

December 14, 2023, OHSAA Appeals

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on December 14, 2023, in person at the OHSAA office. Appeals Panel members were Dr. Dale Fortner, former superintendent of Wadsworth City Schools; Dr. John Richard, former superintendent of Perry Local Schools; Mr. Tony Mantell, former superintendent of Portsmouth City Schools; and Mr. Mike Urling, director of secondary building leadership and professional development of Dublin 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, an 11th-Grade Student, Cincinnati Seven Hills School (Southwest District)

An 11th grade student transferred from Cincinnati St. Xavier High School to Cincinnati Seven Hills 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 and the student's parents, Drake and April Stimson, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Seven Hills School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

B. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, a 10th-Grade Student, Richmond Heights High School (Northeast District)

A 10th grade student transferred from Cleveland Heights Lutheran East High School to Richmond 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 parents, Kim and Ricardo Crumble; Ken Meyers, family's attorney; Marnesha Brown, Richmond Heights Principal and Assistant Superintendent; Timothy King, Richmond Heights Faculty Manager; and Quentin Rogers, Richmond Heights Head Coach and Athletic Director, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Richmond Heights High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

C. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, a 12th-Grade Student, Warren John F Kennedy High School (Northeast District)

A 12th grade student transferred from Cortland Lakeview High School to Warren John F Kennedy 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 13, were applicable.

The student; the student's father and step-mother, Jason Gillespie and Kristin Iafelice; and Matthew Ries, family's attorney, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at John F Kennedy High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

D. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, a 12th-Grade Student, Garfield Heights Trinity High School (Northeast District)

A 12th grade student transferred from Cleveland Central Catholic High School to Garfield Heights Trinity 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 13, were applicable.

The student's parents, Robert Bruce-Bey Sr. and LaTasha Jones, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Trinity High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

E. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, a 10th-Grade Student, Vincent Warren High School (Southeast District)

A 10th grade student transferred from Glouster Trimble High School to Vincent Warren High School in October 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 1, were applicable.

The student's mother, Staci Lawrentz, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Warren 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, Akron Public Schools (Northeast District)

A 12th grade student transferred to Akron Buchtel High School in December 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; the student's uncle, Darnell Jones; and Blaise R. Meeker, family' attorney, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Buchtel High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.