

January 3, 2024, OHSAA Appeals

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on January 3, 2024, in person at the OHSAA office and virtually through Microsoft Teams. Appeals Panel members were Mr. Phil Ackerman, superintendent of Switzerland of Ohio Local School District; Dr. Keith Bell, former superintendent of Euclid City Schools and Westerville City Schools; and Mr. Mike Gallina, former superintendent of North Canton City Schools. 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; Alexis Holderman, OHSAA membership and compliance administrative assistance; Preston Miller, OHSAA compliance staffer; and Ronald Sayers, OHSAA manager of membership and compliance, appeared virtually through Microsoft Teams.

A. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, an 11th-Grade Student, Columbus Grandview Heights High School (Central District)

An 11th grade student transferred from Springfield Catholic Central High School to Columbus Grandview 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 and the student's parents, Tracy and Jim Roediger, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Grandview Heights High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

B. Bylaw 4-3-5, Enrollment and Attendance, a 12th-Grade Student, Columbus St. Charles Preparatory 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 Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School. The Executive Director's Office determined that the requirements of the exception to Bylaw 4-3-5 could not be met.

The student; the student's parents, Jennifer and Martin Griffith; Zachary Swisher, family's attorney; James Lower, St. Charles Principal; and David Lawler, St. Charles Athletic Director, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at St. Charles Preparatory School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

C. Bylaw 4-7-5, Transfer, a 10th-Grade Student, Jefferson Area High School (Northeast District)

A 10th grade student transferred from Ashtabula Lakeside High School to Jefferson Area 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 the requirements set forth in Bylaw 4-7-5 were not met.

The student; the student's parents, Marisol Cora and Jose Navarro; and Greg Juloha, Jefferson Area Athletic Administrator; and Rich Shields, Jefferson Area Principal, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Jefferson Area High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

D. Bylaw 4-7-5, Transfer, a 10th-Grade Student, Jefferson Area High School (Northeast District)

A 10th grade student transferred from Ashtabula Lakeside High School to Jefferson Area 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 the requirements set forth in Bylaw 4-7-5 were not met.

The student; the student's mother, Ona Shetler; the student's sister, Alyssa Shetler; Greg Juhola, Jefferson Area Athletic Director; and Rich Shields, Jefferson Area Principal, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Jefferson Area High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

E. Bylaw 4-7-5, Transfer, an 11th-Grade Student, Jefferson Area High School (Northeast District)

A 10th grade student transferred from Ashtabula Lakeside High School to Jefferson Area 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 the requirements set forth in Bylaw 4-7-5 were not met.

The student; the student's mother, Mallory Welser; Greg Juhola, Jefferson Area Athletic Director; and Rich Shields, Jefferson Area Principal, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Jefferson Area High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

F. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, an 11th-Grade Student, Columbus Hamilton Township High School (Central District)

An 11th grade student transferred from Columbus Harvest Preparatory School to Columbus Hamilton Township 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 parents, Jamar and Cassandra Haynes-Lee, joined virtually via Microsoft Teams to appeal the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Hamilton Township High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.