

February 2, 2023, OHSAA Appeals

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on February 2, 2023, in person at the OHSAA offices and virtually through Microsoft Teams. Appeals Panel members were Mr. Phil Ackerman, superintendent of Switzerland of Ohio Local Schools; Dr. Keith Bell, former superintendent of Euclid City Schools and Westerville City Schools; Mr. Michael Gallina, former superintendent of North Canton City Schools; and Mr. Tony Mantell, former superintendent of Portsmouth City Schools. 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; Alexis Holderman, OHSAA membership and compliance administrative assistance; and Eric McLaughlin, OHSAA compliance staffer.

A. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, a 12th-Grade Student, Mansfield Senior High School (Northwest District)

A 12th grade student transferred from Shelby High School to Mansfield Senior High School in August 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 7, were applicable.

The student; the student's parents, Charles and Connie Roub; and Kevin Porter, Mansfield Senior athletic administrator, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Mansfield Senior High School. Also in attendance, virtually through Microsoft Teams, was John Gies, Shelby principal.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

B. Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, a 12th-Grade Student, Leesburg Fairfield High School (Southeast District)

A 12th grade student at Leesburg Fairfield High School did not pass five one-credit courses or the equivalent during the second grading period of the 2022-23 school year. The Executive Director's Office ruled that the student was ineligible for interscholastic athletics for the third grading period of the 2022-23 school year in accordance with Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship.

The student's parents, Chad and Lisa Cannon; Stephen Hackett, Fairfield principal; and James Barnett, Fairfield athletic administrator, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Fairfield High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

C. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, a 10th-Grade Student, Parma Padua Franciscan High School (Northeast District)

A 10th grade student transferred from Cleveland Benedictine High School to Parma Padua Franciscan High School in January 2023. 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, Mark and Emily Barker; William Consolo Sr., student's grandfather; and Kevin Leigh, Padua Franciscan athletic administrator, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Padua Franciscan High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

D. Bylaw 4-7-3, Transfer, a 9th-Grade Student, Bellevue High School (Northwest District)

A 9th grade student transferred from Bellevue High School to Townsend Community School in January 2023 but continues to have athletic participation at Bellevue High School. As a mid-season transfer student, the student becomes ineligible for the remainder of the sport season and the OHSAA postseason tournament. For any other sport(s) in which the student participated during the 12 months immediately preceding the transfer. The Executive Director's Office determined that the requirements set forth in Bylaw 4-7-3 were not met.

Written testimony from Bellevue was submitted to appeal the decision so that the student could be eligible for the remainder of the regular season wrestling contests of the 2022-23 season.

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

Motion passed 4-0.