

September 7, 2023, OHSAA Appeals

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on September 7, 2023, in person at the OHSAA office. Appeals Panel members were Dr. Kathy McFarland, deputy chief of the Ohio School Boards Association; Dr. Keith Bell, former superintendent of Euclid City Schools and Westerville City Schools; Mr. Tyrone Olverson, former superintendent of Trotwood City Schools; and Dr. John Richard, former superintendent of Perry Local Schools and deputy superintendent of Ohio Department of Education. Dr. McFarland 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 4-3-5, Enrollment and Attendance, a 12th-Grade Student, Dublin Scioto High School (Central District)

A 12th grade student exhausted their eight semesters of eligibility at the high school level during the 2022-23 school year. By operation of Bylaw 4-3-3, Semesters, the student is ineligible to compete at the high school level at any OHSAA member School, and specifically Dublin Scioto High School. The Executive Director's Office determined that the requirements of the exception to Bylaw 4-3-5 could not be met.

The student's father, Matt Fisher, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Dublin Scioto High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

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

A 12th grade student transferred from Austintown-Fitch High School to Westerville North 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 exception 1, were applicable.

The student; the student's father, George Robinson; Ashanti Webb, Westerville North Football Coach; Stanley Jackson, Westerville North Football Coach; Mark Kessler and Tommy Kaczowski, family legal counsel; and Wes Elifritz, Westerville North Athletic Administrator, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Westerville North High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

C. Bylaw 4-7-3, Mid-Season Transfer, a 10th-Grade Student, Ontario High School (Northwest District)

A 10th grade student transferred from Willard High School to Ontario High School in August 2023. 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.

Ontario Athletic Director, Jeff Fisher, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Ontario High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

D. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, an 11th-Grade Student, Findlay Liberty-Benton High School (Northwest District)

Two 11th grade students transferred from Bowling Green High School to Findlay Liberty-Benton High School to start the 2023-24 school year. As transfer students, the students become 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 students 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 students' mother, Diana Roberts, appealed the ruling so that the students could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Liberty-Benton High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

E. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, a 10th-Grade Student, Batavia Clermont Northeastern High School (Southwest District)

A 10th grade student transferred from Williamsburg High School to Batavia Clermont Northeastern 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 exception 7, were applicable.

The student's mother, Leya Gilliam, and TJ Buckley, Clermont Northeastern Athletic Administrator, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Clermont Northeastern High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

F. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, a 10th-Grade Student, Wapakoneta High School (Northwest District)

A 10th grade student transferred from Waynesfield Goshen High School to Wapakoneta High School in August 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, were applicable.

The student's father, Todd Tenaglia, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Wapakoneta High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

G. Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, a 12th-Grade Student, Fairview Park Fairview High School (Northeast District)

A 12th grade student at Fairview Park Fairview 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 parents, Josh and Sarah Lorek, and Tyler Walchanowicz, Legal Representation, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Fairview High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.