

October 3, 2024, OHSAA Appeals

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on October 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 School District; Mr. Tony Mantell, former superintendent of Portsmouth City School District; and Mr. Thomas Perkins, deputy executive director of Buckeye Association of School Administrators. Mr. Ackerman served as the appeals hearing officer.

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

A. Bylaw 4-5-6, Code of Conduct, a 12th-Grade Student, Strongsville High School (Northeast District)

A 12th grade student violated North Royalton's Code of Conduct and was subject to a penalty. The student transferred to Strongsville High School to start the 2024-25. In accordance with Bylaw 4-5-6, Code of Conduct, the student is subject to the penalty administered by North Royalton at Strongsville High School.

The student and the student's mother, Marissa Langshaw, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Strongsville High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

B. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, an 11th-Grade Student, Brunswick High School (Northeast District)

An 11th grade student transferred from Lakewood St. Edward High School to Brunswick 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 1, were applicable.

The student; the student's mother, Brookana Bonezzi; and Jim Kovi, Brunswick athletic Director, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Brunswick High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

C. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, an 11th-Grade Student, Beloit West Branch High School (Northeast District)

An 11th grade student transferred from Louisville High School to Beloit West Branch 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 13, were applicable.

The student; the student's parents, Brian and Kathy Beatty; Ryan Wolf, West Branch Athletic Administrator; Jeff Couto, former coach of the student at Louisville; Zach Clark, LPD Detective; and Faith Dylewski, Beatty's attorney, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at West Branch High School. Terrie Horn, Louisville Athletic Director; Gary Tausch, Louisville Principal; Michele Shaffer, Louisville Superintendent; Derek Nottingham, Louisville Treasurer and Compliance Officer; Anna Minor, Louisville Assistant Superintendent; and Mary Jo Slick, Louisville's Board attorney, appeared virtually through Microsoft Teams.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

D. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, a 12th and two 11th-Grade Students, Youngstown Cardinal Mooney High School (Northeast District)

A 12th grade and two 11th grade students transferred to Youngstown Cardinal Mooney. 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, were applicable.

The students; the students' parents, Joseph Hamm, Frank Gugliutta, Tamika Blandon and Ike Lake; one of the student's sister, Jasmine Williams; and the students' attorney, Martin Desmond, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Cardinal Mooney High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

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

A 12th grade student transferred from Warren G Harding High School to Ashtabula Lakeside 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 7, were applicable.

Lakeside Principal, Douglas Wetherlolt; Lisa Newsome, Lakeside Superintendent; and Andy Oudomlith, Lakeside Athletic Administrator, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Lakeside High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

F. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, an 11th-Grade Student, Wheelersburg High School (Southeast District)

An 11th grade student transferred from McDermott Northwest High School to Wheelersburg 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.

The student's father, Michael Mitchell, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Wheelersburg High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

G. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, an 11th-Grade Student, Akron Ellet Community Learning Center (Northeast District)

An 11th grade student transferred from Barberton High School to Akron Ellet Community Learning Center 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, were applicable.

The student, and the student's parents, Shaun and Katie Dente, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Ellet Community Learning Center.

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

Motion passed 3-0.