

August 17, 2023, OHSAA Appeals

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on August 17, 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. Keith Bell, former superintendent of Westerville City Schools and. 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 Preston Miller, OHSAA compliance staffer.

A. Bylaw 4-7-4, Transfer, a 10th-Grade Student, Pickerington High School North (Central District)

A 10th 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 4-7-4, Intra-System Transfers, was not applicable.

The student's parents, Eugenia Eiland and Kyle Patrick; Rylie Wnorowski, Coach and family legal representation; and Colin Beemiller, Pickerington North 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 3-0.

B. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, an 11th-Grade Student, Berlin Center Western Reserve High School (Northeast District)

An 11th grade student transferred from Warren John F. Kennedy High School to Berlin Center Western Reserve High School 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 none of the enumerated exceptions to Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers, and specifically exceptions 7 and 13, were applicable.

The student's parents, Trisha and Michael Mauro, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Western Reserve High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

C. Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, a 12th-Grade Student, Lakewood High School (Northeast District)

A 12th grade student at Lakewood High School did not pass five one-credit courses or the equivalent during the fourth grading period of the 2022-23 school year. The Executive Director's Office ruled that the student was ineligible for interscholastic athletics for the first grading period of the 2023-24 school year in accordance with Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship.

The student's mother, Rachel Burns; Rob Slone, Lakewood Athletic Administrator; and Lisa Bruening, Lakewood Director of Student Services, 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.

D. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, a 10th-Grade Student, Cincinnati Ursuline Academy (Southwest District)

A 10th grade student transferred from Cincinnati Mount Notre Dame High School to Cincinnati Ursuline Academy 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 7, were applicable.

The student's parents, Doug and Jennifer Baird, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Ursuline Academy.

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

Motion passed 3-0.