

## **December 12, 2024, OHSAA Appeals**

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on December 12, 2024, in person at the OHSAA office and virtually through Microsoft Teams. Appeals Panel members were Dr. Keith Bell, former superintendent of Euclid City Schools and Westerville City School District; Mr. Tyrone Olverson, former superintendent of Trotwood City School District; Mr. Tony Mantell, former superintendent of Portsmouth City School District; and, Mr. Elgin Card, superintendent of Princeton City Schools. Dr. Bell 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, joined virtually.

### **A. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, a 10<sup>th</sup>-Grade Student, West Milton Milton-Union High School (Southwest District)**

A 10<sup>th</sup> grade student transferred from New Bremen High School to West Milton Milton-Union 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 father, Justin Firks; Chris Fulton, Milton-Union athletic administrator; and Dr. Brad Ritchy, Milton-Union superintendent, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Milton-Union 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 Clark Montessori High School (Southwest District)**

A 12<sup>th</sup> grade student transferred from Cincinnati Anderson High School to Cincinnati Clark Montessori 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; the student's mother, Denna Austin; and Derek Williams, Clark Montessori athletic Director, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Clark Montessori High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

### **C. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, an 11<sup>th</sup>-Grade Student, Medina Christian Academy (Northeast District)**

An 11<sup>th</sup> grade student transferred from Richfield Revere High School to Medina Christian Academy 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's parents, Mitzie and Michael Maletich, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Medina Christian Academy.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

### **D. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, a 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Student, Medina Christian High School (Northeast District)**

A 10<sup>th</sup> grade student transferred from Medina Highland High School to Medina 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 7, were applicable.

The student's father, Dan Tousley, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Medina Christian Academy.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

**E. Bylaw 4-7-7, Transfer, a 10<sup>th</sup>-Grade Student, Cincinnati Archbishop McNicholas High School (Southwest District)**

A 10<sup>th</sup> grade student transferred from Saint Bernand Roger Bacon High School to Cincinnati Archbishop McNicholas 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 Bylaw 4-7-7, Intra-System Transfer, was not applicable.

The student's father, Bob Wurzelbacher, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Archbishop McNicholas High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

**F. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, a 12<sup>th</sup>-Grade Student, Garfield Heights High School (Northeast District)**

A 12<sup>th</sup> grade student transferred from Euclid High School to Garfield 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 4-7-2, Transfer, and specifically exception 1, were applicable.

The student's mother, Dawn Jones, and Michael Cruz, Garfield Heights athletic director, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Garfield Heights High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

**G. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, an 11<sup>th</sup>-Grade Student, Centerburg High School (Central District)**

An 11<sup>th</sup> grade student transferred from Delaware Olentangy Berlin High School to Centerburg 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 mother, Wendy Ellis; John Huffman, Ellis family counsel; and Rich Porter, Centerburg athletic director, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Centerburg High School. Additionally, John Betz, Olentangy Berlin athletic administrator, joined virtually via Microsoft Teams.

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

Motion passed 4-0.