

April 4, 2024, OHSAA Appeals

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on April 4, 2024, in person at the OHSAA office. Appeals Panel members were Mr. Phil Ackerman, superintendent of Switzerland of Ohio Local School District; Dr. John Richard, former superintendent of Perry Local School; Mrs. Jan Wilking, former athletic administrator of Wyoming City School District; and Mr. Anthony Mantell, former superintendent of Portsmouth City School District. 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 associate executive director; Ronald Sayers, OHSAA senior manager of eligibility and technology; Lizzy Wilson, Manager of Eligibility; Alexis Holderman, OHSAA membership and compliance administrative assistance; Preston Miller, OHSAA compliance staffer.

A. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, and Bylaw 4-1-2, Falsification, an 11th-Grade Student, Pickerington High School Central (Central District)

An 11th grade student transferred from Pataskala Watkins Memorial High School to Pickerington High School Central in January 2024. 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. Additionally, the Executive Director's Office found that the student's family provided false information when completing the required Affidavit of Bona Fide Residence, thus violating Bylaw 4-1-2, Falsification.

The student's parents, John Sr. and Ebonie Banks, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Pickerington High School Central.

There was a motion to **approve** the appeal to Bylaw 4-7-2 under Exception 9.

Motion passed 4-0.

There was a motion to **deny** the appeal to Bylaw 4-1-2, Falsification with modification.

Motion passed 4-0.

B. Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, a 12th-Grade Student, Worthington Thomas Worthington High School (Central District)

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

The student; the student's mother, Milly Valverde; Molly Feesler, Thomas Worthington Athletic Director; Matthew Welsh, Thomas Worthington Assistance Athletic Director, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Thomas Worthington High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

C. Bylaw 4-1-2, Falsification, an 11th-Grade Student, Delphos St. John's High School (Northwest District)

An 11th grade student transferred from Hamilton Badin High School to Delphos St. John's High School in January 2024. 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 , were applicable.

The student; the student's parents, Chris and Lisa Herron; Adam Lee, St. John's Principal; and Todd Schulte, St. John's Athletic Director, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at St. John's High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

D. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, a 10th and an 11th-Grade Students, Toledo Emmanuel Christian School (Northwest District)

A 10th and an 11th grade students transferred from Toledo Christian School to Toledo Emmanuel Christian School to start the 2023-24 school year. As transfer students, the students become 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 students 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, Alan Sherban; Dave Regnier, Emmanuel Christian Principal; and Sedron Harris, Emmanuel Christian Athletic Director, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Emmanuel Christian School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

E. Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, a 12th-Grade Student, Worthington Thomas Worthington High School (Central District)

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

The student; the student's mother, Janitza Sanchez; Molly Feesler, Thomas Worthington Athletic Director; and Brett Shaffer, Thomas Worthington Assistant Principal, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Thomas Worthington High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.