

## **May 2, 2024, OHSAA Appeals**

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on May 2, 2024, 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; Mrs. Jan Wilking, former athletic administrator of Wyoming City Schools; and Mr. Mike Gallina, former superintendent of North Canton City Schools. Dr. Fortner served as the appeals hearing officer.

Also in attendance for all or portions of the appeals: Steve Craig, OHSAA legal counsel; Joseph Fraley, OHSAA legal counsel; Bob Goldring, OHSAA director of communications and special projects; Ronald Sayers, OHSAA senior manager of eligibility and technology; Lizzy Wilson, OHSAA manager of compliance; and Alexis Holderman, OHSAA manager of membership services.

### **A. Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, a 12<sup>th</sup>-Grade Student, Cincinnati Walnut Hills High School (Southwest District)**

A 12<sup>th</sup> grade student at Cincinnati Walnut Hills High School did not pass five one-credit courses or the equivalent during the third grading period of the 2023-24 school year. The Executive Director's Office ruled that the student was ineligible for interscholastic athletics for the fourth grading period of the 2023-24 school year in accordance with Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship.

The student; the student's father, Scott LeCates; and Shauniece Steele, Walnut Hills Athletic Director, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Walnut Hills High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

### **B. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, a 12<sup>th</sup>-Grade Student, Columbus Beechcroft High School (Central District)**

A 12<sup>th</sup> grade student transferred from Worthington Kilbourne High School to Columbus Beechcroft High School to start the 2023-24 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 13, were applicable.

The student's father, La'Mier Dennis; Walter Dudley, Beechcroft Athletic Administrator; and Dr. Samuel Johnson Jr., Beechcroft Principal, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Beechcroft High School.

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

Motion passed 4-0.