

**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Principals' Committee on Athletics
Monday, August 19, 2019 @ 1:30 pm
RIIL Office
875 Centerville Road, Building #3
Warwick, RI 02886**

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman McNamara; Mme., Ponte; Messrs., Barbieri, Barr, Cobain, Habershaw, Kavanagh, Kelly, Sollitto, Warner and Whaley.

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

Absent: Mmes., Henneman, Keegan and Wallace

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

RECOGNITION OF MEMBERS

The Committee recognized and thanked Mr. Kevin McNamara for his years of dedicated service as a member and chairperson of the Principals' Committee on Athletics from 2005-2019. Also, the Committee recognized and thanked Mr. Joseph Goho for his dedicated service as a member of the Committee from 2009-2019.

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 Rules Revisions; Requests from Member Schools and Rule Violations.

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

PCOA MINUTES JUNE 18, 2019

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the June 18, 2019 meeting was unanimously approved (11-0).

PCOA CHAIRMAN RESIGNATION

Mr. Kevin McNamara, Chairman of the Committee submitted his resignation as Chairman and as a member of the Principals' Committee on Athletics effective August 19, 2019. Mr. McNamara has served with distinction on the Committee over the past 14 years. The Committee wish Kevin success in his new capacity as Assistant Superintendent for the Lincoln School Department. On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics, accepted with regret, Mr. McNamara's resignation.

NEW PCOA CHAIRMAN AND ASSISTANT CHAIRMAN

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved the nomination of Mr. Sean Kelly, principal of Cranston High School East, to the position of Chairman on the Principals' Committee on Athletics effective August 19, 2019.

In addition, on a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved the nomination of Mr. Daniel Warner, principal of Narragansett High School, to the position of Assistant Chairman on the Principals' Committee on Athletics effective August 19, 2019.

PCOA RESIGNATION

The Committee received a letter of resignation from Mr. Philip Solomon, as a member of the Committee. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously accepted (11-0), with regret, Mr. Solomon's resignation and wished him success in his new position as Assistant Superintendent for the West Warwick Schools.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The Committee received a request from Ms. Colleen Gribbin, principal of St. Mary Bay View Academy requesting a leave of absence from the Committee for the 2019-2020 school year. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) voted to approve Ms. Gribbin's request.

RUIL FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Kelly, chairman of the finance committee reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on August 19. Items discussed and reviewed was an update on investments, the 2018-2019 Final Budget; Profit and Loss and 2019-2020 Budget.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Mezzanotte reported on the following:

- TPG update: Mr. Mezzanotte and Mr. Lunney met with TPG representatives to discuss the strategic plan for the coming year for marketing and sponsorship.
- 2020-2022 Alignment Guidelines: Guidelines for 2020-2022 will be distributed. Sport Committees will begin the process for alignment in all sports. In addition, the RIIAAA will review all alignment guidelines and if need be make recommendations for revisions.
- RIIL Sportsmanship Campaign: Mr. Mezzanotte presented the RIIL Sportsmanship Campaign which will be communicated to all principals, athletic directors, coaches and officials. The RIIL PCOA has been and is committed to promoting good sportsmanship at all member high school athletic contests throughout the regular season and playoffs. Specifically, they are concerned with the behavior of student-athletes and coaches on the field or court and the ever-increasing unsportsmanlike behavior of spectators, the Committee believes it is essential that all member schools have sportsmanship standards and programs in place. In addition, the Committee approved guidelines of enforcing good sportsmanship for all involved.

RUIL RULE REVISIONS

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved the following RIIL rule changes:

1. Article 6 – Penalties – Section 17 – Non School Athletic Programs
2. Article 3 – Eligibility – Section 3 – Gender Identity

SCHOOL REQUESTS

The Committee received a request from East Providence High School to move from Division 1 to Division 2 in Girls' Basketball and a request from Barrington High School to move from Division 1 to Division 2 in softball for the 2019-2020 school year. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) denied their requests since we are in the middle of a 2-year alignment. Moving forward, the sport committees and the RI Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association will be looking at possibly revising sport alignment guidelines for alignment for the 2020-2022 season.

The Committee received a request from Prout School to move from Division 1 to Division 2 in boys' hockey for the 2019-2020 season. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) denied their request since we are in the middle of a 2-year alignment. However, the Committee recommends that the Prout School carefully exam the status of the boys' hockey program and potentially dropping out of Division 1 to play an independent non-league schedule for 2019-2020 school year without penalty.

In addition, the Committee received a request from Ponaganset High School to move from Division 3 to Division 2 in softball. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved to table their request to the November meeting.

The Committee reviewed a request from Portsmouth High School to adopt competitive sailing as a sport in the RIIL. The RIIL shared this request with a few schools they listed as having a team in the NESSA League. The RIIL learned that a substantial number of the schools were not in favor of sailing becoming a sport in the RIIL. As a result, on a motion made and seconded, the Committee voted unanimously (11-0) to deny their request.

PROVIDENCE SCHOOLS REQUEST

The Committee received a request from Jason Menard, Director of School Operations, Providence School Department requesting approval of their district's alternative/cooperation sports plan for the 2019-2020 school year. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved to allow students from PCTA/Central, Alvarez/Mt. Pleasant, Evolutions/Mt. Pleasant, E3/Hope and 360 High School/Juanita Sanchez to continue to participate in the Alternative Sports Program for the 2019-2020 school year. In addition, A-Venture which is a program that is now attached to Central High School and located in Central High School will participate in sports with Central.

RIIAAA REPORT – CHRIS COBAIN

Mr. Cobain, President of the RIIAAA, provided updates as to issues, concerns and recommendations on behalf of the RIIAAA including reviewing the current alignment guidelines.

WINTER SPORTS

The Committee received a recommendation from the Swim Alignment Committee to add Providence Country Day in the Rossi Division and Davies and St. Raphael Academy in the Brother Antony Division for the 2019-2020 season. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved.

The Committee received a letter of resignation from Mr. Terry Lynch, athletic director at South Kingstown High School as sport co-director of boys' and girls' hockey. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) accepted, with regret, Mr. Lynch's resignation. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved the nomination of Mr. Dick Fossa, athletic director of North Kingstown High School as sport co-director of boys' and girls' hockey.

WAIVER HEARING COMMITTEE APPEALS

Ella McCusker – Pilgrim High School

Waiver of Article 3, Section 6., Transfer Rule. Appealing a decision of Waiver Hearing Committee.

Motion to grant waiver: 7-3-1 (**approved**)

Tyriek Weeks – Pilgrim High School

Waiver of Article 3, Section 6., Transfer Rule. Appealing a decision of Waiver Hearing Committee.

Motion to grant waiver: 8-2-1 (**approved**)

Eddie Tomka – La Salle Academy

Waiver of Article 3, Section 6., Transfer Rule. Appealing a decision of Waiver Hearing Committee.

Motion to grant waiver: 1-9-1 (**denied**)

PCOA HEARING

Hope High School – Probation for violation of Article 3, Section 4: Use of Ineligible Athletes – Academic Eligibility

Mr. Jason Menard, Director of School Operations for Providence Schools and Mr. Vismark Maria-Gonzalez, Athletic Director of Hope High School presented a plan including institutional controls necessary to ensure compliance of all RIIL Rules and Regulations. This plan will be reviewed, and a meeting will be established to discuss this plan with the new principal of Hope High School, Mr. Gonzalez and Mr. Menard. Mr. Mezzanotte will provide the Committee a summary of that meeting.

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 5:10 P.M.

Signed:

Susana Borges, RIIL Board Secretary

Date: _____

**Rhode Island Interscholastic League
Principals' Committee on Athletics
Special Meeting
Friday, October 11, 2019 @ 10:00 am
RIIL Office
875 Centerville Road, Building #3
Warwick, RI 02886**

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman Kelly; Mme., Gribbin, Henneman, Keegan and Ponte; Messrs., Barbieri, Barr, Cobain, Habershaw, Kavanagh and Warner.

Also Present: Thomas Mezzanotte, Executive Director; Michael Lunney, Assistant Executive Director, Carolyn Thornton, Director of Multimedia Content and Burrillville and Central Falls Administration

Absent: Mme., Wallace

The Special meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

A special meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics (PCOA) was held today regarding the varsity girls volleyball match between Central Falls and Burrillville High Schools that took place on September 24, 2019 at Burrillville High School. The PCOA, the Central Falls School Administration and the Burrillville School Administration reviewed and discussed the events and results of their investigations and have agreed to the following:

Findings:

- The PCOA and administrators from both school districts agreed that the Burrillville student spectators were exhibiting behavior (singing, yelling and demonstrating loud, boisterous behavior during play) that was intimidating and distracting to the opposing team and created an unsportsmanlike and culturally insensitive environment.
- It was acknowledged that the Central Falls student-athletes heard culturally insensitive comments during the course of the contest. These comments were intimidating and disrespectful to the players and coach. The Central Falls athletes and coach did not feel welcomed and respected throughout the game and in the parking lot after the contest.
- The environment in the gym was not welcoming, respectful or sportsmanlike
- Burrillville administration thoroughly investigated the matter and concluded that the actions of the students attending the game were unsportsmanlike, culturally insensitive and did not support the core values of Burrillville High School.

Decision:

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA unanimously approved the following sanctions:

- Burrillville High School has been placed on probation for a period of one year for sportsmanship.
- All Burrillville High School students are prohibited from attending the next regularly-scheduled home girls volleyball match (JV/Varsity) on October 16, 2019.

- The PCOA accepted the following corrective action plan submitted by the Burrillville High School Administration:
 - Burrillville will continue to review any new information as it becomes available and should any student have made specific culturally insensitive comments, they will be disciplined in accordance with district policies.
 - All future game themes must be approved by the Burrillville High School Administration.
 - Administrators and additional game supervisors will be present at all remaining home games.
 - Visiting teams will be escorted in the parking lot by an administrator/game supervisor.
 - Burrillville High School will coordinate with the Burrillville Police Department to patrol the parking lot after games.
 - Burrillville High School will partner with the Nonviolence Institute and the Rhode Island Commission on Prejudice and Bias to run assemblies and workshops on cultural competence.
 - The Burrillville High School Diversity Council will be included in discussions around a number of activities to address cultural competence.

The Rhode Island Interscholastic League (RIIL) will monitor the corrective actions provided by the Burrillville Administration to avoid further issues.

The RIIL will continue to support its member schools in establishing and enforcing high standards of appropriate behavior at all athletic events. As educators, it is our job to encourage ways to promote and exhibit good sportsmanship, to identify inappropriate behavior and to take steps to correct any unsportsmanlike behavior when necessary. In addition, we expect all member schools to educate and embrace the cultural diversity of students throughout the state.

The RIIL/Principals' Committee on Athletics commends the Central Falls and Burrillville School Administrations for working collaboratively during this difficult period.

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 Special meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 12:30 P.M.

Signed:

Susana Borges, RIIL Board Secretary

Date: _____

**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Principals' Committee on Athletics
Monday, November 18, 2019 @ 1:30 pm
RIIL Office
875 Centerville Road, Building #3
Warwick, RI 02886**

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman Kelly; Mmes., Gribbin; Henneman, Keegan, Ponte and Wallace. Messrs., Barbieri, Barr, Habershaw, Kavanagh, Sollitto, Warner and Whaley.

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

Absent: Messr., Cobain

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

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: Committee heard from Mr. Alan Tenreiro, President, Mt. St. Charles Academy; Various sportsmanship issues; Hope HS; PCD/Tiverton Boys' Soccer incident; RIIL Rules Revisions; Requests from Member Schools and Rule Violations.

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

PCOA MINUTES AUGUST 19, 2019

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the August 19, 2019 meeting was unanimously approved (13-0).

PCOA MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING OCTOBER 11, 2019

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the August 19, 2019 meeting was unanimously approved (13-0).

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 (13-0) to approve the following appointments: Robert DiMuccio, Central High School, Christopher Coleman, Mt. Pleasant High School and Matthew Buchanan, Hope High School.

RIIL FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Committee reviewed the August – November 15th RIIL Profit and Loss Budget Report.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Mezzanotte reported on the following:

- Mr. Mezzanotte and Mr. Lunney met with the mayors of Central Falls and Pawtucket to discuss sportsmanship issues.
- The RIIL will be hosting a workshop concerning security, safety and crowd control which is scheduled on November 19th at Toll Gate High School.
- Hope High School - Mr. Mezzanotte and Mr. Lunney met with Mr. Buchanan, Principal and Mr. Gonzalez, Director of Athletics from Hope HS to review and discuss the school's athletic improvement plan. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) voted to not add additional penalties to the school's athletic program or its Boys' Basketball program. The Hope High School athletic program is on continued probation (2019-2022). Hope High School is reminded to maintain compliance with all RIIL rules and regulations.

RUIL RULE REVISIONS

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) approved the following RUIL rule changes:

1. Boys and Girls Basketball State Tournament:
 - Increase the number of teams to 18 for the State Basketball Tournament.
 - Revise the alignment formula for the State Tournament:
 - i. Division 1 = 1pt
 - ii. Division 2 = .8
 - iii. Division 3 = .5

SCHOOL REQUESTS

- Burrillville High School – The Committee reviewed and discussed a request from the Burrillville superintendent and principal to remove Burrillville High School from probation for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee voted (11-0-2) to deny the request. The Committee commended the superintendent and staff for their swift and strong commitment to the RUIL sportsmanship rules and regulations.
- Rogers High School – On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) voted to not penalize Rogers High School for dropping Freshman Boys' Basketball and inadvertently marked that Rogers would have a Freshman Baseball team for the 2019-2020 school year.
- Mt. Hope High School – On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) voted to not penalize Mt. Hope High School for dropping Boys' Indoor Tack and Golf for the 2019-2020 school year.
- Juanita Sanchez High School – On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) voted to not penalize Juanita Sanchez High School for dropping Boys' Soccer for the 2019-2020 school year.
- Woonsocket High School – The Committee received a letter from Woonsocket High School notifying the League they will no longer be part of the Boys Ice Hockey Co-op with Scituate High School.

RUIL RULE VIOLATIONS

Moses Brown School – Article 6., Penalties, Section 10, Cancellation/Forfeits of Game (Girls Soccer)

On September 16, 2019, the RUIL was notified by the Moses Brown Athletic Director that the Moses Brown Girls' Soccer team forfeited the game on September 12, 2019 versus Westerly High School. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) voted to sanction Moses Brown School for violating Article 6, Section 10 of the RUIL Rules and Regulations. As a result, the Moses Brown Girls' Soccer team forfeited the game versus Westerly High School. In addition, due to issues raised by the Moses Brown administration and the fact that Moses Brown coaches and administration fully intended to play the game, the RUIL will waive the year probation.

Providence Country Day School/Tiverton High School – Article 6., Penalties, Section 7.A.1, Ejection from Game (Boys Soccer)

On November 18, 2019, the Committee met to discuss an incident that took place on October 15, 2019 between the Providence Country Day School and Tiverton High School Boys Soccer teams. The Committee reviewed the actions during the game by the Tiverton goalie. In accordance with Article 6, Section 7.A.1., of the RUIL Rules and Regulations, the Committee approved (12-1) an additional penalty to be served by the Tiverton goalie: *"Any athlete who is ejected from any contest (non-league and/or league game) at any level (freshman, junior varsity, and varsity) shall be ineligible to participate until he/she sits out the next League game including all games in between. If the infraction is judged most severe, the player may incur the additional penalty of ineligibility for a year from the date of the infraction or the remainder of his/her stay in school. (Refer to Article 6, Section 3).* Specifically, this student-athlete is ineligible to participate in the first five (5) games/matches in the *next* season of the *next* sport he participates in. The Committee thanked Tiverton High School for their cooperation in this matter.

RIIAAA REPORT – CHRIS COBAIN

No report given.

FALL SPORTS

Mr. Mezzanotte expressed concerns over the number of issues relating to Boys' Soccer. This matter will be discussed with the Boys' Soccer Sport Committee.

WINTER SPORTS

The RIIL received a request by the Prout School to remain in Division 1. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) approved their request.

SPRING SPORTS

The Committee received a request from Ponaganset High School to move from Division 3 to Division 2 in softball. On a recommendation from the Fastpitch Softball Sport Committee and on motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) approved their request to move to Division 2 and Classical HS will move to Division 3.

WAIVER HEARING COMMITTEE APPEALS

Jason Mandeville – Mt. St. Charles Academy

Waiver of Article 3, Section 6., Transfer Rule. Appealing a decision of Waiver Hearing Committee.
Motion to grant waiver: 0-12 (**denied**)

Anna DeGirolamo – St. Mary Academy Bay View

Waiver of Article 3, Section 6., Transfer Rule. Appealing a decision of Waiver Hearing Committee.
Motion to grant waiver: 9-2-1 (**approved**)

Brian Taylor – East Providence High School

Waiver of Article 3, Section 6., Transfer Rule. Appealing a decision of Waiver Hearing Committee.
Motion to grant waiver: 12-0 (**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 November meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 5:30 P.M.

Signed:

Susana Borges, RIIL Board Secretary

Date: _____

**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Principals' Committee on Athletics
Monday, January 13, 2020 @ 1:30 pm
RIIL Office
875 Centerville Road, Building #3
Warwick, RI 02886**

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman Kelly; Mmes., Henneman, Keegan, Ponte and Wallace. Messrs., Barbieri, Barr, Buchanan, Cobain, Coleman, DiMuccio, Habershaw, Kavanagh, Sollitto, Warner 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

The January 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 Matthew Buchanan, Hope High School, Christopher Coleman, Mt. Pleasant High School and Robert DiMuccio, Central High School.

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: Mt. St. Charles Academy update; Article 6, Section 12 – Non-School Athletic Programs; Burrillville Town Council APRA request and RIIL Executive Director Position.

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

PCOA MINUTES NOVEMBER 18, 2019

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the November 18, 2019 meeting was unanimously (16-0) approved.

RIIL FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Committee reviewed the August – January 10th RIIL Profit and Loss Budget Report.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Mezzanotte reported on the following:

- On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (16-0) approved REAP – The Benefits of Good Concussion Management.
- Battle of the Fans winners: Large Schools Division: North Kingstown HS; Medium Schools Division: Mt. Hope HS and Small Schools Division: Johnston HS
- NFHS Winter Meeting – January 3-6, 2020:
 - Education Courses – provided over 10M courses since 2007.
- On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (16-0) approved a special PCOA meeting to be held on February 26, 2020 to approve and announce the appointment of the RIIL Executive Director.
- Congratulations to Classical High School Athletic Director Robert Palazzo on receiving the NIAAA Distinguished Service Award!

RIIL RULE REVISIONS

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (16-0) approved to table Article 6, Section 12 – Non-School Athletic Programs until the March 16, 2020 meeting. (Member schools are not permitted to accommodate athletic activities for a non-school athletic program during the school day.)

Notice was sent to all principals, athletic directors and officials that during the course of a game (before, during or after) **game officials** have the authority to identify inappropriate unsportsmanlike behavior, bring this to the attention to the home or visiting team representative, and request that such behavior stop immediately, and or have those spectators who are responsible for this behavior removed. In addition, if the unsportsmanlike behavior continues and

is not corrected, the game official has the authority to stop the game and forward the report to the RIIL. In addition, during the course of a game, the head coach can request game officials to address any inappropriate unsportsmanlike behavior. Therefore, we are asking the home school to provide a welcoming and respectful environment for visiting teams, coaches, officials and fans.

SCHOOL REQUESTS

None

RIIL RULE VIOLATIONS

None

RIIAAA REPORT – CHRIS COBAIN

Mr. Cobain, President of the RIIAAA, provided updates as to issues, concerns and recommendations on behalf of the RIIAAA including revisions to the current alignment guidelines and formula.

RIIL ALIGNMENT FORMULA REVISIONS 2020-2022

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (16-0) approved the following alignment formula revisions:

1. Increase the enrollment percentage from 10% to 20% for the three RIIL contact sports (football, wrestling & boys lacrosse) with a corresponding 10% decrease to the 6yrs weighted wins.
2. Remove the “note” from 5.C. of the Sport Committee guidelines restricting the number of divisions based on team participation.
3. Institute a simple process for movement in the off-year of a realignment.

OFFICIAL’S CONTRACTS (2020-2023)

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (16-0) approved the official’s contracts for 2020-2023.

FALL SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIPS

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (16-0) approved the 2019 Boys’ and Girls’ Cross Country, Boys’ and Girls’ Soccer, Girls’ Tennis, Field Hockey, Girls’ Volleyball, Unified Volleyball and Football Fall Championships.

WINTER SPORTS

None

SPRING SPORTS

None

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 3:30 P.M.

Signed:

Susana Borges, RIIL Board Secretary

Date: _____

**Rhode Island Interscholastic League
Principals' Committee on Athletics
Special Meeting
Wednesday, February 26, 2020 @ 1:30 pm
RIIL Office
875 Centerville Road, Building #3
Warwick, RI 02886**

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman Kelly; Mme., Gribbin, Henneman, and Ponte; Messrs., Barbieri, Barr, Cobain, Coleman, DiMuccio, Habershaw, Kavanagh, Sollitto, Warner and Whaley.

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

Absent: Mmes., Keegan and Wallace. Messr. Buchanan

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

A special meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics (PCOA) was held today regarding the nomination of Michael Lunney as the Executive Director of the RIIL; Assistant Director position; 2020-2022 Alignment and Mt. St. Charles Academy.

NOMINATION OF MICHAEL LUNNEY AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE RIIL

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (17-0) voted to appoint Michael Lunney as Executive Director of the RIIL effective August 1, 2020.

RIIL ASSISTANT DIRECTOR POSITION

At the direction of Chairman Kelly, a sub-committee was chosen to conduct a search for a new Assistant Director effective August 1, 2020. The following members were chosen for the sub-committee: Tom Barbieri, Robert DiMuccio, Gerry Habershaw, Don Kavanagh, Gail Ponte and Dan Warner. The Committee will meet to discuss the search and timeline.

2020-2022 ALIGNMENT

The Committee discussed the current alignment formula issues regarding specific sports and potential recommendations for the future.

MT. ST. CHARLES ACADEMY

Mr. Mezzanotte updated the Committee, on a request from Mt. St. Charles Academy (MSC), to determine the eligibility status of several transfer and boarding students at MSC for the 2020 spring 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 Special meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

Signed:

Susana Borges, RIIL Board Secretary

Date: _____

**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Principals' Committee on Athletics
Monday, April 6, 2020 @ 1:30 pm
RIIL Office
875 Centerville Road, Building #3
Warwick, RI 02886**

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman Kelly; Mmes., Gribbin, Henneman, Keegan, Ponte and Wallace. Messrs., Barbieri, Cobain, Coleman, DiMuccio, Habershaw, Kavanagh, Sollitto, and Whaley

Also Present: Thomas Mezzanotte, Executive Director; Michael Lunney, Assistant Executive Director, Susana Borges, Administrative Assistant, Donna Kane, Business Manager, Carolyn Thornton, Director of Multimedia Content, Brendan McGair, *Pawtucket Times*, and Bill Koch, *Providence Journal*

Absent: Messrs., Barr, Buchanan and Warner

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

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: 2020-2022 alignments, school start time request and rule violations.

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

PCOA MINUTES JANUARY 13, 2020 AND SPECIAL MEETING FEBRUARY 26, 2020

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the January 13 and special meeting on February 26, 2020 meeting were unanimously (14-0) approved.

RIIL FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Stuart Peterson of Janney, Montgomery, Scott, provided the PCOA with an investment update. Mr. Mezzanotte presented a summation of COVID-19 impact on winter playoffs. It was also noted Donna Kane, Business Manager, is in the process of applying for a stimulus small business grant. Mr. Mezzanotte reported due to reserve funds, the RIIL will be able to make up (winter and potential spring sports) deficits from the 2019-2020 school year to maintain current staff and services to schools.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Mezzanotte reported on the following:

- Approval of the 2020-2021 PCOA Meeting Dates: August 17, November 16, 2020 and January 11, March 15, June 14 and August 16, 2021.
- Approval of the 2020-2021 Finance Meeting Dates: August 17, 2020 and March 15, June 14 and August 16, 2021.
- The RIIL received a letter regarding school start times.
- RIIL Press Release – Appointment of Michael Lunney, Executive Director
- NFHS Releases "Beyond the Scoreboard" video resource for Adult Fan Behavior at Events
- Congratulations to Cailin Martin from Rogers High School the recipient of the 2020 NFHS Heart of the Arts Winner: "The National High School Heart of the Arts Award was created by the NFHS to recognize those individuals who exemplify the ideals of the positive heart of the arts that represent the core mission of education-based activities."

2020-2021 SPORTS ALIGNMENTS

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA unanimously (14-0) voted to approve a one-year extension of the 2018-2020 sports alignments for the fall, winter and spring seasons. This extension will be in effect for the 2020-2021 school year only.

RIIL RULE VIOLATIONS

Block Island School – Article 6., Penalties, Section 10, Cancellation/Forfeits of Game (Girls Basketball)

The RIIL was notified by the Block Island principal that the Block Island Girls' Basketball team forfeited their playoff game on February 27, 2020. On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA unanimously (14-0) voted to place the Block Island Girls Basketball team on probation for one year (2021-2022). The RIIL thanks the BI principal for self-reporting this rules violation.

Juanita Sanchez Complex – Article 6., Penalties, Section 6, Use of an Ineligible Athlete (Girls Basketball)

The RIIL was notified by the Juanita Sanchez athletic director that the Juanita Sanchez Girls' Basketball coach used an ineligible athlete in a non-league game vs Mt. Pleasant HS. On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA unanimously (14-0) voted to suspend the Juanita Sanchez Girls Basketball coach for one game. Juanita Sanchez forfeited the game versus Mt. Pleasant HS. The RIIL thanks the JS athletic director for self-reporting this rules violation.

Central High School – Article 7., Limitation of Seasons, Section 7, Coaching Students in the Off Season During the Academic Year

The RIIL reviewed the self-reported violation. The Central HS assistant football coach coached players from Central HS during the flag football league in MA. On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA unanimously (14-0) voted to issue a warning to Central HS.

Hope High School – Article 6., Penalties, Section 10, Cancellation/Forfeits of Game (Girls Basketball)

The RIIL was notified by the Hope HS principal that the Hope High School Girls' Basketball team forfeited their league game vs Lincoln HS on February 18, 2020 due to a lack of players. On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA unanimously (14-0) voted not to penalize Hope High School. The RIIL thanks the Hope HS principal for self-reporting this rules violation.

RIIAAA REPORT – CHRIS COBAIN

Mr. Cobain, President of the RIIAAA, reported the RIIAAA Awards banquet originally slated for March 30 has been rescheduled to May 18, but will need to be rescheduled again. Mr. Cobain commended Classical Athletic Director Robert Palazzo on receiving the NIAAA Distinguished Service Award. The RIIAAA is in full support of whatever opportunity the RIIL and PCOA can provide for spring sports athletes.

WINTER SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIPS

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved the following 2020 winter sports championships: Boys' and Girls' Indoor Track, Boys' and Girls' Swimming, Gymnastics, Wrestling and Boys' Freshman Basketball. In light of the disrupted school year caused by the ongoing COVID-19 health crisis, on a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved the following 2020 winter sports championships:

Cheer Championships:

State Champions – West Warwick High School

Co-ed Division – West Warwick High School

Super (Division I) – Coventry High School

Large (Division II) – North Providence High School

Medium (Division III) – Ponaganset High School

Small (Division IV) – North Smithfield High School

Game Day – Coventry High School

Boys' Hockey:

Division I – La Salle and Mt. St. Charles Academy – *State Co-Champions*

Division II – East Greenwich and South Kingstown High School – *Co-Champions*

Division III – West Warwick/EWG Co-op

Girls' Hockey:

La Salle Academy

Girls' Basketball:

Division I – South Kingstown High School (*recognized as State Champions*)

Division II – Scituate High School

Division III – Mt. Pleasant High School

Boys' Basketball:

Division I – Bishop Hendricken High School (*recognized as State Champions*)

Division II – Portsmouth High School

Division III – Lincoln High School

SPRING SPORTS

In light of the disrupted school year caused by the ongoing COVID-19 health crisis, on a motion made and seconded, the PCOA discussed and unanimously (14-0) approved the following:

- A modification to Article 7, Section 3: Limitation of Seasons. The start date of the 2020 RIIL spring sports season was delayed until May 4, contingent upon students returning to regular in-class instruction on that date and in accordance with all R.I. Department of Health and public safety guidelines. Teams will play a modified schedule with games beginning no earlier than May 11. The spring sports season ending date is extended to June 27. Please note this timeline will be reevaluated and modified accordingly based on any new announcements or changes made by Governor Gina Raimondo and RIDOH.

Also, the following rule waivers which will apply for the 2020 spring sports season only:

- Article 3, Section 4: Academic Eligibility – The PCOA unanimously (14-0) approved a waiver of the current academic eligibility standard to allow each schools' principal to determine student eligibility for the 2020 spring sports season only. This waiver is to acknowledge the unusual circumstances in grading during this time of distance learning.
- Article 3, Section 6: Transfer Students – In acknowledgement of a shortened spring sports season, the PCOA unanimously (14-0) approved a waiver of the 50-percent ineligibility period for all spring sport transfer students, as long as a completed transfer affidavit form has been filed by the school principal/athletic director at the RIIL office.

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 April meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 3:30 P.M.

Signed:

Susana Borges, RIIL Board Secretary

Date: _____

**Rhode Island Interscholastic League
Principals' Committee on Athletics
Special Meeting
Monday, April 13, 2020 @ 9:00AM
RIL Office
875 Centerville Road, Building #3
Warwick, RI 02886**

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman Kelly; Mmes., Gribbin, Henneman, Ponte and Wallace; Messrs., Barbieri, Barr, Buchanan, Cobain, Coleman, DiMuccio, Habershaw, Kavanagh, Sollitto, Warner and Whaley.

Also Present: Thomas Mezzanotte, Executive Director; Michael Lunney, Assistant Executive Director, and Carolyn Thornton, Director of Multimedia Content

Absent: Mme., Keegan

The Special April 13th meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was called to order at 9:00AM.

Item #1: 2020-2021 Sport Alignments

At the April 6th meeting, the PCOA voted to roll over (continue) the 2018-2020 alignments in all fall, winter, and spring sports for one year (2020-2021). As a result of this decision, numerous school principals, athletic directors and athletes questioned and expressed concerns as it conflicted with past alignment procedures.

As a result, on a motion made and seconded, the PCOA unanimously voted (16-0) to reconsider the realignment vote from the April 6, 2020 meeting.

In addition, on a motion made and seconded, the PCOA unanimously voted (16-0) to defeat the vote to extend the 2018-2020 fall, winter, and spring alignments for 1 year (2020-21 school year).

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA unanimously voted (16-0) to consider the fall sports alignments as recommended by the sport committees and approved by the RIIAAA Executive Board on a sport by sport basis as follows:

Football: On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA denied, in a 9-6 vote, the alignment recommendation of the football sport committee and requested that the alignment be sent back to the football committee for review. Prior to the vote, the following schools: East Greenwich, Central Falls, Pilgrim and Burrillville had the opportunity to discuss their alignment placement.

Boys Soccer: On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA unanimously approved (16-0) the 2020-2021 Boys' Soccer alignment as presented for one year only.

Boys/Girls XC: On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA unanimously approved (16-0) the 2020-2021 Boys' and Girls' Cross Country alignment as presented for one year only.

Field Hockey: On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA unanimously approved (15-0) the 2020-2021 Field Hockey alignment as presented for one year only.

Girls Soccer: On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA approved (12-3) the 2020-2021 Girls' Soccer alignment as presented for one year only.

Girls Tennis: On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA unanimously approved (15-0) the 2020-2021 Girls' Tennis alignment as recommended by the RI/AAA for one year only.

Girls V-Ball: On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA approved in a 12-3 vote, the 2020-2021 Girls' Volleyball alignment for one year only.

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA unanimously approved by a vote of 15-0 that the winter sport committees be allowed to convene and provide recommendation for the 2020-2021 alignments. These alignments would be for the 2020-21 school year only.

Executive Session:

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously voted (15-0) to go into Executive Session. The Committee reviewed and discussed the communication from RISSA regarding the decision by the PCOA to approve a timeline for the 2020 spring sport 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 Special April 13th meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 11:30AM.

Signed:

Susana Borges, RIIL Board Secretary

Date: _____

**RIL Principals' Committee on Athletics
Special Meeting
Thursday, April 23, 2020 @ 9:00AM
RIL Office
875 Centerville Road, Warwick, RI**

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman Kelly; Mmes., Henneman, Ponte and Wallace; Messrs., Barbieri, Barr, Buchanan, Cobain, Coleman, Habershaw, Kavanagh, Sollitto, Warner and Whaley.

Also Present: Thomas Mezzanotte, Executive Director; Michael Lunney, Assistant Executive Director, Susana Borges, Administrative Assistant, Carolyn Thornton, Director of Multimedia Content and Thomas Marcello, Athletic Director, Ponaganset HS

Absent: Mme., Gribbin and Keegan; Messr., DiMuccio

The Special April 23rd meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was called to order at 9:00AM.

Item #1: 2020 Football Alignment Proposal

Mr. Tom Marcello, athletic director at Ponaganset HS and a member of the Football Sport Committee presented the revised 2020 Football Alignment Proposal.

On behalf of the RIAAA Executive Board Committee, Mr. Chris Cobain reported the RIAAA Executive Board reviewed the 2020 Football Alignment proposal, and it was approved 15-1.

Chairman Kelly reported that the RIL Football Sport Committee reviewed the 2020 Football Alignment proposal and voted 10-1 in favor.

Mr. Michael Podraza, principal of East Greenwich HS and Dr. Michael Whaley, principal of Burrville HS, presented arguments relating to their schools' position in Division I and requested the PCOA to consider their concerns and vote to defeat the revised 2020 Football Alignment proposal.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee voted (12-2) to approve the 2020 Football Alignment proposal as presented by the Football Sport Committee for one year only.

Item #2: Spring Sports

Following the directive from the Governor of RI and the RI Department of Education (RIDOE) to cancel school for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, on a motion made and seconded, the PCOA unanimously voted (14-0) to cancel all spring sports for the 2020 season. Throughout this process, the PCOA has followed the guidelines set forth by the Governor of RI, the RIDOH, the RIDOE and our superintendents. The Committee is going to continue to do so. We are a school-based athletic program; therefore, if we do not return to school, we cannot return to sports.

Executive Session:

The Committee discussed several items relating to spring dues and fees and affiliate membership.

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 Special April 23rd meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 10:00AM.

Signed:

Susana Borges, RIL Board Secretary

Date: _____

**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Principals' Committee on Athletics
Monday, June 15, 2020 @ 1:30 pm
RIIL Office
875 Centerville Road, Building #3
Warwick, RI 02886**

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman Kelly; Mmes., Gribbin, Henneman, Keegan, Ponte and Wallace. Messrs., Barbieri, Buchanan, Cobain, Coleman, DiMuccio, Habershaw, Kavanagh, Sollitto, Warner and Whaley

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

Absent: Messr., Barr

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

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR RICHARD FOSSA, AD, NORTH KINGSTOWN HS

A moment of silence was held in honor of Richard Fossa, Athletic Director of North Kingstown High School.

PCOA EXECUTIVE SESSION

The following items were discussed in Executive Session: Finance update; Annual audit; RIIL budget 2019-2020 and 2020-2021; 2019-2020 spring dues and fees and spring officials' payments; 2020-2021 winter alignments and Mount St. Charles Academy compliance letter.

In addition, African American representatives from the football coaches association presented to the Committee a number of issues that they have observed in the past. The coaches listed several recommendations for the Committee to consider.

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

PCOA MINUTES APRIL 6, 2020 AND SPECIAL MEETINGS APRIL 13 AND 23, 2020

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the April 6, 2020 and special meetings on April 13 and April 23, 2020 were unanimously (16-0) approved.

RIIL FINANCE REPORT

Mr. Stuart Peterson of Janney, Montgomery, Scott, provided the PCOA with an investment update. The Committee reviewed the 2019-2020 budget and reviewed budget projections for 2020-2021. The 2020-2021 budget was tabled until the August 17th meeting.

PCOA RESIGNATIONS

The Committee received a letter of resignation from Mrs. Gail Ponte, as a member of the Committee and Sport Co-Director of Girls' Soccer. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously +accepted (16-0), with regret, Mrs. Ponte's resignation and wished her success in her retirement. The Committee also received a letter of resignation from Ms. Michaela Keegan, as a member of the Committee and Sport Co-Director of Boys' Tennis. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously accepted (16-0), with regret, Ms. Keegan's resignation and wished her success in her future endeavors.

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 (16-0) to approve the following appointments: Mr. Nathan Biah, Alvarez High School and Mr. Craig MacKenzie, Chariho High School.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Mezzanotte reported on the following:

- Summer Sports Guidelines – The Committee reviewed and discussed summer sports guidelines as recommended by the RIIL. Mr. Mezzanotte recommended that athletic directors and principals review these with their district superintendents to consider for implementation during June 15 – August 15, 2020. Dr. Sollitto provided a report to the Committee outlining communication that has been submitted to RISSA.
- RIIL Sport Task Force – A fall sport task force has been assembled to review and discuss potential options for the 2020-2021 school year in accordance with the Rhode Island Governor's guidelines and RISSA.
- TPG Report – TPG provided their quarterly report for the 2019-2020 school year. In addition, Mr. Steven Silva has been hired by the TPG as the new Marketing General Manager and Director for the RIIL. Mr. Silva is a former East Providence HS student-athlete.
- *High School Sports, Activities: Opportunity for Everyone to be Included and Accepted*
- – The Committee reviewed a letter submitted by the NFHS that discussed the importance of high school sports for everybody to be included and accepted.
- Letter from PCOA Regarding: Equality – the Committee approved a letter to member schools addressing the national issues that have taken place in our country. In the letter, the RIIL renewed its commitment regarding equity, fairness, and justice.
- RIIL Assistant Director Position – On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) approved the posting of the RIIL Assistant Director position. Completed resume and supporting materials must be submitted to the RIIL no later than July 1, 2020. All information will be reviewed, and interviews scheduled as necessary at the discretion of the RIIL Search Committee.

REQUESTS FROM SCHOOLS

The RIIL received a request from Diane Rich, Principal of Rocky Hill Country Day School to continue as an affiliate member and approval of five student waivers (8-semester rule). On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) approved Rocky Hill Country Day's request to continue as an affiliate member for the 2020-2021 school year and waiver of Article 3, Section 5., Length of Eligibility (8 semester rule) for the following students: Parker Mason '21, BJ Jenkins '21, Ameir Gomes '22, Denzel Correia '22 and Emmanuel Beldon '23.

2020-2021 AFFILIATE MEMBER SCHOOL REQUESTS

The RIIL received requests from the following schools to continue as an affiliate member for the 2020-2021 school year: Block Island HS, Middlebridge School, and Providence Country Day School. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) approved their requests to continue as affiliate members for the 2020-2021 school year. Also, the RIIL received a request from Highlander Charter School to join the League as an affiliate member school for the 2020-2021 school year. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) approved Highlander Charter School's request to join the League as an affiliate member for the 2020-2021 school year.

RIIL RULE CHANGES

- **Emergency Action Plans: Article 2 Section 2**
 - *An Emergency Action Plan with clearly defined written and practice protocols should be developed and in place at every high school. When possible, an athletic trainer should be present at all practices and games.*
 - *Rationale: An effective emergency action plan (EAP) should be in place as a prompt and appropriate response to any emergency situation that can save a life. The EAP should be designed and practiced to address all teams (freshman, junior varsity, and varsity) and all practice and game sites. An athletic trainer is a key component in any strategy to minimize injury risk and optimize safety for all participants.*
- **Preparticipation Physicals: Article 2 Section 1, and Article 3 Section 1**
 - *Athletes in your district should have a preparticipation athletic physical within your school district stated guidelines.*

RIIL RULE CHANGES – CONTINUED

- **Coaching during the summer: Article 7 Section 8**
- **Coaching during the summer:**
 - *Coaches are permitted to coach perspective athletes during the period June 15 – August 15 in accordance with the Governor's COVID -19 guidelines. In addition, we recommend school approval for any contact with perspective students over the summer.*
- Eligibility (Article 1):
 - Waiver Process
 - **Article 1 Section 16**
 - *B. The RIIL Executive Director (or designee) shall upon the basis of the completion of the waiver request and documentation provided determines whether the waiver shall be granted or not granted.*
 - *C. Waiver requests are addressed by the Waiver Request Hearing Committee. This committee consists of members (high school administrators) selected by the Principals' Committee on Athletics and the Chairperson of the Principals' Committee on Athletics. A majority vote of the members present is required for a decision. Hearings are held in August, October, and February, or at special meetings called in order to accommodate all waiver requests.*
 - **Article 8 Section 4**
WAIVER REQUEST HEARING PROCEDURE

The procedure outlined speaks to and violations of the bylaws of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League.

 - A. *Matters dealing with individual sports, i.e. protests, schedule concerns, **league alignments**, official's complaints, etc. will be handled by the Executive Committee of the sport (Article 8, Sections 1 and 5). The committee(s) will be chaired by the Director/designee of the sport.*
 - B. *Student eligibility matters (See Article 1 Section 16)*

RIIAAA REPORT AND NEW RIIAAA APPOINTMENT – MRS. KAREN MASSARO, MIDDLETOWN HS

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

In addition, The Committee thanked Mr. Cobain 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 (15-0) approved the nomination of Mrs. Karen Massaro, athletic director at Middletown High School to serve as the RIIAAA representative on the PCOA for a two-year term.

FALL SPORTS

None.

2020-2021 WINTER SPORTS ALIGNMENTS

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) approved the following 2020-21 winter sports alignments as presented for one year only: Girls' Basketball, Boys' and Girls' Hockey, Boys' and Girls' Indoor Track, Boys' and Girls' Swimming, Wrestling and Gymnastics. The Boys' Basketball alignment was tabled until the August 17th meeting for the Boys' Basketball Sport Committee to review.

2020-2021 SPRING SPORTS ALIGNMENTS

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) approved that the spring sport committees be allowed to convene and provide recommendation for the 2020-2021 alignments. These alignments would be for the 2020-21 school year only.

THOMAS A. MEZZANOTTE – RIIL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Committee recognized and thanked Mr. Thomas Mezzanotte for his years of dedicated service as the RIIL Executive Director for the past 16 years and as a member of the League for over 30 years. The Committee wishes him well in his retirement!

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 Borges, RIIL Board Secretary

Date: _____