

## **September 5, 2024, OHSAA Appeals**

The OHSAA Appeals Panel met with appellants on September 5, 2024, virtually through Microsoft Teams. Appeals Panel members were Dr. Dale Fortner, former superintendent of Wadsworth City Schools; Dr. Michael Gallina, former superintendent of North Canton City Schools; Dr. Keith Bell, former superintendent of Euclid City Schools and Westerville City School District; and Mrs. Gina Franks, director of student services of Dover High School. 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; Joshua Fraley, OHSAA legal counsel; Bob Goldring, OHSAA director of communications and special projects; Kristin Ronai, OHSAA associate executive director; 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, Wooster High School (Northeast District)**

A 12<sup>th</sup> grade student at Wooster High School did not pass five one-credit courses or the equivalent during the fourth grading period of the 2023-24 school year. The Executive Director's Office ruled that the student was ineligible for interscholastic athletics for the first grading period of the 2024-25 school year in accordance with Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship.

The student; the student's mother, Latoya Walker; and Wooster Principal, Scott Musser, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Wooster High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.

### **B. Bylaw 4-3-5, Semesters, a 12<sup>th</sup>-Grade Student, Cincinnati Miami Valley Christian Academy (Southwest District)**

A 12<sup>th</sup> grade student exhausted their eight semesters of eligibility at the high school level during the 2023-24 school year. By operation of Bylaw 4-3-3, Semesters, the student is ineligible to compete at the high school level at any OHSAA member school, and specifically Cincinnati Miami Valley Christian Academy. The Executive Director's Office determined that the requirements of the exception to Bylaw 4-3-5 could not be met.

The student; the student's parents, Bob and Amy Herrlinger; and Miami Valley Christian Athletic Administrator, Matt Blandin, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Miami Valley Christian Academy.

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

Motion passed 4-0.

### **C. Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, a 12<sup>th</sup>-Grade Student, Zoarville Tuscarawas Valley High School (East District)**

A 12<sup>th</sup> grade student at Zoarville Tuscarawas Valley High School did not pass five one-credit courses or the equivalent during the fourth grading period of the 2023-24 school year. The Executive Director's Office ruled that the student was ineligible for interscholastic athletics for the first grading period of the 2024-25 school year in accordance with Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship.

The student's Father, David Farnsworth and Tuscarawas Valley Athletic Administrator, Steve Franks, appealed the ruling so that the student could be fully eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Tuscarawas Valley High School.

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

Motion passed 3-0.