

October 22, 2019, OHSAA Appeals

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on October 22, 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; Keith Bell, former superintendent of the Euclid City Schools and Westerville City Schools; and Steve Stirn, former superintendent of the Logan-Hocking Local 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, An 11th-Grade Student, Pickerington High School North (Central District)

An 11th-grade student transferred from Groveport Madison High School to Pickerington High School North 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 2.

The student and his legal guardian, Lorry Starner, and Molly Feesler, 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.

In light of new evidence that was presented, there was a motion to **approve** the appeal in accordance with Bylaw 4-7-2, exception 2.

Motion passed 3-0.

B. Officiating Handbook Code X.9, Criminal Convictions

In September 2019, the OHSAA Office suspended an individual's officiating license for one year in accordance with OHSAA Officials Handbook. Section X, 9, Criminal Convictions.

The official, Rodney Stinson, appealed the ruling so the suspension on his OHSAA officiating license would be overturned immediately.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

C. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, A 12th-Grade Student, North Baltimore High School (Northwest District)

A 12th-grade student transferred from Mount Blanchard Riverdale High School to North Baltimore 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 2.

The student and his aunt, Billy Baker; the student's mother, January Raymond; Mandy Slane, North Baltimore School Resource Officer; and Dan Davis, North Baltimore athletic administrator, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at North Baltimore High School.

In light of new evidence that was presented, there was a motion to **approve** the appeal in accordance with Bylaw 4-7-2, exception 2.

Motion passed 3-0.

D. Bylaw 4-3-1, Enrollment and Attendance, Two 10th- Grade Students, Spencer Center (Southwest District)

Two 10th- grade student athletes attend Spencer Center, a non-traditional school sponsored by the Cincinnati Public School District. During the 2019-20 school year, Spencer Center elected to sponsor interscholastic athletics. Therefore, the Executive Director's Office determined that none of the enumerated exceptions to Bylaw 4-3-1, Enrollment and Attendance, were applicable, specifically exception 4, to permit the students to play sports at a different OHSAA member school while still attending Spencer Center.

The athletic administrator for Spencer Center, Reid Finley, appealed the ruling so that the students could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at the appropriately assigned Cincinnati Public School. Cincinnati Public Athletics Manager, Josh Hardin, and Ann Maddox, the mother of one of the students, also participated in the appeal via teleconference.

In light of new evidence that was presented, there was a motion to **approve** the appeal in accordance with Bylaw 4-3-1, Exception 4.

Motion passed 3-0.

E. Bylaw 4-7-3, Midseason Transfer, A 12th- Grade Student, Cincinnati Taft High School (Southwest District)

A student transferred from Taft High School to Virtual High School during the 2019-2020 school year after having already participated in a regular season football contest at Taft. As a midseason transfer student, the student became ineligible for the remainder of the season in any sport in which the student participated at Taft during the 2019-2020 fall sports season (football) prior to the student's transfer to Virtual High School. The Executive Director's Office determined that the two scenarios outlined in Bylaw 4-7-3, Transfer, to waive this consequence were not applicable.

Romell Salone, athletic administrator at Taft High School, appealed the ruling via teleconference so that the student could be fully eligible to conclude the 2019 football season at Taft High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.