

**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE  
Principals' Committee on Athletics  
Monday, January 22, 2024 @ 1:30 pm  
RIIL Office  
875 Centerville Road, Building #3  
Warwick, RI 02886**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Chairman Warner; Mmes., Aull, Caluori, and Craven; Messrs., Barbieri, Barr, Cory, Costa, DeCiccio, DiMuccio, Gibbons, Green, McCarthy, McGair, and Solitto.

**Also Present:** Michael Lunney, Executive Director; Thomas Marcello, Assistant Executive Director; Susana Borges, Administrative Assistant, Carolyn Thornton, Dir. of Multimedia Content, Ted Quigley, Middle School Sport Director and Brendan McGair, *Pawtucket Times*

**Absent:** Mme., Ward and Messer., Richard

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

**WELCOME NEW PCOA MEMBER**

The Committee welcomed new PCOA member Ms. Patricia Aull, middle school administrator.

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

**PCOA EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The following items were discussed in Executive Session: Rules and Regulations; Alignment; Middle School Sports; RIASP and Event Management.

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

**PCOA MINUTES NOVEMBER 15, 2023**

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

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Lunney reported on the following:

- **RIIL/KyleCares – Teen Mental Health Summit delivers message that “You Are Not Alone”**
  - More than 220 Rhode Island high school students and chaperones representing 31 schools attended the RIIL/KyleCares teen Mental Health Summit, Friday, January 12, 2024 at Gaige Hall on the RI College campus. This important workshop stressed the importance of focusing on one's emotional well-being through self-care, encouraging those students who are struggling with their mental health to seek help and guiding them on the best ways to do so.
- **Officials Recruitment – RefReps Program Update**
  - 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 Page – RIIL website**
  - Sportsmanship Toolkit – Bench Bad Behavior Campaign
  - Event Security & Safety – Safe Sports Zone video training (YouTube)
  - Coaches Certification and Transfer Online Tracking System
- **RIIL Annual Awards Ceremony – nominations are now being accepted for this year's RIIL Student-Athlete of the Year Award. Two nominees per school.**
- **NFHS Committee Appointments – Rhode Island has several representatives on the NFHS Sports Committees.**
- **Sport Committee Meetings**
- **AD Meeting – Transportation Issues related to Washington Bridge Closure via a Zoom meeting was held.**
- **Technology Upgrades**
  - Website (revamp/refresh) user friendly
  - Scheduling
  - Middle School Integration

**RIIL RULE REVISIONS**

**Article 7, Section 4., B., 4., D. – Limitation of Seasons**

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) approved eliminating the following regarding fall athlete exemption from winter conditioning standards: “~~Student athletes who participate in fall sports and come out for winter sports shall be exempt from practice limitations and conditioning periods.~~”

**Article 3, Section 1., F. – Exceptions**

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) approved to table a rule revision to Article 3, Section 1., F. – Exceptions until the March 18, 2024 meeting.

**RIIL SPORTS MEDICINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SMAC)**

Mr. Lunney updated the Committee on medical coverage at athletic events. We recognize with the lack of athletic trainers available that schools have been covering events with other medical professionals such as EMT’s, nurses, doctors, etc. Mr. Lunney also updated the Committee on the restrictions of what each medical professional is allowed to administer at an athletic event. He called attention to a pre-game safety card listed under “School Resources” on the RIIL website as an organizational tool for schools to consider utilizing at their athletic events.

**REQUESTS FROM SCHOOLS**

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) approved a request from Rocky Hill Country Day School to drop out of the RIIL beginning with the 2024-2025 school year.

Also, Mr. Lunney updated the Committee Providence Country Day School has transitioned all their sports teams into the RIIL.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORT DIRECTOR**

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) approved the appointment of Mr. Ted Quigley, former long-time athletic director at La Salle Academy, to the position of Middle School Sport Director of the RIIL effective January 1, 2024.

Members of the RIIL staff updated the Committee on the planning process to transition middle school sports into the RIIL beginning fall 2024.

**RIIAAA REPORT – KEITH CORY**

No report given.

**OFFICIALS**

Mr. Lunney 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 – ALIGNMENTS**

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 (15-0) approved the following 2024 & 2025 fall sport alignments: Field Hockey; Football; Boys’ & Girls’ Soccer; Girls’ Tennis and Girls’ Volleyball.

**FALL SPORTS – CHAMPIONSHIPS**

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) approved the following 2023 Fall Championships: Boys’ & Girls’ Soccer, Boys’ and Girls’ Cross Country, Girls’ Tennis, Girls’ Volleyball, Unified Volleyball, Field Hockey, Football and Game Day Cheer.

**WINTER SPORTS**

Mr. Lunney updated the Committee on plans for the divisional Boys’ and Girls’ Basketball Championships which will be held at Amica Mutual Pavilion (the AMP) in Providence and updated the Committee on winter sports tournament planning.

**SPRING SPORTS – MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2024**

The spring sports schedules have been released to schools.

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

*The January meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 4:15 P.M.*

Signed:

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

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