

BYLAW 4-7-2 IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Exceptions One and Two of the transfer bylaw require time for OHSAA staff to process

Last May, the membership adopted a new provision to bylaw 4-7-2 (transfers) that took effect June 1, 2011. The new changes were specific to exceptions one and two of the bylaw, which now require the OHSAA staff to make a determination as to why a transfer is being requested.

The OHSAA will make this determination by checking with school administrators at the school from which the student is seeking the transfer in order to ascertain whether the student's sports participation is a controlling factor in the move or the change of custody.

In order to be fair to all students and our member schools, it is important that transfers under these two exceptions are not being used to circumvent the transfer bylaw. The change of custody or the parents' bona fide move must not have been done merely so the student could change schools.

Please understand that it takes some time to verify this information. Therefore, please advise the student seeking such a transfer, and parents, that approval is not automatic and it may take several days to reach a final decision. Please review carefully all Affidavits of Bona Fide Residence (exception one) for accuracy and completeness before submitting, and the OHSAA advises that administrators investigate the transfer before submitting the paperwork.

With legal changes of custody, please follow the guidance at this link in preparing your letter request http://www.ohsaa.org/eligibility/4-7-2Guidance_Exc2.pdf, and please include the name of the school from which the student is transferring.

The following are some examples of instances in which the OHSAA may not approve a transfer under either of these exceptions: 1) a student who has had an athletic code of conduct violation resulting in a denial of participation; 2) a student whose parents have had a disagreement with a coaching staff member; 3) a student who has played on a non-interscholastic team with another school's coaching staff; 4) a student who has quit or been dismissed from an athletic team. This list is not exclusive but is representative of some of the reasons that schools have cited for a student's transfer.

Those forms and the guidance for their use can be found at www.ohsaa.org/eligibility/TransferBylawGuidance.htm.

The OHSAA is committed to serving school administrators as quickly as possible while performing due diligence in accordance with the changes adopted by the membership. Patience and cooperation are needed with this process. As always, please feel free to call or email OHSAA administrators Deborah Moore or Roxanne Price with your questions. ©



Deborah Moore

Dr. Deborah Moore joined the OHSAA as an assistant commissioner in June of 1989 and was promoted to Associate Commissioner for Eligibility in August of 2008. A native of Newark, Ohio, she owns degrees from Kent State and Ohio State and spent 15 years as a teacher and professor before joining the OHSAA. Dr. Moore also serves as the OHSAA's administrator for the sports of field hockey, volleyball, swimming & diving and gymnastics.

Roxanne Price



After 20 years in intercollegiate athletics, Roxanne Price came to the OHSAA in February of 2006 and was promoted to assistant commissioner in August of 2007. After graduating from Fremont Ross High School and Ohio State, she worked at the University of Virginia, Akron, Ohio State and Columbus State in the areas of student support services and athletics administration. The author of three children's books, Roxanne oversees the sports of tennis, bowling and softball in addition to the OHSAA's sportsmanship program.

Cincinnati Ursuline Academy's Komal Safdar (right) embraces her sister and partner, Mehvish Safdar, after winning the 2010 Division I doubles tennis championship. Komal made it back to the state tournament after finishing as the Division I singles runner-up in 2009.

