

September 19, 2024, OHSAA Appeals

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on September 19, 2024, in person at the OHSAA office and virtually through Microsoft Teams. Appeals Panel members were Dr. Kathy McFarland, chief executive director of Ohio School Boards Association; Dr. John Richard, former superintendent of Perry Local School; Mrs. Jan Wilking, former athletic administrator of Wyoming City School District. Dr. McFarland served as the appeals hearing officer.

Also in attendance for all or portions of the appeals: Joseph Fraley, 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 manager of membership services. Steve Craig and Josh Fraley, OHSAA legal counsel, joined virtually.

A. Bylaw 4-7-5, Transfer, an 10th-Grade Student, Westerville Worthington Christian School (Central District)

An 10th grade student transferred from Westerville Genoa Christian Academy to Worthington Christian School to start the 2024-25 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 Bylaw 4-7-5 was not applicable.

The student, and the student's parents, Bryan and Cindy Myers, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Worthington Christian School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

B. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, an 11th-Grade Student, Uhrichsville Claymont High School (East District)

An 11th grade student transferred from Gnadenhutten Indian Valley High School to Uhrichsville Claymont 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 13, were applicable.

The student; the student's parents, Amanda and Dale Poletti; the student's brother, Jarrett Poletti; and Justin Jones, Claymont Athletic Director, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Claymont High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

C. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, a 10th-Grade Student, Parma Padua Franciscan High School (Northeast District)

A 10th grade student transferred from Streetsboro High School to Parma Padua Franciscan High School to start the 2024-25 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, Chad and Andrea Christine; and Kevin Leigh, Padua Franciscan Athletic Administrator, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Padua Franciscan High School. Brett McCann, former Streetsboro Principal, and Randy Tevepugh, Streetsboro Athletic Administrator appeared virtually through Microsoft Teams.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

D. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, an 11th-Grade Student, Sherwood Fairview High School (Northwest District)

An 11th grade student transferred from Defiance High School to Sherwood Fairview High School to start the 2024-25 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's mother, Lucinda Beiswenger, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Fairview High School.

There was a motion to **approve** the appeal to Bylaw 4-7-2 under Exception 1.

Motion passed 3-0.

E. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, and Bylaw 4-1-2, Falsification, a 12th-Grade Student, Bellefontaine High School (Southwest District)

A 12th grade student transferred from Centerville High School to Bellefontaine High School to start the 2024-25 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 OHSA 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 father, Jason Stahl, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Bellefontaine High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

F. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, and Bylaw 4-1-2, Falsification, a 12th-Grade Student, Bellefontaine High School (Southwest District)

A 12th grade student transferred from Centerville High School to Bellefontaine High School to start the 2024-25 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 OHSA 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 mother, Demetrius Barnett, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Bellefontaine High School.

The appeal was dismissed and penalties applied waived.

G. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, a 12th-Grade Student, Parma Normandy High School (Northeast District)

A 12th grade student transferred from Stow High School to Parma Normandy High School to start the 2024-25 school year. As transfer student, the student becomes ineligible beginning with the second 50 percent of the maximum allowable regular season contests and the OHSA 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 2, were applicable.

The student's guardian, Aime Simmons; The student's mother, Shanna Czech; and Chris Medaglia, Normandy Athletic Director, appealed the ruling virtually through Microsoft Teams so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Normandy High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.