

February 6, 2025, OHSAA Appeals

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on February 6, 2025, virtually through Microsoft Teams. Appeals Panel members were Dr. Kathy McFarland, chief executive director of Ohio School Boards Association; Dr. Keith Bell, former superintendent of Euclid City Schools and Westerville City School District; Dr. John Richard, former superintendent of Perry City Schools; Mrs. Gina Franks, director of student services of Dover High School. Dr. McFarland served as the appeals hearing officer.

Also in attendance for all or portions of the appeals: Joseph Fraley, OHSAA legal counsel; 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.

A. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, an 11th-Grade Student, Salem High School (Northeast District)

An 11th grade student transferred from Hanoverton United High School to Salem 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, Lynett Herold, and Matt Freeman, Salem athletic administrator, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Salem High School.

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

Motion passed 3-1.

B. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, an 11th-Grade Student, Akron Buchtel High School (Northeast District)

An 11th grade student transferred from Westminster School in New York to Towpath High School, with athletic participation at Akron Buchtel High School, in September 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 1, were applicable.

The student; the student's mother, Angela Bryant; Blaise Meeker, attorney; and Joe Vassalotti, Akron City School District athletic administrator, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Buchtel High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

C. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, an 11th Grade Student, Akron Buchtel High School (Northeast District)

An 11th grade student transferred from University Prep School in New York to Towpath High School, with athletic participation at Akron Buchtel High School, in September 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 1, were applicable.

The student's parents, Gregory Bodine and Yolanda Whipset; Ken Myers, attorney; and Joe Vassalotti, Akron City School District athletic administrator, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Buchtel High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

D. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, an 11th-Grade Student, Akron Buchtel High School (Northeast District)

An 11th grade student transferred from University Prep School in New York to Towpath High School, with athletic participation at Akron Buchtel High School, in September 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 1, were applicable.

The student's father, Knekose Michael-Mack Sr., and Joe Vassalotti, Akron City School District athletic administrator, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Buchtel High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.