

August 3, 2023, OHSAA Appeals

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on August 3, 2023, in person at the OHSAA offices. Appeals Panel members were Mr. Phil Ackerman, superintendent of Switzerland of Ohio Local Schools; Ms. Jan Wilking, former Athletic Director of Wyoming City School; and, Dr. Scott Hunt, executive director of field relations of Ohio Department of Education. 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; and Alexis Holderman, OHSAA membership and compliance administrative assistance.

A. Bylaw 4-7-7, Transfer, an 11th-Grade Student, Granville Christian Academy (Central District)

An 11th grade student transferred from Coshocton Christian School to Granville Christian Academy to start the 2023-24 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 Bylaw 4-7-7, Intra-System Transfers, was not applicable.

The student; the student's parents, Hope and Josh Hamilton; and Josh Sexton, Granville Christian Academy Administrator, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Granville Christian Academy.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

B. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, a 12th-Grade Student, Pickerington High School Central (Central District)

A 12th grade student transferred from Chillicothe High School to Pickerington High School Central in May 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 2, were applicable.

The student; the student's guardians, Eric and Jennifer Klipfer; and Darren Gammell, family friend, 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 3-0.

C. Bylaw 4-6-2, Residency, a 9th-Grade Student, Cincinnati Seton High School (Southwest District)

A 9th grade student enrolled at Cincinnati Seton High School to start the 2023-24 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, specifically exception 6, could not be met.

The student's father, Rick Naltner, and Wendy Smith, Seton Athletic Administrator, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Seton High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

D. Bylaw 4-9-4, Recruiting, a 12th-Grade Student, Kent Theodore Roosevelt High School (Northeast District)

A 12th grade student who transferred from Stow-Munroe Falls High School to Kent Theodore Roosevelt High School in June 2023 was in violation of Bylaw 4-9-4 #10, Recruiting, in the sport of football. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the Executive Director's Office suspended the student for all football scrimmages, first three (3) regular season contests and the OHSAA post season football tournament for the 2023-24 school year.

The student; the student's father, Joel Lewis Jr.; Kathryn Nemec, Godmother; Kardell Jackson, Theodore Roosevelt head football coach; Ben Dunlap, Theodore Roosevelt athletic administrator; and Ken Meyers, family legal representative,

appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Theodore Roosevelt High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

E. Bylaw 4-9-4, Recruiting, a 12th-Grade Student, Kent Theodore Roosevelt High School (Northeast District)

A 12th grade student who transferred from Stow-Munroe Falls High School to Kent Theodore Roosevelt High School in June 2023 was in violation of Bylaw 4-9-4 #10, Recruiting, in the sport of football. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the Executive Director's Office suspended the student for all football scrimmages, first three (3) regular season contests and the OHSAA post season football tournament for the 2023-24 school year.

The student; the student's parents, John Smith and Kathryn Nemecek; John Ericson, student's step father; John Nemecek, student's grandfather; Kardell Jackson, Theodore Roosevelt football coach; Ben Dunlap, Theodore Roosevelt athletic administrator; and Ken Meyers, family legal representative, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Theodore Roosevelt High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

F. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, a 12th-Grade Student, Cincinnati Taft High School (Southwest District)

A 12th grade student transferred from Milford High School to Taft 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 4-7-2, Transfers, and specifically exception 2, were applicable.

The student and the student's parents, Elise Thompson and Dominic Seals, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Taft High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.