

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Virtual, June 13, 2024

9:00 a.m.

Committee Members:

Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
John Thompson, Brighton
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Anna Rigby, Harbor Springs
Judy Cox, Auburn

Staff Members:

Cody Inglis
Mark Uyl (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 MHSAA is a private, nonprofit corporation, made up of voluntary membership; it is neither a state agency nor a court of law, and is not bound by any particular legal standard of review or burden of proof when applying its Regulations or while administering an internal appeal. The *MHSAA Handbook* may identify which party bears the burden of proof, depending on the particular situation or if a particular Regulation is at issue. The MHSAA staff, its Executive Committee, or its Representative Council, where appropriate, shall determine whether the circumstances in each situation, as presented to the MHSAA, warrant application or waiver of a particular Regulation or Interpretation. To make that determination, the MHSAA considers what a reasonable person given the same information would decide.

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 was 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 vacated.

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 agreement 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.

Dollar Bay High School (Regulation I, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a request to allow the use of 8th-grade student-athletes in their athletic programs. Dollar Bay High School will have 109 students in grades 9-12 for the 2024-25 school year. The request went to the Executive Committee with specific numbers, causes, and rationale about the positive impact of using 8th graders at Dollar Bay in all sports starting in fall 2024. League support from the Copper Mountain Conference was submitted.

Ewen-Trout Creek High School (Regulation I, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a request to allow the use of 7th-grade student-athletes in their athletic programs. Ewen-Trout Creek High School will have 58 students in grades 9-12 for the 2024-25 school year. The request went to the Executive Committee with reasons and rationale about the positive impact of using 7th graders at Ewen-Trout Creek in all sports starting in the fall of 2024. The Cooper Mountain Conference submitted league approval for the request.

Lake Linden–Hubbell High School (Regulation I, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a request to allow the use of 8th-grade student-athletes in their athletic programs. Lake Linden-Hubbell High School will have 107 students in grades 9-12 for the 2024-25 school year. The request went to the Executive Committee with specific numbers, causes, and rationale about the positive impact of using 8th graders at Lake Linden-Hubbell in their athletic programs. League support from the Copper Mountain Conference was submitted.

Lawrence High School (Regulation I, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a request to allow the use of 8th-grade student-athletes in their athletic programs except football and wrestling. Lawrence High School will have 123 students in grades 9-12 for the 2024-25 school year. The request went to the Executive Committee with cause and rationale about the positive impact of using 8th graders at Lawrence starting in fall 2024. League support from the Southwest 10 was submitted.

Athens and Tekonsha High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys and girls golf (varsity only) between these schools. The combined enrollment will be 240 students, adding one team to Division 4. Athens will be the primary schools. Support from the South Central Athletic Association was submitted.

East Lansing, DeWitt and Lansing Catholic High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F-1]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of Lansing Catholic to an existing cooperative program in gymnastics (varsity only) between these schools. The combined enrollment will be 2,590 students. East Lansing will remain the primary school. Support from the Capital Area Activities Conference was submitted.

Elk Rapids, Traverse City-St. Francis, Central Lake and Bellaire High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of Bellaire to an existing cooperative program in boys and girls skiing (varsity only) between these schools. The combined enrollment will be 845 students which will keep the team in Division 2. Elk Rapids will remain the primary school. Support from potential future opponents was submitted.

Grand Rapids-Northview and Grand Rapids-West Catholic High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F-1]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys lacrosse (varsity and JV) between these schools. The combined enrollment of 1,608 students will place the team in team in Division 1, removing one team from Division 2. Northview will be the primary school. Support from the OK Conference was submitted.

Harbor Springs, Petoskey-St. Michael and Harbor Springs-Harbor Light Christian High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of Harbor Light Christian to an existing cooperative program in girls golf (varsity and JV) between these schools. The combined enrollment will be 333 students, keeping the team in Division 4. Harbor Springs will remain the primary school. Support from the Northern Shores Conference was submitted.

Lansing-Sexton, Lansing-Everett and Lansing Eastern High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E-2]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in girls golf (varsity and JV) between these schools. The combined enrollment of 2,756 students will add one team to Division 1. Lansing-Sexton will be the primary school. Support from the Capital Area Activities Conference was submitted.

Linden-Lake Fenton and Linden High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F-1]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys tennis (varsity only) between these schools. The combined enrollment of 1,483 students will place the team in Division 1. Lake Fenton will be the primary school. Support from the Flint Metro League was submitted.

Manistee, Ludington, Hart, Scottville-Mason County Central, Custer-Mason County Eastern, Shelby and Pentwater (Regulation I, Section 1[F-2]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of Pentwater to an existing cooperative program in ice hockey (varsity only) between these schools. The combined enrollment will be 2,390 students, which will keep the team in Division 2. Manistee will remain the primary school. Support from potential future opponents was submitted.

Muskegon Catholic Central and Fruitport-Calvary Christian High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys basketball (varsity only) between these schools. The combined enrollment of 157 students will place the team in Division 4, removing one team from the division. Muskegon Catholic Central will be the primary school. Support from the Alliance League was submitted.

Muskegon-Mona Shores and Whitehall High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F-2]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in ice hockey (varsity only) between these schools. The combined enrollment of 1,809 students will place the team in Division 3. Mona Shores will be the primary school. Support from the OK Conference was submitted.

New Buffalo and Three Oaks-River Valley High School (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in girls basketball (varsity and JV) between these schools. The combined enrollment of 355 students will place the team in Division 3, removing two teams from Division 4. New Buffalo will be the primary school. Support from potential future opponents was submitted.

Port Huron, St. Clair, Marine City, Yale, Kimball-New Life Christian Academy, Imlay City, Genesee, Almont and Armada High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F-2]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of Kimball-New Life Christian Academy, Port Huron, Genesee, Almont and Armada to an already existing ice hockey (varsity only) cooperative program between Port Huron, St. Clair Marine City, Yale and Memphis. The combined enrollment of 4,696 students will move the team from Division 2 to Division 1. Port Huron will remain the primary school. Support from the Macomb Area Conference was submitted.

Redford-Thurston and Redford-Union High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F-1]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys and girls swimming & diving (varsity and JV) between these schools. The combined enrollment of 1,659 students will place the team in Division 1, removing a team from each Divisions 2 and 3. Redford-Thurston will be the primary team. Support from the Western Wayne Athletic Conference was submitted.

Sault Ste Marie-Sault Area and Rudyard High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys soccer (varsity only) between these schools. The combined enrollment of 977 students will place the team in Division 2, making no change to the current alignment. Sault Area will be the primary schools. Support from potential future opponents was submitted.

Traverse City Central and Traverse City West High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F-1]) – A request to extend a boys lacrosse cooperative agreement between these schools through the 2024-25 school year. Initially, the request to extend the renewal of the cooperative program, between these two schools of the same district, was granted for the 2023-24 school year only and was based solely upon the request. The school requested additional time to ensure fundraising can be done to support two separate high school teams.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Essexville-Garber High School (Regulation I, Section 2[B]) – A request to waive the age rule was made on behalf of an incoming 12th-grade student (D.O.B. June 21, 2005). The student was held back in kindergarten because of a hearing disability, which impacted his academic progress. The school requested that the student participate in football in the fall of 2024 even though he will be over the age limit for participation. The request came with documentation regarding the student's academic background.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Bloomfield Hills-Brother Rice High School (Regulation I, Sections 4[A] & 5[A]) – A second request to waive the maximum enrollment and competition portions was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student at Brother Rice High School. The student transferred back to Brother Rice from Minnetonka High School in Minnesota in March 2024. The student skipped 8th grade and chose to attend Brother Rice in the fall of 2020 where the student played hockey. The family moved to South Dakota in 2021 and the student attended O'Gorman High School before transitioning to online education. The family then moved to Minnesota because the student's mother was diagnosed with a heart condition. The student competed for two seasons in hockey for Minnetonka during the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years. The family moved back to Michigan where the student enrolled again at Brother Rice. The student has one more academic year remaining but will be his fifth year of high school. New information includes a medical letter and reports from the doctor who has treated the student for concussion and neck pain.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Caledonia High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A second request to waive the transfer regulation was made for a current 10th-grade student who attended Thornapple-Kellogg High School for his 9th-grade year and the start of his 10th-grade year before transferring to Caledonia High School. The student and family struggled with concerns about the environment at Thornapple-Kellogg. The student and family desire a new school environment and a fresh start for the student. The student competed in boys basketball at Thornapple-Kellogg. The school asked for immediate eligibility in boys basketball. New information included additional letters of support from Thornapple-Kellogg.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Grayling High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who transferred to Grayling High School from Glen Lake High School during his 9th-grade year in March of 2024. While at Glen Lake the student competed in football. The student struggled with the death of his mother during the 2023-24 school year. The student and his younger brother moved to Grayling to live with his grandparents. The new school requested immediate eligibility in football for fall 2024. Glen Lake also submitted supporting information regarding the transfer.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Hazel Park High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation is made for an incoming 10th-grade student who previously attended Lamphere Schools and competed in volleyball and basketball. The student was involved in an incident at the previous school which was confirmed by personnel in both districts. The request is for immediate eligibility in volleyball and basketball given the student's situation.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Monroe High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made for an incoming 12th-grade student who attended Ida High School in the 2023-24 school year and competed in soccer. The student transferred to Monroe High School during the 2023-24 school year after experiencing a challenging situation at Ida. Ida supports the change of school for the student, indicating that this was a chance for a fresh start in a school where the student felt supported and comfortable. The request was for immediate eligibility in soccer.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Orchard Lake-St. Mary's Preparatory High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who transferred to Orchard Lake-St. Mary's Preparatory High School at the start of the second semester, after starting the 2023-24 school year at Mercy High School. While attending Mercy, the student was a victim of cyberbullying and threats. The student entered counseling, and ultimately, a new start was needed. While at Mercy, the student competed in JV volleyball. St. Mary's asked for immediate eligibility in volleyball.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Orchard Lake-St. Mary's Preparatory High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an incoming 10th-grade student who has transferred to St. Mary's Preparatory High School after attending Our Lady of the Lakes High School during her 9th-grade year. While the student was in 8th grade, the student's mother passed away. The student attended Our Lady of the Lakes for her 9th-grade year. The student has a counselor, and the family determined a new start in a new school was needed and she will be enrolling at OLSM for the 2024-25 school year. While at Our Lady of the Lakes, the student competed in volleyball and basketball. The school asked for immediate eligibility.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Portage Northern High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an incoming 10th-grade student who transferred to Portage Northern High School on November 14, 2024, after attending Mattawan High School to start his high school career. While at Mattawan, the student reported issues that he witnessed and experienced, which made him feel uncomfortable and needed a change of school climate. The request was for eligibility in football at Portage Northern for the 2024 fall season, the sport he played while a 9th grader at Mattawan. Documentation from the former school was included and with a student and parent letter.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level in football.

Rochester-Adams High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A second request to waive the transfer rule was made on behalf of an incoming 12th-grade student who transferred from Auburn Hills-Oakland Christian High School, where she competed in cross country, basketball, and track. The student's younger sister will also enroll at Rochester-Adams High School in the fall, and the family desires the sisters to stay together for social, emotional, and mental health needs. The younger sister has academic needs that Adams can better support, hence the transfer from Oakland Christian. The school requested eligibility in all sports starting in the fall of 2024. New information received included the student's struggles with mental health, and a letter from the student's medical provider.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Rochester- Adams High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer rule was made on behalf of a student who transferred from Pontiac-Notre Dame Prep High School to Adams High School after his 9th-grade year. Adams is the student's district of residence. The student participated in football, wrestling, and lacrosse at Notre Dame Prep. In March of this school year, false allegations of the student bringing a gun to school were investigated by police and school administration. While the allegations were proven to be false the student was only able to finish this school virtually. Notre Dame Prep administration supplied a letter of support for the student and his transfer. The new school requested subvarsity eligibility in all sports for the 2024-25 school year.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver at the subvarsity level in football and lacrosse, and full eligibility in wrestling.

St. Charles High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A second request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an incoming 12th-grade student who participated in track, baseball, football, and basketball while at Hemlock High School until September 28, 2023, when he transferred and enrolled at St. Charles High School. The student and his mother moved in with her sister in the St. Charles School District, but the student's 21-year-old brother and the brother's girlfriend and father still live in the Hemlock home. The student and family had some challenges at Hemlock and with staff members that required him to leave Hemlock and get a fresh start for his mental health. The new request was for immediate eligibility, and if not possible, after 4 games of football at St. Charles, the number of games he played at Hemlock before the transfer. New letters of support from the family were submitted.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver after four football games.

Saline High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an incoming 10th-grade student who has transferred from Dexter High School to Saline High School. The student attended Dexter and played volleyball and basketball for her 9th-grade year before transferring to start trimester 3 at Saline. While at Dexter, the student experienced challenges with the basketball program and its culture. The parents felt a move to a different district would help with these issues. Saline asked for immediate athletic eligibility in volleyball and basketball. Documentation included several letters of support, medical letters, and email exchanges between the parents and schools involved.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Saline High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an incoming 10th-grade student who transferred from Ann Arbor-Huron High School to Saline High School. The student attended Huron and played football and basketball for his 9th-grade year before transferring to Saline at the end of the school year. While at Huron, the student experienced challenges with the athletic program that resulted in the student's overall wellbeing impacted. The parents felt a move to a different district would help with these issues and are, in fact, moving all of their students from Huron to Saline. Saline asked for immediate athletic eligibility in football and basketball, and if that couldn't be granted, then at the JV-only level. Documentation included a report summarizing the issues that the family encountered at Huron.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Sterling Heights High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 10th-grade student who attended Warren Woods-Tower High School as a freshman and swam. At the start of the second semester of the 2022-23 school year, the student transferred to Sterling Heights High School. The student has experienced mental health challenges, which resulted in therapy for the student. The family determined a new start in the student's home district was necessary for her continued improvement and emotional needs. The request was for immediate eligibility in swimming.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Warren-De La Salle High School (Regulation I, Section 10) – The Executive Committee received a request to modify the MHSAA staff penalty for a violation of Regulation I, Section 10. After a discussion of the facts in this matter, the Executive Committee approved an amended penalty in light of *MHSAA Handbook* language.

Kalamazoo Christian, Kalamazoo-St. Augustine Cathedral and Kalamazoo-St. Monica Catholic Middle Schools (Regulation III, Section 1[D]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in football (7th and 8th grades combined) between these schools. Kalamazoo Christian will be the primary school.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Downriver Middle School League (Regulation IV, Section 10[B]) – A request to allow this league to begin middle school football practice seven days earlier than allowed by the regulation on Monday, Aug. 19, 2024. Practice is permitted on the 14th Monday before Thanksgiving (Aug. 26, 2024). The early start date will allow schools to have five days of practice (they do not practice on the weekends) prior to their first contest. It will also permit the league to complete its league schedule prior to winter sports and be able to get a scrimmage in before the season starts. The Downriver Middle School League offers four seasons of participation, and this will also permit some time off between the fall and winter seasons.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

2024-25 MHSAA Handbook – The Executive Committee reviewed and approved the 2024-25 *MHSAA Handbook* Tournament Ticket Disclaimer.

MHSAA Handbook - Basketball (Regulation II, Section 11[F]) – Starting in 2025-26, The Executive Committee approved that basketball contests may begin after 7 separate days of practice for the team and not before 19 calendar days after the first date practice is permitted (3rd Monday after practice begins). This is due to change in 2025-26 of allowing basketball practice to begin five days earlier (previous Wednesday).

2024-25 Multimedia Regulations – The Executive Committee reviewed and approved the 2024-25 Multimedia Regulations.

2024-25 MHSAA Officials Guidebook – The Executive Committee reviewed and approved the 2024-25 Officials Guidebook.

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 will review the CSIET J-1 and F-1 inbound student programs as well as all member-school-operated international student programs and determined that the following are MHSAA approved for the 2024-25 school year:

[CSIET J-1 Inbound Listed Programs](#)
[CSIET F-1 Inbound Listed Programs](#)

MHSAA Member School Programs (limited to five international students participating or one percent of high school enrollment, whichever is greater):

- Birmingham-Brother Rice High School – Maximum of **six (6)** international students (total of J-1 and F-1 visa students) allowed to participate on varsity level interscholastic teams during the **2024-25** academic year.
- Burton-Genesee Christian High School – Maximum of **five (5)** international students (total of J-1 and F-1 visa students) allowed to participate on varsity level interscholastic teams during the **2024-25** academic year.
- Clarkston-Everest Collegiate High School – Maximum of **five (5)** international students (total of J-1 and F-1 visa students) allowed to participate on varsity level interscholastic teams during the **2024-25** academic year.
- Grand Rapids Christian High School – Maximum of **eight (8)** international students (total of J-1 and F-1 visa students) allowed to participate on varsity level interscholastic teams during the **2024-25** academic year.
- Grand Rapids-NorthPointe Christian High School – Maximum of **five (5)** international students (total of J-1 and F-1 visa students) allowed to participate on varsity level interscholastic teams during the **2024-25** academic year.
- Grand Rapids-West Catholic High School – Maximum of **five (5)** international students (total of J-1 and F-1 visa students) allowed to participate on varsity level interscholastic teams during the **2024-25** academic year.
- Grosse Pointe Woods-University Liggett School – Maximum of **five (5)** international students (total of J-1 and F-1 visa students) allowed to participate on varsity level interscholastic teams during the **2024-25** academic year.
- Jenison High School (Jenison International Academy) – Maximum of **sixteen (16)** international students (total of J-1 and F-1 visa students) allowed to participate on varsity level interscholastic teams during the **2024-25** academic year.
- Muskegon-West Michigan Christian High School – Maximum of **five (5)** international students (total of J-1 and F-1 visa students) allowed to participate on varsity level interscholastic teams during the **2024-25** academic year.
- Pannonia Christian Educational Exchange – Maximum of **five (5)** international students (total of J-1 and F-1 visa students) allowed to participate on varsity level interscholastic teams during the **2024-25** academic year.

- St. Joseph-Michigan Lutheran High School – Maximum of **five (5)** international students (total of J-1 and F-1 visa students) allowed to participate on varsity level interscholastic teams during the **2024-25** academic year.
- Sterling Heights-Parkway Christian High School – Maximum of **five (5)** international students (total of J-1 and F-1 visa students) allowed to participate on varsity level interscholastic teams during the **2024-25** academic year.
- Traverse City Area Public Schools – Maximum of **twenty-nine (29)** international students (total of J-1 and F-1 visa students) allowed to participate on varsity level interscholastic teams during the **2024-25** academic year.
- Westland-Hope Christian Academy High School – Maximum of **five (5)** international students (total of J-1 and F-1 visa students) allowed to participate on varsity level interscholastic teams during the **2024-25** academic year.

Next Meetings – Monday, August 5 at 9 a.m. – Virtual; Wednesday, August 21 at 9 a.m. – Virtual; Thursday, September 5 at 9 a.m. – Virtual; Thursday, October 3 at 9 a.m. – Virtual; Wednesday, November 6 at 9 a.m. – Virtual; Thursday, December 5 at 3 p.m. in East Lansing (Representative Council meets the next day).