

November 13, 2019, OHSAA Appeals

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on November 13, 2019 at the office of the Ohio High School Athletic Association in Columbus. Appeals Panel members were Dave Gray, former superintendent of Franklin-Monroe Local Schools; Phil Ackerman, former superintendent of Switzerland of Ohio Local Schools; and Tony Mantell, former superintendent of Portsmouth Clay Local Schools. Mr. Gray served as the appeals hearing officer.

Also in attendance for all or portions of the hearing: Steve Craig, OHSAA legal counsel; Jerry Snodgrass, OHSAA Executive Director; Bob Goldring, OHSAA Senior Director of Operations; Deborah B. Moore, OHSAA Senior Director of Compliance and Sports Medicine; Roxanne Price, OHSAA Senior Director of Compliance; and Kristin Ronai, OHSAA Director of Compliance.

A. Officiating Handbook Code X.9, Criminal Convictions

In November 2019, the OHSAA Office suspended an individual's officiating license for sixty days in accordance with OHSAA Officials Handbook. Section X, 9, Criminal Convictions.

The official, Vincent Wielinski, appealed the ruling via teleconference so the suspension on his OHSAA officiating license would be overturned immediately.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

B. Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, A 12th-Grade Student, Bascom Hopewell-Loudon High School (Northwest District)

A 12th-grade student at Bascom Hopewell-Loudon High School did not pass five one-credits courses or the equivalent during the first grading period of the 2019-20 school year. The Executive Director's Office ruled that the student was ineligible for interscholastic athletics for the second grading period of the 2019-20 school year in accordance with Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship.

The student and her mother, Alicia Coleman, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Hopewell-Loudon High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0

C. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, A 12th-Grade Student, Cincinnati Christian School (Southwest District)

A 12th-grade student transferred from Cincinnati La Salle High School to Cincinnati Christian School for the 2019-20 school year. As a transfer student, the student became 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, Transfers, were applicable, specifically exception 9.

The student's parents, Leroy and MinToy Cardwell, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Cincinnati Christian School.

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

The motion passed 3-0.

D. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, Three 12th-Grade Students, Louisville St. Thomas Aquinas (Northeast District)

Three 12th-grade students transferred from Canton GlenOak High School to Louisville St. Thomas Aquinas for the 2019-20 school year. As transfer students, the students became 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 students participated during the 12 months immediately preceding their respective transfers. The Executive Director's Office determined that none of the enumerated exceptions to Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers, were applicable, specifically exception 7.

The three students and their parents, Marc and Jen Mucci; Kara Smith; and Lakisha Warren; and Douglas Bond and Jonathan Bond, the family's attorneys, appealed the ruling so that the students could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at St. Thomas Aquinas High School.

Scott Garcia, Athletic Director at GlenOak High School, and Brent May, Superintendent of Plain Local Schools, were compelled to attend the appeal to offer insight. They were accompanied by Sherrie Massey, legal counsel.

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

Motion passed 2-1.