

January 29, 2021, OHSAA Appeals

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants in two sessions on January 29, 2021, virtually through Microsoft Teams. Appeals Panel members for session one were Tony Mantell, former superintendent of Portsmouth Clay Local Schools; Scott Reeves, current executive director of secondary academic affairs for Westerville City Schools; and Andy Bixler, current superintendent for Anna Local Schools. Mr. Mantell served as the appeals hearing officer for session one.

Appeals Panel members for session two were Dr. Dale Fortner, former superintendent of Wadsworth City Schools; Scott Reeves, current executive director of secondary academic affairs for Westerville City Schools; and Dr. Keith Bell, former superintendent of the Euclid City Schools and Westerville City Schools. Dr. Fortner served as the appeals hearing officer for session two.

Also in attendance for all or portions of the appeals sessions: Steve Craig, OHSAA legal counsel; Bob Goldring, OHSAA senior director of operations; Kristin Ronai, OHSAA director of compliance; and Ronald Sayers, OHSAA compliance and eligibility specialist.

Morning Session

A. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers, A 12th-Grade Student, Mentor Lake Catholic High School (Northeast District)

A 12th-grade student transferred from Mayfield High School to Mentor Lake 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 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's parents, John and Lisa Craker, Lake Catholic Athletic Administrator Sam Colacarro and Lake Catholic Head Wrestling Coach John Hivnor appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Lake Catholic High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

B. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, An 11th-Grade Student, Cincinnati Taft High School (Southwest District)

An 11th-grade student transferred from Dayton Dunbar High School to Cincinnati Taft 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's mother, Rikita Hopson, Hopson family legal counsel David Stenson and Taft Athletic Administrator Romell Salone appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Taft High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

C. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers, A 12th-Grade Student, Pickerington High School Central (Central District)

A 12th-grade student transferred from Columbus Northland High School to Pickerington High School Central 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 1.

The student, their father, Michael Binford, and Pickerington High School Central Athletic Administrator Bo Hanson appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Pickerington High School Central.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

Afternoon Session

D. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers, A 10th-Grade Student, Batavia Clermont Northeastern High School (Southwest District)

A 10th-grade student transferred from Batavia Clermont Northeastern High School to home education 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 9.

The student's mother, Becki Johnson, Clermont Northeastern Athletic Administrator David Colwell and Clermont Northeastern Head Wrestling Coach Scott Wells appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Clermont Northeastern High School.

The appeals panel took no action and referred the case back to the Executive Director's Office for further review.

E. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers, A 12th-Grade Student, Cincinnati Clark Montessori High School (Southwest District)

A 12th-grade student transferred from Cincinnati Purcell Marian High School to Cincinnati Clark Montessori 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 9.

The student, their mother, Bari Hemphill, Cincinnati Public Schools Athletic Administrator Josh Hardin and Clark Montessori Athletic Administrator Jeff Wiles appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Clark Montessori High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.