

**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Principals' Committee on Athletics
Monday, November 17, 2014
1:30 pm
RIL Office
Bldg. #6 RI College Campus
600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Providence, RI**

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman McNamara; Mmes., Abromitis, Crowley, Gribbin and Keegan; Messrs., Barr, DiMuccio, Goho, Kavanagh, Kelly, Littlefield, McCarthy, Sollitto, Vetelino, Warner and Whaley

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

Absent: None

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

PCOA MINUTES AUGUST 18, 2014

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the August 18, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved (16-0).

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: Resignation of Tom Kenworthy; PCOA Vacancy; NFHS Outstanding Service Award – Dr. Puerini; Cheer Proposal; Rule Changes and Waiver Hearing Appeals.

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

FINANCE REPORT

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (16-0) approved the finance report submitted by Ms. Donna Kane, Business Manager.

PCOA RESIGNATION

The Committee on Athletics received a letter of resignation from Mr. Thomas Kenworthy, Ed.D., as a member of the Principals' Committee on Athletics. On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously accepted (16-0), with regret, Mr. Kenworthy's resignation.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Mezzanotte reported on the following:

- NFHS Outstanding Service Award – Dr. Al Puerini
 - On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (16-0) approved the nomination of the NFHS Outstanding Service Award for Dr. Al Puerini.
- NFHS Heart of The Arts Award
 - Mr. Mezzanotte encouraged all schools to nominate someone for the NFHS Heart of The Arts Award. The recipient must be an individual from a high school that is a member of an NFHS-member athletic or activity association—the Rhode Island Interscholastic League.
- NFHS Concussion Summit Guidelines
 - On a motion made and seconded, the Committee approved in principle the NFHS Concussion Summit Guidelines. Guidelines will be forwarded to the Football Sport Committee for discussion and recommendation.
- 2013-2014 High School Sports Related Injury Surveillance Study

PCOA NEW APPOINTMENT

The Committee on Athletics reviewed and discussed a number of applications of those administrators interested in serving on the PCOA. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee voted (15-1) to approve the appointment of Jay Brennan, Principal of Bishop Hendricken High School.

SPRING SPORTS ALIGNMENT – 2014-2016

On a motion made and seconded, the following spring sports alignments were approved for two years (2014-2016): Fast Pitch Softball, Baseball, Boys' Lacrosse, Girls' Lacrosse, Boys' Volleyball, Boys' Tennis, Boys' and Girls' Track and Golf. Approved Alignments will be sent to all schools.

COOPERATIVE TEAM APPROVALS - WINTER

The following winter cooperative teams were approved for two (2014-15 & 2015-16) years in Boys Hockey: Johnston/North Providence, PCD/St. Rays/Wheeler and Rogers/Middletown/Rocky Hill. The following winter cooperative teams were approved for two (2014-15 & 2015-16) years in Girls Hockey: Barrington/Mt. Hope/Portsmouth, Cranston/East Greenwich, Warwick Schools, Lincoln/Cumberland, Narragansett/NK/SK and Smithfield/North Smithfield/Coventry. Tolman/Shea was approved for two (2014-15 & 2015-16) years in Boys Swimming. Also, the following were approved for one year only with a phase out period: Burrillville/Ponaganset - Girls Hockey, Cranston West/East - Boys Hockey and West Warwick/EWG Boys Hockey.

CHEER PROPOSAL

Mr. Mezzanotte reported the RIIL will recognize Cheer (as it presently exists) as an activity – not a sport. Courts have ruled that Cheer is an “activity” not a sport. Result: Cheer is not bound by RIIL Rules and Regulation. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (16-0) approved the new cheerleading structure and protocol to begin in the spring of 2015 which will include the addition of a “Game Day Competition” in addition to the annual competition championships held in the winter. More information to schools will follow.

RIIL RULES VIOLATION

The Lincoln School: Article 6, Section 6 – Use of an Ineligible Athlete – Field Hockey

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously voted (16-0) to impose a fine of \$100 for violating Article 6, Section 6. The Committee also reminded The Lincoln School to be sure that all the athletes are added to the eligibility lists prior to them participating in any future competition.

Middletown High School: Article 6, Section 6 – Use of an Ineligible Athlete – Girls' Volleyball

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously voted (16-0) to impose a fine of \$100 for violating Article 6, Section 6. The Committee also reminded Middletown High School to be sure that all the athletes are added to the eligibility lists prior to them participating in any future competition.

St. Patrick Academy: Article 3, Section 1 – Eligibility List – Boys' & Girls' Cross Country

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee voted (14-2) to impose a fine of \$200 for violating Article 3, Section 1. The Committee also reminded St. Patrick Academy to be sure that all the athletes are added to the eligibility lists prior to them participating in any future competition.

RIIAAA REPORT

Mr. Vetelino recommended combining a number of sport committees and explained the benefits of doing so. The RIIAAA will present recommendations about combining sport committees.

RIIL STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD

Mr. Lunney reported the Student Sport Leaders Conference presented by the Rhode Island Army National Guard will be held on December 12, 2014 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

RIIL SPORTS MEDICINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. George Finn, Chair of the SMAC, presented several issues that were brought up at the last SMAC Meeting regarding the importance of Pre-Participation Physical Examinations and that a number of Rhode Island athletic trainers will be participating in the RIO (Reporting Information Online) survey.

RIIL RULE REVISIONS: DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mr. Mezzanotte reported on revision of rules which would allow athletes to play more than one sport during a season. In addition, he provided survey results regarding a rule revision which would allow member schools to participate in non-league games against non-member schools. Committees will be established to review these results and discuss possible RIIL rules revisions.

FALL SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIPS

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved (16-0) the following 2014 fall championships: Girls' Tennis, Girls' Volleyball, Boys' Soccer, Girls' Soccer, Boys' and Girls' Cross Country, Field Hockey, Unified Volleyball and Freshman Football.

SPRING SPORTS

BOYS' LACROSSE – George Finn, Director of Boys' Lacrosse – Mr. Finn submitted a proposal to allow up to (4) goalies to report one week prior to the start of the spring season. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (0-16) denied the request.

WAIVER HEARING COMMITTEE APPEALS

Thomas Meyer – South Kingstown High School

Waiver of Article 3, Section 2, the Female Competition Rule, to participate in Field Hockey. Appealing a decision of Waiver Hearing Committee.

Motion to grant waiver: 0-13 (**denied**)

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 4:45 P.M.

Signed:

Susana Borges, RIIL Board Secretary

Date: _____