

**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Principals' Committee on Athletics
Thursday, August 26, 2021 @ 1:00 pm
RIIL Office
875 Centerville Road, Building #3
Warwick, RI 02886**

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman Kelly; Mmes., Henneman, Massaro and Palazzo; Messrs., Barbieri, Barr, Biah, Coleman, DiMuccio, Habershaw, Sollitto, Warner and Whaley

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

Absent: Messer., Kavanagh

The August meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was called to order at 1:23 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: PCOA vacancies; Officials contracts; Officials Payment Program on behalf of member schools; Finance Committee Meeting; Clean Opinion Audit; Name, Image Likeness (NIL) and COVID-19 update.

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

PCOA MINUTES JUNE 14, 2021

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the June 14, 2021 meeting were unanimously (12-0) approved.

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 (12-0) voted to approve the following appointments: Mrs. Candace Caluori, Toll Gate HS, Mr. Adolfo Costa, Cumberland HS and Mr. Michael Green, West Warwick HS.

RIIL FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Lunney and Mr. Kelly reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on August 26, 2021. Items discussed and reviewed were the 2020-2021 final RIIL budget and the recommended 2021-2022 RIIL operating budget. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (12-0) approved the 2021-2022 operating RIIL budget as proposed. In addition, the RIIL received a "Clean Opinion" Audit.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Lunney reported on the following:

- Letter from RIASP – a letter of commendation from RIASP to the RIIL on the RIIL's efforts in providing all sports for student-athletes last year despite the impact of COVID-19.
- Meetings over the summer – NFHS summer meetings; Officials organizations; Sandra Powell – RIDOH; RIIL Sports Medicine Advisory Committee; RIDOH – EPI OPS Team – Contact Tracing Planning; Governor's Office – Vaccinations; New Principal/AD Workshop; Fall Coaches Rules Interpretation (Virtual Format); RIIAAA Executive Board and Sport Committees.
- COVID-19 Update – RIDE/RIDOH K12 Playbook; RIIL Additional COVID-19 Guidance; Contact Tracing/Quarantine Protocols; Updated – RIIL Assumption of Risk Form still in effect and NEW Coaches must take the COVID-19 for Coaches and Administrators online course on NFHS Learn.

REQUESTS FROM SCHOOLS

None.

RIIL RULES VIOLATIONS

None

RUIL RULE REVISIONS

Mr. Lunney reported the rules and regulations on the RIIL website is being reorganized. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved the following RIIL Rule Revision to Article 18 – Field Hockey – Section 1. C. Eye Goggles:

- Exception: In accordance with NFHS Field Hockey rules, a full-face mask may be worn in place of eye goggles. The full-face mask must be smooth, rounded, preferably transparent or single colored and fit flush with the face. It shall not be attached to any hard, unyielding headgear (even if padded). It is the schools' responsibility to confirm that this equipment meets the standards before allowing a student to wear it in practice/competition.

RIIAAA REPORT – KAREN MASSARO

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

FALL SPORTS – MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 2021

All fall sports begin on Monday, August 23, 2021. The RIIL has implemented a Back-to-School resources page on its website.

WINTER SPORTS – MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2021

Mr. Marcello reported wrestling, boys and girls swimming and gymnastics alignments are being finalized and schedules should be ready by October 1.

SPRING SPORTS

The following Spring Sports Championships were approved: Baseball, Fastpitch Softball, Boys' Tennis, Boys Volleyball, Boys and Girls Lacrosse, Boys and Girls Outdoor Track and Field, Golf and Wrestling.

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 3:05 P.M.

Signed:

Susana Borges, RIIL Board Secretary

Date: _____

**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Principals' Committee on Athletics
Monday, November 15, 2021 @ 1:30 pm
RIIL Office
875 Centerville Road, Building #3
Warwick, RI 02886**

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman Kelly; Mmes., Caluori, Henneman, Massaro and Palazzo; Messrs., Adolfo, Barbieri, Coleman, Green, Sollitto and Warner

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

Absent: Messer., Barr, Biah, DiMuccio, Habershaw, Kavanagh and Whaley

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.

WELCOME NEW PCOA MEMBERS

The Committee welcomed new PCOA members Ms. Candace Caluori, Toll Gate High School, Mr. Adolfo Costa, Cumberland High School and Mr. Michael Green, West Warwick High School.

PCOA EXECUTIVE SESSION

The following items were discussed in Executive Session: Block Island School and Achievement First Providence school requests; Waiver Request Appeals: Maggie McKitchen, St. Mary Academy Bay View and Nicolas Buchanon, Mt. St. Charles Academy and Rules Violations: Tolman Girls' Tennis and PCD Boys' Soccer.

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

PCOA MINUTES AUGUST 23, 2021

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the August 23, 2021 meeting were unanimously (11-0) approved.

RIIL FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Lunney reviewed the by-laws regarding the structure and policy for appointing members of the PCOA to the RIIL Finance Sub-committee. Mr. Kelly asked any interested members of PCOA to contact the RIIL and that the Committee will appoint the new members in January.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Lunney reported on the following:

- COVID-19 update (RIDOH/RIIL)
- Injury Fund Update
- School Centered Scheduling/Alignment Update – Mr. Lunney and Mr. Marcello reported on the progress of the School Centered Scheduling/Alignment. The RIIL has been meeting with the RIIAAA Executive Board members and others to discuss and address the alignment concerns that have continually been brought to the attention of the PCOA by our members schools. The RIIL has set a target for a recommendation for changes to the current alignment structure for the January PCOA Meeting.
- NFHS Section I Meeting – was held on September 29 – October 1, 2021.
- Principals' Breakfast – was held on October 20, 2021 at the Crowne Plaza.
- Winter Sports Athletic Directors Meeting – was held on November 5, 2021 at RI College.
- Student-Athlete Leadership Training Workshop – was held on October 21, 2021 at Camp Fogarty.
- NFHS RI Coaches of the Year (2020-2021)
- NFHS – Officials Recognition (2021-2021) – Inaugural Program for RIIL.
- Title IX at 50 Celebration
- Operation Clean Competition (OCC)

RIIL RULE REVISIONS

Article 13 – Coaching Requirement

- **NFHS School Honor Roll Program**

Mr. Lunney submitted a first draft reading of proposed changes to Article 13, Coaching Requirement. The proposal aligns member schools with the NFHS School Honor Roll Program. The RIIL will be recommending these new requirements at the January PCOA Meeting.

REQUESTS FROM SCHOOLS

- **Block Island High School** – On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) voted to deny their request. Mr. Lunney will work with Block Island High School to come up with a solution to allow them to continue membership in the league.
- **Achievement First Providence High School** - On a motion made and seconded, the Committee voted (10-0-1) to approve Achievement First Providence High School's request to join the RIIL and participate in Boys' and Girls' Outdoor Tack, Boys' Freshman Basketball and Cheerleading Competition beginning with the 2021-2022 school year.

RIIL RULE VIOLATIONS

Tolman High School – Article 6, Section 6, - Use of Ineligible Athlete (Girls' Tennis)

The Committee reviewed the circumstances involving the use of an academically ineligible athlete at Tolman High School. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) voted to sanction Tolman HS for a violation of Article 6, Section 6 (Use of Ineligible Athlete) of the RIIL Rules and Regulations. As a result, Tolman HS Girls' Tennis team forfeited its game versus East Providence High School on September 8, 2021 and is assessed a \$100 fine. The Committee commended and thanked Tolman HS athletic director for self-reporting the incident.

Providence Country Day School – Article 3, Section 6, - Use of Ineligible Athlete (Boys' Soccer)

The Committee discussed the violation of Article 3, Section 6 and the subsequent use of an ineligible athlete in Boys' Soccer by Providence Country Day School. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) voted to table the matter to the next meeting of the PCOA which will be held on Monday, January 10, 2022. The Committee also requests the attendance of PCD at the January meeting.

RIIAAA REPORT – KAREN MASSARO

Mrs. Massaro, President of the RIAAA reported the RIAAA is discussing the potential creation of a state-wide coaches' association to address inconsistencies in current structure of independent coaches associations with regard to dues and fees, all-division awards, recognition of student-athletes, banquets, etc.

FALL SPORTS

The Fall Sports Tournaments have wrapped up with Football Championships remaining.

WINTER SPORTS: START DATE: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2021

The Winter Coaches Interpretation Meeting is being held virtually on November 17, 2021.

SPRING SPORTS: START DATE: MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2021

Mr. Marcello will be sending the spring sports schedules in the next couple weeks.

WAIVER HEARING COMMITTEE APPEALS

Maggie McKitchen – St. Mary Academy Bay View

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

Motion to grant waiver: 0-11 (**denied**)

Nicholas Buchanon – Mt. St. Charles Academy

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

Motion to grant waiver: 0-11 (**denied**)

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

The November meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 5:00 P.M.

Signed:

Susana Borges, RIIL Board Secretary

Date: _____

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Absent: Messer., Barr, Biah, DiMuccio, Habershaw, Kavanagh and Whaley

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PCOA MINUTES AUGUST 23, 2021

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Mr. Lunney reviewed the by-laws regarding the structure and policy for appointing members of the PCOA to the RIIL Finance Sub-committee. Mr. Kelly asked any interested members of PCOA to contact the RIIL and that the Committee will appoint the new members in January.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Lunney reported on the following:

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- Injury Fund Update
- School Centered Scheduling/Alignment Update – Mr. Lunney and Mr. Marcello reported on the progress of the School Centered Scheduling/Alignment. The RIIL has been meeting with the RIIAAA Executive Board members and others to discuss and address the alignment concerns that have continually been brought to the attention of the PCOA by our members schools. The RIIL has set a target for a recommendation for changes to the current alignment structure for the January PCOA Meeting.
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Waiver of Article 3, Section 6., Transfer Rule. Appealing a decision of Waiver Hearing Committee.

Motion to grant waiver: 0-11 (denied)

Nicholas Buchanon – Mt. St. Charles Academy

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

Motion to grant waiver: 0-11 (denied)

PCOA Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 15, 2021

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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 24, 2022 @ 1:30 pm
RIIL Office
875 Centerville Road, Building #3
Warwick, RI 02886**

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman Kelly; Mmes., Caluori, Massaro and Palazzo; Messrs., Barr, Coleman, Costa, Green, Kavanagh, Sollitto and Whaley

Also Present: Michael Lunney, Executive Director; Thomas Marcello, Assistant Executive Director; Susana Borges, Administrative Assistant; Carolyn Thornton, Director Multi-media content and Brendan McGair, *Pawtucket Times*

Absent: Mme., Henneman Messer., Barbieri, Biah, DiMuccio, and Warner

The January meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was called to order at 1:35 p.m.

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR THOSE WE HAVE LOST

A moment of silence was held for those we have lost over the past year: Mr. Ed Anelundi; Mr. Robb Smith; Mr. Ray Dwyer; Mr. Ron Pazienza; Mr. Bob Gourley; Mr. Gerry Habershaw (PCOA); Mrs. Meaghan Donnelly McGonagle; Mr. Bill Belisle; Mrs. Lisa Denton-Pichie; Mrs. Gloria Patterson and Mrs. Christine Kavanagh (wife of Mr. Kavanagh, PCOA).

PCOA EXECUTIVE SESSION

The following items were discussed in Executive Session: COVID-19 update; Rules Violations: PCD School Boys' Soccer and Pilgrim HS Softball; School Centered Scheduling/Alignment Study; RIIL Rules: Waiver Request Legal Challenge; Affiliate Membership; Transfer Rule; Coaches Certification/Registration; Scrimmages and Unified Sports update – retirements.

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

PCOA MINUTES NOVEMBER

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the November 15, 2022 meeting were unanimously (10-0) approved.

RIIL FINANCE COMMITTEE – NEW MEMBER

Mr. Lunney announced the appointment of Mrs. Palazzo as a new member of the RIIL Finance Committee.

PCOA VACANCY

The RIIL will send out applications to member school principals to fill a vacancy on the Committee.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Lunney reported on some of the following items discussed at the NFHS Winter Meeting:

- The NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee provided a COVID-19 update and emphasized the importance of vaccinations, recognized a nationwide reduction in athletic trainer coverage and reported on some of the effects of COVID-19 (mental health, obesity, decrease in participation, and overuse injuries). Also, in response to the needs of schools and state associations, the NFHS in coordination with the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine released a guidance statement regarding Return to Play resources for student-athletes.
- The continued growth of the NFHS Network and the NFHS Network reported they anticipate over 1M events will be streamed across the county this year. The RIIL will be pursuing a participation opportunity in the NFHS Pilot Program to work with member schools in taking advantage of the free Pixellot camera and installation program.
- The NFHS is in the infant stages of potentially developing a technology platform that helps state associations in the future.

- The New England winter championships sponsored by the New England Council are tentatively scheduled. Don Freidman, Executive Director of the NE Council, will be notifying the New England states by mid-February if any changes to the winter championships are necessary.
- Esports – the three (3) year Esports agreement with PlayVS is said to expire and Mr. Lunney will continue to meet with representatives from PlayVS to improve the Esports experience for member schools.
- rSchool Today has offered a free upgrade to the RIIL website and technology platform. The RIIL Office will work with rSchool Today on the upgrades and enhancements.

SCHOOL CENTERED SCHEDULING

Mr. Lunney reported on the ongoing discussions with the RIIAAA regarding the potential for a more school centered regular season scheduling opportunity for schools. A more broad-based discussion and analysis will be conducted with athletic directors, coaches, sport committees and principals to address continued concerns from member schools regarding the current alignment guidelines.

ALIGNMENT 2022-2023 & 2023-2024

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (10-0) approved re-alignment in all sports beginning with the 2022-2023 school year for two (2) years under the current approved guidelines.

RIIL RULE REVISIONS (NEW)

Article 13 – Coaching Requirement

Mr. Lunney reported on a first reading of a revision to Article 13 – Coaching Requirement to streamline the coaches certification process and bring it into alignment with the NFHS School Honor Roll Program. A recommendation for approval will be brought to the PCOA at the March meeting.

RIIL RULE VIOLATIONS

Providence Country Day School – Article 6, Section 6, - Use of Ineligible Athlete (Boys' Soccer)

The Committee heard from Mr. Mark McLaughlin, principal of Providence Country Day and Mr. Marquis Harper, director of athletics regarding the circumstances of an ineligible athlete in Boys' Soccer by Providence Country Day School (PCD). On a motion made and seconded, the Committee voted (9-0-1) the following:

1. by rule, PCD has already forfeited the games the ineligible student-athlete participated on September 17 and September 20, 2021.
2. to impose a fine of \$200 on PCD for violation Article 6, Section 6.
3. the PCD athletic program is placed on probation for one (1) year 2022-2023.

Pilgrim High School – Article 7, Section 7, - Coaching out of Season (Fastpitch Softball)

The Committee reviewed the circumstances involving violation of Article 7, Section 7 - Coaching out of Season (Fastpitch Softball) at Pilgrim High School. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (10-0) voted the following:

1. to impose a fine of \$200 on Pilgrim HS for violating Article 7, Section 7.
2. the Pilgrim HS head softball coach is suspended for the first two (2) fastpitch softball RIIL League games in 2022.
3. The Pilgrim HS fastpitch softball program is placed on probation for one (1) year 2022-2023.

RIIAAA REPORT – KAREN MASSARO

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

FALL SPORTS

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (10-0) approved the 2021-2022 Boys & Girls Soccer, Boys and Girls Cross Country, Girls Tennis, Girls Volleyball, Unified Volleyball, Field Hockey, Football and Game Day Cheer fall championships

WINTER SPORTS

Mr. Lunney reported on the winter regular season schedules; tournament planning; facility availability and potential restrictions.

SPRING SPORTS

Mr. Marcello reported on changes to pitch count rules for baseball (Article 14) and fastpitch softball (Article 25).

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (10-0) approved removing a penalty from the baseball pitch restrictions (Article 14).

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (10-0) approved the tracking of pitch counts in fastpitch softball (Article 25) going forward without pitching restrictions.

In addition, baseball and fastpitch softball will be utilizing the MaxPreps website to track pitch counts beginning in the 2022 spring season. The RIIL will be providing coaches with support including a webinar after February vacation along with written directions.

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

The January meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

Signed:

Susana Borges, RIIL Board Secretary

Date: _____

**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Principals' Committee on Athletics
Monday, March 21, 2022 @ 1:30 pm
RIIL Office
875 Centerville Road, Building #3
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Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman Kelly; Mmes., Caluori, Massaro and Palazzo; Messrs., Barbieri, Barr, Coleman, Costa, DiMuccio, Green, Kavanagh, Solitto and Whaley

Also Present: Michael Lunney, Executive Director; Thomas Marcello, Assistant Executive Director; Susana Borges, Administrative Assistant; Carolyn Thornton, Director Multi-media content and Brendan McGair, *Pawtucket Times*

Absent: Mme., Henneman Messer., Biah, and Warner

The March meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was called to order at 1:35 p.m.

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was observed for Matthew Dennison a student and hockey player of West Warwick High School. Our deepest condolences go out to the Dennison family and all whose lives were touched by Matthew.

PCOA EXECUTIVE SESSION

The following items were discussed in Executive Session: Wheeler School Request; Affiliate Membership; PCOA Vacancy; Article 13 (Coaching Requirements); Fall Sports Alignment Proposals; COVID-19 Update and Transgender Bill.

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

PCOA MINUTES JANUARY

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the January 24, 2022 meeting were unanimously (13-0) approved.

RIIL FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Lunney reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on March 21, 2022. Mr. Stuart Peterson of Janney provided the Committee with an RIIL update on investments. In addition, Mr. Steve Silva, General Manager of Corporate Partnerships for TPG provided the Committee with a marketing and sponsorship update.

PCOA NEW APPOINTMENT

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 (13-0) voted to approve the following appointments: Mr. Robert McCarthy, Central Falls High School effective immediately and Mr. Mark DeCiccio, Bishop Hendricken High School effective August 1, 2022 due to Mr. Donald Kavanagh's retirement in June 2022.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Lunney reported on the following items:

- The RIIL will work with the athletic directors to analyze the start date of fall sports and make any necessary adjustments.
- The NFHS conducted a survey and estimated over 50,000 high school officials nation-wide have either quit or retired since 2018-2019. The RIIL will participate in a nationwide consortium with the NCAA, NFHS and other state high school associations to discuss new strategies to help recruit and retain high school officials.
- The RIIL has been invited and is approved by the NFHS to a June Scholastic basketball event in coordination with the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC). More specific information will be sent to schools this spring.

- The RIIL has partnered with iHeart Radio on a new Rhode Island High School Sports Show (bi-monthly) radio show has begun and the show features RIIL sports updates along with interviews with RIIL coaches and student-athletes.
- The NFHS and RIIL are celebrating Title IX 50th anniversary
- Sportsmanship continues to be a concern with spectator behavior being of particular concern especially in sports like soccer, basketball, ice hockey. The RIIL will continue to promote good sportsmanship and work with member schools to improve this behavior in the future.

2022-2023 PCOA MEETING DATES

August 15 and November 14, 2022 and January 23, March 20 and June 12, 2023

2022-2023 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

August 15, 2022, March 20 and June 12, 2023

RIIL RULE REVISIONS (NEW)

Article 13 – Coaching Requirement

Mr. Lunney reported the RIIL has been working with the NFHS in an effort to streamline our coaches education requirements with national interscholastic coaching certifications. After a second reading and discussion the Committee unanimously (13-0) approved a revision of Article 13 – Coaching Requirements of the RIIL Rules and Regulations. This revision will align all RIIL coaches with the new NFHS Level 1 Coaches Certification requirements and once completed, all RIIL member schools will earn a banner and be recognized by the NFHS as a Level 1 Honor Roll School. In order to accomplish this national achievement:

All coaches must be in compliance with the Initial Certification Requirements below, prior to the start of their sport season for the 2022-23 school year.

A. Initial Certification Requirements:

- **ALL Coaches must complete or have already completed the following NFHS Courses (www.nfhslearn.com)**
 - NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course (which includes the RIIL Rules and Regulations Test).
 - NFHS Protecting Students from Abuse Course – **FREE *****
 - NFHS Concussion Course - **FREE** (Must be Taken Annually)
 - NFHS Online Sudden Cardiac Arrest Course - **FREE** (Must be Taken Annually)

***Please note that current coaches in compliance with the Article 13 requirements for the 2021-2022 school year will only need to complete the FREE NFHS Protecting Students from Abuse Course, and remain in compliance with the Concussion, Sudden Cardiac Arrest, First Aid and CPR requirements to meet the new standards prior to their 2022-2023 sport season.

SCHOOL REQUEST

The Wheeler School – Article 6, Section 11. A, (School Withdrawal)

The Committee received a letter from The Wheeler School notifying the League they are withdrawing from the RIIL at the end of the 2021-2022 academic year. The Committee had a lengthy discussion to consider Wheeler's requests. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) voted the following:

- Accepted (with regret) that Wheeler will be leaving the RIIL to enter the NEPSAC beginning with the 2022-2023 school year.
- Per Article 6, Section 11., A – (School Withdrawal), the Committee denied Wheeler's request to remain a member of the RIIL as an Affiliate Member.
- All rostered students from Wheeler that participated on RIIL football and boys ice hockey co-op teams during the 2021-2022 school year be granted a waiver to finish out their athletic eligibility on these co-op teams (within all RIIL Rules and Regulations). No new students will be allowed to join these teams.

The Committee received a request from Rogers High School to move down from Division 2 to Division 3 in fastpitch softball beginning with the 2022 spring season. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) denied their request.

SPORTS MEDICINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Lunney updated the Committee on the following: Study on the effect of sports Participation in high school sports during the COVID-19 pandemic; NATA Position Statement update on reducing intentional head-first contact behavior in football and NFHS updates to position statements regarding sports related skin infections and general guidelines for sports hygiene, skin infections and communicable diseases.

RIIAAA REPORT – KAREN MASSARO

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

FALL SPORTS

The fall sports alignments were presented to the Committee on recommendations from each fall sport committee and endorsed by the RIIAAA. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) approved the following 2022-2023 fall sport alignments: Field Hockey; Football; Boys & Girls Soccer; Girls Tennis and Girls Volleyball.

WINTER CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mr. Lunney provided winter championships recap. He thanked all the venues and RIIL member schools that hosted winter tournament events. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) approved the following 2021-2022 winter championships: Boys' & Girls' Basketball; Boys' & Girls' Ice Hockey; Boys' & Girls' Indoor Track; Boys & Girls' Swimming; Gymnastics; Competition Cheerleading and Wrestling.

SPRING SPORTS – START DATE MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2022

Mr. Lunney reported the mandatory spring coach's interpretation meeting held (virtually) on Wednesday, March 16; Spring Athletic Director's Workshop held on Friday, March 18 at Rhode Island College and spring tournament venues.

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

The March meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

Signed:

Susana Borges, RIIL Board Secretary

Date: _____

**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Principals' Committee on Athletics
Monday, June 13, 2022 @ 1:30 pm
RIIL Office
875 Centerville Road, Building #3
Warwick, RI 02886**

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman Kelly; Mmes., Caluori and Massaro; Messrs., Barbieri, Coleman, Costa, Green, McCarthy, Sollitto, Warner and Whaley

Also Present: Michael Lunney, Executive Director; Thomas Marcello, Assistant Executive Director; Susana Borges, Administrative Assistant; Carolyn Thornton, Director Multi-media content and Brendan McGair, *Pawtucket Times*

Absent: Messrs., Barr, Biah, DiMuccio, and Kavanagh

The June meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was called to order at 1:40 p.m.

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

WELCOME NEW PCOA MEMBER

The Committee welcomed (back) new PCOA member Mr. Robert McCarthy, Central Falls High School.

PCOA EXECUTIVE SESSION

The following items were discussed in Executive Session: Article 6., Section 17 – Non-School Athletic Programs; Article 2, Section 1 – Affiliate Membership and Waiver Request Appeals: Cameron Chinn, Bishop Hendricken and Tatiana Pereira, St. Raphael Academy.

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

PCOA MINUTES MARCH

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the March 21, 2022 meeting were unanimously (11-0) approved.

PCOA RESIGNATION

The Committee received letters of resignation from Mr. Sean Kelly, Cranston High School East, Dr. Renee Palazzo, Ponaganset High School and Ms. Neeltje Henneman, Wheeler School as a member of the Committee. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously accepted (11-0), with regret, their resignations. Mr. Kelly accepted a position in Central Administration in Cranston; Dr. Palazzo accepted a position as superintendent of Foster-Glocester Schools and Wheeler School has departed from the RIIL. Good luck and well wishes all!

PCOA VACANCIES

As a result of the recent resignations on the PCOA, the RIIL will send out applications to member school principals to fill the vacancies by August 1, 2022.

RIIL FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Lunney reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on June 13, 2022. The independent audit of the RIIL was completed and, once again, the RIIL received a favorable opinion. Mr. Lunney commended Ms. Donna Kane, business manager, for her continued hard work in making sure the leagues financial policies continue to be in line with the accepted accounting principle practices to keep the League finances in good condition. Mr. Lunney acknowledged there are still spring tournaments to be completed but all indications are the RIIL will meet the budget projections for 2021-2022. Final budget report will be given at the August 15, 2022 PCOA Meeting. Also, Mr. Stuart Peterson of Janney provided the Committee with an RIIL update on investments.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Lunney reported on the following items:

- A continuous need to support member schools with training and tools to promote good sportsmanship at all athletic events. In particular, negative comments by some spectators directed at opposing players, teams,

and officials are difficult to handle. Promoting a respectful environment at all athletic contests needs to be a point of emphasis in 2022-2023.

- The NFHS spotlighted Rhode Island as part of the Title IX 50th anniversary with social media posts that featured Alice Sullivan, former Assistant Executive Director of the RIIL and Sarah DaCosta, former U.S. Women's Hockey Olympian, and Toll Gate Boys' Ice Hockey standout for their accomplishments.
- Several female principals and athletic administrators attended the 2022 Equal Play Title IX 50th anniversary celebration at Gillette Stadium on June 9, 2022. It featured speaker Billie Jean King, Women's Tennis great and moderated by Jackie MacMullan former Boston Globe Sports Journalist.
- Congratulations to all the award winners at the 10th annual RIIL Awards Luncheon held on May 11, 2022 at the Valley Country Club which included PCOA Members Mr. Kavanagh and Mr. DiMuccio.
- The RIIL will participate with the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) in a basketball event to be held at Mohegan Sun Arena on December 27, 2022.
- Updates were given on Esports (new platform); the creation of a new online tracking system for transfers; addition of two eligibility workshops, and that member schools will have the opportunity to be provided with NFHS Wet Bulb Globe Thermometers to help track the heat index when the fall sports season begins in August.

RIIL HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2022

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) voted to approve the twelve (12) nominees for induction into the 2022 RIIL High School Hall of Fame which will be held on October 26, 2022 at the Crowne Plaza.

RIIL RULE VIOLATIONS

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) voted to send a strong letter of reprimand to both Central Falls High School and Central High School to thoroughly review their policies and procedures with regard to clearing all student-athletes to participate in athletics.

RIIL RULE REVISIONS

Article 24 – Soccer

On a recommendation from the Soccer Sport Committee and on a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved the following rule revision to Article 24 (Soccer):

"All players must remain seated on or behind a bench which is placed no less than 15 ft from the touchline when space allows at the facility. When there is not 15 ft of space available at the facility, the officials and home team head coach must clearly designate the bench area during the pregame conference. The exception is for those players warming up while wearing vests. Those players must warm-up behind the bench area or in an area clearly 15 ft from the touchline. (Already covered are those players substituting into the game reporting to the scorers table). If there are no benches, the coach must designate a line 15 ft from the touchline and all players must remain behind it."

Article 3, Section 1.A. – Eligibility Lists

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved the following rule revision to Article 3, Section 1.A. (Eligibility Lists):

"Each school must file Eligibility Lists online with the RIIL Office for **varsity** athletes within 10 days of the start date of the sport season."

Article 23, Section 1.E. – Girls Lacrosse Gloves

On a recommendation from the RIIL Sports Medicine Advisory Committee and on a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved the following rule revision to eliminate Section 1.E. of Article 23 (Girls Lacrosse Gloves).

Article 7, Section 2. – Definition of a Game and Scrimmage

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved the following rule revisions to Article 7, Section 2. (Definition of a Game and Scrimmage):

- A. A game is any competition between two or more schools, i.e. RIIL League or non-league RIIL games exclusive of scrimmages, which meets any of the following conditions:
 1. Teams wearing game uniforms.
 2. Score is kept.
 3. Results of the contest are reported.
 4. The game is structured to meet the game requirements of NFHS rules.

- B. A scrimmage shall be defined as a controlled practice among any number of schools that is supervised by coaches which does not meet any requirements for a game.
1. officials may be present for safety purposes.
 2. Teams may not wear game uniforms.
 3. Activity between teams must be broken into controlled practice segments for coaching and instruction purposes only.
 4. Structuring a scrimmage in such a way as to resemble or replicate a game without game uniforms will be considered a game and additional penalties may be imposed on the school.

Article 2, Section 1 – Affiliate Membership

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved to eliminate affiliate membership. All current affiliate members must notify the RIIL of their membership intentions for the 2024-2025 school year no later than July 31, 2023. In addition, they must be in compliance with all of the rules and regulations of the RIIL effective August 1, 2024.

Article 2, Section 1 – (Membership)

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved the following rule revision to Article 2., Section 1.A.1. (Membership):

“Member schools must enter all school sponsored sports teams in the RIIL in all school sponsored sports that are offered by the RIIL.”

SCHOOL REQUEST

Wheeler School

The Committee received a request from Wheeler School requesting to grant only the following names of ten (10) currently rostered Wheeler School student-athletes to play until they finish out their athletic eligibility in the RIIL in the following sports only: Football: Michael Adelstein, Raahil Faizan, Peter Gower, Connor Mahoney, Ike Paull and Stephen Rosa; Boys’ Ice Hockey: Owen Baill, William Bruno and Riley Harrison and Gymnastics: Sari Nostramo. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved their request.

The Committee received a request from Wheeler School requesting to allow incoming 9th grade students-with no prior established RIIL eligibility-(beginning in the Fall of 2022) the ability to participate on the RIIL Boys’ Ice Hockey Co-op (Saint Raphael Academy/ Providence Country Day School) for the duration of their high school eligibility. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (0-11) denied their request.

RIIAAA REPORT AND NEW RIIAAA APPOINTMENT – KEITH CORY

Mrs. Massaro, President of the RIIAAA, provided updates as to issues, concerns, and recommendations on behalf of the RIIAAA. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved the RIIAAA’s request to add the following language to the approved alignment guidelines: Beginning with the winter of 2022-2023, all sub-divisions within a classification must be divided by snaking according to rankings.

In addition, the Committee thanked Mrs. Massaro, who concludes her two-year term serving on the PCOA as President of the RI Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. She has served with distinction and dedication. As a result, and on a motion made and seconded, the Committee approved the nomination of Mr. Keith Cory, athletic director at Johnston High School to serve as the RIIAAA representative on the PCOA for a two-year term.

FALL SPORTS

The 2022 fall schedules were sent to all schools with a commit date of June 8. The summer contact period for all coaches is from June 15 – August 15, 2022. Fall start date for football is August 15, 2022 and all other fall sports start date is August 22, 2022.

WINTER ALIGNMENTS

The winter sports alignments were presented to the Committee on recommendations from each winter sport committee and endorsed by the RIIAAA. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved the following 2022-2024 winter sport alignments: Boys’ and Girls’ Basketball; Boys’ and Girls’ Ice Hockey and Wrestling. Boys’ and Girls’ Swimming, Gymnastics and Boys’ and Girls’ Indoor Track will be presented at the August PCOA meeting.

SPRING SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The following Spring Sports Championships were unanimously (11-0) approved: Boys' and Girls' Outdoor Track and Field, Boys' and Girls' Lacrosse, Boys' Tennis, Boys' Volleyball, Golf, Softball and Baseball.

WAIVER HEARING COMMITTEE APPEALS

Cameron Chinn – Bishop Hendricken High School

Waiver of Article 3, Section 5.A., Eight Semester Rule. Appealing a decision of Waiver Hearing Committee.

Motion to grant waiver: 0-11 (*denied*)

Tatiana Pereira – Saint Raphael Academy

Waiver of Article 3, Section 5.B.1, Eight Semester Rule. Appealing a decision of Waiver Hearing Committee.

Motion to grant waiver: 0-11 (*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 June meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 5:00 P.M.

Signed:

Susana Borges, RIIL Board Secretary

Date: _____