

January 17, 2025, OHSAA Appeals

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on January 17, 2025, 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; Mr. Tony Mantell, former superintendent of Portsmouth City School District; and, Dr. Keith Bell, former superintendent of Euclid City Schools and Westerville City School District. 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; Lizzy Wilson, OHSAA manager of eligibility; Alexis Holderman, OHSAA manager of membership services; and Steve Craig, OHSAA legal counsel.

A. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, a 10th and 12th-Grade Student, Westerville South High School (Central District)

A 10th and 12th grade student transferred from Thomas Worthington High School to Westerville South High School in September 2024. As transfer students, 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 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, and specifically exception 1, were applicable.

The students; the students' parents, Jaybee and Tammy Bethea; and Jeff Good, Westerville South athletic administrator, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Westerville South High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.