

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

Executive Director's Report #4

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

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

Absent: Mme., Crowley; Messrs., DiMuccio, Kavanagh, McNamara, and Sollitto

The March 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.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

On a motion made and seconded, the Executive Director's Report from the January 28, 2013 meeting was unanimously approved (10-0).

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Finance Committee met on March 18, 2013. The following items were discussed and recommend for approval:

- RIIL investment update by Dan Carney
- Update RIIL.org Website Home Page and Members Only
- PlayOn Sports Production Agreement. 3 years.
- RIIL Revenue Share Plan (2013-2014) and Stipend (One time after 1 July 13 distribution to schools)

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved (10-0) all of the above recommended items by the Finance Committee.

HOPE HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL INCIDENT

The Committee met with Jim Larsen, Assistant Principal, Hope High School, David Nyblom, Boys' Basketball Head Coach, Hope High School and Pedro Correia Boys' Basketball Assistant Coach to discuss unacceptable behavior exhibited by Hope High School Boys' Basketball team members during the playing of the national anthem on the night of February 22. Coach Nyblom wrote a letter of apology to Mr. Mezzanotte and accepted full responsibility for his team members inappropriate actions. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously voted (10-0) to impose the following penalties:

1. Hope High School is fined \$100.00.
2. Coach David Nyblom is suspended for the first 3 league Boys' Basketball games (and any games in between) in the 2014 Boys' Basketball season.
3. The Hope Boys' Basketball Coaching staff must take and complete the NFHS Sportsmanship course online and it must be verified by the Hope High School athletic director.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Committee received a letter from East Providence High School requesting a waiver of the \$50.00 fine for a missed Boys' Tennis Coaches Interpretation Meeting on February 7, 2013. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved (10-0) to waive the \$50.00 fine.

Mr. Mezzanotte reported on an article, "*Cheerleading is Not a Sport.*" In the article it states, "A US District Court judge in Connecticut has again ruled that competitive cheerleading, despite some upgrades, is not a sport."

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In addition, Mr. Mezzanotte reported on a letter received by Rogers High School sighting numerous inappropriate behavior by Cumberland fans during the Cumberland/Rogers hockey quarterfinals.

RIIL/NFHS SPIRIT OF SPORT AWARD RECIPIENT

Mr. Mezzanotte reported Kendra Cimaglia, a junior cheerleader at Johnston High School, not only has been selected as the 2013 RI Interscholastic League Spirit of Award recipient but also the 2013 Section I recipient of the National Federation of State High School Associations. She will receive both awards the night of the RIIL Hall of Fame banquet in May.

COACHES EDUCATION UPDATE

Mr. Mezzanotte presented the following new/updated NFHS coaches education courses: *First Aid, Health and Safety for Coaches, Fundamentals of Coaching Baseball, Coaching Unified Sports* (Free), *Fundamentals of Coaching revision, Pole Vault: Successful Skill Development* (Free) and *A Guide to Nutrition and Supplements*. (Free).

RIIL RULES VIOLATION

Prout School self-reported a swim violation of Article 3, Section 3 (Academic Eligibility). As a result, the Committee unanimously voted (10-0) the following:

- Prout School is fined \$100
- No forfeiture needed (boys swim team lost the meet and the female swimmer was part of a relay team and had no bearing on meet).
- No action will be taken against the student-athletes.

Lincoln High School self-reported a swim violation of Article 6, Section 6 (Use of Ineligible Athletes). As a result, the Committee unanimously voted (10-0) to impose the following penalties:

- Lincoln High School is fined \$100

Hope High School self-report a wrestling violation of NFHS Wrestling Rule 4-4, Article 1 and RIIL Rule Article 32, Section 1A. As a result, the Committee unanimously (10-0) voted to impose the following penalties:

- Hope High School is fine \$100
- Hope High School wrestling team on probation for the 2013-14 season
- Forfeit of the ineligible wrestler's points in the match against Barrington High School on February 7, 2013

RIIL RULE REVISIONS

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously voted (10-0) to approve the following changes to the RIIL Rules and Regulations:

Article 22, Boys/Girls Hockey, Section 4:

The home school should provide the services of a licensed doctor and/or a licensed athletic trainer at all hockey games. ***The medical personnel must introduce himself/herself to both coaches and referee prior to the start of the game.*** S/he shall sit on the home team bench so that s/he will be available at all times.

Article 23, Boys Lacrosse, Section 4:

The home school should provide the services of a licensed doctor and/or a licensed athletic trainer at all boys lacrosse games. ***The medical personnel must introduce himself/herself to both coaches and referee prior to the start of the game.*** S/he shall sit on the home team bench so that s/he will be available at all times.

Article 24, Boys and Girls Soccer, Section 4:

The home school should provide the services of a licensed doctor and/or a licensed athletic trainer at all soccer games. ***The medical personnel must introduce himself/herself to both coaches and referee prior to the start of the game.*** S/he shall sit on the home team bench so that s/he will be available at all times.

Article 6, Section 12A:

In the event that a school withdraws from the RIIL in any sport to ~~organize and~~ participate in another league, the Committee shall exclude said school from participation in all RIIL sports. An appeal of this suspension shall be governed by Article 1, Section 16.

REQUEST FROM MEMBER SCHOOL

The Committee received a request from St. Mary Academy Bay View regarding schools choosing to participate in some sports and not others. The Committee discussed this matter and it is tabled until the June meeting.

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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 future of cooperative teams. A survey has been sent to all schools and the Cooperative Teams Committee will report back to the Committee on Athletics with the survey results.

FALL SPORTS

- **FOOTBALL** – Scott Barr, and Sean Kelly, Co-Directors –The Committee reviewed a request to allow the Mt. Pleasant High School football team to move up from Division IV to Division III beginning with the 2013 season. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee referred the request to the Football Sports Committee for recommendation and approval. In another matter, Mr. Barr reported the Football Sport Committee will met on March 21, 2013 to review bid proposals from various football officials associations.

WINTER SPORTS

- **GIRLS' BASKETBALL** – Cindy Neal, Director – The Committee received a report from the Girls' Basketball Committee. In the report, the Girls' Basketball Committee recommended the following: Division II teams crossover with the same league they crossed over in 2012-2013. The only change would be a flip of home/away. After next season, the crossover leagues would change. Also, recommends the Division III quarterfinal games be played at the same college site as the Division I & II.

WINTER CHAMPIONSHIPS

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved (10-0) the following winter championships: Boys and Girls Indoor Track, Boys and Girls Swim, Boys and Girls Basketball, Boys and Girls Hockey, Gymnastics and Competition Cheer.

WAIVER HEARING COMMITTEE APPEAL

Benjamin Becker – *Barrington High School*

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

Motion to grant waiver: 3-7 (***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 March meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 5:30 P.M.

Signed:

Susana Borges, RIIL, Board Secretary

Date: _____