

May 1, 2025, OHSAA Appeals

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on May 1, 2025, in person at the OHSAA office. 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; and, Mr. Dan Leffingwell, former superintendent of Noble Local School District; and 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; 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, a 10th-Grade Student, Columbus Briggs High School (Central District)

A 10th grade student transferred from Grove City High School to Columbus Briggs 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. 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's parents, James and Anita Wilson, and the family's attorneys, Mark Weiker and Jessica Moore, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Columbus Briggs High School.

There was a motion to **deny** the appeal in regards to transfer. There was no motion regarding the appeal for falsification as it was nullified.

Motion passed 4-0.

B. Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, an 11th-Grade Student, Carroll Bloom Carroll High School (Central District)

An 11th grade student at Carroll Bloom Carroll High School did not pass five one-credit courses or the equivalent during the third grading period of the 2024-25 school year. The Executive Director's Office ruled that the student was ineligible for interscholastic athletics for the fourth grading period of the 2024-25 school year in accordance with Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship.

The student and the student's parents, Shalon and Wesley Hubner, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Bloom Carroll High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

C. Bylaw 4-7-4, Transfer, a 10th Grade Student, West Chester Lakota West High School (Southwest District)

A 10th grade student transferred from Liberty Township Lakota East High School to West Chester Lakota 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 4-7-4, Transfer, and specifically exception 6, were applicable.

The student and the student's father, Adam Long, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Lakota West High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

D. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, a 10th Grade Student, Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit High School (Northeast District)

An 11th grade student transferred from Richfield Revere High School to Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit 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, were applicable.

The student; the student's father, Jeremy Harpley; and, Christopher Tipping, attorney, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Walsh Jesuit High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

E. Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, an 11th Grade Student, Mentor High School (Northeast District)

An 11th grade student at Carroll Bloom Carroll High School did not pass five one-credit courses or the equivalent during the third grading period of the 2024-25 school year. The Executive Director's Office ruled that the student was ineligible for interscholastic athletics for the fourth grading period of the 2024-25 school year in accordance with Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship.

The student's parents, Rebecca and Henry Schenk, and Jeff Cassella, Mentor athletic director, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Mentor High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

F. Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, a 12th Grade Student, Cincinnati Walnut Hills High School (Southwest District)

An 11th grade student at Cincinnati Walnut Hills High School did not pass five one-credit courses or the equivalent during the third grading period of the 2024-25 school year. The Executive Director's Office ruled that the student was ineligible for interscholastic athletics for the fourth grading period of the 2024-25 school year in accordance with Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship.

The student and the student's father, Isaac Campos, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Walnut Hills High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.