RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE  
Principals’ Committee on Athletics  
Monday, November 13, 2017 @ 1:30 pm  
RIIL Office  
875 Centerville Road, Building #3  
Warwick, RI 02886

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman McNamara; Mme., Gribbin; Messrs., Barbieri, Barr, Habershaw, Kavanagh, Marcello, Sollitto, Solomon, Warner and Whaley.

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


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

PCOA MINUTES AUGUST 21, 2017
On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the August 21, 2017 meeting were unanimously approved (10-0).

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: Meeting with RI Department of Ed Commissioner Wagner; Venue Contracts; RIIL Rule Revisions and school requests.

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

RIIL BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT
The Committee reviewed the August - October RIIL Profit and Loss Budget Report.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Mr. Mezzanotte reported on the following:
- Computer Management System - rSchool Today
- Winter Coaches Meeting – November 15th
- Venue Contracts
- Mike Lunney – “The State of High School Athletics” - Panel Discussion at Springfield College
- Meeting with Kristen Stringfellow – RISSA
- NE Council Meeting: Golf & Game Day
- Ball Bids – 5 year renewal proposals
- Championship Merchandise Bids

SPORTS MEDICINE
the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee.

2018-2020 RE-ALIGNMENT
The timeline for realignment in all sports beginning with fall 2018: February 2018 – deadline for fall sports alignment approval; May 2018 deadline for winter sports and October 2018 deadline for spring sports.

RIIL RULE REVISIONS
On a motion made and seconded the following RIIL Rules Revisions were unanimously (13-0) approved:
1. Article 8, Section 4.A. (Appeals) – “The procedure outlined speaks to student’s eligibility issues and violations of the bylaws of the RI Interscholastic League. Matters dealing with individual sports, i.e. protests, ejections, schedule concerns, league alignments, official’s complaints, etc. will be handled by the Executive Committee of the sport (Article 8, Sections 1 and 5). The committee(s) will be chaired by the Director/designee of the sport.
2. Article 1., Section C.1 (Waiver Request Hearing Committee) – “Eligibility waiver requests and violations of the by-laws of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League are addressed by the five (5) member Waiver Request Hearing Committee. This committee consists of four members (high school administrators) selected by the Principals’ Committee on Athletics and the Chairperson of the Principals’ Committee on Athletics. A majority vote of the members present is required for a decision. Hearings are held in August, October and February, or at special meetings called in order to accommodate all waiver requests.”

3. Article 1., Section C.2 (Waiver Request Hearing Committee) – “Appeals of decisions made by the Waiver Request Hearing Committee will be heard by the Principals’ Committee on Athletics. Principals’ Committee on Athletics meetings are scheduled for August, September (if needed), November, January, March and June. In extenuating circumstances, which would cause undue hardship, these rules may be waived by 60% of the members of the Principals’ Committee on Athletics present and voting. See Article 8, Section 4, paragraph B.

4. Article 7, Section C (Pre-Season Heat-Acclimatization Rules for all Fall Sports)

5. Article 13, Section 1 (Coaches Certification) – Pursuant to the passage of Title 16, Chapter 91.1 – An Act Relating to Education – Cardiac Prevention in School Sports and in accordance with this Rhode Island Law: “Beginning with the 2017 winter season, ALL coaches must complete the free online course NFHS Sudden Cardiac Arrest prior to the start of the season.

6. Article 28 & 29, Section 5 (Track) – “For the Class and State Meets, a school may submit as many entries per event as are qualified by the rankings.”

7. Article 3., Section 1 (Career and Tech Ed - Pathway Programs)

SCHOOL REQUESTS
The Committee received a request from Blackstone Academy Charter School to waive the RIIL Rules and Regulations, Article 3, Section 2 – Alternative Education Athletic Participation, to modify the number of students to 350. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) approved the request.

The Committee received a request from Times2 STEM Academy to join the league in Boys and Girls Outdoor Track and Fastpitch Softball beginning with the 2018 season. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) approved their request pending availability in the 2018 schedule.

RIIL RULE VIOLATIONS
Portsmouth High School: Article 6, Section 4: (Eligibility List)
On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA unanimously (13-0) voted to sanction Portsmouth High School for violating Article 3, Section 1A of the RIIL Rules and Regulations. As a result, Portsmouth High School is assessed a $200 fine.

FALL CHAMPIONSHIPS
On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) approved the 2017 Girls Tennis, Field Hockey, Boys and Girls Cross Country, and Boys and Girls Soccer Championships.

WINTER SPORTS
Girls Hockey – George Egan and Terry Lynch – Sport Co-Directors – The Committee received a request on behalf of Smithfield, Coventry and Rogers High School to form a Girls Ice Co-Op team. Based on the guidelines listed in Article 3, Section 1 J of the rules and regulations of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League, the application meets the established guidelines. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) approved the request and it is approved for two years (2017-2018 & 2018-2019).

Wrestling – Bob DiMuccio and Tony Torregrossa, Sport Co-Director’s – The Committee received a letter from Moses Brown school informing the League they must drop wrestling due to lack of participation. The Committee approved this with no penalty. The Committee received a request from Central High School to join the League in wrestling beginning with the 2017-2018 school year. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) approved their request.

Freshman Basketball – Gerald Habershaw – Sport Director – The Committee received a request from Juania Sanchez Complete to join the League in freshman basketball beginning with the 2017-2018 school year. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) approved their request.
WAIVER HEARING COMMITTEE APPEAL
Cam Nappi – Mt. Hope High School
Waiver of Article 3, Section 6, Transfer Rule. Appealing a decision of Waiver Hearing Committee.

Motion to grant waiver: 7-3 (approved)

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 November meeting of the Principals’ Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

Signed: ________________________________ Date: ________________________________

Susana Borges, RIIL Board Secretary