

January 7, 2021, OHSAA Appeals

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on January 7, 2021, virtually through Microsoft Teams. Appeals Panel members were Dave Gray, former superintendent of Franklin-Monroe Local Schools; Tony Mantell, former superintendent of Portsmouth Clay Local Schools; Kathy McFarland, deputy chief executive director of the Ohio School Boards Association; 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; Kristin Ronai, OHSAA director of compliance; Ben Ferree, OHSAA assistant director; and Lori Powers-Basinger, OHSAA Gymnastics Officiating Director of Development.

A. Official Permit, Section X.9: Criminal Convictions

In November 2020, the OHSAA Office suspended an official's license due to a violation of the Officiating Handbook, Section X.9, Criminal Convictions.

The official, Damien Bowman, appealed the ruling so that his officiating license would be immediately reinstated.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

B. Gymnastics Uniform Modification, A 10th-Grade Student, Canton McKinley High School (Northeast District)

A 10th grade student at Canton McKinley High School requested a uniform modification in the sport of gymnastics. The Executive Director's Office determined that only two of the three requested modifications could be approved in accordance with accommodation requirements.

The student and her grandfather, Rick Abatabalgo; Antonio Hall, McKinley athletic administrator; and Tristyn Dibell and Katie Welch, McKinley gymnastics coaches, appealed the ruling so the student would be permitted to wear the modified uniform as initially requested.

In light of new evidence presented, there was a motion to **approve** the appeal.

Motion passed 4-0.