

November 14, 2024, OHSAA Appeals

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on November 14, 2024, in person at the OHSAA office and virtually through Microsoft Teams. Appeals Panel members were Dr. Dale Fortner, former superintendent of Wadsworth City Schools; Dr. John Richard, former superintendent of Perry Local Schools; Dr. Mike Gallina, former superintendent North Canton City Schools; and, Mrs. Gina Franks, director of student services of Dover High School. Dr. Fortner 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; and Lizzy Wilson, OHSAA manager of eligibility. Steve Craig, OHSAA legal counsel, joined virtually.

A. Bylaw 4-7-4, Intra-District Transfer, a 12th-Grade Student, Columbus Franklin Heights High School (Central District)

A 12th grade student transferred their participation opportunity from Grove City Central Crossing High School to Columbus Franklin Heights 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.

The student, and the student's father, Ty Hairston, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Franklin Heights High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

B. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, a 12th-Grade and 10th-Grade Student, The Plains Athens High School (Southeast District)

A 12th grade and 10th grade students transferred from a high school in Parkersburg, WV to The Plains Athens High School to start the 2024-25 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, Transfer, were applicable.

The superintendent, Thomas Gibbs, and Eric Sholtis, Athens athletic director, appealed the ruling so that the students could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Athens High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

C. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, a 10th-Grade Student, Chardon Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin High School (Northeast District)

A 10th grade student transferred from Chesterland West Geauga High School to Chardon Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin 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 7, were applicable.

The student's mother, Marla Blake, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

D. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, an 11th Grade Student, Williamsburg High School (Southwest District)

An 11th grade student transferred from Batavia West Clermont High School to Williamsburg 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 7, were applicable.

The student; the student's parents, Kristin and Chris Schoumacher; and Jason Mobley, Williamsburg athletic administrator, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Williamsburg High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.