

January 9, 2020, OHSAA Appeals

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on January 9, 2020 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; Dale Fortner, former superintendent of Wadsworth City Schools; and Kyle Kanuckel, former Superintendent of Wood County Educational Service Center. Mr. Gray 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; Deborah B. Moore, OHSAA Senior Director of Compliance and Sports Medicine; Roxanne Price, OHSAA Senior Director of Compliance; Kristin Ronai, OHSAA Director of Compliance; Beau Rugg, Senior Director of Officiating and Sport Management; Ben Ferree, Assistant Director of Officiating; and Alyson McAdams, OHSAA Compliance Intern.

A. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, A 10th-Grade Student, Zanesville West Muskingum School (East District)

A 10th-grade student transferred from New Concord John Glenn High School to Zanesville West Muskingum 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 or 7.

The student's mother, Tiffany Lough, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at West Muskingum High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

B. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, An 11th-Grade Student, Lima Senior High School (Northwest District)

An 11th-grade student transferred from Lima Shawnee High School to Lima Senior 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 their respective transfers. The Executive Director's Office determined that none of the enumerated exceptions to Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers, were applicable, specifically exception 7.

John Zell, Lima Senior athletic administrator, and Timothy Davis, a family friend, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Lima Senior High School. Steve Owen, Lima Shawnee athletic administrator, and Mark Verroco, Lima Shawnee principal, also participated in the appeal via teleconference.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

C. Bylaw 4-1-2, Eligibility, A 10th-Grade Student, Niles McKinley High School (Northeast District)

A 10th-grade student transferred from Warren John F. Kennedy High School to Niles McKinley High School and attempted to regain immediate eligibility under the provisions set forth in Bylaw 4-7-2, Exception 1 – bona fide change of residence. The Executive Director's Office ruled that the student was in violation of Bylaw 4-1-2, Eligibility, because eligibility was attempted via falsified information. Based on the facts of the case, the Executive Director's Office ruled that the student was 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 student's mother, Lisa Kross, and grandmother, Dolores Naples, appealed the ruling via so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at McKinley High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

D. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, A 12th-Grade Student, Orwell Grand Valley High School (Northeast District)

A 12th-grade student transferred from Andover Pymatuning Valley High School to Orwell Grand Valley 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's father, Jake Cole; grandmother, Helen Cole; Terry Hudak, Grand Valley athletic director; and Doug Hitchcock, Grand Valley principal, appealed the ruling via teleconference so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Grand 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 4-7-2, Transfer, An 11th-Grade Student, Youngstown Ursuline High School (Northeast District)

An 11th-grade student transferred from Youngstown Cardinal Mooney High School to Youngstown Ursuline 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 his father, Tyler Beck; and the family's attorneys, Brian Kopp and Justin Markota, appealed the ruling via teleconference so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Ursuline High School. Mark Vollmer, Cardinal Mooney principal, also participated in the appeal via teleconference.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

F. Officiating Handbook Code X-10-A, Unethical Conduct, and X-10-i, Conflict of Interest

In December 2019, the OHSAA Office suspended an individual's basketball officiating license for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year in accordance with OHSAA Officials Handbook Sections X-10-A, Unethical Conduct, and Section X-10-I, Conflict of Interest.

The official, Shawn Willey, 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.

G. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, A 12th-Grade Student, Cincinnati Gamble Montessori High School (Southwest District)

A 12th-grade student transferred from St. Bernard-Elmwood Place High School to Cincinnati Gamble Montessori 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 his parents, John Grove and Syreeta Rogers, and David Miller, Gamble Montessori athletic administrator, appealed the ruling via teleconference so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Gamble Montessori High School. Bob Reynolds SBEP principal, Zach Stakley, SBEP athletic administrator and Josh Hardin, Cincinnati Public District Athletic Director, also participated in the appeal via teleconference.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

H. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, A 12th-Grade Student, Cincinnati Deer Park High School (Southwest District)

A 12th-grade student transferred from Cincinnati Taft High School to Cincinnati Deer Park High School in November 2019 for the remainder of 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 their respective transfers. The Executive Director's Office determined that none of the enumerated exceptions to Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers, were applicable.

The student and Meredith George and Steve Ostrow, two family friends, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Deer Park High School.

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

Motion passed 2-1.