

March 4, 2020, OHSAA Appeals

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on March 4, 2020 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; 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; Deborah B. Moore, OHSAA Senior Director of Compliance and Sports Medicine; Roxanne Price, OHSAA Senior Director of Compliance; Kristin Ronai, OHSAA Director of Compliance; Tyler Brooks, Director of Sport Management; and Ben Ferree, Assistant Director of Officiating.

A. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, An 11th-Grade Student, Waverly High School (Southeast District)

An 11th-grade student transferred from Chillicothe Huntington High School to Waverly High 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 1.

The student's parents, Mike and Lori Roop; Jeff Noble, Waverly baseball coach; and Bo Arnett, Waverly's athletic administrator, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Waverly High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

B. Bylaw 4-3-3/4-3-5, Semesters, A 12th-Grade Student, Richfield Revere High School (Northeast District)

A 12th-grade student entered his ninth and tenth semesters at Richfield Revere High School during the 2019-20 school year. The Executive Director's Office ruled that the student will be ineligible for interscholastic athletics for the 2019-20 school year in accordance with Bylaw 4-3-4 and Bylaw 4-3-5, Semesters.

The student and his mother, Tricia Supan, appealed the ruling so the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Revere High School

In light of new evidence that was presented, there was a motion to **approve** the appeal in accordance with Bylaw 4-3-5, Semesters, pending specific additional documentation being presented to the Executive Director's Office.

Motion passed 3-0.

C. Bylaw 11, Penalties, A Wrestling Coach, Oberlin Firelands High School (Northeast District)

A wrestling coach at Oberlin Firelands High School was ejected from a contest and attempted to return to the match on the same day. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the Executive Director's Office ruled that, in addition to being suspended for the next two points per the General Sports Regulation, the coach should also be suspended for the 2020 OHSAA wrestling state tournament, should the school have any qualifiers, or for the first two regular season contest points at the Varsity level during the 2020-21 season.

Ty Stillman, Firelands' athletic administrator, appealed the ruling so the coach's suspension could be reduced.

In light of new evidence that was presented, there was a motion to **modify** the penalty in accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties. Therefore, the coach shall only be suspended for the first day of the 2020 OHSAA wrestling state tournament, should Firelands have any qualifiers. If Firelands does not have any state qualifiers, then the original penalty of suspension until two regular season points have been competed during the 2020-21 season shall stand.

Motion passed 3-0.