

**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Principals' Committee on Athletics
Monday, August 16, 2016 @ 1:30 pm
RIIL Office
Bldg. #6 RI College Campus
600 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Providence, RI**

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman McNamara; Mmes., Abromitis, Crowley, and Keegan; Messrs., Barr, Brennan, Henderson, Kavanagh, Kelly, Marcello, and Whaley

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

Absent: Mme., Gribbin; Messrs., DiMuccio, Goho and Warner

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

PCOA MINUTES JUNE 20, 2016

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the June 20, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved (11-0).

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: Rule Revision of Article 2., Section 1. – Membership; The Wheeler School request; Smithfield HS Rule Violations (Article 3., Section 4., Academic Eligibility; 2016-2017 Budget and Finance Committee Meeting.

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

RIIL FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT - BUDGET 2016-2017

Mr. Sean Kelly, chairman of the Finance Committee reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on August 15, 2016 and submitted its report regarding the 2016-2017 RIIL budget and the 2015-2016 revenue share with RIIL schools. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee on Athletics unanimously approved (11-0) the RIIL budget for the 2016-2017 school year. In another matter, on a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved (11-0) the purchase of new building on 333 Centerville Road, Warwick, RI.

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

The 2015-2016 Annual Report was reviewed and approved. Copies will be distributed to all schools.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Mezzanotte reported on the following:

- Michael Lunney – NIAAA Distinguished Service Award
- Computer Management System – *rSchool Today*
- NFHS Committee Appointments – Anna Saccoccio, Field Hockey and Robin Ramey, Softball
- RIC Lease non-renewal and Purchase of new building
- Coaches Certification: Update
- 2016 NFHS Summer Conference
- 2017 NFHS Summer Conference – Providence, RI
- 2015-2016 RIIL Accomplishments
- 2016-2017 RIIL Goals
- Retirement of Andre Thibault – Providence School Department
- NFHS Student Leadership Conference
- NESLC Student Leadership
- Annual Principals Breakfast: Friday, September 30th @ The Crowne Plaza

PCOA VACANCY

Due to two (2) vacancies on the PCOA, the Committee is accepting applications from its member school principals in accordance with Article 1, Section 4.J. The deadline for submission of applications is October 1st and will be presented to the Committee at its November meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

The RIIL received a letter from a parent regarding hockey player safety. The RIIL will take under advisement.

SCHOOL REQUESTS

The RIIL received a request from The Wheeler School requesting to join the League in all sports by the spring of 2018. RIIL governed sports will be added in accordance with the following schedule: **Winter 2016-2017** – Boys’ and Girls’ Basketball and Boys’ and Girls’ Swim; **Fall of 2017**: Boys’ and Girls’ Soccer and Boys’ and Girls’ Cross Country; **Spring of 2018**; Boys’ and Girls’ Outdoor Track and Boys’ and Girls’ Golf Team. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved (11-0) Wheeler School’s request.

In addition, on a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved (11-0) Wheeler’s request to waive Article 3, Section 5B-1, allowing a ninth grader to participate as a 5th year senior during the 2018-2019 school year.

RIIL RULE VIOLATIONS:

The Committee heard testimony from Mr. Dan Kelley, Principal of Smithfield High School regarding violations of Article 3, Section 4., Academic Eligibility. As a result of Smithfield high school’s investigation and self-reporting of eleven (11) violations of Article 3., Section 4., the Committee voted unanimously (11-0) to approve the following sanctions:

1. The Smithfield HS Athletic Program is placed on probation for a period of three (3) years (2016-17, 2017-18 & 2018-19)
2. Smithfield HS will be fined a sum of \$1,100.
3. Smithfield HS fully implements all aspects of the Athletic Program Improvement Plan.

In addition, Mr. Kelley submitted and Athletic Program Improvement Plan. It was noted that **all** athletes in violation of Article 3., Section 4., had no impact on state championships. The Committee commends Mr. Kelley and the Smithfield high school’s administration for their integrity and professionalism in handling this matter.

RIIL RULE REVISIONS:

The Committee discussed Article 2., Section 1., Membership. The discussion centered around the differences between schools whose teams solely participate in sports offered by the RIIL, and schools whose teams choose to partially participate in sports offered by the RIIL. In addition, the Committee reviewed responses it received from those schools (Moses Brown, PCD and Rocky Hill) who could be affected by a rule change in this area. This matter was tabled until the November Meeting.

NFHS OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION: RI OFFICIALS 100% STATE

Mr. Mezzanotte reported as of September 2016, all Rhode Island officials must be a member of the NFHS Officials Association.

RIIAAA REPORT – THOMAS MARCELLO

No report given.

FALL SPORTS

Nothing to report.

WINTER SPORTS

Boys and Girls Basketball and Boys and Girls Swim – the Committee unanimously approved (11-0) a request from The Wheeler School requesting to join the League (in all sports by the spring of 2018) beginning with Boys’ and Girls’ Basketball and Boys’ and Girls’ Swim for the 2016-2017 school year.

SPRING SPORTS AND ALIGNMENT – 2016-2018

The spring alignments are due in October for the November PCOA Meeting. Also, Mr. Mezzanotte reported on the NFHS Rule Pitching Restriction Polices in High School Baseball to be Based on Number of Pitches.

WAIVER HEARING COMMITTEE APPEAL

Marykate McGuire – Portsmouth High School

Waiver of Article 3, Section 5., Transfer Rule. Appealing a decision of Waiver Hearing Committee.

Motion to grant waiver: 5-6 (**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 August meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 4:44 P.M.

Signed:

Susana Borges, RIIL Board Secretary

Date: _____