

**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Principals' Committee on Athletics
Wednesday, November 15, 2023 @ 1:30 pm
RIIL Office
875 Centerville Road, Building #3
Warwick, RI 02886**

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman Warner; Mmes., Caluori, and Ward; Messrs., Barbieri, Barr, Cory, Costa, DeCiccio, DiMuccio, Gibbons, Green, McCarthy, McGair, Richard and Sollitto.

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

Absent: Mme., Craven

The November meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was called to order at 1:45 p.m.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND RECOGNITION

The Committee held a moment of silence for the passing of Mr. McCarthy's father. In addition, Mr. Lunney reported every RIIL school with athletic programs has earned Level 1 status in the NFHS School Honor Roll, a national recognition program designed to promote professional development for high school coaches by completing specific online education courses through the NFHS Learning Center.

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: Membership; Middle School Sports (Grades 6-8) and Rules and Regulations.

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

PCOA MINUTES AUGUST 21, 2023

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the August 21, 2023 meeting were unanimously (15-0) approved.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Lunney reported on the following:

- NFHS Level 1 Honor Roll School update:
 - The RIIL was featured in NFHS High School Today Magazine.
- Officials Recruitment
 - RefReps Agreement – the RIIL is investing in a partnership with RefReps to address the shortage of officials by utilizing this online training program to help recruit new officials.
- School Resources:
 - Sportsmanship Toolkit – Bench Bad Behavior Campaign.
 - Event Security & Safety – Safe Sports Zone video training (YouTube).
 - Coaches Certification and Transfers Online Tracking System.
- RIIL/KyleCares – Mental Health Summit Update:
 - RIIL is proud to announce a new partnership with KyleCares, Inc. that will support the emotional well-being of students across our membership. The KyleCares/RIIL Teen Mental Health Summit is being held on Friday, January 12, 2023 at RI College.
- The Winter Coaches Interpretation Meeting is being held on Wednesday, November 15th via Zoom.
- The Winter Athletic Directors Workshop is being held on Friday, November 17th at RI College.

RIIL Assumption of Risk Form

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved (15-0) a change to the RIIL Assumption of Risk Form: "Full Address of Parent/Legal Guardian."

RIIL RULE REVISIONS

Article 5, Section 1 – Protests

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) approved eliminating the following procedure:
~~“The RIIL will only recognize/allow protest in accordance with NFHS sport rules. Unless there is a protest procedure listed in the NFHS sport rules, no protest will be allowed.”~~

RIIL SPORTS MEDICINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SMAC)

Mr. Lunney reported on the SMAC that was held on Thursday, November 9. Safety discussion regarding the field hockey requirement that all players in Rhode Island must wear protective goggles at all times in light of a recent injury to a player in Massachusetts. The SMAC will be reviewing safety equipment guidelines in preparation for the fall 2024 season. The SMAC strongly recommends that all hockey players wear some type of throat/neck laceration protector in accordance with NFHS and USA Hockey recommendations. The SMAC also reviewed a RIIL pre-game safety card that can be utilized by member schools as part of their EAPs for all athletic events. The SMAC endorsed the pre-game safety card and recommended its use as an organizational tool/resource. OrthoRI is holding free pre-participation sports exams for student-athletes on Wednesday, November 15.

RIIAAA REPORT – KEITH CORY

Mr. Cory, President of the RIIAAA, reported on the increased demands on athletic directors and the changing role of the athletic administrator across Rhode Island.

RIPCOA REQUEST – MIDDLE SCHOOLS (GRADES 6-8)

In preparation for the 2024-2025 school year, Mr. Lunney gave an update on the planning process for the RIIL to begin offering middle school sports grades 6-8. Mr. Lunney made three (3) recommendations regarding the middle school structure within the RIIL, the creation of a middle school sport director part-time position, and the establishment of a middle school committee to be focused on the needs of middle school sports.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) voted to create an at-large voting position on the RIIL PCOA to be assigned to an administrator with middle school oversight. On a motion made and seconded, the RIIL PCOA voted 14-1 to appoint Ms. Patricia Aull administrator in the Newport school district and current Executive Director of RI Principals' Committee on Athletics (RIPCOA) to the RIIL PCOA at-large position.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) voted to create a part-time middle school sport director to work with the RIIL staff during the transition period between January – June 2024 as a stipend position. In addition, the middle school sport director will begin their official part-time duties as approved in the 2024-2025 RIIL budget.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) voted to establish a middle school committee which will be a working committee focused on the needs of middle school sports. This committee will forward any recommendations for rules changes to the executive director for consideration of approval by the RIIL PCOA.

OFFICIALS

Mr. Lunney updated the Committee on a new agreement with RefReps in an effort to address the shortage of officials through recruitment and training. Also, he reported that the RIIL will be working with the officials' organizations during the 2023-2024 school year regarding the new agreements which will take effect beginning with the 2024-2025 school year.

FALL SPORTS

Mr. Lunney updated the Committee on all fall tournaments except football and eSports, which is the weekend of November 18-19. Mr. Lunney reported the RIIL has had several meetings with the athletic director's regarding potential changes to regular season scheduling to address the increasing number of concerns expressed by member schools to allow schedule regular season games based on the needs of their athletic programs. The goal of this process is to provide schools with the opportunity to get a more competitive regular season schedule based on the variables that impact their programs from year to year (graduations, coaching changes, lack of youth programs, etc.).

WINTER SPORTS – MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2023

The first day of practice for all winter sports begins on Monday, November 27. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) approved a proposal to adjust penalty minutes to Article 22., Section 1. Hockey.

The RIIL staff has met with the Boys' and Girls' Basketball Committee's to discuss changes to the Basketball State Tournament structure. Also, the 2nd Annual Jiggs Cecchini CT/RI Basketball Challenge is being held on December 14. The tournament will be played at Mohegan Sun Arena and features four games, two boys' games and two girls' games. Boys: La Salle vs Northwest Catholic and Barrington vs Bloomfield. Girls: Moses Brown vs Sacred Heart and North Kingstown vs East Hampton.

SPRING SPORTS – MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2024

The spring sport committee meetings have been ongoing.

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

The November meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 4:05 P.M.

Signed:

Susana Borges, RIIL Board Secretary

Date: _____