

**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE  
Principals' Committee on Athletics  
Monday, August 16, 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, Henderson, Kavanagh, Kelly, Marcello, and Whaley

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

**Absent:** Mme., Gribbin; Messrs., DiMuccio, Goho and Warner

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

**PCOA MINUTES JUNE 20, 2016**

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the June 20, 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: Rule Revision of Article 2., Section 1. – Membership; The Wheeler School request; Smithfield HS Rule Violations (Article 3., Section 4., Academic Eligibility; 2016-2017 Budget and Finance Committee Meeting.

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

**RIIL FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT - BUDGET 2016-2017**

Mr. Sean Kelly, chairman of the Finance Committee reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on August 15, 2016 and submitted its report regarding the 2016-2017 RIIL budget and the 2015-2016 revenue share with RIIL schools. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee on Athletics unanimously approved (11-0) the RIIL budget for the 2016-2017 school year. In another matter, on a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved (11-0) the purchase of new building on 333 Centerville Road, Warwick, RI.

**ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016**

The 2015-2016 Annual Report was reviewed and approved. Copies will be distributed to all schools.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Mezzanotte reported on the following:

- Michael Lunney – NIAAA Distinguished Service Award
- Computer Management System – *rSchool Today*
- NFHS Committee Appointments – Anna Saccoccio, Field Hockey and Robin Ramey, Softball
- RIC Lease non-renewal and Purchase of new building
- Coaches Certification: Update
- 2016 NFHS Summer Conference
- 2017 NFHS Summer Conference – Providence, RI
- 2015-2016 RIIL Accomplishments
- 2016-2017 RIIL Goals
- Retirement of Andre Thibault – Providence School Department
- NFHS Student Leadership Conference
- NESLC Student Leadership
- Annual Principals Breakfast: Friday, September 30th @ The Crowne Plaza

#### PCOA VACANCY

Due to two (2) vacancies on the PCOA, the Committee is accepting applications from its member school principals in accordance with Article 1, Section 4.J. The deadline for submission of applications is October 1<sup>st</sup> and will be presented to the Committee at its November meeting.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

The RIIL received a letter from a parent regarding hockey player safety. The RIIL will take under advisement.

#### SCHOOL REQUESTS

The RIIL received a request from The Wheeler School requesting to join the League in all sports by the spring of 2018. RIIL governed sports will be added in accordance with the following schedule: **Winter 2016-2017** – Boys' and Girls' Basketball and Boys' and Girls' Swim; **Fall of 2017**: Boys' and Girls' Soccer and Boys' and Girls' Cross Country; **Spring of 2018**: Boys' and Girls' Outdoor Track and Boys' and Girls' Golf Team. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved (11-0) Wheeler School's request.

In addition, on a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved (11-0) Wheeler's request to waive Article 3, Section 5B-1, allowing a ninth grader to participate as a 5<sup>th</sup> year senior during the 2018-2019 school year.

#### RIIL RULE VIOLATIONS:

The Committee heard testimony from Mr. Dan Kelley, Principal of Smithfield High School regarding violations of Article 3, Section 4., Academic Eligibility. As a result of Smithfield high school's investigation and self-reporting of eleven (11) violations of Article 3., Section 4., the Committee voted unanimously (11-0) to approve the following sanctions:

1. The Smithfield HS Athletic Program is placed on probation for a period of three (3) years (2016-17, 2017-18 & 2018-19)
2. Smithfield HS will be fined a sum of \$1,100.
3. Smithfield HS fully implements all aspects of the Athletic Program Improvement Plan.

In addition, Mr. Kelley submitted an Athletic Program Improvement Plan. It was noted that **all** athletes in violation of Article 3., Section 4., had no impact on state championships. The Committee commends Mr. Kelley and the Smithfield high school's administration for their integrity and professionalism in handling this matter.

#### RIIL RULE REVISIONS:

The Committee discussed Article 2., Section 1., Membership. The discussion centered around the differences between schools whose teams solely participate in sports offered by the RIIL, and schools whose teams choose to partially participate in sports offered by the RIIL. In addition, the Committee reviewed responses it received from those schools (Moses Brown, PCD and Rocky Hill) who could be affected by a rule change in this area. This matter was tabled until the November Meeting.

#### 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.

#### RIIAAA REPORT – THOMAS MARCELLO

No report given.

#### FALL SPORTS

Nothing to report.

#### WINTER SPORTS

**Boys and Girls Basketball and Boys and Girls Swim** – the Committee unanimously approved (11-0) a request from The Wheeler School requesting to join the League (in all sports by the spring of 2018) beginning with Boys' and Girls' Basketball and Boys' and Girls' Swim for the 2016-2017 school year.

#### SPRING SPORTS AND ALIGNMENT – 2016-2018

The spring alignments are due in October for the November PCOA Meeting. Also, Mr. Mezzanotte reported on the NFHS Rule Pitching Restriction Policies in High School Baseball to be Based on Number of Pitches.

**WAIVER HEARING COMMITTEE APPEAL**

**Marykate McGuire – Portsmouth High School**

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

Motion to grant waiver: 5-6 (*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 August meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 4:44 P.M.*

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Susana Borges, RIIL Board Secretary

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE  
Principals' Committee on Athletics  
Monday, November 14, 2016 @ 1:30 pm  
RIIL Office  
Bldg. #6 RI College Campus  
600 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Providence, RI**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Chairman McNamara; Mme., Abromitis; Messrs., Barr, Kavanagh, Kelly, Goho and Marcello

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

**Absent:** Mme., Crowley and Gribbin; Messrs., Brennan, Henderson, Warner and Whaley

***The November meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was called to order at 2:15 p.m.***

**PCOA MINUTES AUGUST 16, 2016**

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the August 16, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved (7-0).

***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: Rule Revision of Article 2., Section 1. – Membership; The Wheeler School request; Smithfield HS Rule Violations (Article 3., Section 4., Academic Eligibility; 2016-2017 Budget and Finance Committee Meeting.

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

**RIIL BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT**

Mr. Mezzanotte presented the RIIL Audit of the Financial Statement for 2015. In addition, the Committee reviewed the September/October RIIL Profit and Loss Budget Report.

**PCOA RESIGNATION AND VACANCY**

The Committee received a letter of resignation from Mr. Robert Littlefield., a long-time member of the Principals' Committee on Athletics. On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously accepted (7-0), with regret, Mr. Littlefield's resignation. Also, the Committee tabled the selection of new PCOA members to its January meeting.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Mezzanotte reported on the following:

- Computer Management System - rSchool Today
- RIIL New Building: Update
- Coaches Certification: Update
- 2017 NFHS Summer Conference – Providence, RI
- Huddle Digital Ticketing Partner
- NFHS National Campaign – “My Reason Why”
- RIIL Fall “Battle of the Fans”
- NFHS School Broadcast Program – La Salle Academy

**SCHOOL REQUESTS**

The RIIL received a request from North Smithfield and Scituate High School to join the League in Boys and Girls Indoor Track beginning with the 2016-2017 school year. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved (7-0) North Smithfield and Scituate High school's request.

**SPRING SPORTS ALIGNMENT 2017 AND 2018**

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (7-0) approved the following spring sports alignments for 2017 and 2018: Baseball, Softball, Boys and Girls Lacrosse, Boys' Volleyball, Boys' and Girls' Outdoor Track Boys' Tennis and Golf.

**RIIL RULE VIOLATIONS:**

The Committee heard testimony from Mr. Dan Kelley, Principal of Smithfield High School regarding violations of Article 3, Section 4., Academic Eligibility. As a result of Smithfield high school's investigation and self-reporting of eleven (11) violations of Article 3., Section 4., the Committee voted unanimously (11-0) to approve the following sanctions:

1. The Smithfield HS Athletic Program is placed on probation for a period of three (3) years (2016-17, 2017-18 & 2018-19)
2. Smithfield HS will be fined a sum of \$1,100.
3. Smithfield HS fully implements all aspects of the Athletic Program Improvement Plan.

In addition, Mr. Kelley submitted an Athletic Program Improvement Plan. It was noted that **all** athletes in violation of Article 3., Section 4., had no impact on state championships. The Committee commends Mr. Kelley and the Smithfield high school's administration for their integrity and professionalism in handling this matter.

**RIIL RULE REVISIONS:**

The Committee discussed Article 2., Section 1., Membership.

**RIIAAA REPORT – THOMAS MARCELLO**

Mr. Marcello presented a request RIIAAA Executive Board regarding the Boys' and Girls' Division Swim Meets format. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee referred the matter to Swim Sport Committee.

**FALL SPORTS**

**Football** – Sean Kelly and Scott Barr, Co-Sport Directors – On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (7-0) approved revisions to Article 19, Football. The revisions will be posted online and sent to all schools.

**WINTER SPORTS**

**Ice Hockey** – George Egan and Terry Lynch, Co-Sport Directors – On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (7-0) approved a revision to Article 22, Hockey, Section 1.F:

- F. Beginning in December 2016 – RIIL Rule Change
  1. Establishment of a system that would penalize and suspend players who have exceeded the maximum number of penalty minutes during the regular league season and playoffs.
    - Any player who has accumulated 50 or more penalty minutes during the regular season will be suspended for two (2) league games and any games in between (including playoffs). At the conclusion of the regular season, the first level of penalty minutes will be raised from 50 or more penalty minutes to 60 or more penalty minutes for the playoffs. Any player who accumulates 60 or more penalty minutes (regular season and playoffs combined) will be suspended for the next (2) playoff games.
    - In addition, any player who accumulates a total of 70 or more penalty minutes will be suspended for the remainder of the hockey season (including playoffs).
    - If the player accumulates the 50/60/70 penalty minutes level during the last game of the season, he/she will sit out the first two (2) league ice hockey games in the next year or if a senior, two (2) league games in the next sport season.

**SPRING SPORTS**

**Baseball** – Terry Lynch and Mike Whaley, Co-Sport Directors – On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (7-0) approved a revision to Article 14, Baseball, Section 1.B:

B. The RIIL Pitching Limitations Rule is as follows:

Max Pitches 1 Day – 110

Days' Rest	76+	3 Days
	51-75	2 Days
	26-50	1 Day
	25 or Less	0 Days

Baseball revision continued...

Player reaching a max count can finish the batter.

If a pitcher reaches a day rest limit in the middle of an at bat and is removed from game after that batter, his official pitch count number will revert back to what it was at the start of the at bat.

Example: If 25 or less pitches in a game doesn't require any rest for next day. Pitcher starts a batter with 23 pitches already thrown. Pitcher throws 5 pitches and ends up with 28. Pitcher is then removed from game. His official pitch count reverts back to 23 and is eligible to pitch the next day.

Home Book (Official Book)

-In between innings both coaches should meet to confer what they had for a pitch count.

\*Coaches need to post the pitch count after every game on the RIIL website within 4 hours. If the coach does not post the pitch count within 24 hours they will be suspended for one game for the next game on their schedule, no fine.

*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 5:00 P.M.*

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Susana Borges, RIIL Board Secretary

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE  
Principals' Committee on Athletics  
Monday, January 23, 2017 @ 1:30 pm  
RIIL Office  
Bldg. #6 RI College Campus  
600 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Providence, RI**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Chairman McNamara; Mme., Abromitis, Crowley and Gribbin; Messrs., Barr, Brennan, Kelly, Goho, Marcello, Warner and Whaley

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

**Absent:** Messrs., Kavanagh and Henderson

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

**PCOA MINUTES NOVEMBER 14, 2016**

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the November 14, 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: RIIL Rule Revisions, PCOA vacancies, ticket prices and official's fees for 2017-2020.

*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 (11-0) approved a loan (totaling \$200,000) for the new RIIL building renovations. The Committee also reviewed fees for the new Computer Management System for 2017-2018. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved the new fees. In another matter, on a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved the increase for ticket prices starting winter of 2017. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved officials fee's increase of \$2.00/per year for the next three years 2017-2020. Also, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved contract with Orthopedics Rhode Island as the exclusive sponsor of the RI Interscholastic League.

**PCOA NEW APPOINTMENTS**

The Committee on Athletics reviewed and discussed several applications of those administrators interested in serving on the PCOA. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously voted (11-0) to approve the appointments of Julia Carlson, Principal of Central High School and Philip Solomon of West Warwick High School. The Committee will consider filling the other two current vacancies at its next meeting in March.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Mezzanotte reported on the following:

- Computer Management System - rSchool Today
- RIIL New Building: Update
- Ticket Prices
- Coaches Certification: Update
- RIIL "Battle of the Fans"
- Official Fees 2017-2020

**CORRESPONDENCE**

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

**RIIL RULE REVISIONS:**

On a motion made and seconded the following RIIL Rules Revisions were unanimously (11-0) approved:

1. Article 2, Section 1 (Membership) – RIIL received a letter from a member school regarding concerns. This matter has been tabled to a future date.
2. Article 3., Section 1.B (Assumption of Risk) – \$100 fine to schools for not having on file an Assumption of Risk Form.
3. Article 13., (Coaching Requirements) – Eliminate RI Department of Education as a certifying body for Coaches Education.
4. Article 1., Section 16., C.2 (Waiver Rules) – Eliminate this section.
5. Article 1., Section 4., (Financial Administration) – Revise to read as follows: Every three years Subcommittee. In addition, the following members will serve in August 2017 for term of three years: Kathryn Crowley, Dan Warner and Jay Brennan.

**RULES VIOLATIONS**

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

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA unanimously (11-0) voted to sanction Pilgrim High School for a violation of Article 3, Section 4 (Use of Ineligible Athlete) of the RIIL Rules and Regulations. As a result, the Boys' Hockey team had to forfeit one game versus Johnston/N. Providence team on December 30, 2016. In addition, Pilgrim High School is assessed a \$100 fine.

The Prout School: Article 3, Section 6: (Transfer Rule)

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA voted to approve (9-2) to sanction The Prout School for a violation of Article 3, Section 6 (Transfer Rule) of the RIIL Rules and Regulations. As a result, The Prout School is assessed a \$100 fine.

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

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA unanimously (11-0) voted to sanction the Tolman High School for a violation of Article 3, Section 4 (Use of Ineligible Athlete) of the RIIL Rules and Regulations. As a result, the wrestling team must adjust four matches and forfeit one match in which the ineligible player participated. In addition, Tolman High School is assessed a \$100 fine.

**RIIAAA REPORT – THOMAS MARCELLO**

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

**FALL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved the 2016 Football and Girls Volleyball Championships.

**WINTER SPORTS**

**Boys and Girls Swim** – Cindy Bowden, Sport Director – On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved a request from the Swim Committee regarding the Boys' and Girls' Division Swim Meets format and run the meets the way it has been run for the past two years. Also, 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 (11-0) approved their request without sanctions.

**SPRING SPORTS**

**Fastpitch Softball** – Betty Marquis, Sport Director – On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved to table a request to March from the Softball Sport Committee regarding extra inning tie-breaker procedure for the 2017 season.

*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 3:00 P.M.*

Signed:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Susana Borges, RIIL Board Secretary



**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE  
Principals' Committee on Athletics  
Monday, March 20, 2017 @ 1:30 pm  
RIIL Office  
Bldg. #6 RI College Campus  
600 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Providence, RI**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Chairman McNamara; Mme., Abromitis, Carlson, Crowley and Gribbin; Messrs., Barr, Brennan, Henderson, Kavanagh, Kelly, Goho, Marcello, Solomon, Warner and Whaley

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

**Absent:** None

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

**WELCOME NEW PCOA MEMBERS:**

The Committee welcomed new PCOA members Philip Solomon, Principal of West Warwick High School and Julia Carlson, Principal of Central High School.

**PCOA MINUTES NOVEMBER 14, 2016**

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the January 23, 2017 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: PCOA vacancies; PCOA sport directors; Finance Committee Members new members for 2017-2018: Kathy Crowley, Dan Warner and Jay Brenna; Finance Committee Report and facilities contracts for Brown University and Cranston Stadium.

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

**FINANCE REPORT**

Mr. Kelly, chairman of the Finance Committee reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on March 20<sup>th</sup> and submitted its report regarding the fall tournament report and profit/loss report. In addition, he discussed details of finances regarding purchase of new building at 875 Centerville Road, Warwick, RI.

**PCOA NEW APPOINTMENTS**

The Committee on Athletics reviewed and discussed several applications of those administrators interested in serving on the PCOA. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously voted (15-0) to approve the appointments of Thomas Barbieri, Principal of Cranston High School West and Gerald Habershaw Pilgrim High School.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Mezzanotte reported on the following:

- Computer Management System - rSchool Today
- RIIL New Building: Update
- RI General Assembly Bills
- Providence School Dept – New Programs
- Spring Interpretation Meetings
- NFHS Heart of the Arts Section 1 Recipient – Lindsey Daugherty, Barrington High School: “As a standout student, a three-year field hockey participant, and a member of both the school’s debate team and student council, Daugherty is a well-rounded high school student.”

**SCHOOL REQUESTS**

The Committee received a letter from The Lincoln School to join Girls Varsity and JV Soccer (Division 2) and Girls Cross Country beginning fall of 2017. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved (15-0) Lincoln Schools request.

The Committee received a letter from Exeter/West Greenwich High School and the Prout School requesting a waiver of Article 3, Section 1 J of the rules and regulations to allow EWG/Prout to form a Co-op in Football. The application does not meet the established Article 3, Section 1 J guidelines because EWG High School exceeds the limit of 20 participants. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee denied (4-10) the request.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee denied (15-0) a request submitted by Mr. Rosendo Fontecha to appeal a previous ruling denying his son Nicolas request to participate in Boys' Tennis under the RIIL Alternate Sports Program.

**RIIL RULE REVISIONS:**

On a motion made and seconded the following RIIL Rules Revisions were unanimously (15-0) approved:

1. Article 11, Section 5 (Media Credential Policy) – “Media journalists and photographers must stand clear of the awards presentation area and are asked to refrain from conducting post-game interviews until after the awards ceremony has been completed.”
2. Article 3, Section 4A (Academic Eligibility) – “At all times the athlete should have secured for the period from the beginning of the quarter or trimester up to the end of the regular marking period which shall not exceed a maximum of 12 weeks and a passing grade in **60% of the student's program (credits). A student who is not passing 60% of his/her program (credits) is ineligible to participate in games (league and non-league) until the end of the quarter or trimesters of the next marking period.** This is a minimum standard for academic eligibility. Schools may choose to initiate a higher standard for academic eligibility. In this instance, the higher standard (school policy) will be supported by the RIIL.”

**RULES VIOLATIONS**

Burrillville High School: Article 3, Section 4: (Academic Eligibility)

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA unanimously (14-0) voted to sanction Burrillville High School for violating Article 3, Section 4 of the RIIL Rules and Regulations. As a result, Burrillville High School is assessed a \$200 fine and placed on probation for a period of one year.

Lincoln High School: Article 3, Section 4: (Academic Eligibility)

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA voted (13-0-1) to sanction Lincoln High School for violating Article 3, Section 4 of the RIIL Rules and Regulations. As a result, Lincoln High School is assessed a \$300 fine and placed on probation for a period of one year.

Lincoln High School: Article 6, Section 6A: (Use of Ineligible Athlete)

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA voted (13-0-1) to sanction Lincoln High School for violating Article 6, Section 6A of the RIIL Rules and Regulations. As a result, Lincoln High School is assessed a \$100 fine.

Juanita Sanchez: Article 3, Section 4: (Academic Eligibility)

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA unanimously (14-0) voted to sanction Juanita Sanchez Complex for violating Article 3, Section 4 of the RIIL Rules and Regulations. As a result, Juanita Sanchez Complex is assessed a \$100 fine and placed on probation for a period of one year.

**RIIAAA REPORT – THOMAS MARCELLO**

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

**WINTER CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The Committee reviewed the 2017 winter sport championship reports.

**SPRING SPORTS**

**Fastpitch Softball** – Betty Marquis, Sport Director – On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved a recommendation from the RIIL Softball Committee and endorsed by the RI Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association, the following Extra Inning/International Tie Breaker format to be implemented beginning with the 2017 fastpitch softball season: “In the event that a regular season or playoff game is tied at the end of 7 complete innings, up to two additional extra innings will be played. If the score remains tied after the 8th inning is completed, a 9th inning will be played. If the score remains tied after the 9th inning is completed, the International Tie Breaker rule will take effect beginning with the top of the 10th inning. Each team will start with a

runner on 2nd base and zero (0) outs. The runner is the last batter to make an out in the previous inning. At least one full inning is played, allowing each team the same chance to score. If the score remains tied, the same process will be used in each subsequent inning until a victor emerges.”

*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 3:23 P.M.*

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Susana Borges, RIIL Board Secretary

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE  
Principals' Committee on Athletics  
Monday, June 19, 2017 @ 1:30 pm  
RIIL Office  
875 Centerville Road, Building 3  
Warwick, RI**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Chairman McNamara; Mme., Abromitis, Crowley and Gribbin; Messrs., Barbieri, Barr, Habershaw, Kavanagh, Kelly, Marcello, Solomon and Warner.

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

**Absent:** Messrs: Brennan, Henderson, Goho and Whaley

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

**WELCOME NEW PCOA MEMBERS:**

The Committee welcomed new PCOA members Thomas Barbieri, Principal of Cranston High School West and Gerald Habershaw, Principal of Pilgrim High School.

**PCOA MINUTES MARCH 20, 2017**

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the March 20, 2017 meeting were unanimously approved (12-0).

*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: PCOA vacancy; PCOA sport directors; Finance Committee Report and Inclusion of Private Schools in the RIIL.

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

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Kelly, chairman of the Finance Committee reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on June 19. The final analysis of the 2016-2017 school year will be provided in August.

**PCOA RESIGNATION**

The Committee on Athletics received a letter of resignation from Julia Carlson, as a member of the Committee and Co-sport Director of Girls Volleyball. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously accepted (12-0), with regret, Mrs. Carlson's resignation.

**PCOA NEW APPOINTMENT**

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously voted (12-0) to approve the appointment of Michaela Keegan, Principal, Blackstone Valley Prep.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Mezzanotte reported on the following:

- Computer Management System - rSchool Today
- Review of 2016-2017 Goals
- Co-op Responsibilities – Adherence to RIIL Rules
- Report from Burrillville HS regarding Use of Ineligible Athletes
- NJSIAA Sportsmanship Policy
- B/G Participation Numbers for 2016-2017
- National Shortage of High School Sport Officials
- Request to combine the Cross Country, Indoor and Outdoor Track Committees – Motion made and seconded and unanimously approved (12-0).
- 2017-2018 RIIL Rules Interpretation Mtgs: Fall – August 8; Winter – November 15; Spring – March 17.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

#### **SCHOOL REQUESTS**

The Committee received a request on behalf of Toll Gate, Pilgrim and The Prout School to form a Co-op Girls Ice Hockey team. Based on the guidelines listed in Article 3, Section 1 J of the rules and regulations of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League, the application meets the established guidelines. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (12-0) approved the request and it is approved for two years (2017-2018 & 2018-2019).

The Committee unanimously approved (12-0) a request from Moses Brown School to join the League in the following sports beginning with the 2017-2018 school year: Boys Ice Hockey, Boys and Girls Swim and Boys and Girls Outdoor Track.

The Committee received a letter from Portsmouth High School requesting to add competitive sailing as a sport in the RIIL. The RIIL will convene a committee to study this request.

The Committee received a letter from St. Raphael Academy notifying the League they must withdraw from golf due because they can no longer field a team. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (12-0) approved their request to withdraw without sanctions.

#### **RIIL RULE REVISIONS**

On a motion made and seconded the following RIIL Rules Revisions were unanimously (12-0) approved:

1. Article 11 (Radio & Television – Media)
2. Article 28 & 29 (Indoor Track)
3. Article 24 (Soccer) - Overtime

#### **RULES VIOLATIONS**

##### Lincoln High School: Article 6, Section 6A: (Use of Ineligible Athlete) – Baseball & Boys Volleyball

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA unanimously voted (12-0) to sanction Lincoln High School for violating Article 6, Section 6A of the RIIL Rules and Regulations (due to an oversight by the baseball coach and boys volleyball coach). As a result, Lincoln High School is assessed a \$200 fine. Also, the baseball coach will be suspended for 1 (one) RIIL League game in 2018 and the boys volleyball coach will be suspended for 1 (one) RIIL League game in 2018.

##### Middletown High School: Article 6, Section 6A: (Use of Ineligible Athlete) – Boys Lacrosse

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA unanimously voted (12-0) to sanction Middletown High School for violating Article 6, Section 6A of the RIIL Rules and Regulations (due to a clerical error). As a result, Middletown High School is assessed a \$200 fine.

##### The Wheeler School: Article 6, Section 10 (Cancellation/Forfeits of Games) – Fastpitch Softball

The Committee reviewed a letter from The Wheeler School explaining the circumstances for forfeiting a Fastpitch Softball playoff game against Block Island on May 30, 2017. On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA unanimously voted (12-0) to place the Wheeler School Fastpitch Softball Team on probation for a period of one (1) year (2017-2018).

#### **NEW TEAMS COMING INTO THE RIIL IN 2017-2018 AND ALIGNMENT REVISIONS**

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (12-0) approved the following new teams and subsequent alignment revisions:

##### **Fall Sports:**

- Girls Cross Country – Lincoln School to the Metro Division and Class C
- Boys and Girls Cross Country – Wheeler School to Metro Division and Class C
- Girls Soccer – Lincoln School and Providence Country Day School to Division 3
- Boys Soccer – Wheeler School to Division 2
  - Woonsocket drops to D3

**Winter Sports:**

- Girls Basketball – Lincoln School to Division 1 and Wheeler School to Division 2
  - Classical and Central drop to D3
- Boys and Girls Swim – Moses Brown School
- Boys Ice Hockey – Moses Brown School to Division I

**Spring Sports:**

- Boys and Girls Outdoor Track – Moses Brown School
- Boys Lacrosse – Johnston, Exeter/West Greenwich and Classical High School
- Boys Volleyball – Johnston High School

**RIIAAA REPORT – THOMAS MARCELLO**

Mr. Marcello, President of the RIIAAA, provided updates as to issues, concerns and recommendations on behalf of the RIIAAA. The RIIAAA will convene a committee to study the present alignment process and potential changes.

**FALL SPORTS**

**Boys and Girls Soccer** – Bob Cavanagh, Boys Soccer Sport Director and Gail Abromitis, Girls Soccer Sport Director – The Committee received a request from Juanita Sanchez to join the League in Boys and Girls Soccer beginning with the **2018 season**. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (12-0) approved their request.

**WINTER SPORTS**

**Girls Basketball** – Cindy Neal, Girls Basketball Sport Director – The Committee received a request from Chariho High School to drop to Division 2. The Committee reviewed the request and has referred it to the Girls Basketball Sport Committee for their consideration.

**SPRING SPORTS AND CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**Boys Tennis** – Michaela Keegan, Boys Tennis Sport Director – The Committee received a request from Central High School to join the League in Boys Tennis beginning with the 2017 season. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (12-0) approved their request.

The Committee reviewed the 2018 spring sport championship reports to include boys tennis, boys and girls outdoor track, boys and girls lacrosse, boys volleyball, golf, fastpitch softball and baseball.

**SPORTS MEDICINE**

Mr. Mezzanotte discussed a letter received to allow “head gear” in Girls Lacrosse. The Committee took no action on this request since the NFHS reported there is no NOCSAE standard for this equipment.

*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 3:30 P.M.*

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Susana Borges, RIIL Board Secretary

Date: \_\_\_\_\_