RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Principals' Committee on Athletics
Monday, March 16, 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, Littlefield, McCarthy, Sollitto, Vetelino, Warner and Whaley

Also Present: Thomas Mezzanotte, Executive Director; Michael Lunney, Assistant Executive Director, Susana Costa, Administrative Assistant; Carolyn Thornton, Director Multimedia Content and Brendan McGair, *Pawtucket Times*

Absent: Messr., Barr

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

PCOA MINUTES FEBRUARY 6, 2015
On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the February 6, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved (14-0).

INTRODUCE CAROLYN THORNTON, DIRECTOR OF MULTIMEDIA CONTENT
Mr. Mezzanotte welcomed award-winning sports writer Carolyn Thornton as its Director of Multimedia Content. In addition to providing media content for the RIIL.org web site and managing the league's social media presence, Thornton will mentor aspiring high school journalists, teaching them the craft of feature writing and game coverage.

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: ISAA Class Action Litigation; RIIL Litigation; CVS – AED Project; Annual coaches' on-line rules test; Report from the Simultaneous Play Committee and Financial Report.

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

FINANCE REPORT
Mr. Mezzanotte reported on the March 16, 2015 budget report. The fall sports total income $108, 609 and total expenses $48,097. Also, tournament income up from last year $34,582 and facility expenses up from last year $20,868.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
Mr. Mezzanotte reported on the following:

- Annual Coaches On-Line Rules Test
- Coaches & AD Conference – March 28th at North Kingstown High School
- Awards Recognition Luncheon (*Student Athlete of the Month, Athletic Director and Coach of the Year and Spirit of Sport*) – April at Quidnessett Country Club
- Spring Season & Playoffs
- Florida Cheer Championships & NFHS Dance Championships

RIIAAA REPORT
Mr. 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 North Kingstown HS; RIIAAA's Annual Awards Ceremony on April 2nd at the Crown Plaza, Warwick to recognize the following: **School of the Year**: Classical HS; **Administrator of the Year**: Ms. Michaela Keegan, Juanita Sanchez;

Media Award: Bob Marr, Westerly Sun; **Sister Charlene**: Darius Shirzadi, Project Goal; **Female Coach of the Year**: Renee Jarest, Lincoln HS: **Male Coach of the Year**: Neil Nachbar, Tolman HS: **NIAAA State Award of Merit**: George Finn, Barrington HS and **Athletic Director of the Year**: Greg Kortick, West Warwick HS and RIPCOA 6-8, 24 surveys complete and sent to RIASP.

RIIL STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD
Mr. Lunney reported the RIIL SAB will be meeting on March 25th to finalize plans for their state-wide community service project the "Peanut Butter Express" and promote the NE Summer Leadership Conference. In addition, choose two (2) RIIL SAB members to attend the NFHS Summer Leadership Conference in July.

MARKETING UPDATE
Mr. Mezzanotte reported the "High School Team of the Week" is now sponsored by *Showcase Cinemas*.

RIIL SPORTS MEDICINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SMAC)
Mr. Mezzanotte reported the next RIIL SMAC meeting is on March 19, 2015.

RIIL RULE REVISIONS: COMMITTEE REPORTS
Mr. Chris Cobain and Mr. Tom Marcello, members of the Simultaneous Play Committee presented their findings on the matter to allow athletes to play more than one sport during a season. The PCOA continues to discuss issues relating to a rule change that would allow students to play more than one sport during the season. (Revision of Article 3., Section 1.C-1 and Article 7, Section 1A – allow athletes to play more than one sport during a season.) RIIL will exam rule.

FALL SPORTS
FOOTBALL OFFICIALS ASSIGNER: On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved the recommendation from the Football Committee to extend the contract of Jim Ashley as the RIIL Football Official Commissioner.

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS: On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved the recommendation from the Football Committee to approve the following "**Mercy Rule**" in all regular season and playoff games:

- If there is a 35 point differential during the 4th quarter, the game clock will not be stopped unless there is an injury time out or a regular team time out.

In addition, the PCOA supports all recommendations made by the Football Committee regarding the **Fundamentals for Minimizing Head Impact Exposure and Concussion Risk in Football**. As a result, athletes may **not** participate in games played on consecutive or on the same day:

- Football coaches must consider the amount of time a player is allowed to complete I games (varsity, junior varsity and freshman) during a week.
- Football week is recognized as Tuesday – Tuesday.

BOYS' SOCCER COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS: On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved the following rule changes from the Boys' Soccer Committee to Article 24 (Boys' Soccer):

- During the regular season, the field clock will be used but turned off at the 2:00 minute mark. The game official will then be responsible for maintaining the clock until the end of the game. If the school requests an official timer (supplied by the RI Boys Soccer Officials Association, and paid for by the school) he/she will maintain the field clock and it will be the official clock.

- During all playoff games (qtr, semi, final) the RIIL will supply a game official to run the Official Field Clock.
    - Note: In the event that a team is substituting players in blatant attempt to reduce the actual playing time the official may stop time during these substitutions.

- If a team/coach is issued five (5) yellow cards during the playoffs, the team will lose one player and play the remainder of the game short -handed. Additionally, if the same team is issued two (2) more yellow cards they will lose another player and play two short.
    - Note: the coach will no longer be ejected if his/her team accumulates five (5) cards.

- During all regular season games, the home team must provide a scorer table, a scorebook and a scorer. In addition in accordance with Art 24 Section 2 e: *The home team MUST have a scorer located at mid-field (table is not a requirement). If a scorer is not provided at mid-field, the home team coach will be issued a yellow card prior to the start of the game.*

- During all games – if a coach is assessed a yellow card, he/she must remain seated on the bench.

WINTER SPORTS & CHAMPIONSHIPS
GYMNASTICS – Melissa Gendreau, Director of Gymnastics – the RIIL received a request from the Gymnastics Committee to request changes to Article 3., Section 3., Individual Sport Participation Limits – Co-op Teams. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved the following change: Gymnastics may now have an individual limit of 6 with a combination of 10.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved (14-0) the following 2015 winter championship reports: Boys & Girls Indoor Track, Wrestling, Boys & Girls Swim, Gymnastics and Boys and Girls Basketball.

SPRING SPORTS
GOLF – Bob Duarte, Director of Golf – the RIIL received a request from the Golf Committee to revise Article 20 (Golf). On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved several rule changes from the Golf Committee to Article 20 (Golf). Rule changes will be sent to all schools.

HEARING: MOUNT PLEASANT HIGH SCHOOL: FOOTBALL - APPEAL
Mount Pleasant High School appeal of PCOA decision to suspend the head football coach and place the football program on probation. Motion to grant appeal: 0-14 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 5:20 P.M.

Signed:
_____ Date: _____
Susana Costa, RIIL Board Secretary