

September 24, 2020, OHSAA Appeals

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on September 24, 2020, virtually through Microsoft Teams. Appeals Panel members were Phil Ackerman, former superintendent of Switzerland of Ohio 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 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 appeals: Steve Craig, OHSAA legal counsel; Doug Ute, OHSAA executive director; Bob Goldring, OHSAA senior director of operations; Deborah B. Moore, OHSAA compliance advisor; Roxanne Price, OHSAA senior director of compliance; Kristin Ronai, OHSAA director of compliance; and Ronald Sayers, OHSAA assistant director of membership services and sport management.

A. Official Permit, Section X.9: New Permit Application or Reinstatement

In September 2020, the OHSAA Office denied an individual the opportunity to apply for an officiating license in accordance with section X.9.i, of the OHSAA Officials Handbook.

The applicant, Jeff Hill, appealed the ruling so that he would be permitted to apply for an OHSAA officiating license immediately.

Based on additional information presented, there was a motion to **approve** the appeal.

Motion passed 4-0.

B. Bylaw 4-2-2, Age, An 8th-Grade Student, McGuffey Upper Scioto Valley Middle School (Northwest District)

An 8th-grade student turned 15 prior to August 1st of his 8th grade year. The Executive Director's Office ruled that the student would be ineligible for interscholastic athletics for the 2020-21 school year in accordance with Bylaw 4-2-2, Age.

The student and Lindsey Thompson, Upper Scioto Valley Middle School principal; and Char Howard, Upper Scioto Valley Middle School athletic administrator, appealed the ruling so that the student could be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Upper Scioto Valley Middle School during the 2020-21 school year.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

C. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers, A 12th-Grade Student, Mount Orab Western Brown High School (Southwest District)

A 10th-grade student transferred from Milford High School to Mount Orab Western Brown High School for the 2020-21 school year. As a transfer student, the student became 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 mother, Rachel Bodley, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Western Brown High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

D. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, A 12th-Grade Student, Pickerington High School North (Central District)

A 12th-grade student transferred from Columbus Independence High School to Pickerington High School North for the 2020-21 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, Leah McGee, 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.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

E. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers, A 10th-Grade Student, Botkins High School (Southwest District)

A 10th-grade student transferred from Kenton High School to Botkins High School for the 2020-21 school year. As a transfer student, the student became 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 1.

The student and her mother, Danae Henderickson; Ryan Loy, Botkins athletic administrator; and Jeff McPheron, Botkins Local superintendent, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Botkins High School.

Based on additional information presented, there was a motion to **approve** the appeal.

Motion passed 4-0.