

September 10, 2020, OHSAA Appeals

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on September 10, 2020, virtually through Microsoft Teams. Appeals Panel members were Dave Gray, former superintendent of Franklin-Monroe Local Schools; Scott Reeves, current executive director of secondary academic affairs for Westerville City Schools; Dr. Kathy McFarland, deputy chief executive director of the Ohio School Boards Association, and Dr. 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 appeals: Steve Craig, OHSAA legal counsel; Bob Goldring, OHSAA senior director of operations; Deborah B. Moore, OHSAA compliance advisor; Roxanne Price, OHSAA senior director of compliance; Ronald Sayers, OHSAA assistant director of membership services and sport management, and Phil Ackerman, former superintendent of Switzerland of Ohio Local Schools.

A. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers, A 12th-Grade Student, Cleves Taylor High School (Southwest District)

A student transferred from Loveland High School to Cleves Taylor High School for the 2020-21 school year. As a transfer student, the student becomes ineligible beginning with the second 50 percent of the maximum allowable regular season contests and remains ineligible for 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 grandmother, Nancy Herbert, mother, Kimberly Herbert, and Cleves Taylor High School Athletic Administrator Larry Herges appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Taylor High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0 (Scott Reeves abstained).

B. Bylaw 4-6-2, Residency, A 10th- Grade Student, Toledo St. Ursula Academy (Northwest District)

A 10th-grade student attended Toledo St. Ursula Academy since the 2019-20 school year. The student and her family moved to Michigan due to her father's career change. The student does not have a parent in Ohio. Therefore, the student became ineligible for interscholastic athletic participation in Ohio. The Executive Director's Office determined that none of the enumerated exceptions to Bylaw 4-6-2, Residence, were applicable.

The student's parents, Robert and Beth Taylor, and St. Ursula Academy Athletic Administrator Michael Donnelly appealed the ruling so that the student could be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at St. Ursula Academy immediately and indefinitely. Further, Lori Williams, head girls soccer coach at Whitehouse Anthony Wayne High School; Mark Batman, head women's soccer coach at Ohio Northern University; Shannon DeVerne, district manager of Otsuka; Chris Knight, vice president and COO of Toledo St. John's Jesuit High School; and Scott Reed, head girls soccer coach at Toledo St. Ursula Academy, attended the appeal to provide supporting information regarding the circumstances that caused the transfer.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

C. Bylaw 4-7-4, Transfer, A 10th-Grade Student, Hamilton Badin High School (Southwest District)

An 10th-grade student transferred from Franklin Bishop Fenwick High School to Hamilton Badin High School during the 2019-20 school year. She then also began her 10th grade year (the 2020-21 school year) at Hamilton Badin. 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 4-7-4 or Bylaw 4-7-6, Intradistrict Transfer, were applicable, specifically exception 6.

The student and her parents, Angie and Michael Casselman, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Hamilton Badin High School. Further, Blane Collison, Franklin Bishop Fenwick High School principal, and Mike Coleman, Franklin Bishop Fenwick athletic administrator, attended to provide additional insights regarding the circumstances that caused the transfer

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

Motion passed 4-0.

D. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers, A 10th-Grade Student, Williamsport Westfall High School (Southeast District)

An 10th-grade student transferred from Ashville Teays Valley High School to Williamsport Westfall High School for the 2020-21 school year. As a transfer student, the student becomes ineligible beginning with the second 50 percent of the maximum allowable regular season contests and remains ineligible for 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 father, Charles Blankenship, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Williamsport Westfall High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.