

May 28, 2025, OHSAA Appeals

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on May 28, 2025, in person at the OHSAA office. Appeals Panel members were Mr. Phil Ackerman, Superintendent of Switzerland of Ohio Local Schools; Dr. Keith Bell, former superintendent of Euclid City Schools and Westerville City School District; and, Mr. Thomas Perkins, deputy executive director of Buckeye Association of School Administrators. Mr. Ackerman 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 9th Grade Student, Columbus Bishop Watterson High School (Central District)

A 9th grade student transferred from Dublin Coffman High School to Columbus Bishop Watterson 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, specifically Exception 7 and 13, were applicable.

The student's father, Todd Alles Jr.; Laura Dues, parent of the student's former teammate; and, Jason Magyar, parent of the student's former teammate, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Bishop Watterson High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

B. Bylaw 4-7-4, Inter-District Transfer, and Bylaw 4-1-2, Falsification, an 11th-Grade and 9th grade Student, Galloway Westland High School (Central District)

An 11th and 9th grade student transferred from Central Crossing High School to Westland High School in January 2025. As transfer students, the students 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 1, were applicable. Additionally, the Executive Director's Office found that the students' family provided false information when completing the required Affidavit of Bona Fide Residence, thus violating Bylaw 4-1-2, Falsification.

The student's father, Moses Gathings III, appealed the ruling so that the students could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Westland High School.

There was a motion to **deny** the appeal in regards to transfer.

There was a motion to **modify** the appeal in regards to falsification.

Motion passed 3-0.

C. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, a 10th Grade Student, Youngstown Ursuline High School (Northeast District)

A 10th grade student transferred from Canfield High School to Youngstown Ursuline 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, specifically Exception 13, were applicable.

The student's parents, Melinda and Fred Furr, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Ursuline High School. John DeSantis, Ursuline athletics director, joined virtually via Microsoft Teams.

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

Motion passed 3-0.