

April 5, 2023, OHSAA Appeals

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on April 5, 2023, in person at the OHSAA office. Appeals Panel members were Dr. Keith Bell, former superintendent of Euclid City Schools and Westerville 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; Alexis Holderman, OHSAA membership and compliance administrative assistance; and Eric McLaughlin, OHSAA compliance staffer.

A. Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, a 12th-Grade Student, Pickerington High School North (Central District)

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

The student; the student's father, Donato DeBellis; Chad Lusher, Pickerington North Coach; Marci Truex, Pickerington North Coach; 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.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

B. Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, a 12th-Grade Student, Cincinnati Walnut Hills High School (Southwest District)

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

The student, and the student's father, Alex Cline, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Walnut Hills High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

C. Bylaw 4-7-4, Intra-District Transfer, a 12th-Grade Student, Akron Buchtel High School (Northeast District)

A 12th grade student transferred from Akron Firestone High School to Akron Buchtel High School in March 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 4-7-4, Intra-District Transfer, and specifically exception 1, were applicable.

The student's father, Timothy Brooks Sr., appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Buchtel High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

D. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, a 12th-Grade Student, Wooster High School (Northeast District)

A 12th grade student transferred from West Salem Northwestern High School to Wooster High School in February 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 1, were applicable.

The student; the student's mother and step-father, Rebecca and Jeff Rhamy; Timothy Pettorini, Family Legal Council; and Steve Young, Wooster baseball coach, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Wooster High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

E. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, an 11th-Grade Student, Hebron Lakewood High School (Central District)

An 11th grade student transferred from Heath High School to Hebron Lakewood 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 1, were applicable.

The student, and the student's mother, Nova Willey, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Lakewood High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

F. Bylaw 4-7-4, Intra-District Transfer, an 11th-Grade Student, Cincinnati Anderson High School (Southwest District)

An 11th grade student transferred from Cincinnati Turpin High School to Cincinnati Anderson 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 4-7-4, Intra-District Transfer, and specifically exceptions 2, were applicable.

Chris Newton, Anderson athletic administrator, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Anderson High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

G. Bylaw 4-6-2, Residency, an 11th-Grade Student, South Point High School (Southeast District)

An 11th grade student enrolled at South Point High School to start the 2022-23 school year without a parent living in Ohio. By operation of Bylaw 4-6-2, Residency, the student is ineligible to compete in interscholastic athletics. The Executive Director's Office determined that the requirements to any exception to Bylaw 4-6-2 could be met.

The student; the student's guardian, Bill Tabor; and Chase Kratzenberg, South Point athletic administrator, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at South Point High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.