

## **Section (7) AGE RULE**

7.1 No student is eligible to participate in an Association contest who has become nineteen (19) years old on or before midnight, August 31, of a given year. Therefore, a student who becomes nineteen (19) years old after midnight, August 31, of a given year, will be permitted to compete in all Association contests throughout that school year, under the provisions of this section.

7.2 A student who is ineligible by reason of this age rule may seek a waiver from the MHSA under the following conditions and procedures.

The student, his/her school, parent/guardian or other representative shall submit a written application for a waiver. For fall sports, the application shall be submitted by March 15th of the preceding school year so that, if necessary, the request can be considered by the Executive Board prior to summer recess. For all other sports seasons, the application shall be submitted at least 60 days prior to the first activity for which he/she seeks the waiver.

7.3 It will be the burden of the student to prove:

- a. the student does not create a safety risk to other players, and
- b. the student does not skew the overall competitiveness of the particular activity(ies) for which the student will participate, and
- c. the student's participation will not result in the exclusion of other eligible players, and
- d. the student meets all other criteria necessary for participation in MHSA activities.

7.4 The Executive Director is vested with the authority and responsibility to make the initial waiver determination. In making the initial determination, the Executive Director shall consider such evidence as is provided by the applicant; and the Executive Director may request the applicant to provide specific information or additional information; and the Executive Director or staff may make an independent investigation of the facts. The Executive Director shall then make a determination as to each activity for which a waiver is sought and notify the applicant.

7.5 Upon initial receipt of the waiver application, the request shall be scheduled for hearing before the Executive Board at the next scheduled meeting. It shall be scheduled neither sooner than 30 days nor more than 60 days from the day the application is received. If the Executive Director thereafter grants a waiver, the scheduled hearing will be vacated. If the Executive Director refuses to grant the requested waiver, then the student will be so notified and can proceed to present his waiver request to the Board. At the hearing, the Board will consider all documentary evidence previously considered by the Executive Director together with any additional evidence submitted.