

January 18, 2024, OHSAA Appeals

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on January 18, 2024, in person at the OHSAA office. Appeals Panel members were Dr. Dale Fortner, former superintendent of Wadsworth City Schools; Dr. Keith Bell, former superintendent of Euclid City Schools and Westerville City Schools; Dr. John Richard, former superintendent of Perry Local Schools; and Mr. Scott Reeves, assistant superintendent of Westerville 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; Preston Miller, OHSAA compliance staffer.

A. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, a 12th-Grade Student, Cincinnati Princeton High School (Southwest District)

A 12th grade student transferred from Cincinnati Archbishop Moeller High School to Cincinnati Princeton High School in April 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 8, were applicable.

The Princeton athletic director, Joe Roberts, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Princeton 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, an 11th-Grade Student, Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary High School (Northeast District)

An 11th grade student transferred from Shaker Heights High School to Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary 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, Bernard Chambers, and Kyle Sasala, St. Vincent-St. Mary Athletic Director, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

C. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, an 11th-Grade Student, Garfield Heights Trinity High School (Northeast District)

An 11th 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 father, Xavier Pearson Sr., appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Trinity High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

D. Bylaw 4-7-7, 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 the requirements set forth in Bylaw 4-7-7 were not met.

The student's father, Xavier Pearson Sr., appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Trinity High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

E. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, a 12th-Grade Student, Stow-Munroe Falls High School (Northeast District)

A 12th grade student transferred from Kent Theodore Roosevelt High School to Stow-Munroe Falls 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 parents, Todd and Michelle Surrena; and Cyle Feldman, Stow-Munroe Falls Athletic Director, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Stow-Munroe Falls High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

F. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, an 11th-Grade Student, Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit High School (Northeast District)

An 11th grade student transferred from Massillon Perry High School to Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit 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 2, were applicable.

The student's father, Shaun Thompson, and Mark Hassman, Walsh Jesuit Athletic Director, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Walsh Jesuit High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

G. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, an 11th-Grade Student, Wauseon High School (Northwest District)

An 11th grade student transferred from Archbold High School to Wauseon 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, Elias and Deyanira Reyes, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Wauseon High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

H. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, an 11th-Grade Student, Youngstown Cardinal Mooney High School (Northeast District)

An 11th grade student transferred from Poland Seminary High School to Youngstown Cardinal Mooney 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; the student's parents, Lori and Joe Genova; Martin Desmond, Family Attorney; and Carl Peline, Cardinal Mooney Athletic Director, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Cardinal Mooney High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

I. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, a 12th-Grade Student, Cincinnati Purcell Marian High School (Southwest District)

A 12th grade student transferred from Cincinnati West Clermont High School to Cincinnati Purcell Marian 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 2, were applicable.

The student, and the student's mother, Loleini Tonga, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Purcell Marian High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.