

## **October 16, 2024, OHSAA Appeals**

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on October 16, 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. Kathy McFarland, chief executive director of Ohio School Boards Association; Mrs. Jan Wilking, former athletic administrator of Wyoming City Schools; and Mr. Elgin Card, superintendent of Princeton City School District. Mr. Ackerman 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, OHSAA manager of eligibility; Alexis Holderman, OHSAA manager of membership services. Steve Craig, OHSAA legal counsel, and Josh Fraley, OHSAA legal counsel, joined virtually.

### **A. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, a 12<sup>th</sup>-Grade Student, Groveport Madison Christian High School (Central District)**

A 12<sup>th</sup> grade student transferred from Lancaster Fisher Catholic High School to Groveport Madison Christian 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, Transfer, and specifically exception 5, were applicable.

The student; the student's parents, Tom Huber and Lisa Hanson-Huber; Jason Chan, Madison Christian head basketball coach; and John Hamilton, Madison Christian Athletic Director, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Madison Christian 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, Cincinnati Princeton High School (Southwest District)**

A 12<sup>th</sup> grade student transferred from Cincinnati Colerain High School to Princeton 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, Transfer, and specifically exception 1, were applicable.

The student's father, Greg Williams, and Joe Roberts, Princeton Athletic Director, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Princeton High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

### **C. Bylaw 4-7-4, Intra-District Transfer, an 11<sup>th</sup>-Grade Student, Lakewood St. Edward High School (Northeast District)**

An 11<sup>th</sup> grade student transferred from Cleveland Benedictine High School to Lakewood St. Edward 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 4-7-4, Intra-District Transfer, and specifically exception 1, were applicable.

St. Edward Athletic Director, Peter Kahler, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at St. Edward High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

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

A 12<sup>th</sup> grade student transferred from Springfield High School to East Palestine High School in February 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, Transfer, and specifically exception 1, were applicable.

The student; the student's sister, Rickayla Kleinknecht; and, the student's parents, Richard and Renee Kleinknecht, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at East Palestine High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

**E. Bylaw 4-7-5, Transfer, an 11<sup>th</sup>-Grade Student, Cleveland Heights Lutheran East High School (Northeast District)**

An 11<sup>th</sup> grade student transferred from Euclid High School to Cleveland Heights Lutheran East High School in March 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 Bylaw 4-7-5, Transfer, was not applicable.

The student's mother, Zaina Kareem, and Anthony Jones, Lutheran East Athletic Airector, join virtually via Microsoft Teams to appeal the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Lutheran East High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.