

August 5, 2021, OHSAA Appeals

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on August 5, 2021, in person at the OHSAA offices. Appeals Panel members were Dr. Dale Fortner, former superintendent of the Wadsworth City Schools; Mr. Andy Bixler, Superintendent of the Anna Local School District; and Dr. Keith Bell, former superintendent of the Euclid City Schools and deputy superintendent of both the Columbus and Westerville city schools. Dr. Fortner served as the appeals hearing officer.

Also in attendance for all or portions of the appeals: Steve Craig, OHSAA legal counsel; Dr. Kimberlee Kiehl, OHSAA chief operating officer; Bob Goldring, OHSAA director of communications and special projects; Kristin Ronai, OHSAA director of compliance; and Ronald Sayers, OHSAA compliance and eligibility specialist.

A. Bylaw 4-2-2, Age, An 8th-Grade Student, Mount Gilead Middle School (Central 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 2021-22 school year in accordance with Bylaw 4-2-2, Age.

The student and his father, Nathan Wilt, and Clay Grube, Mount Gilead Middle School principal, appealed the ruling so that the student could be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Mount Gilead Middle School during the 2021-22 school year.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

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

An 11th-grade student transferred from Franklin Bishop Fenwick High School to Mercy McAuley High School during 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 requirements set forth in Bylaw 4-7-7 that allow the Office to waive all or part of the period of ineligibility were not met.

The student, along with Jason and Tracy Adkins, the student's parents, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Mercy McAuley High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

C. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, A 12th-Grade Student, Willow Wood Symmes Valley High School (Southeast District)

A 12th-grade student transferred from Chesapeake High School to Willow Wood Symmes Valley High School during 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 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, Crystal Burbach and Zeb Best, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Symmes Valley High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

D. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, An 11th-Grade Student and A 12th-Grade Student, Cincinnati Anderson High School (Southwest District)

An 11th-grade student and a 12th-grade student transferred from Cincinnati Archbishop McNicholas High School to Anderson High School for the 2021-22 school year. As transfer students, the students become 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 students participated during the 12 months immediately preceding their transfer.

The Executive Director's Office determined that none of the enumerated exceptions to Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers, were applicable, specifically exception 1.

Chris Newton, Anderson High School athletic administrator, appealed the ruling so that the students could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Anderson High School.

Based on the information provided, the appeals panel **took no action and referred the case back to the Executive Director's Office** for further review.

E. Bylaw 4-2-2, Age, An 8th-Grade Student, Lewistown Indian Lake Middle School (Southwest 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 2021-22 school year in accordance with Bylaw 4-2-2, Age.

The student and his mother, Deemeta Parker; Melissa Mefford, Indian Lake Middle School principal; Kyle Wagner, Indian Lake High School principal; and Dave Coburn, Indian Lake High School assistant principal, appealed the ruling so that the student could be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Indian Lake Middle School during the 2021-22 school year.

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

Motion passed 3-0.