school day of enrollment. The student previously participated in athletics before enrolling at Parkway Christian on Nov. 8, 2013.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Sterling Heights-Parkway Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 61 (closest nonpublic school) was made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student whose mother in Pennsylvania no longer wanted to care for the student and who is now residing at his father's home in Clinton Township. The father's home is less than one mile closer to Faith Christian Academy than to Parkway and the father has neighbors who attend Parkway. An otherwise completed Educational Transfer Form is in process.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Vicksburg High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – On Feb. 19, 2014, the Executive Committee tabled a request to waive the transfer regulation made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who is returning to Vicksburg High School after withdrawing prior to being expelled as a 10<sup>th</sup>-grader in December 2012. The student spent two months in a residential treatment facility and enrolled at Mendon in January 2013 where he did not participate in athletics. On Nov. 8, 2013, the student reenrolled at Vicksburg whose preexisting policy is to accept students who return after a period of expulsion (Exception 14). The school submitted additional information that it has allowed other students to withdraw in the face of expulsion and that this student had no prior discipline history. The school has a policy where an expelled student may return to the school after an established period.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Warren Mott High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation and specifically Interpretation 61 (public school of residence) was made on behalf of an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student who lived with his divorced father while attending Shelby High School and has moved in with his mother in the Warren Woods-Tower School District. The student enrolled at Warren Mott on Dec. 3, 2013, because a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade brother and elementary school age sister enrolled in the Warren Mott Schools to begin the 2013-14 school year. The divorce was final in June 2013. An Educational Transfer Form is in process.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Westland-John Glenn High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of two 10<sup>th</sup>-grade sisters who enrolled at Westland-John Glenn on Oct. 21, 2013, after an assault and other threats against their safety while attending Taylor-Truman High School, where they participated in athletics. The students reside in the City of Westland but within the Taylor-Truman attendance area. The students enrolled at Westland-John Glenn as there was room for the students.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Wyoming High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student who was living with her sister and brother-in-law in Anchorage, Alaska since June 2012. In January 2014, the student moved to another sister's home in Wyoming when the brother-in-law was deployed by the military to Japan and the sister moved to New York for Coast Guard training. While in middle school in Kent City, the student was the victim of abuse in the parent's home and was removed to the sister's home in Anchorage. The student participated previously in athletics and enrolled at Wyoming High School on Jan. 20, 2014.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Subvarsity Waiver Requests Meeting All Conditions of Section 9(B) – The Executive Committee approved immediate eligibility at the subvarsity level for the following transferring 9<sup>th</sup>- or 10<sup>th</sup>-grade students (after entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade, before completing 10<sup>th</sup> grade) **who have not previously participated in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest in any MHSAA sport at the high school level** (whether MHSAA member schools or not) and who do not qualify for one of the 15 stated exceptions to the transfer regulation and have transferred for reasons having nothing to do with athletics, discipline or family finances and would not require Executive Committee evaluation or comparison of school demographics or curriculum:

Requesting High School	Grade	Former High School	Date of Enrollment	Length of Subvarsity Eligibility Status
Adrian	9	MVCA Online Academy	Jan. 30, 2014	Remainder of 13-14 school year
Brighton	9	Novi-Detroit Catholic Central	Jan. 27, 2014	Remainder of 13-14 school year
Farmington Hills-North Farmington	10	Farmington Hills-Harrison	Dec. 9, 2013	Remainder of 13-14 school year
Gaylord-St. Mary	9	Petoskey-St. Michael the Archangel	Jan. 20, 2014	Remainder of 13-14 school year
Hartland	9	Howell	Nov. 20, 2014	Remainder of 13-14 school year
Mancelona	9	Kalkaska	Jan. 27, 2014	Remainder of 13-14 school year
Oscoda	10	Madison Heights-Lamphere	Jan. 10, 2014	Remainder of 13-14 school year
Oxford	9	Clarkston Jr. High	Jan. 7, 2014	Remainder of 13-14 school year
Twining-Arenac Eastern	9	AuGres-Sims	Nov. 25, 2013	Remainder of 13-14 school year

Essexville-Garber High School (Regulation II, Section 10) – A request to waive the tennis daily limitation of no more than four matches in a day (provided the first three matches did not exceed six sets) was made to allow the five girls tennis teams in Bay County to participate in a round robin tournament for the Bay County Championship on April 25, 2014. The request was to allow each team to play four different opponents, in an eight-game pro set. A pro set is in lieu of a regular match format. The request would allow the county meet to be conducted in one day. Note: a similar allowance was approved by the Executive Committee in February 2013 for the Saginaw Valley League as it expanded league membership.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Regulation III, Section 1(C) – Pursuant to 2013-14 *Handbook* Interpretation 262, 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 2014-15 school year only (unless otherwise indicated below).

Junior High/ Middle School	Sport(s)	High School Enrollment	Middle School Enrollment
Buckley	boys & girls basketball, boys & girls track & field, boys & girls cross country, boys soccer, girls volleyball	122	24 7 <sup>th</sup> -Graders 20 8 <sup>th</sup> -Graders

Lapeer—Rolland-Warner and Lapeer-Zemmer Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of boys and girls track & field to a cooperative program which already exists between these two schools of the same district in boys and girls cross country, wrestling and baseball. Rolland-Warner sponsored the sports previously and will be the primary school.

Bank Resolution – The Executive Committee approved the PNC Bank Resolution for Extensions of Credit authorizing John E. Roberts, Executive Director, to act on behalf of the MHSAA; such Resolution to be signed by Secretary/Treasurer Vic Michaels. This facilitates replacement of existing corporate credit cards.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Executive Committee are scheduled for Wednesday, April 23, at 9 a.m. in East Lansing (Audit & Finance Committee follows); Sunday, May 4, at 10:30 a.m. in Gaylord (Representative Council in p.m.); and Wednesday, June 11, at 9 a.m. in East Lansing.