

April 25, 2025, OHSAA Appeals

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on April 25, 2025, virtually via Microsoft Teams. Appeals Panel members were Dr. Keith Bell, former superintendent of Euclid City Schools and Westerville City School District; Mr. Elgin Card, superintendent of Princeton City Schools; and Mr. Thomas Perkins, deputy executive director of Buckeye Association of School Administrators. 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.

A. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, an 11th-Grade Student, Gahanna Columbus Academy (Central District)

An 11th grade student transferred from Newark Catholic High School to Gahanna Columbus 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 mother, Katie Leibas; Jason Singleton, Columbus Academy athletic administrator; and, Tom Pickering, Newark Catholic principal athletic director, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Columbus Academy.

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

Motion passed 3-0.