

**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Principals' Committee on Athletics
Monday, November 18, 2013
1:30 pm
RIIL Office
Bldg. #6 RI College Campus
600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Providence, RI**

Executive Director's Report #2

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

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

Absent: none

The November 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 matters in Executive session.

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

FINANCE REPORT

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved the finance report submitted by Ms. Donna Kane, Business Manager.

PCOA MINUTES AUGUST 19, 2013

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the August 19, 2013 meeting was unanimously (14-0) approved.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- RIIL games on the NFHS Network –
 - Numerous RIIL Fall Championship events were steamed live on the NFHS Network.
 - A workshop for schools interested in providing in-school streaming was held on September 11.
- Continued adjustments and upgrades are being implemented on the RIIL Website.
- Mr. Mezzanotte and Mr. Lunney attended the annual NFHS Section I meeting in New Hampshire.
- Mr. Mezzanotte attended a national NFHS Task Force meeting on adaptive athletics.
- Clean Competition Grant –
 - Numerous schools have hosted the Hooten Foundation Presentation on the dangers of self-enhancing and steroids.
- RIIL Sports Medicine Advisory Committee -
 - The RIIL SMAC met in September and discussed numerous sports injury related issues. Concussions and "Return to play," collection of athletic related injury data, heat acclimatization, etc.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: NEW MEMBER

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved to add Mr. Stephen Angell, Esq. Pres of Dexter Credit Union to the RIIL Finance Committee.

PCOA NEW APPOINTMENTS

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 (11-3) to approve the appointments of Michaela Keegan, Principal of Juanita Sanchez Complex and Thomas W. Kenworthy, Ed.D, Principal of North Kingstown High School.

2014 RIIL HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

On behalf of the RIIL Hall of Fame Committee, Mr. Mezzanotte recommended the following eleven (11) names for consideration as inductees into the 2014 Class of the RIIL High School Athletic Hall of Fame: Rocco Baldelli; Keith Carney; Lawrence Caswell (posthumously); David Emma; Tolu Fayantuola; Gerald Foley; Frank Geiselman; Leah Grant; Shannon Perry; David Stenhouse and Jane Toomey.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee on Athletics unanimously approved (14-0) the recommended names for the Class of 2014 Hall of Fame induction.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Mezzanotte spoke about numerous issues and topics regarding the RIIL and NFHS. In addition, Mr. Mezzanotte recognized Mr. Gerry Foley for the 2014 RIIL Award for Outstanding Service. Also, recognition of Allie Gould of North Smithfield High School selected to join the Special Olympics Global Unified Sports Advisory for a two (2) year term. Congratulations!

RIIL RULES VIOLATION

Pilgrim High School: Soccer Ejection

The Committee reviewed an incident on October 14, 2013 between a Pilgrim player and soccer official. After discussion, the Committee voted to suspend player #6 from participating in any sports at Pilgrim for the remainder of the year, and from participating in soccer next season (2014). In addition, the Committee has requested the principal to investigate the actions of the Pilgrim coach during and after this incident. The Committee will review and discuss this matter at its next meeting.

Pilgrim High School: Article 6, Section 6 – Use of an Ineligible Athlete – Boys' Cross Country

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously voted (14-0) to impose a fine of \$100 for violating Article 6, Section 6. The Committee also reminded Pilgrim High School to be sure that all the athletes are added to the eligibility lists prior to them participating in any future competition.

Toll Gate High School: Article 7, Section 6.D.1 – Coaching out of Season – Girls' Ice Hockey

After reviewing a violation as reported by the Toll Gate Athletic Director, the Committee voted to assess the following sanctions:

1. Two (2) game suspension of the head Girls' Hockey coach. (First two (2) RIIL *League* contests and any games in between beginning with the 2013-14 hockey season)
2. Fine Toll Gate High School the sum of two hundred dollars (\$200.00)
3. Place the Girls' Ice Hockey program on probation for a period of two (2) years

In addition, the Committee expects the athletic director of Toll Gate High School to carefully review all RIIL Rules and Regulations with the Girls' Ice Hockey Coaches.

West Warwick High School: Article 7, Section 6.D.1 – Coaching out of Season – Girls' Ice Hockey

After reviewing a violation as reported by the West Warwick Athletic Director, the Committee voted to assess the following sanctions:

1. Two (2) game suspension of the head Girls' Hockey coach. (First two (2) RIIL *League* contests and any games in between beginning with the 2013-14 hockey season)
2. Fine West Warwick High School the sum of two hundred dollars (\$200.00)
3. Place the Girls' Ice Hockey program on probation for a period of two (2) years

In addition, the Committee expects the athletic director of West Warwick High School to carefully review all RIIL Rules and Regulations with the Girls' Ice Hockey Coaches.

RIIL RULES REVISIONS

ALTERNATE SPORTS PROGRAM – ARTICLE 3, SECTION IK

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved a change to Alternate Sports Program – Article 3, Section IK on behalf of the Providence School Department.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved the following:

Article 7 – Limitation of Seasons

Section 6.L

L. Captain's Practice: The term "Captain's Practice" usually means the team's captain(s) organizing and conducting, *without adult supervision*, out-of-season practice for that sport.

The RIIL does not in any way sanction, encourage, or condone "Captain's Practice" in any sport.

"Captain's Practice", depending on the member schools' involvement, may be a clear violation of the rules defining season limitations.

Even though coaches are not present, allowing captain's practice to be held on school grounds may constitute that the school has organized, encouraged or condoned the activity.

There is also a serious practical consideration. If it can be demonstrated that a school is allowing "Captain's Practice", the liability responsibility for an injured athlete may be quite serious.

We strongly recommend that member schools communicate their stance on captain's practices to coaches, students and parents so that there is no confusion. In many cases, students and parents perceive that this type of activity is organized and administered by the school and there is an obligation for students to participate.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved the following revisions to Article 28 and 29 – Boys Track and Girls Track:

Section 7 WINTER TRACK

A. Dual Meet Entries- Dual meet entries must be submitted to the **RIIL Track and Field Director as an electronic HYTEK Entry File. Entry deadline and number of changes will be designated by the Director.** Teams are limited to **four (4)** entries per event. **(Entrants in the 3000 may be limited to 3 if the additional runners would require a third heat of the 3000.**

D. For an athlete to be eligible to compete in the Class meet, an athlete must meet the established minimum standards. **If the number of qualifying performances does not complete the field of 18 competitors, the best non-qualifying performances will be allowed to complete the field of 18 competitors.** The list of standards will be provided to coaches at the Winter Interpretation Meeting.

E. An athlete to compete in the State Championship must be among the top eighteen (18) and ties (12 in relay events). The Games Committee may adjust the number of competitors in the Hurdles and Dash to a field of 24. Rank order performance lists as maintained by the Meet Director shall determine eligibility to compete. Performances from dual meets, class meets, as well as any additional meets designated as "qualifying" meets shall be used in developing ranking lists. Four (4) alternates will be accepted in individual events and 2 alternates in the relays. **Alternates will be decided by the designated scratch period.**

REQUESTS FROM MEMBER SCHOOLS

EAST PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL – APPEAL OF ATHLETIC PROBATION

The Committee reviewed and discussed East Providence High School's request to waive the probationary status for a previous violation of Article 3 Section 4A –Eligibility. The Committee was very appreciative that the East Providence School Department took the violation very seriously and did in fact take appropriate steps to correct the problem. They also commended East Providence for being proactive in instituting new protocols that will ensure the success of its athletic department. However, the Committee will not take action to remove the probationary status for the 2013-2014 school year.

REQUEST WAIVER OF \$50.00 FINE FOR MISSING THE RIIL MANDATORY PRINCIPALS' BREAKFAST

The RIIL received requests from the following schools requesting a waiver of the \$50.00 fine for missing the mandatory Principals' Breakfast on September 13, 2013: Academy for Career Exploration, Blackstone Academy Charter School, RI Nurses Institute Middle College, NEL/CPS Charter School and Alvarez High School. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved a one-time waiver of the \$50.00 fee. However, the Committee expects all member schools to attend future mandatory meetings.

In another matter, the Committee received a request from Shea High School requesting a waiver of the \$50.00 fine for missing the mandatory Principals' Breakfast in September. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved to waive the \$50.00 fee.

F-1 VISA ISSUE: REQUEST FROM ST. RAPHAEL AND MOUNT SAINT CHARLES ACADEMY TO MODIFY ARTICLE 3, SECTION 6.E. – FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS

The Committee reviewed requests from St. Raphael and Mount Saint Charles Academy to reconsider a previous ruling involving of F-1 Visa students. After discussion, the Committee voted to amend the existing rule. The amended version of Article 3, Section 6.E. as follows:

F-1 VISA STUDENTS – After receiving a favorable ruling from the Executive Director, F-1 Visa students will be eligible immediately provided they did not participate on a varsity level at their previous school. If they participated on a varsity level at their previous school, they must sit out 50% of the League schedule in each sport in which they participated on a varsity level. After completing Form # 2 & #3, and receiving a favorable ruling from the Executive Director, F-1 Visa students may participate in sports during their high school career, but may only participate at the Varsity Level for 1 year. In the sports where a junior varsity level team is not available, the F-1 Visa student will be required to obtain a waiver from the RIIL to participate at the varsity level in that sport.

NFHS COACH OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

The RIIL nominated Rhode Island coaches for the NFHS Coach of the Year 2013.

RIIL TRANSGENDER POLICY

The Committee discussed the existing RIIL Transgender Policy. A committee will be formed to review and make the necessary recommendations.

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

The Committee discussed the RIIL Waiver Appeal Process – Article 1, Section 16, Waiver of Rules for Student Eligibility. The Committee advised Mr. Mezzanotte to re-write new policy for future approval.

FALL SPORTS AND FALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The RIIL received a request from Jim Ashley to extend the agreement with the SE Mass Officials Association one more year. The Committee tabled the matter to its next meeting in January.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved (14-0) the following 2013 fall championships: Girls' Tennis, Girls' Volleyball, Boys' Soccer, Girls' Soccer, Boys' and Girls' Cross Country, Field Hockey and Freshman Football.

WINTER SPORTS

- **BOYS' AND GIRLS' ICE HOCKEY** – Terry Lynch and George Egan, Co-Directors – The RIIL received a request on behalf of the Ice Hockey Committee for Girls' Hockey to play 15 minute periods and a Mercy Rule during the third period. Mercy rule proposal: *“Running time can commence in the third period if there is a 6 goal difference in the score. The clock will stop when a penalty is assessed. If during the third period the score is reduced to less than a 6 goal difference regular stop time will be reinstated.”* On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved the adoption of the mercy rule (**Girls Hockey only**).
- **BOYS' AND GIRLS' INDOOR TRACK** – Ken Skelly and Bob Bayha, Co-Directors – **A proposal was presented to the Committee on Athletics for inclusion of Pole Vault as an exhibition event at the Indoor Track State Meet.** On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved the request. Also, the Indoor Track Committee requested a waiver of Article 7, Section 1.C. *“Games shall begin on the 11th day.”* **Result:** Season will start 8 or 9 days after the first practice. Reason: PCTA facility is the only site for indoor track meets. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved the request.

COOPERATIVE TEAMS APPROVAL – GIRLS' ICE HOCKEY

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved a request from the Coventry Public Schools Committee to join the North Smithfield and Smithfield High School Girls' Ice Hockey coop team beginning with the 2013-2014 season. This request is pending school department approval from all schools. It's approved for one (1) year only (2013-14).

SPRING SPORTS

- **GIRLS' LACROSSE** – Tom Kenworthy, Director – The RIIL received a letter from The Wheeler School requesting to enter Girls' Lacrosse beginning with the 2013-2014 school year. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee approved (13-1) the request. In another matter, the RIIL received a request from Narragansett High School requesting to move to up to Division II in Girls' Lacrosse beginning with the 2013-2014 year. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved the request.

WAIVER HEARING COMMITTEE APPEALS

Sean McElkenny – The Prout School

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

Motion to grant waiver: 2-7-2 (**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 5:45 P.M.

Signed:

Susana Borges
RIIL Board Secretary

Date: _____