

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Bellaire, May 1, 2011

Members Present:

Jim Derocher, Negaunee
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Fred Smith, Buchanan
Bill Chilman, Beal City

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 factual 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.

Maple City-Glen Lake, Leland, Glen Arbor-The Leelanau School and Lake Leelanau-St. Mary High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved the addition of Lake Leelanau-St. Mary to a cooperative agreement in boys tennis which has existed among the other schools since 2009. The combined 2011-12 enrollment of 517 students will continue placement of a team in the Division 4 tournament. Glen Lake will continue as the primary school. Support from four future opponents was received.

Flint-Beecher High School (Regulation I, Sections 4 & 5) – A request to waive the maximum enrollment and competition portions of the eligibility regulation was made on behalf of a 5th-year senior whose mother died in April of 2008 after an extended illness which resulted in behavioral issues, poor attendance and academic deficiencies for the student. The student began the 9th grade at Flint Southwestern High School in 2007-08, played no high school sports, and earned two credits before withdrawing in May of 2008. The student repeated the 9th grade at Beecher High School in 2008-09 and played subvarsity football and baseball. The student continued attending Beecher and participated in football and baseball through the spring of 2011. The 2011-12 school year would be the student's 9th and 10th semesters since first enrolling in the 9th grade.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Wayland Union High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – On April 20, 2011, the Executive Committee tabled a request on behalf of an 11th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation and specifically the language of Exception 14 (expelled student returning to former school). On Nov. 14, 2010, the student was asked to withdraw or face expulsion. Facing expulsion, the student chose to enroll at Grand Rapids-South Christian High School, did not participate in athletics, and passed all classes. The student reenrolled in the alternative education program at Wayland Union on April 12, 2011.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Allegan High School (Regulation II, Section 11[H]) – Pursuant to Interpretation 233, a request to waive the three-/four-player rule for the remainder of the 2010-11 school year and the 2011-12 school year was made on behalf of the Allegan High School head boys and girls varsity swimming coach who is employed part time as the Allegan pool director and has no other employment related to swimming. The Allegan Tiger Shark Aquatic Club recently lost its head coach and has asked this coach to run the club which is open to students ages 5-18. Participation is anticipated by 60-70 students from four school districts including Allegan (Gobles, Hastings and Otsego). It is estimated that ten students in the program are 7th- and 8th-grade students from Allegan. Allegan High School swimmers participate elsewhere.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Grand Rapids-East Grand Rapids High School (Regulation II, Section 11[H]) – Pursuant to Interpretation 233, a request to waive the three-/four-player rule for the 2011-12 school year was made on behalf of the assistant girls varsity swimming coach who is employed full time as the head coach of the East Grand Rapids Aquatics Club. The East Grand Rapids Aquatics Club is open to students ages 6-18. Participation is anticipated from over 200 students from six school districts including East Grand Rapids (Grand Rapids Christian, Grand Rapids-Catholic Central, Grand Rapids-Forest Hills, East Kentwood and Middleville-Thornapple Kellogg). It is estimated that 55 students in the program are East Grand Rapids students in grades 7-12.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Regulation III, Section 1(C) – Pursuant to 2010-11 *Handbook* Interpretation 258, waiver of the enrollment regulation has been approved for the following junior high/middle schools to permit 6th-grade students to participate with and against 7th and/or 8th graders for the sports listed in the 2011-12 school year only.

Junior High/ Middle School	Sport(s)	High School Enrollment	Middle School Enrollment
Jackson Christian	boys & girls basketball, boys & girls cross country, boys & girls track & field, girls volleyball, boys soccer	141	58 7 th & 8 th graders
Wakefield-Marenisco	boys & girls basketball, boys & girls track & field	77	22 7 th graders 35 8 th graders
Waldron	boys & girls basketball, boys & girls cross country, boys & girls track & field, girls volleyball	98	21 7 th graders 21 8 th graders

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Executive Committee are scheduled for Wednesday, June 15, 2011, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2011, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2011, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2011, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; Monday, Oct. 3, 2011, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; Wednesday, November 2, 2011, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; and Thursday, December 1, 2011, at 1:30 p.m. in East Lansing.