

**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Principals' Committee on Athletics
Monday, November 17, 2025 @ 1:30 pm
RIIL Office
875 Centerville Road, Building #3
Warwick, RI 02886**

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman Warner; Mmes., Caluori, Craven and Ward; Messrs., Barbieri, Barr, Costa, Crowley, DeCiccio, Fontaine, Gibbons, Green, 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, Justin Erickson, Athletic Director, Johnston High School and Brendan McGair, *Pawtucket Times*

Absent: None

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

PCOA MINUTES AUGUST 18, 2025

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the August 18, 2025 meeting were unanimously (15-0) approved.

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 and Regulations; PCOA Vacancies; Officials and Media Center.

PCOA CHAIRMAN RESIGNATION

Mr. Daniel F. Warner, Chairman of the Committee submitted his resignation as Chairman and as a member of the Principals' Committee on Athletics effective November 17, 2025. Mr. Warner has served with distinction on the Committee over the past 21 years. The Committee wishes Dan success in his retirement. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) accepted, with regret, the resignation of Mr. Warner.

RECOGNITION OF MEMBER

Mr. Lunney presented Mr. Daniel F. Warner with a plaque recognizing and thanking him for his 21 years of dedicated service to the Principals' Committee on Athletics and his numerous contributions to the RI Interscholastic League including the last three years he has served as the chairperson.

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

PCOA NEW APPOINTMENTS

The Committee on Athletics reviewed and discussed several applications of those administrators interested in serving on the PCOA. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) voted to approve the following appointments: Dr. Jeffrey Heath, Portsmouth High School, Mr. Michael Lazzareschi, Burrillville High School and Mr. Timothy Welsh, La Salle Academy.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Lunney reported on the following:

1. RIIL News
 1. NFHS Voice Article
 2. Athletic Business Magazine Article
2. Condo Association Update
 1. Potential Land Development Project Proposed near RIIL Office
3. Hall of Fame Update
 1. Ceremony – Fall 2026
 2. Potential Location at East Providence HS. Mr. Lunney is evaluating change format from a dinner/banquet style event to more of a ceremony.

4. Technology Integration Update
 1. Fusion Point
 - a. Website
 - b. Scheduling
 - c. RPI
 - d. Tournament Brackets
 - e. Transfer Portal
 - f. Coaches Certification Tracking
 - g. Roster Management
 - h. Student Eligibility Tracking
 2. Arbiter Sports
 - a. Officials Assigning and Electronic Payments
5. Fall Leadership Experience Update
 1. Held on October 9th at Camp Fogarty
 2. Matt Light, New England Patriot Hall of Famer
6. Meetings
 1. RIIL Staff Meetings
 2. Officials Assignors Training
 3. Sport Committees
 4. Sports Medicine Advisory Committee
 5. RIIAAA Executive Board Meetings – monthly
 6. Winter Sports Coaches Interpretation Meeting (Virtual) – November 18, 2025
 7. Winter Sports Officials Meeting (Virtual) – November 3 & 13, 2025 – this is a new meeting in an attempt to communicate directly with not only the leadership of the officials organizations but also, each individual official.
 8. Winter Athletic Director Workshop – (RI College) – November 21, 2025
 9. Third annual Kyle Cares/RIIL Mental Health Summit (RI College) – January 8, 2025

The Committee discussed the sport committee annual timelines and alignment/classification procedures as it pertains to regular season scheduling and modified enrollment. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee voted (13-1-1) to approve the modifications to the sport committee annual timelines effective for the next realignment which will begin in the 2026-2027 school year.

In addition, Mr. Lunney reported on some concerns raised by schools that centered around the changing landscape of how schools attract prospective students. After a discussion, the Committee directed the (RIIL) to collect more specific data from member schools to further review and evaluate the current rules and regulations governing such practices. The Committee would like a better understanding of the standards, factors and processes used by schools in awarding financial aid to prospective students.

RIIAAA REPORT

Mr. Marty Crowley, President of the RIIAAA, reported that the RIIAAA did extensive research to collect data regarding RIIL game caps comparative to other states in New England and beyond. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) approved revisions of the RIIL game caps, as presented by the RIIAAA, for the start of 2026-2027 school year.

Game caps beginning 2026-2027:

Fall: B/G Cross Country 12, Field Hockey 18, Football 10, B/G Soccer 18, Girls Tennis 18 and Girls Volleyball 20.

Winter: B/G Basketball 20, Gymnastics 14, B/G Hockey 22, B/G Swim 12 and B/G Wrestling 20.

Spring: Baseball 20, B/G Golf 14, Boys Lacrosse 18, Girls Lacrosse 18, Softball 20, Boys Tennis 18, B/G Track 12 and Boys Volleyball 20.

Mr. Marty Crowley, President of the RIIAAA and Mr. Justin Erickson, Athletic Director, Johnston High School reported back to the Committee with an update on the number of schools interested in offering Girls Flag Football as a RIIL sanctioned sport. After extensive discussion, on a motion made and seconded, the Committee voted (11-4) to table the recommendations for further review to the January 26th meeting.

In addition, the RIIAAA will be holding their annual holiday breakfast on December 4th at the Cranston Country Club and the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association conference is being held from December 12-16, 2025 in Tampa, FL.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS – TED QUIGLEY – FALL SPORTS BEGIN NOVEMBER 17, 2025

Mr. Quigley, RIIL Middle School Coordinator presented the 2025 middle school Boys' and Girls' Soccer championships and the Boys' and Girls' Cross Country championships. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) voted to approve the middle school fall championships as presented. Mr. Quigley also provided a winter season planning update.

Mr. Lunney reported on some updates on a newly formed NFHS Committee which is providing valuable information on how middle school sports are administered at other state high school associations.

RIIL RULE REVISIONS

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) approved the following revisions to Article 13, Coaching Requirements:

Section 1.D. Initial Certification Requirements: Coaches shall fulfill ~~or have already completed the following~~ the requirements to earn NFHS Level 1 credential, including but not limited to:

- NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course, including the RIIL Rules Test
- NFHS Protecting Students from Abuse Course
- NFHS Concussion Course
 - Satisfies RI State Law: RIGL 16-91
- NFHS Sudden Cardiac Arrest Course
- Once all coaches complete the initial certification requirements, the school will be recognized as a Level 1 Honor Roll School from the NFHS.

Section F: Coaches shall fulfill the ~~following continuing education courses~~ requirements to earn NFHS Level 2 credential within four (4) years of Initial Certification.

Section G: Lifetime Certification:

- Coaches that complete all NFHS Honor Roll Level 3 requirements will achieve RIIL Lifetime Certification.
- Please note that coaches who earn the NFHS Honor Roll Level 3 designation must still continue to maintain current certification in the following areas:
 - NFHS Online First Aid, Health and Safety Course, or Red Cross or American Heart Association (AHA) First Aid Certification or equivalent course.
 - Red Cross, American Heart Association (AHA) Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and AED Certification or equivalent course.
 - NFHS Concussion Course – FREE (Must be taken annually)
 - NFHS Online Sudden Cardiac Arrest Course – FREE (Must be taken annually)

RULE VIOLATIONS

Prout School – Article 7, Section 8C, Limitation of Seasons (Boys' Ice Hockey)

The Committee discussed the Prout Boys' Ice Hockey coach was in violation of Article 7, Section 8C which states: *"Coaches are prohibited from coaching current and/or prospective students enrolled in their school on non-school teams or any other sport specific coaching activity during the academic year outside of their assigned sport season."* As a result, on a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously voted (15-0) the Prout Boys' Ice Hockey coach is suspended from participation in the first two (2) regular season games of the 2025-26 hockey season. Additionally, he is placed on probation effective immediately and any further violations could result in a show cause hearing before the Principals' Committee on Athletics. The Committee commends the Prout School administration for its cooperation in fully investigating and reporting its findings.

RIIL SPORTS MEDICINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SMAC)

Mr. Lunney gave an update from the NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) Meeting held on October 4-6, 2025 which included reports from each state's high school association SMAC.

REQUEST FROM SCHOOLS

None.

OFFICIALS

The Committee commended Mr. Michael Stephens for his support and guidance regarding the assignment of Boys' and Girls' Middle School and High School Boys' and Girls' Basketball playoff officials during the 2024-25 Boys' and Girls' Basketball season. Mr. Lunney reported Mr. Stephens' continued commitment to supporting the RIIL's efforts in improving officiating on behalf of our member schools. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously voted (15-0) to approve the appointment of Mr. Stephens as the RIIL coordinator of officials for Boys' and Girls' Middle School Basketball and Boys' and Girls' Varsity Basketball playoff tournaments.

FALL SPORTS

Mr. Lunney reported the last of the fall championships (football) will begin on the weekend of November 21st through November 23rd at Cranston Stadium.

WINTER SPORTS – START DATE DECEMBER 1

The Track Sport Committee presented the Committee with a recommendation to add Pole Vault as a scoring event. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) voted to approve the addition of Pole Vault as an official scoring event for the sport of indoor track effective 2025-2026 winter season.

SPRING SPORTS

None.

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:

Susana Borges, RIIL Board Secretary

Date: _____