

October 19, 2023, OHSAA Appeals

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on October 19, 2023, in person at the OHSAA office. Appeals Panel members were Dr. Dale Fortner, former superintendent of Wadsworth City Schools; Mr. Phil Ackerman, superintendent of Switzerland Local Schools of Ohio; and Mr. Tony Mantell, former superintendent of Portsmouth City Schools. Dr. Fortner 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, a 12th-Grade Student, Gahanna Lincoln High School (Central District)

A 12th grade student transferred from Columbus KIPP Academy to Gahanna Lincoln 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 mother, Tarra Waker; and Kathryn Harris, Gahanna Lincoln Athletic Administrator, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Gahanna Lincoln High School.

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, a 12th-Grade Student, Gahanna Lincoln High School (Central District)

A 12th grade student transferred from Columbus KIPP Academy to Gahanna Lincoln 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 mother, LaTasha Gripper, and Kathryn Harris, Gahanna Lincoln Athletic Administrator, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Gahanna Lincoln High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

C. Bylaw 10-1-2, Forfeitures, Mansfield Senior High School (Northwest District)

A student transferred from Ontario High School to Mansfield Senior High School mid-football season of the 2022-23 school year. As a mid-season transfer student, the student becomes ineligible for the remainder of the sport season and the beginning of the 2023-24 regular season until 50 percent of the maximum allowable regular season contests. However, the transfer consequence, as defined under Bylaw 4-7-2, was applied instead. The Executive Director's Office determined that in accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeiture, Mansfield Senior was required to forfeit the victorious contests in which the ineligible student athlete participated.

The student's mother, Carolyn Iliano; Superintendent of Mansfield City Schools, Stan Jefferson; and Robert McQuate, Mansfield Senior Principal, appealed the ruling so that there would not be forfeiture for the three football contests for Mansfield Senior High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.