

January 6, 2022, OHSAA Appeals

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on January 6, 2022 virtually through Microsoft Teams. Appeals Panel members were Mr. Tony Mantell, former superintendent of Portsmouth City Schools; Mr. Andy Bixler, superintendent of Anna Local Schools; Dr. Kathy McFarland, deputy chief executive director of the Ohio School Boards Association; and Dr. Keith Bell, former superintendent of the Euclid City Schools and Westerville City Schools. 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; Ronald Sayers, OHSAA manager of membership and compliance; and Alexis Holderman, OHSAA membership and compliance administrative assistance.

A. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, A 12th-Grade Student, Olentangy Orange High School (Central District)

A 12th-grade student transferred from Meade County High School in Kentucky to Olentangy Orange 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 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, Transfer, and specifically exception 2, were applicable.

The student's mother, Francine Leonard; the student's aunt, Paulette Langwith; and Brett Diehl, Olentangy Orange athletic administrator, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Olentangy Orange High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

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

A 12th-grade student transferred from Stow-Munroe Falls High School to Peninsula Woodridge 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 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, Transfer, and specifically exceptions 2 and 9, were applicable.

The student's mother, Narkita Horn, and Nicholas Mayer, Woodridge athletic administrator, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Woodridge High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

C. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, A 12th-Grade Student, Proctorville Fairland High School (Southeast District)

A 12th-grade student transferred from Cabell Midland High School in West Virginia to Proctorville Fairland 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 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, Transfer, and specifically exception 1, were applicable.

The student's mother, Julia Cox; Tessa Leep, Fairland principal; and Jeff Gorby, Fairland athletic administrator, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Fairland High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

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

An 11th-grade student transferred from Cincinnati Ursuline Academy to Mason 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 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, Transfer, and specifically exception 1, were applicable. Additionally, the Executive Director's Office found that the student's family provided false information when completing the required Affidavit of Bona Fide Residence, thus violating Bylaw 4-1-2, Falsification.

The student's parents, Mary (Lisa) and Kevin Prows; Jeffery Levine, Prows family legal counsel; and Scott Stemple, Mason athletic administrator, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Mason High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.