

September 8, 2022, OHSAA Appeals

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on September 8, 2022, in person at the OHSAA offices. Appeals Panel members were Dr. Keith Bell, former superintendent of the Euclid City Schools and Westerville City Schools; Mr. Ken Baker, commissioner of Ohio Capital Conference; and Mr. Jason Singleton, athletic director of Columbus Academy. Dr. Bell 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 4-4-1, Scholarship, a 10th-Grade Student, KIPP Columbus (Central District)

A 10th grade student at KIPP Columbus 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 ruled 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 father and stepmother, Jermaine Sr. and Jakishma Davis, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at KIPP Columbus High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

B. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, a 10th- Grade Student, Carroll Bloom-Carroll (Central District)

A 10th-grade student transferred from Canal Winchester High School to Carroll Bloom-Carroll 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, Josh and Mallory Hartsook; and Amy Solaro, legal counsel for the Hartsook family, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Bloom-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 4-4-1, Scholarship, a 10th-Grade Student, Pickerington High School North (Central District)

A 10th grade student at Pickerington High School North 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 ruled 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 legal guardian, Tanisha Frazier, and Colin Beemiller, Pickerington High School North athletic administrator, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Pickerington High School North.

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

Motion passed 2-0-1.

D. Bylaw 4-9-4, Recruiting, a 10th-Grade Student and an 11th-Grade Student, Berlin Center Western Reserve High School (Northeast District)

A 10th grade student and an 11th grade student transferred from Leavittsburg LaBrae High School to Berlin Center Western Reserve High School for the 2022-23 school year. Prior to transferring, their football coach from LaBrae was hired at Western Reserve which created a rebuttable presumption of recruiting for the students. In accordance with Bylaw 4-9-4 #10, Recruiting, the Executive Director's Office declared the students eligible only through the first three regular season football contests and the first eight regular season basketball contests of the 2022-23 season.

Written testimony from the family and Western Reserve High School was submitted to appeal the decision so that the students could be eligible for the first five regular season football contests and the first eleven regular season basketball contests of the 2022-23 season.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

F. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, a 10th-Grade Student, Cincinnati Turpin High School (Southwest District)

A 10th-grade student transferred from Cincinnati Anderson High School to Cincinnati Turpin High School 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's family, Charlie, Karen, and Chuck Gardner appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Turpin High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

G. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, a 12th-Grade Student, Cadiz Harrison Central High School (East District)

A 12th-grade student transferred from Belmont Union Local High School to Cadiz Harrison Central 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 originally approved a request to apply Exception 1, Bona Fide Legal Change of Residence, of Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer. This approval granted the student full eligibility, with regard to transfer, during the 2021-22 school year. Based on additional information later provided to the Executive Director's Office, the approval was rescinded, and thus, the student was required to fulfill the period of ineligibility outlined within Bylaw 4-7-2 during the 2022-23 school year.

Harrison Central athletic administrator, Raymond Hibbs; Harrison Central baseball coach, Mike Valesko; and Ian Watt, legal counsel for the Rex family, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Harrison Central High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

H. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, an 11th-Grade Student, Steubenville High School (East District)

An 11th-grade student transferred from Richmond Edison High School to Steubenville 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 10, were applicable.

The student's parents, Scott and Tiffany Montgomery, and Aaron Newman, Steubenville assistant principal, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Steubenville High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.