

**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Principals' Committee on Athletics
Monday, January 27, 2014
1:30 pm
RIIL 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, Kenworthy, McCarthy, Sollitto, Traficante, Warner and Whaley

Also Present: Thomas Mezzanotte, Executive Director; Mike Lunney, Assistant Director, Susana Borges, Administrative Assistant; Bob Cavanagh, Director, Boys' Soccer and Brendan McGair, *Pawtucket Times*

Absent: Messr: Littlefield

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

WELCOME NEW PCOA MEMBERS AND SPORT COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

The Committee welcomed new PCOA members Michaela Keegan, Principal of Juanita Sanchez Complex and Thomas W. Kenworthy, Ed.D, Principal of North Kingstown High School. Ms. Keegan is the sport director for Boys' Tennis and Mr. Kenworthy is the sport director for Girls' Lacrosse. Also, Mr. Whaley will become the co-sport director of baseball. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) approved the assignment of Mr. Jay Brennan, Principal, Bishop Hendricken as co-sport director of Boys' and Girls' Indoor Track.

FINANCE REPORT

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) approved the finance report submitted by Ms. Donna Kane, Business Manager.

PCOA MINUTES NOVEMBER 18, 2013

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the November 18, 2013 meeting was unanimously (15-0) approved.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Mezzanotte provided updates regarding the following:

- Legal Issues
- Next PCOA meeting scheduled on March 24, 2014
- RIIL/RIIAAA Coaches-AD Conference scheduled for August
- NFHS PSA's and Posters
- Proposed RI Legislation revised-Chapter 16-91

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Mezzanotte referred to several letters, memoranda and publications placed in each member's folder or filed in the League office. The RIIL has had three student-athletes featured in the NFHS High School Today magazine. Also, Mr. Mezzanotte congratulated Mount Saint Charles Academy for their Sportsmanship program.

RIIL CHALLENGE CUP – FALL STANDINGS

The Challenge Cup fall standings are posted online. The Large School Division leader is LaSalle Academy; Medium School Division leader is Coventry High School and Small School Division leader is Moses Brown School. Congratulations to all teams!

RIIL MARKETING REPORT

Mr. Mezzanotte reported on the approved sponsorship between the RIIL and Burger King. This sponsorship will feature the Student-Athlete of the Month and Team of the week.

RIIL STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD

Mr. Lunney reported on the progress of our Student Advisory Board. The RIIL Student Advisory Board and Burger King are teaming up together to publically recognize an individual team every week, starting in April, for their significant academic success, leadership, community service, sportsmanship, team growth, and athletic service. Also, they will be sponsoring a Captain's Workshop scheduled on March 8, 2014 at North Kingstown High School.

RIIL RULES VIOLATIONS

Narragansett High School: Article 3 (Eligibility), Section 1.G – allowing grade 8 students to participate with the Narragansett Boys' and Girls' Outdoor Track team

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) voted to assess the following sanctions:

1. Fine Narragansett High School the sum of one hundred dollars (\$100.00)
2. Place the Narragansett Boys' and Girls' Outdoor Track program on probation for a period of one (1) year

Classical, Juanita Sanchez, Moses Brown and Mount Pleasant: Article 6, Section 6 – Use of an Ineligible Athlete – Boys' Indoor Track

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) voted to impose a fine of \$100 on the following schools Classical, Juanita Sanchez, Moses Brown and Mount Pleasant for violating Article 6, Section 6 due to error by a school official.

Central Falls, Providence Country Day, St. Raphael and Tolman: Article 6, Section 6 – Use of an Ineligible Athlete – Boys' Indoor Track

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) voted to impose a fine of \$100 on the following schools Central Falls, Providence Country Day, St. Raphael and Tolman. In addition, each coach is suspended for the next scheduled League meet (one meet) for violating Article 6, Section 6 due to coach error.

LaSalle Academy: Article 6, Section 6 – Use of an Ineligible Athlete – Gymnastics

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) voted to impose a fine of \$100 on the LaSalle Academy for violating Article 6, Section 6 due to error by a school official.

Mt. Hope High School: Article 6, Section 6 – Use of an Ineligible Athlete – Boys' Hockey

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) voted to impose a fine of \$100 on Mt. Hope High School. In addition, the Boys' Hockey coach is suspended for the next scheduled League meet (one meet) for violating Article 6, Section 6 due to coach error.

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM REQUEST FROM BARRINGTON CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

The Committee on Athletics reviewed and discussed a request from the Barrington Christian Academy requesting to join the RIIL and allow students the opportunity to play in accordance with Article 3, Section 1.L of the RIIL Rules and Regulations. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously voted (15-0) to approve their request.

RIIL TRANSGENDER POLICY

The RIIL Transgender Policy Committee met and will have another meeting. Transgender Policy will be presented at the March meeting.

FALL SPORT ALIGNMENT APPROVALS

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved (15-0) the following RIIL sport fall alignments for 2014-2016: Boys' Soccer, Girls' Soccer, Field Hockey, Football, Girls' Tennis, Girls' Volleyball and Boys' and Girls' Cross Country.

RIIL RULE REVISIONS

Article 24, Soccer

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously voted (15-0) to approve the following rule revisions to Article 24, Soccer:

1. The **home** team **MUST** have a scorer located at mid field (table is not a requirement). If none is provided, the **home** team coach will be issued a yellow card prior to the start of the game.
2. Shootout eligibility: Anyone who played in the game is eligible to participate in the shootout.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee discussed several matters in Executive session.

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

TOLMAN HIGH SCHOOL APPEAL - DENIED

Mr. Christopher Savastano, Principal, Tolman High School appealed sanctions levied against the Tolman High School football team. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously voted (0-15) to deny the appeal.

RIIL COOP PROPOSAL – ARTICLE 3, SECTION I-J

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved (15-0) the new rules governing the formation of cooperative teams. (See Article 3, Section I-J online.)

RIIL WAIVER APPEAL PROCESS – ARTICLE 1, SECTION 16, WAIVER OF RULES FOR STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved (15-0) the revised process described in Article 1, Section 16 - Waiver of Rules for Student Eligibility. (See Article 1, Section 16 online.)

ARTICLE 30: UNIFIED SPORTS

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved (15-0) changes to Article 30, Unified Sports. (See Article 30 online.)

FOOTBALL

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) voted to approve the following:

1. Article 19 (Football), Section 5 – Football playoff format. All Thanksgiving Day “League games” must be played during the regular season. As a result, all semifinal football games will be played on the Friday before Thanksgiving. The traditional Thanksgiving Day games will be played as in the past as “non-league” games. Divisional championship games will be played a minimum of seven (7) days after Thanksgiving.
2. Article 19 (Football), Section 1 – Rule prohibiting football full contact to no more than 90 minutes per week.
3. Proposal allowing Mr. Jim Ashley, RIIL football assigner to assign all junior varsity and freshman games for the 2014 season.

RIIL OFFICIALS’ FEES 2014-2017

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) approved all RIIL Officials’ Fees for 2014-2017 (Article 9 - Officials).

WINTER SPORTS

- **GIRLS’ BASKETBALL** – Cindy Neal, Sport Director – The RIIL received a letter from Saint Patrick Academy notifying the League they cannot field a Girls’ Basketball team for the 2013-2014 school year. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) approved St. Patrick Academy’s request to drop Girls’ Basketball for the 2013-2014 season without sanctions.
- **BOYS’ AND GIRLS’ INDOOR TRACK** – The Committee reviewed a request from the RI Indoor Track & Field Coaches Association regarding the recent PCOA approval of the indoor pole vault as an exhibition event at the RIIL State Indoor Track & Field Championships. There was no motion to revisit this matter.

SPRING SPORTS

- **BOYS’ LACROSSE** – George Finn, Sport Director – The RIIL received a letter from North Providence High School requesting to enter Boys’ Lacrosse beginning with the 2013-2014 school year. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved (15-0) the request.
- **BOYS’ TENNIS** – Michaela Keegan, Sport Director – On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) approved a request from Middletown and Rogers High School to form a cooperative team in Boys’ Tennis beginning with the 2013-2014 school year.

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 4:30 P.M.

Signed:

Susana Borges, RIIL Board Secretary

Date: _____