

**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Principals' Committee on Athletics
Monday, August 18, 2025 @ 1:30 pm
RIIL Office
875 Centerville Road, Building #3
Warwick, RI 02886**

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman Warner; Mmes., Caluori, Craven and Ward; Messrs., Barbieri, Barr, Crowley, DeCiccio, Fontaine, Gibbons, Green, McGair and Richard.

Also Present: Michael Lunney, Executive Director; Thomas Marcello, Assistant Executive Director; Susana Borges, Administrative Assistant, Carolyn Thornton, Dir. of Communications & Student Services, Ted Quigley, Middle School Coordinator, Justin Erickson, Athletic Director, Johnston High School and Brendan McGair, *Pawtucket Times*

Absent: Messrs., Costa and Sollitto

The August meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was called to order at 1:50 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: Rules Concern (Ice Hockey); Flag Football; PCOA Vacancies and Facilities.

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

THOMAS A. MEZZANOTTE - DEDICATION LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) voted to dedicate and name the Large Conference Room at the RIIL Office for Mr. Thomas A. Mezzanotte, former long-time RIIL Executive Director. This recognition is a reflection of his many years of outstanding leadership and devoted service as Executive Director of the RIIL and of the lasting impact he has made on interscholastic athletics and student-athletes across our state. We look forward to formally celebrating this honor with Mr. Mezzanotte at an upcoming dedication ceremony.

PCOA MINUTES JUNE 16, 2025

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the June 16, 2025 meeting were unanimously (13-0) approved.

RIIL FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Lunney reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on August 18, 2025. The items discussed and reviewed were the RIIL annual audit is underway for 2024-2025; Insurance submitted for 2025-2026; Sport budget comparison school year for 2024-2025 and the RIIL agreement with NFHS Network has been extended.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Lunney reported on the following:

1. NFHS News
 1. Protect the Purpose Campaign
2. Staff Responsibilities
3. Even Field Honors Program
 1. Recognizing Character and Leadership in School Sports
 2. Nomination Process
 3. May 21, 2026 at URI
 4. Matthew Slater – Former 10X Pro Bowl
4. Technology Integration Update
 1. Fusion Point
 - a. Website
 - b. Scheduling
 - c. RPI
 - d. Tournament Brackets

- e. Transfer Portal
 - f. Coaches Certification Tracking
 - g. Roster Management
 - h. Student Eligibility Tracking
- 2. Arbiter Sports
 - a. Officials Assigning and Electronic Payments
- 5. Summer Meetings
 - 1. Website and Technology Integration
 - 2. RIIL Staff Meetings
 - 3. Sport Committees
 - 4. Sports Medicine Advisory Committee
 - 5. RIIAAA Executive Board Meetings
 - 6. Fall Sports Coaches Interpretation Meeting (Virtual) was held August 13, 2025.
 - 7. NEW - Fall Sports Officials Meeting (Virtual)
 - 8. Fall Athletic Director Workshop was held on August 15, 2025 at RI College.

In addition, Mr. Lunney reported on all the upcoming RIIL initiatives and educational offerings to member schools for the 2025-2026 school year including but not limited to Student-Leadership Experience at Camp Fogarty, Kyle Cares Mental Health Summit, Navigant Credit Union Financial Trivia Challenge, Even Field Honors Program and the Student-Athlete of the Year Program sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of RI.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS – TED QUIGLEY

Mr. Lunney reported on the results of the middle schools survey that was previously sent to schools to gauge potential interest in new sport offerings that our membership might be interested in pursuing for the future. Also, Mr. Quigley, RIIL Middle School Coordinator reported that seven (7) new middle schools have joined the RIIL.

RIIL RULE REVISIONS

None.

RIIL SPORTS MEDICINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SMAC)

Mr. Lunney discussed the following: Ortho RI Pre-Participation Physicals; Field Hockey Rule Change Considerations and Emergency Action Planning; NFHS Learn FREE Online Course (New) – EAP Planning Video, Anyone Can Save A Life Program, Pre-Game Safety Card and Medical Coverage – Personnel Responsibilities. The RIIL reviewed and presented heat acclimatization guidance, concussion management guidance (REAP Manual) and emergency action planning at the fall coach's interpretation meeting and fall athletic director's workshop.

Mr. Lunney reported that the RIIL Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) will be reviewing the current baseball pitching limitation standards and guidance prior to the start of the spring 2026 baseball season. Also, reported that the RIIL SMAC will review the field hockey goggles mandate and NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Injury data for consideration for potential rule changes for the 2026-fall season.

REQUEST FROM SCHOOLS

None.

RULE VIOLATIONS

None.

RIIAAA REPORT

Mr. Crowley, President of the RIIAAA, reported the Classical High School athletic program has been identified as a 2025 recipient of the NIAAA **Quality Program Recognition** as the **Exemplary Level**.

Mr. Justin Erickson, Athletic Director, Johnston High School presented a detailed report on the status of school interest in sanctioning flag football as a new RIIL sport offering for girls beginning in the spring 2027. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) voted to form a sports committee for girls' flag football to review the logistics and rules adoptions necessary to structure a girls flag football league to be considered as an RIIL sanctioned sport.

OFFICIALS

Mr. Lunney reported on RefReps and potential opportunities to partner with RI College Sport Management Program to recruit and educate new officials. Also, updated the Committee on an NFHS report that stated, due to state association efforts, high school officials are up 6% nationally.

FALL SPORTS

Mr. Lunney reported on the planning for the championship venues. The first day of practice for high school fall sports is August 18, 2025 (due to scheduling purposes of football will begin on August 14) and first day of practice for middle school fall sports is August 25.

WINTER SPORTS

The winter sports schedules have been sent to all member schools and posted online. The first day of practice for high school sports begins on December 1, 2025. The first day of practice for middle school sports is November 17, 2025.

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

Signed:

Susana Borges, RIIL Board Secretary

Date: _____