

February 27, 2025, OHSAA Appeals

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on February 27, 2025, 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. 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. 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. Josh Fraley, OHSAA legal counsel, joined virtually.

A. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, a 12th-Grade Student, Columbus Beechcroft High School (Central District)

A 12th grade student transferred from Plain City Jonathan Alder High School to Columbus Beechcroft 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 exceptions 1 and 13, were applicable.

The student's mother, Allison Hammons, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Beechcroft High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

B. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, a 10th-Grade Student, Columbus Bishop Ready High School (Central District)

A 10th grade student transferred from Hilliard Bradley High School to Columbus Bishop Ready High School in January 2025. 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, Nick Fought, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Columbus Bishop Ready High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

C. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, a 12th Grade Student, Frankfort Adena High School (Southeast District)

A 12th grade student transferred from Chillicothe Unioto High School to Frankfort Adena 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, Crystal and Darrell Puckett; and, Melinda Benson, attorney, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Adena High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

D. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, an 11th-Grade Student, Waverly High School (Southeast District)

An 11th grade student transferred from Circleville High School to Waverly 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 and step-father, Erin and Bryan Wickline, and Bo Arnett, Waverly athletic administrator, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Waverly High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.