

September 16, 2021, OHSAA Appeals

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on September 16, 2021, in person at the OHSAA offices and virtually through Microsoft Teams. Appeals Panel members were Dr. Dale Fortner, former superintendent of Wadsworth City Schools; Mr. Andy Bixler, superintendent of Anna Local Schools; Dr. Kathy McFarland, deputy chief executive director of the Ohio School Boards Association; and Mr. Tyrone Olverson, former superintendent of Trotwood City Schools. Dr. Fortner served as the appeals hearing officer.

Also in attendance for all or portions of the appeals: Steve Craig, OHSAA legal counsel; Doug Ute, OHSAA executive director; Bob Goldring, OHSAA director of communications and special projects; Kristin Ronai, OHSAA director of compliance; and Ronald Sayers, OHSAA manager of membership and compliance.

A. Bylaw 4-6-2, Residency, A 12th-Grade Student, Pickerington High School North (Central District)

A 12th grade student enrolled at Pickerington High School North to start the 2021-22 school year without a parent living in Ohio. By operation of Bylaw 4-6-2, Residency, the student is ineligible to compete in interscholastic athletics. The Executive Director's Office determined that the requirements to any exception to Bylaw 4-6-2 could be met.

The student; Mareme Niang, the student's aunt; and Collin Beemiller, Pickerington High School North athletic administrator, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Pickerington High School North.

Based on the information presented during the appeal, there was a motion to **grant** the appeal.

Motion passed 4-0.

B. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, a 12th-Grade and a 10th-Grade Student, Troy Christian High School (Southwest District)

A 12th-grade and a 10th-grade student transferred from Casstown Miami East High School to Troy Christian High School. As transfer students, the students become ineligible beginning with the second 50 percent of the maximum allowable regular season contests and the OHSAA postseason tournament(s) in any sport in which the students participated during the 12 months immediately preceding the transfer. The Executive Director's Office determined that none of the enumerated exceptions to Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers, and specifically exception 7, were applicable.

The student's parents, Shawn and Jessi King, and Amy Solaro, King family representation, appealed the ruling so that the students could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Troy Christian High School. Also in attendance was Scott Donaldson, Miami East athletic administrator.

There was a motion to **deny** the appeal.

Motion passed 3-1.

C. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, Three 11th-Grade Students, Warren Howland High School (Northeast District)

Three 11th-grade students transferred from Eastlake North High School to Warren Howland High School to start the 2021-22 school year. As transfer students, the students become ineligible beginning with the second 50 percent of the maximum allowable regular season contests and the OHSAA postseason tournament(s) in any sport in which the students participated during the 12 months immediately preceding the transfer. The Executive Director's Office determined that none of the enumerated exceptions to Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers, and specifically exception 1, were applicable.

The student's parents, Michael and Gina Vacha; Andrea Ferenac, Howland athletic administrator; Joe Simko, Howland principal; and Jon Mosora, Howland school counselor; appealed the ruling so that the students could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Howland High School.

Based on the information presented during the appeal, there was a motion to **grant** the appeal.

Motion passed 4-0.