RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Principals’ Committee on Athletics
Monday, March 25, 2019 @ 1:30 pm
RIIL Office
875 Centerville Road, Building #3
Warwick, RI 02886

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman McNamara; Mmes., Henneman and Keegan; Messrs., Barbieri, Barr, Cobain, Goho, Habershaw, Kavanagh, Kelly, Sollitto, Solomon and Warner.

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

Absent: Mmes., Gribbin, Ponte and Wallace; Messr., Whaley

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

WELCOME NEW PCOA MEMBER
The Committee welcomed new PCOA member Neeltje Henneman, Principal of Wheeler School.

PCOA MINUTES JANUARY 14, 2019
On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the January 14, 2019 meeting was 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: RIIL Rules Revisions; Requests from Member Schools and Rule Violations.

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

RIIL FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT
Mr. Kelly, chairman of the finance committee reported its meeting held on March 25, 2019. Mr. Dan Carney and Mr. Stuart Peterson of Janney provided the Committee with an RIIL update on investments. The finance committee approved a revision of the RIIL investment holdings to 70% equities, 30% fixed income. The finance committee was informed that School Today would be providing repay in initiating in August 2019. The Committee reviewed the 2018-2019 budget.

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

• 2019 8th Annual RIIL Awards Luncheon, April 10th at Crowne Plaza, Warwick
  o Administrator of the Year: Colleen Gribbin, Principal, Bay View and PCOA Member
  o Athletic Director of the Year: Dick Fossa, North Kingstown School
  o Male Coach of the Year: Dan Silva, Tolman HS
  o Female Coach of the Year: Anjelique Cooley, Boys & Girls X-try & Track, Central Falls HS
  o Team of the Year: 2019 North Kingstown High School Boys Basketball
  o RIIL Spirit of Sport: Rachel Motta, Tiverton HS
  o NFHS State Award for Outstanding Service: Betty Marquis, Fast-pitch Softball
  o RIIL Distinguished Service Award: Cindy Bowden, Boys & Girls Swimming
  o Student-Athlete of the Month winners (male & female)
  o Student-Athlete of the Year winner (male & female)
  o RIIL Student Advisory Board – Senior Members
  o RI Army National Guard Adjutant General Award & Honorable Mention

• CTE Programs in RI – Dr. Sollitto and Mr. Solomon discussed how the CTE Programs in RI are affected by athletics.
• Article 3, Section 2. Alternative Education (Charter Schools Athletic Participation) – Mr. Mezzanotte discussed the importance for schools to follow guidelines as they relate to athletic eligibility.
• Sportsmanship; School Responsibilities. A sportsmanship sub-committee is being established for all spectaors at all RIIL contests.
• Educational Services Update from the NFHS
• AED’s shipped to schools
• Spring Athletic Directors Meeting
• Esports-Play-VS Rights Agreement. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-) approved a three (3) year contract with PlayVs (Esports).
• Donation to South County YMCA in memory of Dick Lynch in the amount of $500 was unanimously (13-0) approved by the PCOA.

2019-2020 PCOA MEETING DATES
• August 19 and November 18, 2019 and January 13, March 16 and June 15, 2020

2019-2020 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING DATES
• August 19, 2019, March 16 and June 15, 2020

RIIL RULE REVISIONS
Mr. Lunney met with a sub-committee (including several athletic directors from the RIIAAA) to discuss a revision proposal to Article 7, Section 7, Coaching During the Academic School Year. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) approved the revisions to Article 7, Section 7, Coaching During the Academic School Year.

SCHOOL REQUESTS
The Committee received a request from Rogers High School to be moved from Division 3 to Division 2 in Girls’ Volleyball beginning in the fall of 2019. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) denied their request since we are in the middle of a 2-year alignment. The Committee received a letter from Blackstone Valley Prep notifying the League they must drop Boys’ Tennis beginning with the spring 2019 due to low numbers. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) approved their request without any penalties. In another matter, the Committee received a letter from Moses Brown School requesting a waiver of Article 3, Section 5, Length of Eligibility (eight-semester rule). On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) approved their request. The athlete will be allowed to compete in the sport of ice hockey only.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) approved to table the following requests: East Providence HS Girls Basketball alignment and Juanita Sanchez/Wheeler/PCD Football Co-op alignment.

RIIL RULE VIOLATIONS
Mount Pleasant High School, Article 3, Section 4, Academic Eligibility (Girls Basketball)
The Committee reviewed the circumstances involving the use of an academically ineligible athlete at Mount Pleasant High School. On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA unanimously (13-0) voted to sanction Mount Pleasant High School for a violation of Article 3, Section 4, (Academic Eligibility) of the RIIL Rules and Regulations. As a result, the Mount Pleasant High School Girls’ Basketball team:
1. Must forfeit its two (2) games versus Central Falls on February 7 and Davies on February 11, 2019.
2. Is assessed a $100 fine (make check payable to the RIIL).

The PCOA commends the Mount Pleasant administration for their integrity and professionalism in handling this matter.

Times2 STEM Academy, Article 3, Section 1.E. (student-athletes must be enrolled in the school for which they participate)
The Committee reviewed the circumstances involving the use of ineligible athletes at Times2 STEM Academy. On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA unanimously (13-0) voted to sanction Times2 STEM Academy for a violation of Article 3, Section 1.E., (student-athletes must be enrolled in the school for which they participate). As a result, Times2 Academy:
2. Is assessed a fine of $200 (make check payable to the RIIL).

The PCOA commends the Times2 Academy administration for their integrity and professionalism in handling this matter.
Block Island High School: Article 6, Section 10, Cancellation/Forfeit a Game (Girls Basketball Playoffs)
The Committee reviewed the circumstances regarding a violation of Article 6, Section 10, Cancellation/Forfeit a Game in girls basketball playoffs. Due to the extenuating circumstances as reported by Block Island High School, on a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) voted to not penalize the school for the violation.

Scituate High School: Article 32, Section 1, Weight Certification (Independent Wrestler)
The Committee reviewed the circumstances regarding Article 32, Section 1, Weight Certification. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) voted to not penalize Scituate High School for the oversight. However, in the future, Scituate High School must adhere to the Weight Management Procedure.

RIIIAAA Report – Chris Cobain
Mr. Cobain, President of the RIIAAA, provided updates as to issues, concerns and recommendations on behalf of the RIIAAA.

RIIL Froshmore League
On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) approved the football froshmore (freshman/sophomore) League within the established guidelines.

Winter Sports Championships
On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) approved the 2019 Boys & Girls Indoor Track, Boys & Girls Swimming, Gymnastics, Wrestling, Boys & Girls Basketball and Boys & Girls Hockey Winter Championships.

PCOA Hearing
Hope High School – Article 3, Section 4, Academic Eligibility (Boys Basketball)
Due to RIIL rule violations that occurred during the 2018 school year (for use of academically ineligible athletes Article 3 Section 4), the Hope High School Athletic Program was placed on probation by the PCOA for 3 years (2019-2021). In addition, the school was fined a sum of $500 and the boys’ basketball head coach was suspended for two (2) RIIL League games.

The PCOA asked to meet with the principal Mr. John Hunt and the Hope High School athletic director Vismark Maria-Gonzalez to discuss several additional violations of RIIL rules (use of ineligible athletes) that occurred during the 2018-2019 boys’ basketball season.

Specifically, the PCOA wanted to discuss and identify the reasons why Hope High School violated RIIL rules while on probation. Throughout the meeting, the PCOA asked specific questions relating to the circumstances surrounding the violations. In the end, it was obvious to the PCOA that since being placed on probation, no policies and/or procedures were issued or implemented to ensure compliance with the rules. As a result, the 2018-2019 Hope High School Boys’ Basketball team forfeited two (2) games that had a direct impact on other schools in the divisional standings and in the RIIL State Tournament Seedings.

After discussing this matter the PCOA voted 10-1 to issue the following penalties:
1. The school is assessed a fine of $1,500.
2. The school’s boys’ basketball program will be suspended for the 2019-2020 season pending the completion and approval of the following:
   a. A complete formal review of the Hope High School athletic program as outlined in Article 6, Section 16 of the RIIL Rules and Regulations.
   b. The development of a detailed plan including those institutional controls necessary to ensure compliance of all RIIL Rules and Regulations.

This plan must be completed and presented to the RIIL Executive Director no later than Monday, June 3, 2019. The PCOA will review this plan at its meeting on Monday, June 17, 2019.

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 4:15 P.M.

Signed:

Susana Borges, RIIL Board Secretary