

August 29, 2019, OHSAA Appeals

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on August 29, 2019 at the office of the Ohio High School Athletic Association in Columbus. Appeals Panel members were Phil Ackerman, former superintendent of Switzerland of Ohio Local Schools; Keith Bell, former superintendent of the Euclid City Schools and Westerville City Schools; and Tony Mantell, former superintendent of Portsmouth Clay Local Schools. Mr. Ackerman served as the appeals hearing officer.

Also in attendance for all or portions of the hearing: Steve Craig, OHSAA legal counsel; Jerry Snodgrass, OHSAA Executive Director; Bob Goldring, OHSAA Senior Director of Operations; Deborah B. Moore, OHSAA Senior Director of Compliance and Sports Medicine; Roxanne Price, OHSAA Senior Director of Compliance; Kristin Ronai, OHSAA Director of Compliance; Alyson McAdams, OHSAA Compliance Department Intern; and Lauren Prochaska, OHSAA Director of Sport Management.

A. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, A 12th-Grade Student, Cincinnati Christian School (Southwest District)

A 12th-grade student transferred from Lakota Christian School to Cincinnati Christian School for the 2019-20 school year. As a transfer student, the student became 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 student 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, were applicable, specifically exception 3.

The student and her parents, Mark and Stephanie Mullins; Bradley Frick, the family's legal counsel; and Steve Gillens, athletic administrator at Cincinnati Christian School, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Cincinnati Christian School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

B. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, A 12th-Grade Student, Columbus Bishop Watterson High School (Central District)

A 12th-grade student transferred from Wellington High School to Columbus Bishop Watterson High School for the 2019-20 school year. As a transfer student, the student became 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 student 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, were applicable, specifically exception 7.

The student and her father, Kevin McClatchy, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Wellington High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

C. Bylaw 4-4-4, Scholarship, A 9th-Grade Student, Uniontown Green High School (Northeast District)

A 9th-grade student at Uniontown Green High School did not pass five courses during the fourth grading period of the 2018-19 school year. The Executive Director's Office ruled that the student was ineligible for interscholastic athletics for the first grading period of the 2019-20 school year in accordance with Bylaw 4-4-4, Scholarship.

The student and his parents, Eric and Heather Lindsey; Erich Muzzi, Green athletic administrator; and Bob Soles, Green athletic administrator, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Green High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

D. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, A 10th-Grade Student, Bidwell River Valley High School (Southeast District)

A 10th-grade student transferred from Oak Hill High School to Bidwell River Valley for the 2019-20 school year. As a transfer student, the student became 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 student 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, were applicable, specifically exception 1.

The student and his guardian, Debra Elkins, and Timothy Edwards, River Valley principal, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at River Valley High School.

In light of new evidence that was presented, there was a motion to **approve** the appeal.

Motion passed 3-0.

E. Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, A 12th-Grade Student, Strongsville High School (Northeast District)

A 12th-grade student at Strongsville High School did not pass five one-credits courses or the equivalent during the fourth grading period of the 2018-19 school year. The Executive Director's Office ruled that the student was ineligible for interscholastic athletics for the first grading period of the 2019-20 school year in accordance with Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship.

The student and his parents, Bob and Jennifer Costello, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Strongsville High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

F. Golf Sport Regulation 2, Non-Interscholastic Rule, A 9th-Grade Student, Gahanna Columbus Academy (Central District)

A 9th-grade student at Gahanna Columbus Academy was planning to participate in a non-interscholastic event on September 24-30, 2019, while still a member of the school's golf team. The non-interscholastic date in the sport of golf for the 2019 season is September 16, 2019. Golf Sport Regulation 2 stipulates that "An athlete who has participated for the school in golf who violates this non-interscholastic competition date shall be ineligible for OHSAA tournament competition in golf in addition to any other penalties that may be prescribed." As a result of an inquiry from the school, the Executive Director's Office informed the school and the family that the student would become ineligible for OHSAA tournament competition should the student ultimately participate in the non-interscholastic event taking place on September 24-30, 2018.

The student and his parent, Margie Toy; Jason Singleton, Columbus Academy athletic administrator; Craig Takscoe, Columbus Academy golf coach; and Cheri Jenkins, Executive Director of the 1st Tee of Central Ohio, appealed the ruling so that the student could be eligible to participate in OHSAA tournament competition after competing in the September 24-30 non-interscholastic event.

In light of new evidence that was presented, there was a motion to **defer** the case back to the Executive Director's Office with a recommendation to modify Golf Sport Regulation 2.2.

Motion passed 3-0.