

January 4, 2023, OHSAA Appeals

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on January 4, 2023, virtually through Microsoft Teams. Appeals Panel members were Dr. Keith Bell, former superintendent of Euclid City Schools and Westerville City Schools; Dr. Dale Fortner, former superintendent of Wadsworth City Schools; Mr. Tony Mantell, former superintendent of Portsmouth City Schools; and Dr. Tyrone Olverson, former superintendent of Trotwood City Schools. 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 4-1-2, Falsification, an 11th-Grade Student, Pickerington High School Central (Central District)

An 11th grade student transferred from Akron Buchtel High School to Pickerington High School Central and attempted to regain eligibility under the provisions set forth in Bylaw 4-7-2, Exception 9, Transfer into the Public School Located in District of Residence. The Executive Director's Office ruled that the student was in violation of Bylaw 4-1-2, Falsification, because eligibility was attempted via falsified/misled information. Based on the facts of the case, the Executive Director's Office ruled that the student was ineligible beginning with contest #12 of the basketball season and the OHSAA Basketball Tournament.

The student's parents, Candice and Rashad Wells appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Pickerington High School Central.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

B. Bylaw 4-8-2, Transfer, a 12th-Grade Student, Cincinnati Princeton High School (Southwest District)

A 12th grade student attends Cincinnati Princeton High School for the 2022-23 school year. A request for a waiver under Bylaw 4-8-2 was made by Princeton. The Executive Director's Office determined that that situation did not apply to Bylaw 4-8-2, International Exchange Program.

The student; the student's father, Richard West; and Joe Roberts, Princeton's Athletic Administrator, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Princeton High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

C. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, an 11th-Grade Student, Pickerington High School North (Central District)

An 11th grade student transferred from Gahanna Lincoln High School to Pickerington High School North 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 2, were applicable.

The student; the student's godparents, Christopher and Marisa Askew; and Colin Beemiller, Pickerington North Athletic Administrator, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Pickerington High School North.

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

Motion passed 4-0.