

**JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
MHSAA, January 10, 2012

**Members Present:**

Damon Amey, Saginaw  
Bob Guse, Cassopolis  
Maureen Klocke, Yale  
Jason Mellema, Ravenna  
Cheri Meier, Ionia  
Steve Newkirk, Clare  
Jim Okler, Grosse Ile

Kevin O'Rourke, Rockford  
Brad Robinson, Fraser

**Staff Member Present:**

Randy Allen, Recorder

**Members Absent:**

Kathy Bondsteel, Jonesville  
Tony Petkus, Comstock Park

The MHSAA Junior High/Middle School Committee met in the MHSAA Office Building to review topics suggested for discussion by the MHSAA Staff and member schools.

**REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL ACTION**

The committee reviewed the Representative Council action from May of 2011 in which the committee proposal to increase JH/MS athletic eligibility academic standards to 50% of a full class load potential was not approved. The committee was informed that the Council suggested a more comprehensive discussion take place with the membership before such a significant change would be considered. After reviewing feedback from Update Meetings and Athletic Director In-service, a motion to adopt the same academic eligibility standard as required at the 9-12 level (66%) was made, but not adopted.

**HANDBOOK REGULATIONS**

Several MHSAA Handbook regulations were reviewed. The committee took specific action in two areas. First, the committee recommended a change in the restriction of Regulation IV, Section 8 which limits participation on no more than one interscholastic team per season. It was felt that local schools should decide on such limits as dictated by their needs rather than a statewide rule. A motion was approved to eliminate the restriction, but keep language in the Handbook stating the change and local school authority to set policy rather than delete the language entirely.

Second, in reviewing the eligibility advancement provisions of Regulation III, Section 2(C) it was agreed that a student who exceeds age limits should be given an opportunity to have two years of JH/MS eligibility beginning in grade 6 in addition to the existing provision for four years of high school eligibility beginning in grade 8. A proposal was approved to adjust the language of the Eligibility Advancement form to extend the provision to over-age students beginning in grade 6.

Correspondence from a member school proposing a change in fall start dates was reviewed with no action taken, although it was recommended for further study and membership discussion. Handbook regulations regarding limits of competition, out-of-season coaching restrictions, and the Limited Team Membership rule were discussed but no recommendations were made for changes. Updates were shared with the committee on additional language restricting coach communication with prospective students and other editorial changes in the MHSAA Handbook.

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL**

1. Make voluntary on an individual school basis the restriction in Regulation IV, Section 8 limiting students to participation in one interscholastic sport per season. Allow local schools to establish their own policy. (9-0)
2. Adjust language in the Eligibility Advancement provisions of Regulation III, Section 2(C) to allow a student who exceeds age limits to apply for Eligibility Advancement when in 6<sup>th</sup> grade for two years of participation in JH/MS athletic programs beginning in grade 6. (9-0)