

## **April 21, 2023, OHSAA Appeals**

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on April 21, 2023, virtually through Microsoft Teams. Appeals Panel members were Dr. Dale Fortner, former superintendent of Wadsworth City Schools; Dr. Keith Bell, former superintendent of Euclid City Schools and Westerville City Schools; Dr. John Richard, former superintendent of Perry Local Schools and deputy superintendent of Ohio Department of Education. Dr. Fortner 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; Ronald Sayers, OHSAA manager of membership and compliance; and Alexis Holderman, OHSAA membership and compliance administrative assistance.

### **A. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, an 11<sup>th</sup>-Grade Student, Sunbury Big Walnut High School (Central District)**

An 11<sup>th</sup> grade student transferred from Mount Gilead High School to Sunbury Big Walnut High School to start the 2022-23 school year. As a transfer student, the student becomes 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, and specifically exception 1, were applicable.

The student; the student's mother, Andrea Benson; and Brian Shelton, Big Walnut athletic director, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Big Walnut High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.