

**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Principals' Committee on Athletics
Monday, June 20, 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, Gribbin, and Keegan; Messrs., Brennan, DiMuccio, Goho, Henderson, Kelly, Sollitto, and Vetelino

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

Absent: Messrs., Barr; Kavanagh; Littlefield; Warner, and Whaley

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

PCOA MINUTES MARCH 21, 2016

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the March 21, 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: Winter Sports Alignments for 2016-2018; The Wheeler School Request and RIIL Rules Revisions.

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr. Sollitto, chairman of the Finance Committee submitted a report of their meeting held on June 20, 2016. The Committee reviewed a preliminary budget for the fiscal year 2016-2017 criteria and assumptions. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee approved the following fee increases:

- **Arbiter Ref Pay Service Fee:**
 - Large Schools - \$845.00
 - Medium Schools - \$422.50
 - Small Schools - \$162.50

Rational: Throughout this first year, the RIIL Business Manager has spent a great amount of time reviewing all entries, reconciling all payments and answering all questions. As a result, it is necessary to increase the fee to compensate for this additional time.

The Arbiter Ref Pay Program has been a tremendous success and based on discussions with school athletic directors and business managers, it is clear that the program has benefited all in accomplishing this difficult and time consuming task.

- **Hockey Fee: \$2,250.00**

Rationale: Increased costs associated with our rinks and staff.

- **Technology Fee: \$275.00**

Rationale: Increased fee for technology services (Scholastic Tools – computer management services provider).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Mezzanotte reported on the following:

- RIIL Technology Committee - Update
- Meeting with RISSA
- 2015-2016 Accomplishments
- Meetings with Principals – Concerns
- JV sport guidelines 2016-2017
- Marking Report – Tracy Quarella, RIIL, Director of Marketing

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Mezzanotte reviewed and discussed the following items: The RIIL Transgender Policy was highlighted by the US Department of Education as an exemplary policy; Letter from Portsmouth High parent; Letter from Kevin McNamara; Letter from Cranston West parent regarding wearing of facemasks in softball and gift from the Bill Falk Fund for Outdoor Track.

2016 RIIL HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved the following 13 nominees for induction into the RIIL High School Hall of Fame: Bryan Berard; Craig Blanchard; Robert "Bob" Cavanagh; JoAnn D'Alessandro; Sara Fabrizio; Don Gainey; Charles Gibbons; Keith Lawton; Bob Leddy; Betty Marquis; Susan Reposa; Carolyn Thornton and Kim Zifcak-White and Gerald Zifcak (Zifcak family - father, *posthumously*, and daughter will be inducted together).

PCOA RESIGNATION – DR. MICHAEL SOLLITTO

The Committee on Athletics received a letter of resignation from Dr. Michael Sollitto, as Assistant Chairperson and member of the Committee effective June 20, 2016. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously accepted (11-0), with regret, Dr. Sollitto's resignation and wished him continued success in his new position as Assistant Superintendent of Scituate schools.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW ASSISTANT CHAIRMAN – MR. SEAN KELLY

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved the nomination of Mr. Sean Kelly, principal of Cranston High School East, to the position of Assistant Chairman on the Principals' Committee on Athletics effective June 20, 2016. As a result of Mr. Kelly's appointment to Assistant Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Kelly will also serve as the Chairman of the RIIL Finance Committee.

WINTER SPORTS RE-ALIGNMENT 2016-2018

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved the following winter alignments for 2016-2018: Boys and Girls Indoor Track; Boys and Girls Swim; Boys and Girls Hockey; Boys and Girls Basketball; Wrestling and Gymnastics.

RIIL RULE REVISIONS

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved the following RIIL Rules Revisions: **Article 7., (Limitation of Seasons) Section 8., (Guidelines for Intramurals, Weight Training and Open Gym Athletic Facilities)**

A. Schools may provide students opportunities for intramurals, weight training and open athletic facilities **during the school year** provided the criteria listed below is followed:

1. The time and day(s) of the open facilities and weight training are to be made known to the **entire student body** by the administrator through announcements, bulletin board postings, school paper, etc.
2. The weight training area and athletic facility must be open to anyone enrolled in the school and must be on a voluntary basis. Coaches cannot mandate attendance of team members or potential team members.
3. The open athletic facilities cannot precede, follow or be in conjunction with an off-season conditioning program.
4. **During the school year, no coach (including assistants, volunteers, etc.) can be present in any open athletic facilities if there is participation in his/her out of season sport** students (grades 9-12) are participating in the coach's **out of season sport**.
5. The person(s) in charge of supervising the open athletic facilities may not organize, coach or instruct students in any sport not in season (see note below).
6. Students participating in weight training and open athletic facilities must furnish their own clothing (sweat shirts, shorts, shoes, etc.). No equipment is to be used that is specific and/or unique to any particular sport.
7. Schools may furnish basketballs, volleyballs, basketball standards, volleyball standards, floor mats and wrestling mats, and any other athletic equipment needed to operate an open athletic facility session.

Violations:

1. Making the open gym available only to specific sport participants.
- ~~2. The basketball coach (or any other coach) in the gym or vicinity when his/her sport is being participated in during open gym, except during the season of the sport.~~
2. **The coach being present or in the vicinity during any open athletic facility time block of his/her sport.**

4. ~~The supervisor of the open gym, except during the season of the sport.~~
3. Select group of students working out in the athletic facilities at times other than the open athletic facilities period.

Note:

An “open athletic facilities” program is one in which a variety of recreational type activities are offered, i.e., badminton, basketball, soccer, lacrosse, volleyball, and the like. Coaches at any level may not be present when their specific sport activity is a part of the open athletic facilities program. ~~Single sports programs in which Student Athletes are involved are interpreted as an attempt to circumvent the out of season rule if those sports are not on a rotation basis with at least two or more other sports activities during a calendar week using that facility.~~ Responsibility for monitoring open athletic facilities programs should be with the Athletic Director and Principal of the school. All specific sport activities have to be recreational in nature; therefore, practice routines, such as, softball/baseball pitching, catching and batting, football place-kicking, golfing/putting, and similar routines are always interpreted as an attempt to circumvent the out-of-season rule.

Article 3., (Eligibility) Section 10. Tuition Students

3. All schools must ~~keep on file~~ submit an individual scholarship report on any student receiving financial aid from the school or any related entity in excess of 50% of the combined tuition and expenses and receive an eligibility ruling for the person receiving such aid prior to using said student in an RIIL sanctioned game. The only exception is financial aid provided by an independent corporation, parish or governmental agency/division. The school must furnish on this report the circumstances of any other aid whatsoever.

4. Upon request schools’ ~~may~~ will be required to submit an individual scholarship report on any student receiving financial aid from the school or any related entity in excess of 50% of the combined tuition and expenses. The Executive Director and the Chair will determine the eligibility of any student receiving financial aid. The Executive Director and the Chair will consider the circumstances and determine whether the aid is scholarship aid or an athletic scholarship. In making this decision, these individuals will give the particular street of the residence of the athlete involved and the normal area that the school in question generally draws from. In order to deny eligibility to any student because of an athletic scholarship, both individuals must agree. An appeal can be entered to the Committee in the event that an athlete is declared ineligible but, pending appeal, the athlete may not participate in any contest of the school involved.

5. In the event that an athlete receiving financial aid, in accordance with the provisions of Article 3, Section 9, is not reported to the Committee upon request, all games in which the athlete participated from the time the aid was given shall be forfeited and, if championships are involved, they shall be rescinded and plaques and trophies returned to the RIIL.

RULES VIOLATIONS

Middletown High School: Violation of Article 3, Section 4, (Academic Eligibility) in JV Baseball due to a clerical error by the coach.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) voted to impose a \$100 fine to Middletown High School.

Smithfield High School: Violation of Article 3, Section 4, (Academic Eligibility) in Softball.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) voted to impose a \$100 fine to Smithfield High School. Also, Smithfield HS forfeited nine (9) games.

Lincoln High School: Violation of Article 6, Section 11., (Cancellation/Forfeit of Game) in a first round playoff Boys’ Tennis match versus The Wheeler School.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) voted to place the Lincoln Boys’ Tennis team on probation for one (1) year (2016-2017).

The Committee would like to commend and thank all schools for self-reporting any and all incidents. The success of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League is predicated on having all its valued members abide by and support all of its Rules and Regulations.

In addition, Mr. Mezzanotte reported that numerous schools were in violation of Article 14, Section B.6: *At the conclusion of each game, coaches must post the score online as well as record the Pitching Log for that game. Schools that do NOT comply will be fined by the RIIL.* Since notifying the schools of this violation, all schools are in compliance.

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. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved.

RIIAAA REPORT AND NEW RIIAAA APPOINTMENT – MR. THOMAS MARCELLO, PONAGANSET HS

Mr. Vetelino, President of the RIIAAA, provided updates as to issues, concerns and recommendations on behalf of the RIIAAA.

In addition, The Committee thanked Mr. Jamey Vetelino who served as the RIIAAA representative on the PCOA throughout the past two years. He has served with distinction and dedication. As a result, and on a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved the nomination of Mr. Thomas Marcello, athletic director at Ponaganset High School to serve as the RIIAAA representative on the PCOA for a two-year term.

FALL SPORTS - FOOTBALL

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee approved the following rules pertaining to the sport of football:

1. Six (6) qtrs per week JV/Varsity.

- The football week is designated as Wed to Wed. Rationale: This is not an issue during the regular season as we play varsity games on Fri or Sat and JV on Monday. The issue is the Thanksgiving Games (on Wed or Thur). If we designate the week as Wed – Wed teams would be able to play a Fri or Sat varsity game prior to Thanksgiving and the JV game on the following Monday, and still be able to comply with the 6 qtr rule on Thur (Thanksgiving Day).

2. Five days between Varsity games.

- Not an issue during the regular season.
- Teams must choose to play their semifinal playoff game on the Friday, and the Thanksgiving Day game on Thurs.
- If teams wish to play their Thanksgiving game on Wed night, they must play their semifinal playoff game on the previous Thursday.

3. Revised rule regarding playing MA teams: All RIIL member schools who play football teams from Massachusetts must play by NFHS Football Rules beginning in the **fall of 2018**.

- **Girls' Volleyball** – *Ray DeAngelis, Director of Girls' Volleyball* – the Committee received a letter from Providence Country Day requesting to join the league in Girls' Volleyball beginning with the fall 2016 season. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved their request.

WINTER SPORT AND HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIPS

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved the Boys' and Girls' Hockey Championships.

- **Girls' Basketball** – *Cindy Neal, Director of Girls' Basketball* – the Committee received a letter from Rocky Hill School notifying the league they must withdraw from in Girls' Basketball because they can no longer field a team. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved their request to withdraw without sanctions.

SPRING SPORTS AND CHAMPIONSHIPS

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved the following spring sports championships for 2016: Boys and Girls Outdoor Track; Boys Tennis; Boys Volleyball; Boys and Girls Lacrosse; Golf; Unified Basketball; Fastpitch Softball; Freshman Baseball and Baseball.

SCHOOL REQUESTS:

The Committee received a letter from Mount St. Charles Academy requesting approval to award a scholarship to a boy in the City of Woonsocket to attend summer camp. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved their request.

The Committee received a letter from Masters Regional Academy notifying the League their school is closing as of June 2016 and as a result must drop out of all league sports.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved a request from the Providence School Department to allow to continue to participate in the Alternative Sports Program and will continue to play their neighborhood comprehensive high school (Central, Hope, Mount Pleasant or Sanchez) based on the student home address or the comprehensive high school that is closest to the school they attend and students from ACE, Times2, TAPA, RINI, Village Green and The Met (Providence residents only). Also, PCTA will continue to participate in sports with Central; Alvarez High School will continue to participate in sports with Mount Pleasant High School and E3 will continue to participate in sports with Hope High School as part of the Athletic Participation by Exception Plan.

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 June meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

Signed:

Susana Costa, RIIL Board Secretary

Date: _____