

September 2, 2021, OHSAA Appeals

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on September 2, 2021, in person at the OHSAA offices. Appeals Panel members were Mr. Tony Mantell, former superintendent of Portsmouth Clay Local Schools; Mr. Andy Bixler, superintendent of Anna Local Schools; and Dr. Kathy McFarland, deputy chief executive director of the Ohio School Boards Association. Mr. Mantell served as the appeals hearing officer.

Also in attendance for all or portions of the appeals: Steve Craig, OHSAA legal counsel; Bob Goldring, OHSAA director of communications and special projects; Kristin Ronai, OHSAA director of compliance; and Ronald Sayers, OHSAA manager of membership and compliance.

A. Bylaw 4-3-4, Semesters, An 8th-Grade Student, Sunbury Big Walnut Middle School (Central District)

An 8th-grade student exhausted their four semesters of eligibility at the 7th & 8th grade level during the 2020-21 school year after repeating the 7th-grade during that same school year. By operation of Bylaw 4-3-4, Semesters, the student is ineligible to compete during semesters five and six at the 7th & 8th grade level. The Executive Director's Office determined that the requirements of the exception to Bylaw 4-3-4 could not be met.

The student's father, Billy Helton Jr., and Joe Rucker, Big Walnut Middle School athletic administrator appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics for a fifth and sixth semester at Sunbury Big Walnut Middle School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

B. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, A 10th-Grade Student, Dayton Carroll High School (Southwest District)

A 10th-grade student transferred from Springboro High School to Dayton Carroll 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, and specifically exception 7, were applicable.

The student and her parents, Jack and Erin Bruhn, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Dayton Carroll High School.

Based on the information presented during the appeal, there was a motion to **grant** the appeal.

Motion passed 3-0.

C. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, A 10th-Grade Student, Cincinnati Seven Hills High School (Southwest District)

A 10th-grade student transferred from Hamilton High School to Cincinnati Seven Hills High School to start the 2021-22 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.

The student's father, Marcus Richardson, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Seven Hills High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.