

**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Principals' Committee on Athletics
Monday, August 17, 2015 @ 1:30 pm
RIIL Office
Bldg. #6 RI College Campus
600 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Providence, RI**

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman McNamara; Mmes., Abromitis, Crowley, and Gribbin; Messrs., Barr, DiMuccio, Kavanagh, Kelly, Sollitto, Vetelino, and Whaley

Also Present: Thomas Mezzanotte, Executive Director; Michael Lunney, Assistant Executive Director, Susana Costa, Administrative Assistant and Brendan McGair, *Pawtucket Times*

Absent: Mme., Keegan; Messrs., Brennan, Goho, Littlefield, and Warner

The August meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was called to order at 1:50 p.m.

PCOA MINUTES JUNE 15, 2015

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the June 15, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved (14-0).

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee voted to move to Executive Session.

PCOA EXECUTIVE SESSION

The following items were discussed in Executive Session: Legal Issues; PCOA Vacancies; Arbiter Proposal; RIIL Football Officials; Rule Revisions; RIIL Re-Alignment 2016-2018; Financial Report and Hearings.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee voted to move out of Executive Session.

RIIL FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT - BUDGET 2015-2016

Mr. Sollitto, chairman of the Finance Committee reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on August 17, 2015 and submitted its report regarding the 2015-2016 RIIL budget and the 2014-2015 revenue share with RIIL schools. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee on Athletics unanimously approved (11-0) the RIIL budget for the 2015-2016 school year.

ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

The 2014-2015 Annual Report was reviewed and approved. Copies will be distributed to all schools.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Mezzanotte reported on the following:

- PCOA Vacancy – Due to a vacancy on the PCOA, the Committee requested Mr. Mezzanotte request applications in accordance with Article 1, Section 4.J. The deadline for submission of applications is October 1, 2015.
- Sport Director Vacancy – The RIIL is seeking a sport director in Girls' Lacrosse.
- Waiver Hearing Committee & Vacancy – Two principals were appointed to the Waiver Hearing Committee: Julia Carlson, Central High School and Renee Palazzo, Ponaganset High School.
- NFHS Learning Center – New Courses: Sudden Cardiac Arrest and Captains Course. Both are FREE.
- *Anyone Can Save A Life Program* – The Committee supported the adoption of the *Anyone Can Save a Life Program* as part of establishing school wide Emergency Action Plan.
- Bishop Keough High School Closing – no penalties for the closing of Bishop Keough High School.
- Annual Principals Breakfast: September 25, 2015 @ The Crowne Plaza

ARBITER REF-PAY PROGRAM - UPDATE

Mr. Lunney reported the Arbiter Ref-Pay Program is being implemented during the 2015-2016 school year.

RE-ALIGNMENT 2016-2018

Mr. Mezzanotte provided a time line for the re-alignment of all sports for the 2016-2018 seasons: Deadlines: Fall Sports – February 2016; Winter Sports – May 2016 and Spring Sports – October 2016. The RIIAAA Alignment Committee will forward additional guidelines and will be presented at the November Principals' Committee on Athletics Meeting.

RUIL RULE REVISIONS:

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved (11-0) the following RUIL Rules Revisions.

Article 3., Section 2. Alternative Education Athletic Participation: Alternative schools whose enrollment exceeds 300 and have a 12th grade class will be obligated to offer their own athletic program(s).

Article 7., Section 4: Non-League Games: Sanction of non-league games has been omitted.

The Committee discussed adopting a RUIL Drone Policy. This matter was tabled until the November meeting.

RIIAAA REPORT

Mr. Vetelino, President of the RIIAAA, provided updates as to issues, concerns and recommendations on behalf of the RIIAAA.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE F-1 VISA WAIVER REQUEST

The Committee received a request for a waiver to allow an F-1 visa foreign exchange student from St. Raphael Academy to participate in Girls Tennis. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved the request.

FALL SPORTS: GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL, Ray DeAngelis, Sport Director – The RUIL received a letter from Masters Regional Academy notifying the League they must withdraw from Girls' Volleyball beginning with the 2015 fall season. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved the request without penalty.

NEW FOOTBALL OFFICIALS ASSIGNER: On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved the recommendation from the Football Sport Committee to appoint Mr. Bruce Guindon as the RUIL Football Official Commissioner for one year (2015).

NFHS TRACK COACH OF THE YEAR – KEN SKELLY, LASALLE ACADEMY

The Committee acknowledged and congratulated Mr. Ken Skelly, LaSalle Academy as the NFHS Track Coach of the Year.

HOCKEY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS: The RUIL Hockey Sport Committee reviewed a number of hockey rules changes to begin in the winter of 2015. Beginning December 2015, the Hockey Sport Committee is recommending establishing a system that would penalize/suspend players who exceed a maximum number of penalty minutes during the season/playoffs. More information will be provided. In addition, the Hockey Committee is reviewing realignment for 2015-2016. The Hockey Committee is also discussing the possibility of allowing schools to schedule their own home games. The rule recommendations were tabled until the November Committee Meeting.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL DIVISION 3 CHANGES

Due to Bishop Keough School closing, the Girls' Basketball Division 3 created and unbalanced schedule and has been adjusted.

SPRING SPORTS: BOYS & GIRLS LACROSSE, George Finn, Sport Director – The RUIL received a letter from Rogers High School notifying the League that the Rogers/Tiverton Boys' Lacrosse Co-op was dissolved by mutual agreement. Rogers High School will participate on their own in the spring of 2016.

LASALLE: SUSPENSION OF BOYS' SOCCER COACH - APPEAL

LaSalle Academy appeal of PCOA decision to suspend the head Boys' Soccer Coach from the first two league games of the 2015 fall season. Motion to grant appeal: 1-8-1 (denied)

WAIVER HEARING COMMITTEE APPEAL

Jane Leys – Rogers High School

Waiver of Article 3, Section 5., Transfer Rule. Appealing a decision of Waiver Hearing Committee.

Motion to grant waiver: 5-3-2 (approved)

The Committee then adopted the following closing motion: THAT ANY AND ALL MOTIONS, AMENDMENTS AND ACTIONS BY THE PRINCIPALS' COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS AND THE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE PRINCIPALS' COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS TO THIS DATE BE REAFFIRMED AND RATIFIED.

The August meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 5:55 P.M.

Signed:

Susana Costa, RIIL Board Secretary

Date: _____

**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Principals' Committee on Athletics
Monday, November 16, 2015 @ 1:30 pm
RIIL Office
Bldg. #6 RI College Campus
600 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Providence, RI**

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman McNamara; Mmes., Abromitis, Crowley, Gribbin and Keegan; Messrs., Barr, Brennan, DiMuccio, Goho, Kavanagh, Kelly, Littlefield, Sollitto, Vetelino, Warner and Whaley

Also Present: Thomas Mezzanotte, Executive Director; Michael Lunney, Assistant Executive Director, Susana Costa, Administrative Assistant and Brendan McGair, *Pawtucket Times*

Absent: None

The November meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

PCOA MINUTES AUGUST 17, 2015

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the August 17, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved (15-0).

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee voted to move to Executive Session.

PCOA EXECUTIVE SESSION

The following items were discussed in Executive Session: Legal Issues; PCOA Vacancies; Letter to the Warwick Schools Superintendent; Rules Revisions and RIIL Re-Alignment 2016-2018.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee voted to move out of Executive Session.

FINANCE REPORT

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) approved the finance report submitted by Ms. Donna Kane, Business Manager.

PCOA NEW APPOINTMENT

The Committee on Athletics reviewed and discussed a number of applications of those administrators interested in serving on the PCOA. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee voted (14-1) to approve the appointment of Carnell Henderson, Principal of Woonsocket High School.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Mezzanotte reported on the following:

- Letter to the Warwick Schools Superintendent
- Sport Director Vacancy – The RIIL is seeking a sport director in Girls' Lacrosse.
- RIIL Technology Committee – RIIL meetings with the Technology Committee.
- NFHS Network – Media Day
- NFHS/RIIL Outstanding Service Award
- NFHS Officials Education Program
- Sports Writing 101 with Carolyn Thornton, RIIL Director of Media Communications
- Winter Coaches Meeting – November 14 at North Kingstown HS
- AD's Meeting – November 10

ARBITER REF-PAY PROGRAM - UPDATE

Mr. Lunney provided an update to the Arbiter Ref-Pay Program. Things are going well.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Mezzanotte referred to several letters, memoranda and publications placed in each member's folder or filed in the League office.

RE-ALIGNMENT 2016-2018

Mr. Mezzanotte provided a time line for the re-alignment of all sports for the 2016-2018 seasons: Deadlines: Fall Sports – February 2016; Winter Sports – May 2016 and Spring Sports – October 2016. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) approved the revised re-alignment proposal provided by the RIIAAA Alignment Committee. The RIIL will send out surveys to all schools.

RIIL RULE REVISIONS:

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved (15-0) the following RIIL Rules Revisions.

- **Article 13., Coaching Requirements** – In addition to the coaching requirements listed in Article 13, starting August 2016, all RIIL coaches must annually complete an RIIL Online Rules Test. (nfhslearn.com)
- **Article 35., Drone Policy** – Use of Drones (UAS), for any purpose, is not permitted at any RIIL state tournament event. This prohibition applies to all fields of play, courts, arena, mats, gym floor or pool, and covers a band on the entire facility being used as part of the RIIL event, including the spectator stands and parking areas.
- **Article 22., Hockey** – Beginning December 2015, approved a system that would penalize/suspend players who exceed a maximum number of penalty minutes during the season/playoffs.
- **Article 16., Cheer** – recommended changes effective November 2015.

RULES VIOLATIONS

Masters Regional Academy: Article 6, Section 11 – Cancellation/Forfeits of Game – Boys Soccer

The Committee reviewed a letter from Master Academy explaining the reason for forfeiting a Boys Varsity Soccer match on October 16, 2015. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) voted to place the Masters Regional Academy Boys Soccer Team on probation for a period of one (1) year (2016 Season). During this period of probation (Article 6., Section 3. – Definition of Penalties), Masters Academy must abide by all RIIL Rules & Regulations.

RIIAAA REPORT

Mr. Vetelino, President of the RIIAAA, provided updates as to issues, concerns and recommendations on behalf of the RIIAAA.

FALL SPORTS AND CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Mr. Mezzanotte reported on “Salute to Service,” football games to honor Veterans.
- The Committee reviewed a letter from North Smithfield High School that they must forfeit their last two (2) scheduled games (November 13 & November 26, 2015) because lack of numbers due to injuries. The Committee unanimously (15-0) approved without penalty.
- The RIIL received a letter from Exeter/West Greenwich notifying the League they cannot field a Boys and Girls Cross Country team for the 2015-2016 school year. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) approved the request without sanctions.
- Mr. Lunney reported results of the golf survey and golf courses on the issue of moving the sport of golf to the fall. After discussion, the recommendation of the Golf Committee is that more specific information will be needed from the golf courses. The Golf Committee will have a recommendation to present to the PCOA at the January meeting.
- On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved (15-0) the following 2015 fall championships: Girls’ Tennis, Girls’ Volleyball, Boys’ Soccer, Girls’ Soccer, Boys’ and Girls’ Cross Country, Field Hockey, Unified Volleyball and Freshman Football.

WINTER SPORTS

- **Hockey Committee Recommendation:** The Committee discussed a proposal from the Hockey Sport Committee that would allow all schools to schedule all home games at the rink of their choice. The Committee discussed obvious benefits and draw backs and voted to table this recommendation pending more information until the January meeting.
- **Gymnastics:** The RIIL received a letter from The Prout School requesting to enter the League in Gymnastics beginning with the 2015-2016 school year. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) approved their request.

SPRING SPORTS: BOYS & GIRLS LACROSSE, George Finn, Sport Director – The RIIL received a letter from Toll Gate High School requesting to enter the League in Girls Lacrosse beginning with the 2015-2016 school year. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) approved their request. The RIIL received a letter from Westerly High School to move up in Division 2 Boys Lacrosse beginning with the 2016 school year. The Committee deferred it to the Lacrosse Committee.

PONAGANSET: SUSPENSION OF BOYS' BASKETBALL COACH - APPEAL

Ponaganset High School appeal of PCOA decision to reduce the number of games suspension on the head Boys' Basketball Coach from the 2015 winter season. Motion to grant appeal: 15-0 (denied)

WAIVER HEARING COMMITTEE APPEAL

Andrew Ferguson – Coventry High School

Waiver of Article 3, Section 5., Transfer Rule. Appealing a decision of Waiver Hearing Committee.

Motion to grant waiver: 15-0 (denied)

The Committee then adopted the following closing motion: THAT ANY AND ALL MOTIONS, AMENDMENTS AND ACTIONS BY THE PRINCIPALS' COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS AND THE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE PRINCIPALS' COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS TO THIS DATE BE REAFFIRMED AND RATIFIED.

The November meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 4:50 P.M.

Signed:

Susana Costa, RIIL Board Secretary

Date: _____

**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Principals' Committee on Athletics
Monday, January 25, 2016 @ 1:30 pm
RIIL Office
Bldg. #6 RI College Campus
600 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Providence, RI**

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman McNamara; Mmes., Abromitis, Crowley, and Keegan; Messrs., Brennan, DiMuccio, Henderson, Goho, Kavanagh, Kelly, Littlefield, Sollitto, Vetelino, Warner and Whaley

Also Present: Thomas Mezzanotte, Executive Director; Michael Lunney, Assistant Executive Director; Susana Costa, Administrative Assistant; Carolyn Thornton, Director of Multimedia Content, and Brendan McGair, *Pawtucket Times*

Absent: Messr., Barr; Mme., Gribbin

The January meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

WELCOME NEW PCOA MEMBER: CARNELL HENDERSON

The Committee welcomed new PCOA member Mr. Carnell Henderson, Principal of Woonsocket High School.

PCOA MINUTES NOVEMBER 16, 2015

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the November 16, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved (15-0).

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee voted to move to Executive Session.

PCOA EXECUTIVE SESSION

The following items were discussed in Executive Session: IHSAA Legal Issues; Rules Revisions and RIIL Re-Alignment 2016-2018.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee voted to move out of Executive Session.

FINANCE REPORT

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) approved the finance report submitted by Ms. Donna Kane, Business Manager.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Mezzanotte reported on the following:

- Appointment of new Sport Director of Girls' Lacrosse: Lee Markowski of Barrington.
- NFHS/RIIL Outstanding Service Award: Rick Marshall, Track & Field
- NFHS Officials Education Program – Meeting on February 4, 2016
- Sports Writing 101 with Carolyn Thornton, RIIL Director of Media Communications
- RIIL Spring Awards Luncheon:
 - Recognize Coach / AD / Team of Year
 - Recognize monthly B/G Athletes of Month and B/G Athlete of Year
- RIIL Sports Medicine Advisory Committee met January 13, 2016
- RIIL Technology Committee - Update

ARBITER REF-PAY PROGRAM - UPDATE

Mr. Lunney provided an update to the Arbitrator Ref-Pay Program. Things are going well.

RE-ALIGNMENT 2016-2018

Mr. Tom Marcello, RIIAAA, presented the following revised realignment formula which would be used for the 2016-2018 football alignment and in various winter and spring sports:

- (New) 60% - 8 year weighted win percentage
- 20% - enrollment
- (New) 10% unweighted (2 year) win percentage
- (New) 10% - Tournament Success Factor

RE-ALIGNMENT 2016-2018... CONTINUED

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved (15-0) the new revised realignment formula.

RULES VIOLATIONS

Middletown High School: Article 6, Section 6 – Use of an Ineligible Athlete – Boys Hockey

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee voted (14-0-1) to impose a fine of \$100 for violating Article 6, Section 6 due to a clerical error.

Lincoln High School: Article 6, Section 6 – Use of an Ineligible Athlete – Boys Indoor Track

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee voted (14-0-1) to impose a fine of \$100 and suspend the Boys Indoor Track Head Coach for one (1) league game for violating Article 6, Section 6 due to coach error.

Rocky Hill School: Article 6., Section 12 – School Withdrawal – Girls Basketball

The Committee received a letter from Rocky Hill School notifying the League they must withdraw from Girls Basketball for the 2015-16 season.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously voted (15-0) to approve Rocky Hill's request to withdraw from Girls' Basketball for the 2015-2016 season without sanctions.

RIIAAA REPORT

Mr. Vetelino, President of the RIIAAA, provided updates as to issues, concerns and recommendations on behalf of the RIIAAA.

MONSIGNOR NEWBOLD GRANTS TO SCHOOLS

Mr. Mezzanotte reported the League approved \$7,425 in grants to schools to support leadership and sportsmanship activities.

FALL SPORTS AND CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Mr. Lunney reported the Golf Committee is gathering information from the golf courses on the issue of moving the sport of golf to the fall. The Golf Committee will have a recommendation to present to the PCOA at the March meeting.

- On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved (15-0) the Football Championships.

WINTER SPORTS

- **Hockey Committee Request:** The Committee received a request from the Hockey Sport Committee to modify the hockey rule establishing a system that will penalize/suspend players exceeding the maximum number of penalty minutes during the regular season and the playoffs (Article 22, Section 1.F.). On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously denied (0-15) the request.

- **Hockey Committee Proposal:** A new hockey schedule proposal was presented and discussed with the Committee on Athletics. Essentially, the new proposal would allow schools to schedule their own hockey home games, and eliminate the RIIL from all regular season scheduling (with rinks) and collection of game-ticket revenue. After a lengthy discussion among members of the PCOA and the RIIAAA Executive Board, the League will not implement this proposal for the 2016-2017 season. In preparation of the possible approval of this proposal, the League and school athletic directors will study the impact this proposal would have on our hockey schools.

The Committee then adopted the following closing motion: THAT ANY AND ALL MOTIONS, AMENDMENTS AND ACTIONS BY THE PRINCIPALS' COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS AND THE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE PRINCIPALS' COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS TO THIS DATE BE REAFFIRMED AND RATIFIED.

The January meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 4:50 P.M.

Signed:

Susana Costa, RIIL Board Secretary

Date: _____

**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Principals' Committee on Athletics
Monday, March 21, 2016 @ 1:30 pm
RIIL Office
Bldg. #6 RI College Campus
600 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Providence, RI**

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman McNamara; Mmes., Abromitis, Crowley, and Keegan; Messrs., Barr, Brennan, DiMuccio, Goho, , Kelly, Littlefield, Sollitto, Vetelino, and Warner

Also Present: Thomas Mezzanotte, Executive Director; Michael Lunney, Assistant Executive Director; Susana Costa, Administrative Assistant; Carolyn Thornton, Director of Multimedia Content, and Brendan McGair, *Pawtucket Times*

Absent: Mme., Gribbin; Messr., Henderson, Kavanagh and Whaley

The March meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

PCOA MINUTES JANUARY 25, 2016

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the January 25, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved (15-0).

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee voted to move to Executive Session.

PCOA EXECUTIVE SESSION

The following items were discussed in Executive Session: Rules Revisions and RIIL Fall Sports Re-Alignment 2016-2018.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee voted to move out of Executive Session.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr. Sollitto, chairman of the Finance Committee submitted a report outlying the results of the Finance Committee Meeting held on March 21, 2016.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Mezzanotte reported on the following:

- RIIL Technology Committee - Update
- RIIL Spring Awards Luncheon – April 14th at the Crowne Plaza
 - Administrator of the Year: Kevin McNamara, Chair PCOA & Lincoln HS
 - Athletic director of the Year: George Finn, Barrington HS
 - Male coach of the year: Andrew Tuetken (Baseball), Cumberland HS
 - Female coach of the year: Julie Maguire (Field Hockey), North Kingstown HS
 - Team of the year: Smithfield HS – Girls Outdoor Track (2015)
 - NFHS Coaches Association 2015 Sectional Coach of the year in RI – Ken Skelly, LaSalle
 - RIIL Spirit of Sport: Alyssa Raye Raposo, Mt. Hope HS
 - RIIL Spirit of Sport Honorable Mention: Jade Annaldo, Scituate HS, Leeann Phillips, Ponaganset HS, Kayla Kanakry, Mt. Saint Charles and Bert Reid, Olympic Physical Therapy
 - Heart of the Arts: Virginia Ann Cafferky, Cumberland HS
 - Student-Athlete of the Month winners (male & female)
 - Student-Athlete of the Year winners (male & female)
- AD Spring Mtg: Update
- PCOA dates for 2016-2017
- Waiver Hearing Committee dates for 2016-2017
- RI General Assembly Bill H 7639 – Athletic Trainers
- Heads Up Football – USA Football Conference
- RIIL IT Support Agreement (Brave River) – Approved
- RIIL “Night of Champions” at McCoy – May 7th

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Crowley, RISSA, informed the Committee of the Commissioner of Educations "School Empowerment Proposal."

FALL SPORTS RE-ALIGNMENT 2016-2018

Principal, Jeff Goss of Rogers High School and Principal, Chris Savastano of Tolman High School requested to meet with the PCOA to discuss their proposed placement in the Football alignment for 2016-2018. Both principals expressed their concerns about their schools placement in the proposed football alignment.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) approved the following fall alignments for 2016-2018: Field Hockey, Girls Volleyball, Boys and Girls Soccer, Boys and Girls Cross Country, and Girls Tennis.

On a separate motion made and seconded, the Committee discussed and approved (12-1) the football alignment for 2016-2018.

RULES VIOLATIONS

Paul Cuffee School: Article 3, Section 4: (Use of Ineligible Athlete)

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA unanimously (13-0) voted to sanction the Paul Coffee School for a violation of Article 3, Section 4 (Use of Ineligible Athlete) of the RIIL Rules and Regulations. As a result, the Boys' Basketball team had to forfeit its playoff game versus Warwick Veterans High School on February 19, 2016. In addition, the Paul Cuffee School is assessed a \$100 fine.

Smithfield High School: Article 3, Section 5.G. (No Student Below Grade 9 will be allowed to practice or play with any school freshman, junior varsity or varsity team)

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA unanimously (13-0) voted to sanction Smithfield High School for violating Article 3, Section 5.G. As a result, the Smithfield Boys' Basketball team is placed on probation for the 2016-2017 school year. Also, the school is assessed a \$100 fine, and the boys freshman, junior varsity and varsity coaches are suspended one additional league game at the beginning of the 2016-2017 season.

Toll Gate High School: Article 3, Section 4 (Use of Ineligible Athlete)

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA unanimously (13-0) voted to sanction Toll Gate High School for a violation of Article 3, Section 4. As a result, the Warwick Girls Ice Hockey Co-op team will forfeit all regular season and playoff games from February 4, 2016. Also, the school will be assessed a \$100 fine, and the Girls Ice Hockey coach will be suspended the first two league games and any non-league games in between at the beginning of the 2016-2017 Girls Ice Hockey Season.

RIIAAA REPORT

Mr. Vetelino, President of the RIIAAA, provided updates as to issues, concerns and recommendations on behalf of the RIIAAA.

FALL SPORTS - FOOTBALL

On behalf of the Football Committee, the Football Committee recommended the following: "Mandate that RIIL Member schools that play teams from Massachusetts (home/away) must play by NFHS Football Rules."

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee approved (12-1) the above recommendation from the Football Committee beginning with the 2016 football season.

WINTER SPORTS AND CHAMPIONSHIPS

- **Boys & Girls Swim** – *Cindy Bowden, Director*: The Committee received a letter from Shea High School notifying the League they must withdraw from Girls Swim because they can no longer field a team. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved their request without sanctions.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved the following winter sports championships for 2016: Boys and Girls Indoor Track, Gymnastics, Boys and Girls Swim, Cheerleading, Boys and Girls Basketball and Wrestling.

BLACKSTONE VALLEY PREP REQUEST TO JOIN RIIIL

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee approved (12-1) a request from the Blackstone Valley Prep to join the League (as an affiliate member) in Girls and Boys Soccer and Girls Basketball beginning with the 2016-2017 school year.

The Committee then adopted the following closing motion: THAT ANY AND ALL MOTIONS, AMENDMENTS AND ACTIONS BY THE PRINCIPALS' COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS AND THE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE PRINCIPALS' COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS TO THIS DATE BE REAFFIRMED AND RATIFIED.

The March meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

Signed:

Susana Costa, RIIIL Board Secretary

Date: _____

**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Principals' Committee on Athletics
Monday, June 20, 2016 @ 1:30 pm
RIIL Office
Bldg. #6 RI College Campus
600 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Providence, RI**

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman McNamara; Mmes., Abromitis, Crowley, Gribbin, and Keegan; Messrs., Brennan, DiMuccio, Goho, Henderson, Kelly, Sollitto, and Vetelino

Also Present: Thomas Mezzanotte, Executive Director; Michael Lunney, Assistant Executive Director; Susana Costa, Administrative Assistant and Brendan McGair, *Pawtucket Times*

Absent: Messrs., Barr; Kavanagh; Littlefield; Warner, and Whaley

The June meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

PCOA MINUTES MARCH 21, 2016

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the March 21, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved (11-0).

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee voted to move to Executive Session.

PCOA EXECUTIVE SESSION

The following items were discussed in Executive Session: Winter Sports Alignments for 2016-2018; The Wheeler School Request and RIIL Rules Revisions.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee voted to move out of Executive Session.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr. Sollitto, chairman of the Finance Committee submitted a report of their meeting held on June 20, 2016. The Committee reviewed a preliminary budget for the fiscal year 2016-2017 criteria and assumptions. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee approved the following fee increases:

- **Arbiter Ref Pay Service Fee:**
 - Large Schools - \$845.00
 - Medium Schools - \$422.50
 - Small Schools - \$162.50

Rationale: Throughout this first year, the RIIL Business Manager has spent a great amount of time reviewing all entries, reconciling all payments and answering all questions. As a result, it is necessary to increase the fee to compensate for this additional time.

The Arbiter Ref Pay Program has been a tremendous success and based on discussions with school athletic directors and business managers, it is clear that the program has benefited all in accomplishing this difficult and time consuming task.

- **Hockey Fee: \$2,250.00**

Rationale: Increased costs associated with our rinks and staff.

- **Technology Fee: \$275.00**

Rationale: Increased fee for technology services (Scholastic Tools – computer management services provider).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Mezzanotte reported on the following:

- RIIL Technology Committee - Update
- Meeting with RISSA
- 2015-2016 Accomplishments
- Meetings with Principals – Concerns
- JV sport guidelines 2016-2017
- Marking Report – Tracy Quarella, RIIL, Director of Marketing

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Mezzanotte reviewed and discussed the following items: The RIIL Transgender Policy was highlighted by the US Department of Education as an exemplary policy; Letter from Portsmouth High parent; Letter from Kevin McNamara; Letter from Cranston West parent regarding wearing of facemasks in softball and gift from the Bill Falk Fund for Outdoor Track.

2016 RIIL HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved the following 13 nominees for induction into the RIIL High School Hall of Fame: Bryan Berard; Craig Blanchard; Robert "Bob" Cavanagh; JoAnn D'Alessandro; Sara Fabrizio; Don Gainey; Charles Gibbons; Keith Lawton; Bob Leddy; Betty Marquis; Susan Reposa; Carolyn Thornton and Kim Zifcak-White and Gerald Zifcak (Zifcak family - father, *posthumously*, and daughter will be inducted together).

PCOA RESIGNATION – DR. MICHAEL SOLLITTO

The Committee on Athletics received a letter of resignation from Dr. Michael Sollitto, as Assistant Chairperson and member of the Committee effective June 20, 2016. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously accepted (11-0), with regret, Dr. Sollitto's resignation and wished him continued success in his new position as Assistant Superintendent of Scituate schools.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW ASSISTANT CHAIRMAN – MR. SEAN KELLY

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved the nomination of Mr. Sean Kelly, principal of Cranston High School East, to the position of Assistant Chairman on the Principals' Committee on Athletics effective June 20, 2016. As a result of Mr. Kelly's appointment to Assistant Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Kelly will also serve as the Chairman of the RIIL Finance Committee.

WINTER SPORTS RE-ALIGNMENT 2016-2018

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved the following winter alignments for 2016-2018: Boys and Girls Indoor Track; Boys and Girls Swim; Boys and Girls Hockey; Boys and Girls Basketball; Wrestling and Gymnastics.

RIIL RULE REVISIONS

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved the following RIIL Rules Revisions: **Article 7., (Limitation of Seasons) Section 8., (Guidelines for Intramurals, Weight Training and Open Gym (Athletic Facilities))**

A. Schools may provide students opportunities for intramurals, weight training and open athletic facilities **during the school year** provided the criteria listed below is followed:

1. The time and day(s) of the open facilities and weight training are to be made known to the **entire student body** by the administrator through announcements, bulletin board postings, school paper, etc.
2. The weight training area and athletic facility must be open to anyone enrolled in the school and must be on a voluntary basis. Coaches cannot mandate attendance of team members or potential team members.
3. The open athletic facilities cannot precede, follow or be in conjunction with an off-season conditioning program.
4. During the school year, no coach (including assistants, volunteers, etc.) can be present in any open athletic facilities if ~~there is participation in his/her out of season sport~~ students (grades 9-12) are participating in the coach's out of season sport.
5. The person(s) in charge of supervising the open athletic facilities may not organize, coach or instruct students in any sport not in season (see note below).
6. Students participating in weight training and open athletic facilities must furnish their own clothing (sweat shirts, shorts, shoes, etc.). No equipment is to be used that is specific and/or unique to any particular sport.
7. Schools may furnish basketballs, volleyballs, basketball standards, volleyball standards, floor mats and wrestling mats, and any other athletic equipment needed to operate an open athletic facility session.

Violations:

1. Making the open gym available only to specific sport participants.
2. ~~The basketball coach (or any other coach) in the gym or vicinity when his/her sport is being participated in during open gym, except during the season of the sport.~~
2. The coach being present or in the vicinity during any open athletic facility time block of his/her sport.

4. ~~The supervisor of the open gym, except during the season of the sport.~~
3. Select group of students working out in the athletic facilities at times other than the open athletic facilities period.

Note:

An "open athletic facilities" program is one in which a variety of recreational type activities are offered, i.e., badminton, basketball, soccer, lacrosse, volleyball, and the like. Coaches at any level may not be present when their specific sport activity is a part of the open athletic facilities program. ~~Single sports programs in which Student-Athletes are involved are interpreted as an attempt to circumvent the out of season rule if those sports are not on a rotation basis with at least two or more other sports activities during a calendar week using that facility.~~ Responsibility for monitoring open athletic facilities programs should be with the Athletic Director and Principal of the school. All specific sport activities have to be recreational in nature; therefore, practice routines, such as, softball/baseball pitching, catching and batting, football place-kicking, golfing/putting, and similar routines are always interpreted as an attempt to circumvent the out-of-season rule.

Article 3., (Eligibility) Section 10. Tuition Students

3. All schools must ~~keep on file~~ submit an individual scholarship report on any student receiving financial aid from the school or any related entity in excess of 50% of the combined tuition and expenses and receive an eligibility ruling for the person receiving such aid prior to using said student in an RIIL sanctioned game. The only exception is financial aid provided by an independent corporation, parish or governmental agency/division. The school must furnish on this report the circumstances of any other aid whatsoever.
4. Upon request schools' ~~may~~ will be required to submit an individual scholarship report on any student receiving financial aid from the school or any related entity in excess of 50% of the combined tuition and expenses. The Executive Director and the Chair will determine the eligibility of any student receiving financial aid. The Executive Director and the Chair will consider the circumstances and determine whether the aid is scholarship aid or an athletic scholarship. In making this decision, these individuals will give the particular street of the residence of the athlete involved and the normal area that the school in question generally draws from. In order to deny eligibility to any student because of an athletic scholarship, both individuals must agree. An appeal can be entered to the Committee in the event that an athlete is declared ineligible but, pending appeal, the athlete may not participate in any contest of the school involved.
5. In the event that an athlete receiving financial aid, in accordance with the provisions of Article 3, Section 9, is not reported to the Committee upon request, all games in which the athlete participated from the time the aid was given shall be forfeited and, if championships are involved, they shall be rescinded and plaques and trophies returned to the RIIL.

RULES VIOLATIONS

Middletown High School: Violation of Article 3, Section 4, (Academic Eligibility) in JV Baseball due to a clerical error by the coach.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) voted to impose a \$100 fine to Middletown High School.

Smithfield High School: Violation of Article 3, Section 4, (Academic Eligibility) in Softball.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) voted to impose a \$100 fine to Smithfield High School. Also, Smithfield HS forfeited nine (9) games.

Lincoln High School: Violation of Article 6, Section 11., (Cancellation/Forfeit of Game) in a first round playoff Boys' Tennis match versus The Wheeler School.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) voted to place the Lincoln Boys' Tennis team on probation for one (1) year (2016-2017).

The Committee would like to commend and thank all schools for self-reporting any and all incidents. The success of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League is predicated on having all its valued members abide by and support all of its Rules and Regulations.

In addition, Mr. Mezzanotte reported that numerous schools were in violation of Article 14, Section B.6: *At the conclusion of each game, coaches must post the score online as well as record the Pitching Log for that game. Schools that do NOT comply will be fined by the RIIL.* Since notifying the schools of this violation, all schools are in compliance.

NFHS OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION: RI OFFICIALS 100% STATE

Mr. Mezzanotte reported as of September 2016, all Rhode Island officials must be a member of the NFHS Officials Association. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved.

RIIAAA REPORT AND NEW RIIAAA APPOINTMENT – MR. THOMAS MARCELLO, PONAGANSET HS

Mr. Vetelino, President of the RIIAAA, provided updates as to issues, concerns and recommendations on behalf of the RIIAAA.

In addition, The Committee thanked Mr. Jamey Vetelino who served as the RIIAAA representative on the PCOA throughout the past two years. He has served with distinction and dedication. As a result, and on a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved the nomination of Mr. Thomas Marcello, athletic director at Ponaganset High School to serve as the RIIAAA representative on the PCOA for a two-year term.

FALL SPORTS - FOOTBALL

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee approved the following rules pertaining to the sport of football:

1. **Six (6) qtrs per week JV/Varsity.**
 - The football week is designated as Wed to Wed. Rationale: This is not an issue during the regular season as we play varsity games on Fri or Sat and JV on Monday. The issue is the Thanksgiving Games (on Wed or Thur). If we designate the week as Wed – Wed teams would be able to play a Fri or Sat varsity game prior to Thanksgiving and the JV game on the following Monday, and still be able to comply with the 6 qtr rule on Thur (Thanksgiving Day).
2. **Five days between Varsity games.**
 - Not an issue during the regular season.
 - Teams must choose to play their semifinal playoff game on the Friday, and the Thanksgiving Day game on Thurs.
 - If teams wish to play their Thanksgiving game on Wed night, they must play their semifinal playoff game on the previous Thursday.
3. **Revised rule regarding playing MA teams:** All RIIL member schools who play football teams from Massachusetts must play by NFHS Football Rules beginning in the **fall of 2018.**
 - **Girls' Volleyball** – *Ray DeAngelis, Director of Girls' Volleyball* – the Committee received a letter from Providence Country Day requesting to join the league in Girls' Volleyball beginning with the fall 2016 season. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved their request.

WINTER SPORT AND HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIPS

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved the Boys' and Girls' Hockey Championships.

- **Girls' Basketball** – *Cindy Neal, Director of Girls' Basketball* – the Committee received a letter from Rocky Hill School notifying the league they must withdraw from in Girls' Basketball because they can no longer field a team. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved their request to withdraw without sanctions.

SPRING SPORTS AND CHAMPIONSHIPS

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved the following spring sports championships for 2016: Boys and Girls Outdoor Track; Boys Tennis; Boys Volleyball; Boys and Girls Lacrosse; Golf; Unified Basketball; Fastpitch Softball; Freshman Baseball and Baseball.

SCHOOL REQUESTS:

The Committee received a letter from Mount St. Charles Academy requesting approval to award a scholarship to a boy in the City of Woonsocket to attend summer camp. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved their request.

The Committee received a letter from Masters Regional Academy notifying the League their school is closing as of June 2016 and as a result must drop out of all league sports.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved a request from the Providence School Department to allow to continue to participate in the Alternative Sports Program and will continue to play their neighborhood comprehensive high school (Central, Hope, Mount Pleasant or Sanchez) based on the student home address or the comprehensive high school that is closest to the school they attend and students from ACE, Times2, TAPA, RINI, Village Green and The Met (Providence residents only). Also, PCTA will continue to participate in sports with Central; Alvarez High School will continue to participate in sports with Mount Pleasant High School and E3 will continue to participate in sports with Hope High School as part of the Athletic Participation by Exception Plan.

The Committee then adopted the following closing motion: THAT ANY AND ALL MOTIONS, AMENDMENTS AND ACTIONS BY THE PRINCIPALS' COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS AND THE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE PRINCIPALS' COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS TO THIS DATE BE REAFFIRMED AND RATIFIED.

The June meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

Signed:

Susana Costa, RIIL Board Secretary

Date: _____