

December 16, 2021, OHSAA Appeals

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on December 16, 2021, in person at the OHSAA Offices. Appeals Panel members were Phil Ackerman, superintendent of Switzerland of Ohio Local Schools; Dr. Dale Fortner, former superintendent of the Wadsworth City Schools; and Dr. Kathy McFarland, deputy chief executive director of the Ohio School Boards Association. 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 director of communications and special projects; Kristin Ronai, OHSAA director of compliance; Ronald Sayers, OHSAA manager of membership and compliance; and Alexis Holderman, OHSAA membership and compliance administrative assistance.

A. Bylaw 4-3-4, Semesters, An 8th-Grade Student, Mansfield Madison Middle School (Northwest District)

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

Jamie Monica, the student's legal guardian; Jeff Monica, the legal guardian's father; Doug Rickert, Madison Comprehensive High School athletic administrator; Travis Stantz, Mansfield Madison Middle School boys basketball coach; and Amy Walker, Madison Local school board member, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics during the 2021-22 school year at Madison Middle School.

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

Motion passed 2-1.

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

An 11th-grade student transferred from a high school in Florida to Blanchester High School. 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 students 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 2, were applicable.

The student's grandfather, Laymon Wilder, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Blanchester High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

C. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, An 11th-Grade Student, Cleveland St. Joseph Academy (Northeast District)

An 11th-grade student transferred from North Ridgeville Lake Ridge Academy to Cleveland St. Joseph Academy. 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 students 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; Peter and Julie Kim, the student's parents; Maggie Berry, St. Joseph Academy athletic administrator; and Karen Swanson Haan, St. Joseph Academy girls basketball coach, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at St. Joseph Academy.

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

Motion passed 3-0.