

**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Principals' Committee on Athletics
Monday, January 28, 2013
1:30 pm
RIIL Office
Bldg. #6 R. I. College Campus
600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue ♦ Providence, RI**

Executive Director's Report #3

Members Present: Chairman Foley; Mme., Abromitis and Gribbin; Messrs., Butler, Goho, Kavanagh, Kelly, Littlefield, McNamara, Sollitto, Traficante, Warner and Whaley

Also Present: Thomas Mezzanotte, Executive Director; Mike Lunney, Assistant Director and Susana Borges, Administrative Assistant

Absent: Mme., Crowley; Messrs., Barr, DiMuccio and McCarthy

The January 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee discussed several matter in Executive session.

On a motion made and Seconded, the Committee voted to adjourn Executive Session and open the Committee Meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

On a motion made and seconded, the Executive Director's Report from the November 19, 2012 meeting was unanimously approved (13-0).

TREASURER'S REPORT

On a motion made and seconded, the Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved (13-0). Tracy Quarella, RIIL, Director of Marketing, presented a mid-year marketing review.

BALL ADOPTION BID

On a motion made and seconded, Committee on Athletics unanimously approved (13-0) the following manufacturers as the Official Balls of the RIIL. The agreement with these companies is for five years (2013-2018): Nike: Soccer (boys and girls), Football, Basketball (boys and girls) and Golf; Spalding: Softball; Rawlings: Baseball and Under Armour: Volleyball (boys and girls).

CORRESPONDENCE

The RIIL received several letters from Tolman High School parents and its administration regarding the Tolman High School Hockey team withdrawing from the League next year (2013-2014). Mr. Mezzanotte will review the situation and report back to the Committee in March as to possible solutions. In another matter, Terry Lynch, Director of Athletics at South Kingstown High School is the Section I representative to the NFHS Ice Hockey Rules Committee.

NFHS RESPONSE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS:

1. The NFHS believes in the values of participation for all students. 2. Providing programs for disabled students adds value to their educational experiences. 3. The NFHS and our member state associations will work together with the Department of Education Office for Civil Rights to enhance participation opportunities for all students, including those with disabilities.

RIDE COACHES CERTIFICATE FILING FEE

The RIIL sent a letter to RIDE requesting to reduce or eliminate the \$100 fee for new coaches' certificate. According to RIDE, the current renewals for coaches must remain.

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RIIL RULES VIOLATION

East Providence High School self-reported a violation of Article 6, Section 11, (Cancellation of a Game). On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously voted (13-0) not to penalize East Providence High School.

Davies High School self-reported a violation of Article 3, Section 4 (Use of a 5th year player). As a result, the Committee unanimously voted (13-0) to impose the following penalties:

- Davies High School is fined \$100
- Davies High School Boys' Basketball team placed on one (1) year probation (January 2013 – January 2014).
- No forfeiture needed (Davies lost the five contests the ineligible student participated in)

Mt. Hope High School self-reported a violation of Article 3, Section 3 (Academic Eligibility). As a result, the Committee unanimously voted (13-0) to impose the following penalties:

- Mt. Hope High School is fined \$100
- Mt. Hope High School Gymnastics team placed on one (1) year probation (January 2013 – January 2014).
- Forfeit the one (1) match the ineligible student participated in

RIIL RULE REVISIONS

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously voted (13-0) to approve the following changes effective immediately to Article 3. Eligibility, Section 6. Foreign Exchange Students: Students attending with an F-1 VISA (Section A&B):

A. FORM 1 – APPROVED FOREIGN EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Foreign Exchange (**J-1 and F-1 Visa**) students involved in programs listed in the most current edition of the Advisory List of International Travel and Exchange Programs published by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) are eligible for participation when approved by the Executive Director. **To seek eligibility for such students, schools must provide information on the Foreign Exchange Student Data Form I, and Form III provided by the RIIL.**

B. FORM 2 – FOREIGN EXCHANGE PROGRAM

FOREIGN EXCHANGE PROGRAM NOT SPONSORED BY CSIET

Foreign Exchange (**J-1 and F-1 Visa**) Students entering member schools under a program not listed on the recognized list of the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) or entering member schools under no program who desire to participate in interscholastic athletics are held to all the requirements of Article 3, Sections 5 & 6 as well as all the other requirements of the Rules and Regulations, and are required to communicate with the Executive Director to seek eligibility for such students. After completing the Foreign Exchange Student Data Form II and Form III, an eligibility ruling must be obtained from the Committee through the Executive Director. The earliest date these students can become eligible for competition is after they have obtained a favorable eligibility ruling from the Committee, and after they have served the fifty percent (50%) of the League schedule waiting period in each sport in which they participated on a varsity level. ***It is understood that eligibility shall be for one (1) year only from the date of enrollment.***

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously voted (13-0) to approve the following changes to Article 6. Section. 7 (Student) Ejection from a game beginning in the Spring 2013 season:

Any athlete who is ejected from any contest (non-league and/or league game) at any level (freshman, junior varsity, and varsity) shall be ineligible to participate until he/she sits out the next League game including all games in between. If the infraction is judged most severe, the player may incur the additional penalty of ineligibility for a year from the date of the infraction or the remainder of his/her stay in school. (Refer to Article 6, Section 3). In addition, the athlete must fill out the Unsportsmanlike Conduct Questionnaire and **must complete the NFHS online Sportsmanship – It's Up to You Course before re-establishing eligibility.**

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously voted (13-0) to approve the following changes to Article 6. Section. 7. D.3. Coaches Ejected from Games/Matches/Meets beginning in the Spring 2013 season:

The player/coach must complete the NFHS online Sportsmanship – It's Up To You Course and fill out an Unsportsmanlike Conduct Questionnaire, which must be faxed/and mailed to the RIIL office prior to his/her reinstatement.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously voted (13-0) to table the following Article rule revisions: Article 21, Boys and Girls Ice Hockey, Section 4, Article 23, Boys Lacrosse, Section 4 and Article 24, Boys and Girls Soccer, Section 4.

REQUEST FROM MEMBER SCHOOL

The RIIL received a request from the Jacqueline M. Walsh School for performing & Visual Arts requesting the Committee on Athletics waive the dues and fees for the 2012-2013 school year. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously voted (13-0) to approve the request to waive the fee for the 2012-2013 school year.

FUTURE OF COOPERATIVE TEAMS

The Cooperative Teams Committee, chaired by Joseph Hurley, Principal of Barrington High School met to discuss the present state of cooperative teams. More information will follow.

FALL SPORTS

- **FOOTBALL** – Scott Barr, and Sean Kelly, Co-Directors – Mr. Kelly updated the Committee on a recent meeting of the Football Sport Committee.
- **TENNIS** – Colleen Gribbin, Director – On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved (13-0) rules changes to Article 27, Tennis (Boys & Girls).

WINTER SPORTS

- **GIRLS' BASKETBALL** – Cindy Neal, Director – The Committee received a letter from St. Patrick High School notifying the league they must withdraw from the League in Girls' Basketball for the remainder of the 2012-13 school year due to lack of players. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously voted (13-0) to not penalize St. Partick High School for withdrawing for the League in Girls' Basketball.

SPRING SPORTS

- **BOYS' & GIRLS' LACROSSE** – George Finn, Director – The Committee received requests from Cranston High School East and West to enter the league in Boys' Lacrosse. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved (13-0) to allow Cranston High School East and West to enter the League in Boys' Lacrosse beginning in the Spring 2013.
- **BASEBALL** – Brian Butler and Terry Lynch, Co-Directors – The Committee received a request from the Baseball Sport Committee requesting to allow the Baseball Division II to play an additional non-league game for a total of four (4) non-league games. Total league games is 16 plus 4 non-league games for a total of 20. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee approved (9-4) the request to allow the Baseball Division II to play an additional non-league game effective with the 2013 season. The Committee received a request from the Baseball and Softball Sport Committee requesting to allow baseball and softball freshman pitchers and catchers in the pre-season conditioning program for the 2012-2013 season. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee on Athletics approved (7-6) baseball and softball coaches may include freshman pitchers and catchers in the pre-season conditioning program for the 2012-2013 season.
- **FAST PITCH SOFTBALL** – Betty Marquis, Director – The Committee received a request from the Baseball and Softball Sport Committee requesting to allow baseball and softball freshman pitchers and catchers in the pre-season conditioning program for the 2012-2013 season. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee on Athletics approved (7-6) baseball and softball coaches may include freshman pitchers and catchers in the pre-season conditioning program for the 2012-2013 season.
- **TENNIS** – Kevin McNamara, Director – On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved (13-0) rules changes to Article 27, Tennis (Boys & Girls).

BOYS' VOLLEYBALL ALIGNMENT

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved (13-0) the Boys' Volleyball alignment.

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 5:00 P.M.

Signed:

Susana Borges, RIIL, Board Secretary

Date: _____