



# Rhode Island Interscholastic League

## Sport Committee Annual Timelines and Procedures

\*Updated August, 2022

- Timelines
  - Standing Sport Committee Meetings
    - Pre-season Meeting
      - Timing: prior to the Interpretation Meeting
      - Purpose: review sport specific agenda for Interpretation Meeting
    - Playoff Meeting
      - Timing: immediately following the end of the regular season (if needed)
      - Purpose: determine playoff participants
    - Post-Season Meeting
      - Timing: within one month after the Championships
      - Purpose: discuss new initiatives, improvements, and implementation
        - Suggestions from the AD's Membership
        - Suggestions from the Coaches Association Membership
      - RIIL School Survey for movement in the off-year of a realignment
      - Review RIIL Rules and Regulations Sport Specific Sections
        - Propose rule eliminations, modifications, additions
        - Rule changes will be reviewed by the RIIAAA E-Board, then proposed to the PCOA for adoption
      - Review NFHS Sport Specific Rule Book and new Rule Changes
        - Propose rule eliminations, modifications, additions
        - Rule changes will be reviewed by the RIIAAA E-Board, then PCOA for proposal to the NFHS
    - Pre-NFHS National Meeting
    - Off-Season Meeting (if needed)
      - Purpose: discuss issues that require additional dialogue
  - Realignment-Year Timeline
    - At the conclusion of the season in a realignment year, Sport Committees will receive:
      - Formula Power Rankings and Guidelines
      - Committee Member List
      - Procedure for alignment
      - Timeline for alignment
      - Rankings determined by the Formula

- Check for accuracy
- Determine Division Breakdown, Regular Season Schedule Format, and Playoff Format
- Realignment Proposal sent in the initial Survey to Schools
- Deadline Set for Alignment Survey of Schools
- Review Survey Results and Finalize Realignment
  - Must be Completed 5 weeks prior to the PCOA meeting date
- RIIAAA E-Board Review for endorsement
- PCOA Vote
- Submission Deadline for Final Realignment Proposals
  - Fall Sports Deadline: ~February 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Fall Sport Realignments will be voted on by the PCOA in March
  - Winter Sports Deadline: ~May 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Winter Sport Realignments will be voted on by the PCOA in June
  - Spring Sports Deadline: ~October 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Spring Sport Realignments will be voted on by the PCOA in November
- Review Membership
  - Director (assigned by the RIIL)
  - Co-Director (assigned by the RIIAAA)
  - Administrators (one or more)
  - Athletic Directors (two or more)
  - Coaches (one per division, NOT sub-division)
    - Coaching Representatives must always represent the membership of their coaches association. Division Representatives must represent their specific division when discussing pertinent issues.
    - Coaching Representatives must present consistent surveys of the membership by the coaches association on key issues within the sport committee
  - Coaching Association Presidents (can be invited as a non-voting member)
  - Officials (non-voting member)
- Realignment Formula
  - Two (2) years between realignment
    - Process for movement in the off-year of a realignment:
      - Re-Calculate the Realignment Formula to include the first year of the realignment
      - Survey all schools: Do you request to switch divisions for next year?
      - Results of the survey will be disseminated to the sport committee for review
      - Any request to move up a division will be matched with a corresponding request to move down according to the official rankings. Division alignment, number of teams in a division & playoff structure will not be adjusted.
  - Formula
    - 70% Weighted win/loss over past six (6) years in regular season League games
      - The contact sports of Football, Ice Hockey, Wrestling, and Lacrosse utilize 60%
    - 10% Enrollment

- The contact sports of Football, Ice Hockey, Wrestling, and Lacrosse utilize 20%
      - 10% Weighted Win percentage in regular season League games over previous two yrs
      - 10% Weighted Tournament Success Factor in post-season play over the previous two yrs
      - Exception: Football, Ice Hockey, Wrestling, and Boys Lacrosse: 20% enrollment
  - Division win weights:
    - Division I = 1.00
    - Division II = 0.60
    - Division III = 0.36
    - Division IV = 0.22
  - The following sports will be included in the alignment criteria:
    - Baseball, G/B Basketball, Fast Pitch Softball, Field Hockey, Football, G/B Indoor Track, G/B Lacrosse, G/B Soccer, G/B Swimming, G/B Tennis, G/B Volleyball, and Wrestling.
  - The following sports will be excluded from the current alignment criteria but may use the rankings as a guide in the realignment process:
    - Cheerleading, G/B Cross Country, G/B Golf, Gymnastics, G/B Ice Hockey, Unified Sports, and G/B Outdoor Track.
    - These sports are excluded due to limited number of teams, facilities, regional play, etc.
- Related Committees
  - RIIAAA Realignment Review Committee
    - This committee shall meet 3-4 times in a realignment year to review each Sport Committee Realignment Proposal prior to the PCOA final vote
    - Each proposal will be analyzed based on the established Realignment Guidelines
    - Omissions or issues raised by the Realignment Review Sub-Committee will be brought back to the Sport Committee for correction
    - Realignment Proposals will receive “Endorsement” and forwarded to the PCOA
    - Proposals not revised based on Realignment Committee feedback will be “Contested” with a specific explanation provided and forwarded to the PCOA
  - Standing Sport Committees
    - All Standing Sport Committees will be established in accordance with Article I Section 5 of the RIIL Rules & Regulations.
    - Procedure
      - Sport Committees will meet to establish an initial alignment proposal
      - Initial alignments based on the official team rankings will be sent to schools with a survey. Schools may request to be considered to move up or down a division.
      - Any team ranked in the bottom 40% of a division is eligible to move down to a lower division as long as a corresponding team requests to move up a division
      - Based on the survey results, a final alignment with all requirements will be submitted to the RRC and PCOA.
- Realignment Proposals
  - Each sport’s realignment proposal must include the following:
    - Sport Committee Members

- Important Dates:
  - Regular Season Start Date
  - Length of Regular Season (weeks required)
  - Last Day of the Regular Season
  - Post-Season Start Date
  - Post-Season End Date
- Division and Sub-Division breakdown
  - Sub-Division breakdown must be snaked according to the formula ranking
- Schedule breakdown
  - Division/Sub-Division games
  - Total Number of league games
- Specific Playoff structure breakdown
- Plan for Sub-Varsity Games
- Structure for tie-breakers in playoff seeding once teams have Qualified
- Miscellaneous Procedures
  - To be Eligible for divisional playoffs:
    - Division 1 Teams must Win 30% of their games to be eligible for the playoffs.
    - All other Division Teams must Win 40% of their games to be playoff eligible.
      - Minimum of 4 teams must qualify to provide a semifinal round in all sports.
    - Sport Committees are required to identify the structure of the playoffs including how many Eligible teams will Qualify for playoff berths.
    - Not all Eligible teams will Qualify for the playoffs.
    - Division Championship Playoff Brackets must include 4 teams or more
    - Teams tied for the final playoff position are not automatically qualified
      - Whenever time and athlete safety allow, the RIIL will schedule preliminary games between teams tied for the final position in the playoffs. Tie-breakers cannot be used to eliminate a team from the playoffs unless approved by the RIIL.
      - The season schedule must allow for a short break between the end of the regular season and beginning of the playoffs in order to fit in these games if needed.
    - Sports with postseason schedule limitations often opt to declare a specific number of teams that qualify for the playoffs (ex. Football and Ice Hockey).
  - Qualifications to declare a Division "Champion". If a division is broken down into sub-divisions, said sub division must meet one of the two requirements in order to declare a Division Champion:
    - A sub-division must contain more than 15% of the total number of teams.
    - A division can only be divided into two sub-divisions.
    - If there are too many sub-divisions within a division, only the #1 seed in the divisional playoffs (or the team with the best record in the overall division) will be considered the division champions by the RIIL.
  - Realignment Final Rank Tie-Breakers

- To be used after the Realignment Survey when two or more teams are tied (to the hundredths place) in the Final Rank and the teams fall in different divisions:
- Inform both teams that the Sport Committee will be making a final decision. Would one of the tied teams prefer to be placed in a higher division?
- The Sport Committee has the option to move ALL tied teams as a group into the higher or lower division. The tied teams can not be separated.

#### Basic Playoff Seeding Tiebreakers:

- If there is a tie between two teams:
  1. Head-to-head record.
  2. Quality wins vs. higher ranked team in your sub-division
    - Must be a common opponent
  3. Quality wins vs. higher ranked team in the division
    - Must be a common opponent
  4. Defensive runs against vs. common opponents
  5. Average defensive runs against in all league games
  6. Coin flip
- If there is a tie between more than two teams:
- When breaking ties between more than one team, a single team will advance
  1. Pool record between all tied teams.
  2. Quality wins vs. higher ranked team in your sub-division
    - Must be a common opponent
  3. Quality wins vs. higher ranked team in the division
    - Must be a common opponent
  4. Defensive runs against in pool
  5. Defensive runs against vs. common opponents
  6. Average defensive points against in all league games
  7. Coin flip