

## **August 4, 2022, OHSAA Appeals**

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on August 4, 2022, in person at the OHSAA offices and virtually through Microsoft Teams. Appeals Panel members were Dr. Dale Fortner, former superintendent of Wadsworth City Schools; Mr. Phil Ackerman, superintendent of Switzerland of Ohio Local Schools; Dr. Tyrone Olverson, former superintendent of Trotwood City Schools; and Mr. Tony Mantell, former superintendent of Portsmouth 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; Bob Goldring, OHSAA director of communications and special projects; Kristin Ronai, OHSAA director of compliance; and Alexis Holderman, OHSAA membership and compliance administrative assistance. Ronald Sayers, OHSAA manager of membership and compliance, appeared virtually through Microsoft Teams.

### **B. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, a 12<sup>th</sup>- Grade Student, Cleveland Saint Joseph Academy (Northeast District)**

A 12<sup>th</sup>-grade student transferred from Westlake High School to Cleveland Saint (St.) Joseph Academy in January 2022. 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 13, were applicable.

The student; the student's parents, Lisa and Timothy Gregory; and Tyler Walchanowicz, Gregory's family representation, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at St. Joseph Academy. Paul Wilson, Westlake representative, was also in attendance.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

### **C. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, an 11<sup>th</sup>-Grade Student, Austintown-Fitch High School (Northeast District)**

An 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student transferred from Youngstown Chaney High School to Austintown-Fitch High School in February 2022. 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 1, were applicable.

The student's mother, Shawna Roberts, and John Burd, Austintown-Fitch head wrestling coach, appeared virtually through Microsoft Teams to appeal the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Austintown-Fitch High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

### **D. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, a 12<sup>th</sup>-Grade Students, West Lafayette Ridgewood High School (East District)**

A 12<sup>th</sup>-grade student transferred from Warsaw River View High School to West Lafayette Ridgewood High School to start the 2022-23 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 1, were applicable.

The student; the student's parents, Kevin and Tiffany Fry; Jesse Smoulder, Ridgewood assistant principal and athletic administrator; and John Slusser, Ridgewood head football coach, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Ridgewood High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

### **E. Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, 12<sup>th</sup>-Grade Student, Racine Southern High School (Southeast District)**

A 12<sup>th</sup> grade student at Racine Southern High School did not pass five one-credit courses or the equivalent during the fourth grading period of the 2021-22 school year. The Executive Director's Office rules that the student was ineligible for interscholastic athletics for the first grading period of the 2022-23 school year in accordance with Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship.

The student's mother, Amy Miller, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Southern High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

**F. Bylaw 4-3-1, Enrollment and Attendance, a 9<sup>th</sup>-Grade Student, Cincinnati School for Creative and Performing Arts High School (Southwest District)**

A 9<sup>th</sup> grade student at Cincinnati School for Creative and Performing Arts wanted to play a sport at neighboring school within the same district. As a member school, if a sport is offered at the public school in which a student is enrolled, then they are not permitted to participate in a non-offered sport at another school. Executive Director's Office determined that none of the enumerated exceptions to Bylaw 4-3-1, Enrollment and Attendance, and specifically exception 4, were applicable.

The student, and the student's father, Rob Jones, appealed the ruling so that the student could be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at another school within the Cincinnati Public School District.

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

Motion passed 4-0.