

RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Principals' Committee on Athletics
Monday, June 16, 2025 @ 1:30 pm
RIIL Office
875 Centerville Road, Building #3
Warwick, RI 02886

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman Warner; Mmes., Aull, Caluori, and Craven; Messrs., Barbieri, Barr, Costa, Crowley, 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, and Brendan McGair, *Pawtucket Times*

Absent: Mmes., Ward; Messrs., DeCiccio and McCarthy.

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

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: Legislative Bills Impacting Schools; Rules Concern (Ice Hockey) and Budget 2025-2026.

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

PCOA MINUTES MARCH 24, 2025

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the March 24, 2025 meeting were unanimously (14-0) approved.

RIIL FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Lunney reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on June 16, 2025. The RIIL received a clean independent audit as of July 31, 2023. The items discussed and reviewed were the 2024-2025 RIIL budget and the proposed 2025-2026 RIIL operating budget that was recommended by the Finance Committee. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved the 2025-2026 RIIL operating budget.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Lunney reported on the following:

- DOE vs. RIIL – First Circuit Court of Appeals Decision – Mr. Lunney emphasized the importance of the case not only in Rhode Island, but also across all the other NFHS State associations. Mr. Lunney thanked Mr. Bob Lombardi, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, Mr. Mark Uyl, Executive Director of the Michigan High School Athletic Association and Mr. John Black, lead counsel for the NFHS for their contributions of amicus briefs in support of the RIIL.
- NFHS News
 - a. The Value of State High School Associations – Mr. Lunney presented a new document created by NFHS entitled "The Value of State High School Associations."
- Year in review – the Committee watched a "Year in Review" video which highlighted the past years championships and league initiatives.
- RIIL Annual Awards Breakfast which honored 25 individuals, including 21 student-athletes, for their exemplary achievements over the past year was held on April 23, 2025 at the Quonset "O" Club.
- Potential Legislation Update – Mr. Lunney reported on the following four (4) bills introduced in the General Assembly pertinent to member schools:
 1. Concussion Management
 2. Athletic Trainers
 3. Update on Bill (H 5088A) – Soft Helmet Covers (Football)
 4. Update on Bill (H 6271) – Vera Riley Act

- Technology Integration Update – Mr. Lunney reported the following major technology transition that will be implemented for the start of the 2025-2026 school year:
 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
- Summer Meetings
 1. Website and Technology Integration
 2. RIIL Staff Meetings
 3. Sport Committees
 4. Sports Medicine Advisory Committee
 5. RIIAAA Executive Board Meetings
 6. Fall Sports Coaches Interpretation Meeting (Virtual)
 7. NEW - Fall Sports Officials Meeting (Virtual)

2025-2026 PCOA MEETING DATES:

August 18 and November 17, 2025 and January 26, March 23 and June 15, 2026

2025-2026 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING DATES:

August 18, 2025, March 23 and June 15, 2026

MIDDLE SCHOOLS – TED QUIGLEY

Mr. Quigley, RIIL Middle School Coordinator provided a year one review for 2024-2025 and presented the 2024-2025 middle school sports championships. Middle school fall schedules will be sent to all schools.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously voted (14-0) to approve the following 2025 Middle School Spring Championships: Boys' & Girls' Outdoor Track & Field, Softball and Baseball.

RIIL RULE REVISIONS

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

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) voted to approve a rule revision to Article 3, Section 2.D.1.

Article 3, Section 1.L.8, Determination of Eligibility

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) accepted the Providence Public School District's plan as submitted. RI Interscholastic League alternative education student-athletes who reside in Providence will be assigned by the Providence Public School District based on the plan that was submitted to Juanita Sanchez Complex, Hope High School, Mt. Pleasant High School or Central High School for sports participation.

RIIL SPORTS MEDICINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SMAC)

Mr. Lunney discussed the following: Ortho RI Pre-Participation Physicals; Field Hockey Rule Change Considerations and Emergency Action Planning: NFHS Learn FREE Online Course (New) – EAP Planning Video, Anyone Can Save A Life Program, Pre-Game Safety Card and Medical Coverage – Personnel Responsibilities. Mr. Lunney reported an EAP Planning Video has been developed by the NFHS to help schools develop and implement EAP for their athletic facilities and the RIIL will actively promote and recommend this course to all member schools.

REQUEST FROM SCHOOLS

None.

RULE VIOLATIONS

None.

RIIAAA REPORT

Mr. Crowley, President of the RIIAAA, reported that due to expressed interest among athletic director's and pilot programs increasing in member schools, the RIIAAA is recommending that the sport of girls' flag football become a sanctioned RIIL sport beginning in the spring of 2027. The PCOA will hold the recommendation for further study.

OFFICIALS

Mr. Lunney reported that all RIIL officials continue to be required to join the NFHS Officials Association annually and updated the PCOA on the benefits that RIIL officials receive as members of the NFHS officials' association.

FALL SPORTS

Mr. Lunney reported on the planning for the championship venues. The first day of practice for high school fall sports is August 18, 2025 (due to scheduling purposes of football will begin on August 14) and first day of practice for middle school fall sports is August 25.

WINTER SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIPS

None.

SPRING SPORTS

Mr. Lunney expressed his thanks and gratitude to the RIIL staff, spring sport directors and committees, officials, athletic directors and principals for their cooperation in working together to navigate the annual challenges and conflicts with graduations, school events and weather interruptions.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously voted (14-0) to approve the following 2025 Spring Sports Championships: Boys' and Girls' Outdoor Track & Field, Boys' and Girls' Lacrosse, Boys' Tennis, Boys' Volleyball, Unified Volleyball, Golf, Softball and Baseball.

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 3:30 P.M.

Signed:

Date:

Susana Borges, RIIL Board Secretary