

October 5, 2023, OHSAA Appeals

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on October 5, 2023, in person at the OHSAA office. Appeals Panel members were Mr. Phil Ackerman, superintendent of Switzerland Local Schools of Ohio; Dr. John Richard, former superintendent of Perry Local Schools; and Mr. Ken Baker, commissioner of Ohio Capital Conference. 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 4-7-2, Transfer, an 11th-Grade Student, Broadview Heights Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School (Northeast District)

An 11th grade student transferred from Solon High School to Broadview Heights Brecksville-Broadview Heights 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's father, Frank Aquila, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

B. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, an 11th-Grade Student, Bellville Clear Fork High School (Northwest District)

An 11th grade student transferred from Mansfield Christian High School to Bellville Clear Fork 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, were applicable.

The student; the student's parents, Christopher and Emilee Wilson; and Jessica Brokaw, Clear Fork Athletic Director, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Clear Fork High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

C. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, an 11th-Grade Student, Sarahsville Shenandoah High School (East District)

An 11th grade student transferred from Caldwell High School to Sarahsville Shenandoah 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 6, were applicable.

The student's parents, Chris and Tara Estadt, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Shenandoah High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

D. Bylaw 4-7-2, Mid-Season Transfer, a 12th-Grade Student, Cincinnati Mt. Healthy High School (Southwest District)

A 12th grade student transferred from Cincinnati Walnut Hills High School to Cincinnati Mt. Healthy 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, were applicable.

The student's father, Bryan Mallory, appealed the ruling so that the students could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Mt. Healthy High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

E. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, an 11th-Grade Student, Gates Mills Gilmour Academy (Northeast District)

An 11th grade student transferred from Cleveland Benedictine High School to Gates Mills Gilmour Academy 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 7, were applicable.

The student's mother, Carolyn Iliano, and Ryan Ryzner, former President of Benedictine and current COO of Gilmour Academy, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Gilmour Academy.

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

Motion passed 3-0.