

## **February 1, 2024, OHSAA Appeals**

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on February 1, 2024, in person at the OHSAA office. Appeals Panel members were Dr. Kathy McFarland, chief executive director of Ohio School Boards Association; Dr. Keith Bell, former superintendent of Euclid City Schools and Westerville City Schools; Mr. Phil Ackerman, superintendent of Switzerland of Ohio Local School District; and Mr. Anthony Mantell, former superintendent of Portsmouth City School District. Dr. McFarland 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.

### **A. Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, a 12<sup>th</sup>-Grade Student, Chillicothe Unioto High School (Southeast District)**

A 12<sup>th</sup> grade student at Chillicothe Unioto High School did not pass five one-credit courses or the equivalent during the second grading period of the 2023-24 school year. The Executive Director's Office ruled that the student was ineligible for interscholastic athletics for the third grading period of the 2023-24 school year in accordance with Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship.

The student; the student's mother, Autumn Book; the student's friends, Caden Cutright and Megan Davis; Matt Thornsberry, Unioto Superintendent; Nathan Caplinger, Unioto principal; Matt Combs, Unioto Athletic Director; and Jeff Miller, Unioto Assistant Principal and Girls Basketball Coach, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Unioto High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

### **B. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, a 12<sup>th</sup>-Grade Student, Massillon Tuslaw High School (Northeast District)**

A 12<sup>th</sup> grade student transferred from Brewster Fairless High School to Massillon Tuslaw 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, Percy and Ashley McGhee, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Tuslaw High School.

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

Motion passed 3-1.

### **C. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, an 11<sup>th</sup>-Grade Student, Cincinnati Hughes High School (Southwest District)**

An 11<sup>th</sup> grade student transferred from Cincinnati LaSalle High School to Cincinnati Hughes 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 11, were applicable.

The student's mother, Anise Ford, and Andrew Mueller, Hughes Athletic Director, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Hughes High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

### **D. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, a 10<sup>th</sup>-Grade Student, Rootstown High School (Northeast District)**

A 10<sup>th</sup> grade student transferred from Mogadore High School to Rootstown High School in September 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 2, were applicable.

The student, and the student's father, Richard King, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Rootstown High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

**E. Bylaw 4-7-7, Transfer, a 10<sup>th</sup>-Grade Student, Garfield Heights Trinity High School (Northeast District)**

A 10<sup>th</sup> 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; the student's brother, Keyontae Burks; and the student's mother, Adriona Hand, 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 4-0.

**F. Bylaw 4-7-7, Transfer, a 12<sup>th</sup>-Grade Student, Garfield Heights Trinity High School (Northeast District)**

A 12<sup>th</sup> 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 mother and Stepfather, ShaRhon Holder and Rolando Peterson, 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 4-0.