

April 1, 2021, OHSAA Appeals

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on April 1, 2021, virtually through Microsoft Teams. Appeals Panel members were Phil Ackerman, director of shared & administrative services, Ohio Valley Educational Services Center, and former superintendent of Switzerland of Ohio Local Schools; Dr. Dale Fortner, former superintendent of Wadsworth City Schools; Dr. 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. Ackerman served as the appeals hearing officer.

Also in attendance for all or portions of the appeals: Steve Craig, OHSAA legal counsel; Bob Goldring, OHSAA director of communications and special projects; Kristin Ronai, OHSAA director of compliance; Tyler Brooks, OHSAA director of officiating and sport management; and Ronald Sayers, OHSAA compliance and eligibility specialist.

A. Official Permit, Section X.9: New Permit Application or Reinstatement

In February 2021, the OHSAA Office denied an individual the opportunity to apply for an officiating license in accordance with section X.9.i, of the OHSAA Officials Handbook.

The applicant, Craig Avery, appealed the ruling so that he would be permitted to apply for an OHSAA officiating license immediately.

Based on the information presented, there was a motion to **deny** the appeal with a recommendation that Mr. Avery obtain a Certificate of Qualification for Employment so that his application may be reconsidered by the Executive Director's Office.

Motion passed 4-0.

B. General Sport Regulation 14.1, Player Ejection, Akron Buchtel High School (Northeast District)

On January 31, 2021, two student-athletes from Akron Buchtel were ejected from a boys basketball contest. In accordance with OHSAA General Sport Regulation 14.1, the students were ineligible for all contests at all levels in that sport until two regular season/tournament contests were played at the same level as the ejection. The two student-athletes competed in six contests prior to serving their two-game suspension. In accordance with General Sport Regulation 14.1, the Executive Director's Office ruled that Buchtel was required to forfeit each of those six contests.

Akron Public Schools Athletic Administrators Ron Linger and Joe Vassalotti appealed the ruling so that Buchtel would not be required to forfeit the six contests in which the ineligible students participated.

There was a motion to **modify** the penalty in accordance with General Sport Regulation 14.1 and Bylaw 11, Penalties. Therefore, Buchtel shall forfeit the two contests that occurred immediately following the date of the ejections and shall be fined \$500 for failure to follow through with administrative responsibilities. It was noted that only one the two contests immediately following the ejections was a victory, so only that contest shall be forfeited.

Motion passed 4-0.