

## **February 11, 2020, OHSAA Appeals**

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants via a teleconference on February 11, 2020 for an expedited hearing. Appeals Panel members were Dave Gray, former superintendent of Franklin-Monroe Local Schools; Dale Fortner, former superintendent of Wadsworth City 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; Kathleen Coughlin, OHSAA Director of Sport Management; Andrea Heiberger, OHSAA Receptionist/Administrative Assistant; and Kristin Ronai, OHSAA Director of Compliance.

### **A. Bylaw 9-2-1, Contests with Out-Of-State Schools, Cleveland Heights High School (Northeast District)**

Cleveland Heights High School violated Bylaw 9-2-1 when its boys varsity basketball team missed school time to travel to a contest(s) in a non-contiguous state. Therefore, the Executive Director's Office applied the penalty prescribed by the OHSAA member schools outlined in Bylaw 9-2-1 and removed Cleveland Heights High School from participation in the 2020 OHSAA postseason boys basketball tournament.

Byron Hopkins, Cleveland Heights principal; Joe D'Amato, Cleveland Heights athletic administrator; and Lindsay Gingo and Megan Bair, Cleveland Heights' board attorneys, appealed the ruling so that Cleveland Heights' boys basketball team could be reinstated into the 2020 postseason tournament. JR Bremer, Cleveland Heights boys basketball coach, was also available to provide insight during the hearing.

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

Motion passed 3-0.