

October 22, 2020, OHSAA Appeals

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on October 22, 2020, virtually through Microsoft Teams. Appeals Panel members were Phil Ackerman, former superintendent of Switzerland of Ohio Local Schools; Dr. Keith Bell, former superintendent of the Euclid City Schools and 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. Ackerman 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; Kristin Ronai, OHSAA director of compliance; and Ben Ferree, Assistant Director of Officiating.

A. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers, An 11th-Grade Student, Cincinnati Archbishop McNicholas High School (Southwest District)

An 11th-grade student transferred from Cincinnati Walnut Hills High School to Cincinnati Archbishop McNicholas 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.

The student and her mother, Julie Badylak, and Gregg Flammer, McNicholas girls basketball coach, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at McNicholas High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

B. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, A 12th-Grade Student, Barberton High School North (Northeast District)

A 12th-grade student transferred from Akron East High School to Barberton 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 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, Kimberly Campbell; Mike Winkler, a family friend; John Sabol, Barberton athletic administrator; and Anthony Gotto, Barberton football coach, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Barberton High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

C. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers, A 10th-Grade Student, Toledo Ottawa Hills High School (Northwest District)

A 10th-grade student transferred from Toledo St. Francis DeSales High School to Toledo Ottawa Hills 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 remain 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 legal guardian, Mike McKee, appealed the ruling so that the students could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Ottawa Hills High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

D. Bylaw 4-3-4, Semesters, An 8th-Grade Student, Campbell Middle School (Northeast District)

An 8th-grade student will be entering his 5th and 6th semester of 7/8 grade eligibility during the 2020-21 school 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 4-3-4, Semesters.

The student's father, Charles McCray; and Stacie Cegin, Campbell athletic administrator, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Campbell Middle School during the 2020-21 school year.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

E. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers, A 12th-Grade Student, Toledo Central Catholic High School (Northwest District)

A 12th-grade student transferred from River Rouge High School (MI) to Toledo Central Catholic 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 remain 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 and his parents, Shalanda Robinson and Leroy Watson Sr.; Kevin Parkins, Central Catholic principal; and Greg Dempsey, Central Catholic athletic administrator, appealed the ruling so that the students could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Central Catholic High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

E. General Sports Regulation 14, Ejection for Unsporting Conduct (Disqualification for unsporting conduct or flagrant violation), Cincinnati Taft High School (Southwest District)

In October 2020, the OHSAA Office issued penalties following Cincinnati Taft's High School's violation of General Sports Regulation 14, Ejection for Unsporting Conduct, in the sport of football. On October 2, 2020 a student-athlete was ejected from a football contest but reentered the contest before fulfilling his mandatory suspension, in accordance with the bylaw, making him an ineligible student-athlete. As a result of this failure to fulfill his mandatory suspension, the school was required to forfeit one contest in which the student participated as an ineligible student-athlete.

Romell Salone, Taft Athletic Administrator; Josh Hardin, athletic manager for Cincinnati Public Schools; Ceair Baggett, Taft principal; and Jeff Cargile, Taft head football coach, appealed the ruling so that the forfeiture could be overturned.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

G. Official Permit, Section X.10: Unethical Conduct

In September 2020, the OHSAA Office suspended an official's license for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year due to a violation of the Officiating Handbook, Section X.10, Unethical Conduct.

The official, Ryan George, appealed the ruling so that his officiating license would be immediately reinstated for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year.

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

Motion passed 4-0.