

**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Principals' Committee on Athletics
Friday, February 6, 2015
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, Gribbin and Keegan; Messrs., Brennan, DiMuccio, Goho, Kavanagh, Kelly, Sollitto, Vetelino and Whaley

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

Absent: Messrs., Barr, Littlefield, McCarthy and Warner

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

PCOA MINUTES NOVEMBER 17, 2014

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the November 17, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved (13-0).

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: PCOA Vacancy – Recommend Ramon Torres, Director, PCTA; Resignation of Kathy Luther, RIIL Sport Director of Girls' Volleyball; Recommend approval of Ray DeAngelis, RIIL Sport Director of Girls' Volleyball and Co-Director of Boys' Volleyball; Illinois High School Association, Class Action Litigation - COMMON INTEREST, JOINT DEFENSE, AND INFORMATION SHARING AGREEMENT; RIIL Concussion Summit Guidelines and PCOA Finance & Waiver Hearing Meeting dates 2015-2016

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

FINANCE REPORT

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee on Athletics unanimously authorized (13-0) for the Executive Director to explore the creation of a new sports editor and director of multi-media person. This position will be funded using reserve funds.

PCOA APPOINTMENT

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee on Athletics voted (13-0) to approve the appointment of Mr. Ramon Torres, Director, Providence Career and Technical Academy to the RIIL Waiver Hearing Committee.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Mezzanotte reported on the following:

- Common Interest, Joint Defense Agreement
- RIIL Student Leadership Conference
- NFHS Concussion Summit - Guidelines
- PCOA, Finance & Waiver Hearing Meeting Dates – 2015-2016
- Spring Athletic Administrator's Meeting – March 11th at RIIL
- Awards Recognition Luncheon (*Student Athlete of the Month, Athletic Director and Coach of the Year and Spirit of Sport*) – April 7th at Quidnessett Country Club
- Coaches & AD Conference – March 28th at TBD

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee on Athletics voted to approve (13-0) the Common Interest, Joint Defense, and Information Sharing Agreement with the Illinois High School Association.

COOPERATIVE TEAM APPROVALS - SPRING

The following spring cooperative teams were approved for one year only with a phase out period: **Boys Lacrosse**: Burrillville/North Smithfield and Tiverton/Rogers (2014-2015). **Girls Lacrosse**: Burrillville/North Smithfield (2014-2015). **Fastpitch Softball**: Juanita Sanchez/Rocky Hill (2014-2015). **Boys Tennis**: Rogers/Middletown. The following spring cooperative team was approved for two years (2014-15 & 2015-16) in **Boys Lacrosse**: Providence Country Day/Saint Raphael Academy.

RIIL RULE CHANGE PROPOSAL

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee on Athletics unanimously (13-0) voted to approve the following change to Article 1, Section 4, Governing and Operations:

Each PCOA member casts a vote for a candidate. If there are more than two (2) candidates, the candidates who received more than 50% will be selected. If no candidate receives the necessary 50% the two (2) with the most votes will be selected, and run-off election will be held to select the candidate.

RIIL RULES VIOLATIONS

Cranston High School West: Article 6, Section 6 – Use of an Ineligible Athlete – Boys Basketball

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously voted (13-0) to impose a fine of \$100 for violating Article 6, Section 6. The Committee also reminded Cranston High School West to be sure that all the athletes are added to the eligibility lists prior to them participating in any future competition.

Lincoln High School: Article 6, Section 6 – Use of an Ineligible Athlete – Boys Basketball

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee voted (12-0-1) to impose a fine of \$100 for violating Article 6, Section 6. The Committee also reminded Lincoln High School to be sure that all the athletes are added to the eligibility lists prior to them participating in any future competition.

Hope High School: Article 3., Section 6., Use of an Ineligible Athlete - Freshman Boys' Basketball

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously voted (13-0) to impose a fine of \$100 to Hope High School and wins on January 13th & January 20th must be forfeited. The Freshman Boys' Basketball standings were changed accordingly.

Mount Pleasant and Shea High School Football Incident

The Committee on Athletics reviewed and discussed several incidents that occurred on November 14, 2014, between the Shea High School and Mount Pleasant High School football teams.

The following incidents were reviewed:

- A pre-game argument between the head coaches of both teams
- Ejection of players from the Mount Pleasant High School football team
- Post-game supervision of the Mount Pleasant High School football players

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) approved the following sanctions:

1. Both the Shea head coach and Mount Pleasant head coach be suspended from coaching the first non-league football game in the 2015 season for inappropriate, unprofessional conduct in the presence of their respective teams during the pre-game warm-ups.
2. Due to what was perceived as a lack of supervision by the Mount Pleasant coaching staff at the conclusion of the Shea football game and in instances that took place during the 2014 season:
 - a. The Mt. Pleasant High football program be placed on probation for a period of 3 years (2015-2017)
 - b. Mt. Pleasant High principal submit a plan designed to improve supervision/and sportsmanship at all football games.
 - c. Mt. Pleasant administrator be present on the sidelines at all home/away football games (2015 season).

Boys Ice Hockey: Burrillville and North Kingstown High School Incident

The Committee on Athletics reviewed and discussed a hockey incident that took place on December 6, 2014 between a player from Burrillville High and player from North Kingstown High.

RI INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION (RIIAAA) REPORT

Mr. Jamey Vetelino, President of the RIIAAA submitted a report on behalf of the RIIAAA. Topics discussed were as follows: RIIL/RIIAAA cooperative state conference on March 28th at TBD; RIIAAA's Annual Awards Ceremony on April 2nd at the Crown Plaza, Warwick; Re-alignment and RIPCOA 6-8.

RIIL STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD

Mr. Lunney reported the next RIIL Student Advisory Board (SAB) Meeting will be held on February 11th. Upcoming initiatives for the SAB are the Peanut Butter Express and a Spring Captains Leadership Workshop. The RIIL will be looking for possible chaperons for the NE Summer Leadership Conference.

RIIL SPORTS MEDICINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SMAC)

Mr. Mezzanotte reported the SMAC meet on January 14, 2015.

RIIL RULE REVISIONS: COMMITTEE REPORTS

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) voted to approve the following to Article 7, Section 4 (Non-league games). Specifically, schools may now schedule **any non-league game against teams that are not members of any NFHS State Association**. As a result, schools may now choose to participate against a **high school** team that does not conform to the rules and regulations of the RIIL.

In another matter, Mr. Lunney reported the sub-committee has met twice regarding revisions of Article 3., Section 1., C.1 and Article 7., Section 1.A. (Allow athletes to play more than one sport during a season). The sub-committee's findings will be discussed with athletic directors and will be brought forward at the March meeting.

FALL SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIPS - FOOTBALL

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved (13-0) the 2014 football championship report.

WINTER SPORTS

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved (13-0) a 9:00 a.m. start time to the Division I Swim Meet on Sunday, February 15, 2015 at Roger Williams University.

SPRING SPORTS

BOYS' LACROSSE – George Finn, Director of Boys' Lacrosse – the RIIL received a request from Pilgrim High School requesting to participate in Boys' Lacrosse beginning with the 2014-15 season. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) approved the request.

FASTPITCH SOFTBALL – Betty Marquis, Director of Fastpitch Softball – the RIIL received a request from The Wheeler School requesting to participate in Fastpitch Softball beginning with the 2014-15 season. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) approved the request.

HEARING: CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL: BOYS' BASKETBALL HEAD COACH

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee approved (12-0-1) the following sanctions for several violations on the Central High School Boys' Basketball Head Coach: be suspended from coaching for the remainder of the 2014-15 regular season and playoffs.

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 February meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 4:45 P.M.

Signed:

Susana Borges, RIIL Board Secretary

Date: _____