

**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Principals' Committee on Athletics
Monday, March 24, 2025 @ 1:30 pm
RIIL Office
875 Centerville Road, Building #3
Warwick, RI 02886**

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman Warner; Mmes., Aull, Caluori, Craven and Ward; Messrs., Barbieri, Barr, Costa, Fontaine, Gibbons, McCarthy, McGair, Richard and Sollitto.

Also Present: Michael Lunney, Executive Director; Thomas Marcello, Assistant Executive Director; Susana Borges, Administrative Assistant, Carolyn Thornton, Dir. of Communications & Student Services, Ted Quigley, Middle School Coordinator, Jeff Sowa, Esq., Greg O'Connor, RIIAAA and Brendan McGair, *Pawtucket Times*

Absent: Messrs., Crowley, DeCiccio and Green.

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

PCOA MINUTES – JANUARY 27, FEBRUARY 27 AND MARCH 7, 2025

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the January 27, February 27 and March 7, 2025 meetings were unanimously (13-0-1) approved.

RIIL RULE REVISIONS

Article 20 – Golf

Mr. Greg O'Connor and Mr. Adolfo Costa, Sport Co-Directors of Golf, proposed rules changes to the state golf team and individual boys' and girls' tournament. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0-1) approved the changes to Article 20, Golf.

Article 3, Section 2, Alternative Education (Charter) Schools Athletic Participation

Mr. Jason Menard, Senior Director of Operations at Providence School Department, expressed concerns from the providence school department regarding their current alternative student placement policy for part of Providence residents that attend member alternative education schools. Per Article 3, Section 2, Alternative Education (Charter) Schools Athletic Participation, Mr. Menard will submit a revised policy approved by the Providence School Department effective for the 2025-2026 school year.

REQUEST FROM SCHOOLS

Ms. Jennifer Vorra, Principal of Tolman High School, Mr. Matthew Bergeron, Principal of Shea High School and Mr. Dino Campopiano, Director of Athletics, attended the PCOA meeting to discuss Pawtucket Schools seeking to co-op all athletic programs at Shea High School and Tolman High School in anticipation of the construction and opening of their combined high schools. The PCOA recommended that the Pawtucket School Department continue all pre-approved coops through the 2025-2026 school year before combining all athletic programs between the two schools.

RIIL FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Lunney reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on March 24, 2025. Items discussed were the 2024-2025 budget update, profit & loss, facility costs and annual audit. The annual audit has been completed, and the next audit process will begin soon. Also, Mr. Stuart Peterson of Janney provided the Committee with an RIIL update on investments.

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: Rules & Regulations; New England Championships Registration Process and Website/Technology.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Lunney reported on the following:

- Winter Tournaments Update
 1. Venues – for the first time, the RIIL Competition Cheerleading State Championship was held the Ryan Center URI as part of our Boys' and Girls' Basketball Championships weekend.
 2. Attendance
 3. Directors and Sport Committee Support – Mr. Lunney acknowledged and thanked our sport committees on all their efforts and continued support.
- Sponsorship Support
 1. Even Field – Effort and Attitude Awards Event – May 22, 2025 at URI
 2. Financial Trivia Challenge – Navigant Credit Union – the Committee watched a short video as representatives from the RIIL and Navigant Credit Union went on a prize patrol Wednesday, (3/19/25) morning traveling from Pawtucket to North Providence to Johnston. Congratulations!
 3. Rhode Island State Police
 4. Student Leadership Experience – April 30, 2025 at Camp Fogarty
 5. Peanut Butter Express – RI Community Food Bank
- RIIL Annual Awards Breakfast – Wednesday, April 23, 2025
- Meetings
 1. Sport Committees
 2. RIIL Sports Medicine Advisory Committee
 3. RIIAAA Executive Board Meetings
 4. Spring Sports Athletic Directors Meeting at OrthoRI – March 21, 2025
 5. Spring Sports Coaches Interpretation Meeting (virtual) – March 12, 2025
- Member School Seasonal Responsibilities, Resources and Support
 1. Eligibility
 2. Scheduling
 3. Coaches Certification
 4. Event Security & Safety (EAP's)
 - a. Sports Medicine
 - b. Fan Behavior

MIDDLE SCHOOLS – TED QUIGLEY

Mr. Quigley, RIIL Middle School Coordinator gave an update on the spring and fall sports planning. The middle school sports sub-committee meeting is scheduled on Thursday, April 10, 2025.

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

RIIL SPORTS MEDICINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SMAC)

Mr. Lunney discussed the following: OrthoRI, the official Orthopedic & Sports Medicine partner of the RIIL, will be hosting another round of free pre-participation physicals for the spring sports season; Field Hockey Rule Change Considerations; Potential Legislation update on concussion management, athletic trainers and football soft helmet covers; Emergency Action Panning on Anyone Can Save a Life Program, Pre-game Safety Card and Medical Coverage – Personnel Responsibilities.

Mr. Lunney reported that the RIIL SMAC is considering new recommendations to mandate full face masks being worn during penalty corner situations in field hockey.

RULE VIOLATIONS

Central High School – Article 6, Section 6, Use of Ineligible Athlete (Boys' Indoor Track)

Central High School self-reported that four (4) student-athletes were left off their Boys' Indoor Track eligibility list during the 2024-2025 season. They also reported that the violation was caused by the failure of the Boys' Indoor Track coach to notify the administration of their presence on the team. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously voted (14-0) to sanction Central High School for violating Article 6, Section 6A, Use of Ineligible Athlete, of the RIIL Rules and Regulations. As a result, Central High School is assessed a \$100 fine. Also, the Boys' Indoor Track coach will be suspended for 1 (one) RIIL League game. The Committee thanked the Central High School administration for self-reporting the unfortunate violation.

RIIAAA REPORT

Mr. Greg O'Connor, Vice President of the RIIAAA, reported the RIIAAA has expressed concerns over the number of games allowed in each sport. They have researched and found that Rhode Island has a higher game cap in many sports than our counterparts in New England. The RIIAAA is continuing to monitor this topic and may bring forward recommendations in the future. The RIIAAA Awards Banquet is set for April 10th at Cranston Country Club.

OFFICIALS

The Committee watched a NBC 10 video which highlighted a story about an all-female officials crew that was assigned to officiate the 2025 RIIL Girls' State Championship at the Ryan Center on March 16, 2025. Also, Mr. Lunney reported on recruitment, retention and evaluation initiatives of officials.

FALL SPORTS

Mr. Lunney reported all of the fall sports schedules have been sent to all schools and the RIIL has begun adding them online.

WINTER SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIPS

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously voted (14-0) to approve the following 2024-2025 High School Winter Championships: Boys' & Girls' Indoor Track, Boys' & Girls' Swimming, Boys' & Girls' Basketball, Boys' & Girls' Ice Hockey, Competition Cheerleading, Co-ed Wrestling and eSports.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously voted (14-0) to approve the following 2024-2025 Middle School Winter Championships: Boys' & Girls' Basketball and Co-ed Wrestling.

SPRING SPORTS

The first day of practice for high school spring sports was March 17, 2025. The first day of practice for middle school spring sports is March 24, 2025. Mr. Lunney reported the RIIL has been securing championship venues for the spring championships.

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 3:45 P.M.

Signed:

Susana Borges, RIIL Board Secretary

Date: _____