

## **December 10, 2020, OHSAA Appeals**

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on December 10, 2020, virtually through Microsoft Teams. Appeals Panel members were Phil Ackerman, former superintendent of Switzerland of Ohio Local Schools; Dr. Kathy McFarland, deputy chief executive director of the Ohio School Boards Association; Dr. Dale Fortner, former superintendent of Wadsworth City Schools; and Dr. Keith Bell, former superintendent of the Euclid City Schools and Westerville City Schools. Mr. Gray served as the appeals hearing officer.

Also in attendance for all or portions of the appeals: Steve Craig, OHSAA legal counsel; Bob Goldring, OHSAA senior director of operations; Deborah B. Moore, OHSAA compliance advisor; and Kristin Ronai, OHSAA director of compliance.

### **A. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, A 10th-Grade Student, Garfield Heights Trinity High School (Northeast District)**

A 10th-grade student transferred from Parma High School to Garfield Heights Trinity High School for the 2020-21 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 2.

The student's father, Mike Cottingham, and the family's attorney, Dean Colovas, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Trinity High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

### **B. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, An 11th-Grade Student, Worthington Christian High School (Northeast District)**

An 11th-grade student transferred from First Love Christian Academy to Worthington Christian High School for the 2020-21 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 2.

The individual with whom the student is living, Cindy Moore; Kevin Weakley, Worthington Christian athletic administrator; and Troy McIntosh, Worthington Christian head of school, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Worthington Christian High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.