

January 23, 2025, OHSAA Appeals

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on January 23, 2025, in person at the OHSAA office and virtually through Microsoft Teams. Appeals Panel members were Mr. Michael Gallina, former superintendent of North Canton City Schools; Mr. Tony Mantell, former superintendent of Portsmouth City School District; and, Mr. Elgin Card, superintendent of Princeton City Schools. Mr. Gallina served as the appeals hearing officer.

Also in attendance for all or portions of the appeals: Josh 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, an 11th-Grade Student, Louisville High School (Northeast District)

An 11th grade student transferred from Massillon Perry High School to Louisville 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 exceptions 1 and 7, were applicable.

The student's father, David Montgomery, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Louisville High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

B. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, an 11th-Grade Student, Shelby High School (Northwest District)

An 11th grade student transferred from Ontario High School to Shelby High School in December 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; the student's parents, Jessica and Brian Foltz; John Gies, Shelby principal; Tim Tarrin, former superintendent; and Pat Lewis, Shelby athletic Director, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Shelby High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

C. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, and Bylaw 4-1-2, Falsification, an 11th-Grade Student, Cincinnati Woodward High School (Southwest District)

An 11th grade student transferred from Cincinnati Winton Woods High School to Cincinnati Woodward 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, Transfers, and specifically exception 1, were applicable. Additionally, the Executive Director's Office found that the student's family provided false information when completing the required Affidavit of Bona Fide Residence, thus violating Bylaw 4-1-2, Falsification.

The student; the student's mother, Aketa Barrow; and, JaBreel Moton, Woodward athletic director, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Woodward High School.

Based on the information presented during the appeal, there was a motion to **grant** the appeal for Bylaw 4-7-2, Ex. 1, transfer.

Motion passed 3-0.

There was a motion to **deny** the appeal with modifications for Bylaw 4-1-2, Falsification.

Motion passed 3-0.

D. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, an 11th Grade Student, Cincinnati Miami Valley Christian Academy (Southwest District)

An 11th grade student transferred from Cincinnati Anderson High School to Cincinnati Miami Valley 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 7, were applicable.

The student; the student's parents, Kate and Ray Gearding; and, Matt Blandin, Miami Valley Christian Academy athletic administrator, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Miami Valley Christian Academy.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

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

An 11th grade student transferred from Mount Orab Western Brown 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, Noah and Kandice Smith; and Jason Moberly, Williamsburg athletic administrator, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Williamsburg High School. Additionally, Heather Cooper, Western Brown principal; Tim Cook, Western Brown assistant principal and athletic director; Jeff Hermann, Western Brown assistant principal and Assistant athletic director; Don Rabold, Brown Country ESC Representative; and Dr. Michael Bruner, Smith's doctor, joined virtually via Microsoft Teams.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

F. Bylaw 4-7-5, Transfer, an 11th-Grade Student, Toledo Whitmer High School (Northwest District)

An 11th grade student transferred from Fremont Ross High School to Toledo Whitmer 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 4-7-5, Transfer, was not applicable.

The student; the student's father, Tyler Haralson; and, Anthony Stacy, Whitmer basketball coach, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Whitmer High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

G. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, an 11th-Grade Student, Portsmouth West High School (Southeast District)

An 11th grade student transferred from McDermott Northwest High School to Portsmouth West 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, and the student's parents, LeaAnn and Jason McIntire, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Portsmouth West High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.