

September 12, 2019, OHSAA Appeals

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on September 12, 2019 at the office of the Ohio High School Athletic Association in Columbus. Appeals Panel members were Dave Gray, former superintendent of Franklin-Monroe Local Schools; Phil Ackerman, former superintendent of Switzerland of Ohio Local Schools; and Dale Fortner, former superintendent of Wadsworth City Schools. Mr. Gray served as the appeals hearing officer.

Also in attendance for all or portions of the hearing: Steve Craig, OHSAA legal counsel; 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; and Alyson McAdams, OHSAA Compliance Department Intern.

A. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, A 12th-Grade Student, Canal Winchester Harvest Preparatory High School (Central District)

A 12th-grade student transferred from Columbus Independence High School to Canal Winchester Harvest Preparatory 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 1.

The student and his father, Terry Stephens, and David Dennis, athletic administrator at Harvest Preparatory High School, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Harvest Preparatory High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

B. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, A 12th-Grade Student, Hamilton High School (Southwest District)

A 12th-grade student transferred from Fairfield High School to Hamilton 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 mother, Kris Williams, and her grandfather, Ralph Williams, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Hamilton High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

C. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, An 11th-Grade Student, West Liberty-Salem High School (Southwest District)

An 11th-grade student transferred from Mechanicsburg High School to West Liberty-Salem 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.

The student's parents, Scott and Elle Spinner, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at West Liberty-Salem High School. Greg Johnson, West Liberty-Salem principal, also attended the appeal.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

D. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, A 10th-Grade Student, Strasburg-Franklin High School (East District)

A 10th-grade student transferred from Claymont High School to Strasburg-Franklin 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.

The student's parents, Jeremiah and Mary Sue Fierbaugh, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Strasburg-Franklin High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

E. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, A 10th-Grade Student, Gates Mills Gilmour Academy (Northeast District)

A 10th-grade student transferred from Cleveland Benedictine High School to Gates Mills Gilmour Academy 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.

The student and his father, Thomas Richardson Jr., appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Gilmour Academy. Paul Michallco, assistant athletic administrator at Gilmour Academy, also attended the appeal.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

F. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, A 10th-Grade Student, Gates Mills Gilmour Academy (Northeast District)

A 10th-grade student transferred from Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit High School to Gates Mills Gilmour Academy 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.

The student's parents, Christopher and Jennifer Clair, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Gilmour Academy. Paul Michallco, assistant athletic administrator at Gilmour Academy, also attended the appeal.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

G. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, A 12th-Grade Student, Sherwood Fairview (Northwest District)

A 12th-grade student transferred from Defiance Ayersville High School to Sherwood Fairview 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 mother, Erica McGuire, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Fairview.

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

Motion passed 3-0.