

**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Principals' Committee on Athletics
Monday, August 19, 2024 @ 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, Costa, Crowley, DeCiccio, Gibbons, Green, McCarthy, 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; Martin Crowley, RIIAAA, and Brendan McGair, *Pawtucket Times*

Absent: Mmes., Aull and Craven and Messrs., DiMuccio and Sollitto

The August 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: Rules and Regulations, Officials and Alternative Education.

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

PCOA MINUTES JUNE 17, 2024

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the June 17, 2024 meeting were unanimously (13-0) approved.

RIIL FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT AND APPOINTMENT

Mr. Lunney reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on August 19, 2024. The RIIL is in the process of finishing this year's independent audit. Insurance renewal quotes have been received including the addition of middle schools. Also, Mr. Stuart Peterson of Janney provided the Committee with an RIIL update on investments.

In addition, on a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) approved the following to serve on the RIIL Finance Committee for a three-year term: Dan Warner, Candace Caluori, Tom Barberi, Bob McCarthy and Stuart Peterson.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Lunney reported on the following:

- eSports Presentation – Dave Carnavale, Ponaganset High School and Brandon Lahoud, Lincoln High School from the eSports Coaches Association made a presentation to add Overwatch be added to replace League of Legends as one of the game titles approved for an RIIL eSports championship for the 2024-2025 winter season. After discussion, on a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) denied the request.
- NFHS Update
 1. GoFan Ticketing
 2. NFHS Network
- NIAAA Policy Pages
- RefReps Update
- Sportsmanship Initiative – The RIIL is partnering in an initiative with *Even Field's "Effort and Attitude Awards"* that recognize examples of character and leadership involving qualities such as respect, honesty, courage, perseverance, resilience, and compassion. The program will culminate with a celebration dinner to be held at the University of RI on May 25, 2025. Honorees will be recognized and shared to inspire others.

- Meetings and Planning over the summer
 1. Rules and Regulations review
 2. Pre-season Meeting PowerPoint for schools (NEW) – the RIIL developed a “*Pre-season Meeting PowerPoint*” as a school resource to utilize during their mandatory pre-season meeting with parents and students.
 3. Sponsorship Meetings
 4. New AD’s Workshop – August 13, 2024 at RIIL Office
 5. Fall AD’s Workshop – August 16, 2024 at RI College
 6. Principals Breakfast – Middle Schools on September 12, 2024 and High Schools on September 20, 2024 at Quonset O Club
 7. Fall Coaches Interpretation Meetings – August 13, 2024 virtually
 8. Spring Sport Committee Meetings
 9. Website – upgrades were made to incorporate middle school, sport handbook development, consolidate information and general re-organization for easier navigation.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Mr. Lunney reported on the middle schools planning update regarding fall schedules, championships, assumption of risk form and new initiatives. The Committee had a brief discussion regarding a rule revision to Article 3. Eligibility, Section 5.B.2. Length of Eligibility. The rule revision was tabled for further consideration.

In addition, a Middle School Sport Sub-Committee has been created and will serve as a committee for issues concerning middle school students. The Committee includes the following members: Patricia Aull, Newport School Department; Melissa Centracchio, Archie Cole MS; Marty Crowley, RIIAAA, Cumberland HS; Alex Desjardin, UCAP; David Flanagan, Wickford MS; Christina Gibbons-Roger, Winman MS; Alex Kanelos, Park View MS; Sean Kelly, Hope MS; Jason Masterson, Portsmouth MS; Alana Parenteau, De La Salle MS; Matthew Tsonos, Ferri MS and Ted Quigley, RIIL Middle School Coordinator.

RIIL RULE REVISIONS

Article 22, Section 1. – Ice Hockey

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) approved a rule revision to Article 22, Section 1 – Ice Hockey to add “*a maximum of 23 players, including goalkeepers, may dress for and play in a game.*”

RIIL SPORTS MEDICINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SMAC)

Congratulations to Burrillville HS, Janita Sanchez Educational Complex, Lincoln HS, Mt. Hope HS, South Kingstown HS, Westerly HS and West Warwick HS. All seven (7) schools were randomly selected to receive an AED for their athletic programs! In addition, the RIIL received two (2) for our championship events. AED donations were funded by the RIIL and a grant from the NFHS. Pre-season practice limitation will be discussed at the next SMAC. Mr. Lunney gave an update on the use of Guardian Caps in football. Also, the NFHS and RIIL strongly encourage the use of the pre-game medical time-out protocols to ensure that coaches, officials, game management and medical personnel coordinate emergency action procedures.

REQUESTS FROM SCHOOLS

The RIIL received a request from Segue Institute for Learning – Legacy High School to join the League under Article 3, Eligibility, Section 2, Alternative Education (Charter) School Athletic Participation beginning with the 2024-2025 school year. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) approved their request.

The RIIL received a request from Mrs. Laura Twitchell, Head of Upper School at Moses Brown School, Mrs. Sue Farnum, Head of Upper School at Lincoln School and Mr. Kevin Folan, Head of School at Providence Country Day requesting a waiver of Article 7, Section 4.C, Limitation of Seasons rule regarding the start date of spring sports for the 2025 spring season. After discussion, on a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) denied the request.

OFFICIALS

Mr. Lunney reported that the RIIL has been working with the officials’ organizations and sport committees during the 2023-2024 school year regarding the new agreements which will take effect beginning with the 2024-2025 school year.

RIIAAA REPORT

Mr. Lunney requested, in support of ongoing education efforts for athletic directors, a grant of \$1,000 be given to the RIIAAA to cover the cost of Leadership Training Courses (LTC) offered by the NIAAA. The RIIAAA will use the funds to offer NIAAA courses 501, 502 and 503 in an effort to provide ongoing professional development opportunities for member athletic directors. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) approved the request.

FALL SPORTS

The first day of practice for football begins August 15, 2024. All other high school fall sports begin on August 19, 2024. The first day of practice for middle school sports is August 26, 2024. Mr. Lunney reported the RIIL has been securing championship venues for the fall championships.

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 December 2, 2024. The first day of practice for middle school sports is November 18, 2024. Mr. Lunney reported the RIIL has been securing championship venues for the winter championships.

SPRING SPORTS ALIGNMENTS

Mr. Marcello presented the spring 2025 & 2026 softball and baseball alignments to the Committee on recommendations from the softball and baseball sport committees and endorsed by the RIIAAA. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) approved softball sport alignment for spring 2025 & 2026. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) approved baseball sport alignment for spring 2025 & 2026

REQUEST FROM SCHOOL RULE VIOLATION

The Committee held a virtual meeting on August 13, 2024 to discuss an allegation of a potential rule violation. After discussion, on a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) voted to take no action.

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 4:05 P.M.

Signed:

Susana Borges, RIIL Board Secretary

Date: _____