

**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE**  
**Principals' Committee on Athletics**  
**Monday, March 18, 2024 @ 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, Costa, DeCiccio, Green, McCarthy, McGair, Richard, and Sollitto.

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

**Absent:** Mme., Aull and Messrs., Barr, Cory, DiMuccio and Gibbons

*The March 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 and Sportsmanship.

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

**PCOA MINUTES JANUARY 22, 2024**

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the January 22, 2024 meeting were unanimously (12-0) approved.

**RIIL FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Lunney reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on March 18, 2024. Items discussed were the 2023-2024 budget update, profit & loss, annual audit and winter sports championships. Also, for the first time, included the preliminary budget for middle school sports. Mr. Stuart Peterson of Janney provided the Committee with an RIIL update on investments.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Lunney reported on the following:

- Winter Tournament Update – Mr. Lunney reported the Boys' & Girls' Basketball Division Championships held back at the Amica Mutual Pavilion in 20 years was a success. He expressed thanks to all the winter sport directors and sport committee members support at multiple venues.
- RIIL/KyleCares – Teen Mental Health Summit recap video was shown to the Committee.
- NIAAA Health and Wellness Committee formed.
- Member School Seasonal Responsibilities
- NFHS Network Update – a reminder the NFHS is offering up to two (2) FREE Pixelot Systems (including installation) will end at the end of May. The RIIL will notify all schools that are not already participating.
- RIIL Annual Awards Ceremony
- Meetings:
  - Special Olympics RI (SORI) Meeting – Unified Sports
  - RIIAAA Executive Board Meetings
  - Spring Sports Athletic Directors Meeting was held on March 8<sup>th</sup> at OrthoRI, Warwick Campus
  - Spring Sports Coaches Interpretation Meeting was held virtually on March 13
  - RIIL Leadership Training Workshop – “How to Lead with Confidence, Character & Integrity” will be held on May 16, 2024 at Camp Fogarty in East Greenwich.

**MIDDLE SCHOOLS**

Mr. Lunney reported an Open House for Middle Schools was held on Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at the RIIL office and was attended by middle school administrators and athletic directors. Also, updated the Committee on membership/sport declarations were sent to middle schools, coaches certification requirements, fall schedules and fall sports start date is August 26, 2024.

#### RIIL RULE REVISIONS

##### Article 7, Section 10. – Limitation of Seasons

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (12-0) approved rules that have been added to Article 7, Section 10 - National High School Championship Events of the RIIL Rules and Regulations as follows:

- A. The PCOA or RIIL Executive Director may waive the Article 7, Section 7 Off-Season Coaching Requirements for coaches to participate with their athletes in select national high school championship events under the following stipulations:
  - a. The national event occurs after the conclusion of the RIIL Championships and does not conflict with any sanctioned event.
    - i. National events are limited to RIIL sports with individual competition as outlined in Article 3, Section 8:
      1. Cross Country, Golf, Gymnastics, Indoor Track & Field, Outdoor Track & Field, Swimming, and Wrestling.
      - b. Student-athletes shall compete as private citizens on a voluntary basis, unattached from their high school
      - c. Student-athletes shall not wear the uniform of their high school.
      - d. Coaches shall attend as private citizens, on a voluntary basis, not as employees of their high school.
      - e. Prior to the event, the high school Principal has completed, signed, and submitted the National Event Participation Form attesting to the above stipulations and listing the athlete/coaches attending.

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

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (12-0) approved a rule revision to Article 3, Section 1., F. – Exceptions:

“Students who are enrolled in a **full-time** state certified career and technical facility and/or a **full-time** state certified career pathways program are eligible for athletic participation at the school in which they are enrolled.” Effective at the start of the 2024-2025 school year.

##### Article 6, Section 13. – Use of School Equipment During the Summer

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (12-0) approved to table a rule revision to Article 6, Section 13 – Use of School Equipment During the Summer until the June 17, 2024 meeting.

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

Mr. Lunney reported on the RIIL Sports Medicine Advisory Committee. USA Hockey approved neck laceration protection effective August 1. Also, discussed Emergency Action Planning to include “*Anyone Can Save a Life Program*” and called to attention 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

The RIIL received a letter from the Pawtucket School Department outlining what high school students from the Jacqueline M. Walsh School (JMW) in Pawtucket are allowed to participate in sports at either Tolman or Shea High School. JMW is part of the Pawtucket School district but does not offer an athletic program. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (12-0) approved their request.

Also, the Committee received a request from Chesterton Academy of Our Lady of Hope to join the league and participate in Boys’ and Girls’ Cross Country (individuals) and JV Boys’ Soccer beginning with the 2024-2025 school year. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (12-0) approved their request.

The RIIL received a letter from Times 2 STEM Academy informing the League they intend to remove themselves from all athletic co-op teams beginning in the 2024-2025 school year.

#### RIIAAA REPORT – KEITH CORY

No report given.

#### OFFICIALS

Mr. Lunney reported that the RIIL will be 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.

#### RIIL RULE VIOLATIONS

##### **Mt. Hope High School – Article 3, Section 4, Academic Eligibility (Wrestling)**

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA voted to sanction Mt. Hope High School for a violation of Article 3, Section 4 (Academic Eligibility) of the RIIL Rules and Regulations.

The following steps have already been taken by Mt. Hope High School:

1. The three (3) wrestlers were not allowed to compete in the remainder of the winter wrestling season.
2. One of the wrestlers returned and forfeited his 2nd place medal in the JV State Wrestling Tournament.

In addition, the PCOA voted the following sanction:

3. Mt. Hope High School is fined \$100.

The Committee commends and thanks Mt. Hope High School for self-reporting this incident.

#### FALL SPORTS

Mr. Marcello reported all of the fall sports schedules have been sent to all schools and the RIIL has begun adding them online.

#### WINTER SPORTS - CHAMPIONSHIPS

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (12-0) approved the following 2023-2024 Winter Championships: Boys' & Girls' Indoor Track, Boys' & Girls' Swimming, Boys' & Girls' Basketball, Boys' & Girls' Ice Hockey, Competition Cheerleading, Co-ed Wrestling and eSports.

Mr. Lunney reported the inaugural individual state championship girls wrestling was crowned at the RIIL State Wrestling Championship.

#### 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 March meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 3:45 P.M.***

Signed:

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Susana Borges, RIIL Board Secretary

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