

January 8, 2025, OHSAA Appeals

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on January 8, 2025, in person at the OHSAA office and virtually through Microsoft Teams. Appeals Panel members were Mr. Phil Ackerman, superintendent of Switzerland of Ohio Local Schools; Dr. Keith Bell, former superintendent of Euclid City Schools and Westerville City School District; Dr. John Richard, former superintendent of Perry Local Schools; 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; Bob Goldring, OHSAA director of communications and special projects; Kristin Ronai, OHSAA associate executive director; Ronald Sayers, OHSAA senior manager of eligibility and technology; Alexis Holderman, OHSAA manager of membership services. Steve Craig, OHSAA legal counsel, joined virtually.

A. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, an 11th-Grade Student, South Vienna Northeastern High School (Southwest District)

An 11th grade student transferred from Springfield Kenton Ridge High School to South Vienna Northeastern High School in April 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 7, were applicable.

The student, and the student's mother and step-father, Tiffini and Kyle McClain, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Northeastern High School. Additionally, John Hill, Kenton Ridge principal, joined virtually via Microsoft Teams.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

B. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, an 11th-Grade Student, Cincinnati Clark Montessori High School (Southwest District)

An 11th grade student transferred from West Chester Lakota West 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 7, were applicable.

The student; the student's parents, Eric Simmons and Stacey Hill-Simmons; 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.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

C. Bylaw 4-6-2, Residency, a 9th-Grade Student, Batavia High School (Southwest District)

A 9th grade student enrolled at Batavia High School to start 2024-5 school year without a parent living in Ohio. By operation of Bylaw 4-6-2, Residency, the student is ineligible to compete in interscholastic athletics. The Executive Director's Office determined that none of the enumerated exceptions to Bylaw 4-6-2 could be met.

The student's guardians, Leia and Alex Swart, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Batavia High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

D. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, a 10th Grade Student, Cleveland Heights Lutheran East High School (Northeast District)

A 10th grade student transferred from Brooklyn High School to Cleveland Heights Lutheran East 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, were applicable.

The student; the student's parent's, Poeme Manigat and Hina Ansari; and the student's brother's, Dawoud and Younas Manigat, appealed 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.

E. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, an 11th-Grade Student, Toledo Start High School (Northwest District)

An 11th grade student transferred from Toledo Central Catholic High School to Toledo Pre-Med and Health School, but with a participation opportunity at Toledo Start 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 and the student's father, Anthony Pietras, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Start High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.