

**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE**  
**Principals' Committee on Athletics**  
**Monday, June 17, 2024 @ 1:30 pm**  
**RIIL Office**  
**875 Centerville Road, Building #3**  
**Warwick, RI 02886**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Chairman Warner; Mmes., Caluori, and Ward; Messrs., Barbieri, Cory, Green, McCarthy, McGair, Richard, and Sollitto.

**Also Present:** Michael Lunney, Executive Director; Thomas Marcello, Assistant Executive Director; Susana Borges, Administrative Assistant, Carolyn Thornton, Dir. of Multimedia Content; Martin Crowley, RIIAAA, and Brendan McGair, *Pawtucket Times*

**Absent:** Mme., Craven and Messrs., Costa, DeCiccio, DiMuccio and Gibbons

*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**

One vote was taken in the Executive Session. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved to seal the vote made in Executive Session.

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

**PCOA MINUTES MARCH 18, 2024**

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the March 18, 2024 meeting were unanimously (11-0) approved.

**RIIL FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Lunney reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on June 17, 2024. Our previous auditor retired, and we are in the process of finishing this year's independent audit. However, our tax return has already been filed. The items discussed and reviewed were the 2023-2024 RIIL budget and the proposed 2024-2025 RIIL operating budget that was recommended by the Finance Committee. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved the 2024-2025 RIIL operating budget.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Lunney reported on the following:

- RI General Assembly – The RIIL gave important feedback on two (2) bills that were discussed by the RI General Assembly on concussion management and school attendance.
- Sportsmanship Initiative – The RIIL has had discussions with *Even Field* to partner on a sportsmanship initiative to be implemented during the 2024-2025 school year. "*Even Field Honors*" promotes character and leadership in youth sports by celebrating qualities that don't show up on a stat sheet but are instrumental to achieving excellence on and off the field.
- NFHS Network Update – The RIIL is approaching approximately 90% of its member schools that joined the NFHS Network to stream regular season events and have taken advantage of the free Pixelot camera program at their stadium, field and gymnasium.
- Summer Meetings/Initiatives - the RIIL Office will be working on the website, middle school integration and sport handbook development over the summer.
- Year in Review – the Committee watched a 'Year in Review Video' which highlighted the past years championships and league initiatives.

**2024-2025 PCOA MEETING DATES**

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA unanimously (11-0) approved the following 2024-2025 PCOA Meeting Dates: August 19 and November 18, 2024 and January 27, March 24 and June 16, 2024

**2024-2025 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING DATES**

August 19, 2024, March 24 and June 16, 2025

#### **MIDDLE SCHOOLS**

Mr. Lunney reported on the middle schools planning update regarding membership/sport declaration, fall schedules, calendar, assumption of risk form and new initiatives.

#### **RIIL RULE REVISIONS**

##### **Article 6, Section 13. – Use of School Equipment During the Summer**

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved a rule revision to Article 6, Section 13 – Use of School Equipment During the Summer.

##### **Article 13. – Coaching Requirements**

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved a rule revision to Article 13, Coaching Requirements: “Coaches must fulfill the following continuing education to become NFHS Level 2 certified within **FOUR (4)** years of initial certification.”

##### **Article 3, Section 1. C. – Eligibility - Assumption of Risk**

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved a rule revision to Article 3, Section 1. C., Eligibility – Assumption of Risk: Assumption of Risk Form must be kept on file **at the school in which they are currently enrolled**.

Mr. Ted Quigley, RIIL Middle School Coordinator, reported on the development of the Middle School Handbook. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved the Middle School Handbook. It will be distributed to all RIIL member schools and posted on the RIIL website.

Dr. Chip McGair brought an eligibility concern regarding Alternative Learning Plans/G.E.D. program for students and the situation was discussed and tabled for future review and study.

#### **RIIL SPORTS MEDICINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SMAC)**

Mr. Lunney reported on the RIIL Sports Medicine Advisory Committee Meeting from June 4, 2024. NFHS Hockey rules now mandate neck laceration protection beginning with the 2024-2025 ice hockey season. Also, called to attention clarification of preseason practice limitations and medical coverage protocols.

#### **REQUESTS FROM SCHOOLS**

The RIIL received a request from RISE Prep Mayoral Academy to join the League under Article 3, Eligibility, Section 2, Alternative Education (Charter) School Athletic Participation beginning with the 2024-2025 school year. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved their request.

Mrs. Laura Twitchell, Head of Upper School and Mr. A.J. Kizekai, Director of Athletics at Moses Brown School and Mrs. Sue Farnum, Head of Upper School at Lincoln School presented a request for a waiver of Article 7, Section 4.C, Limitation of Seasons rule regarding the start date of spring sports for 2024-2025 spring season. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimous (11-0) voted to table the request for further consideration at the August Committee meeting.

The RIIL received a letter from Paul Cuffee School notifying the League they are ending their co-op partnership, in all athletic co-op teams, with Times2 Academy beginning in the 2024-2025 school year.

#### **NEW RIIAAA APPOINTMENT – MARTIN CROWLEY**

The Committee thanked Mr. Cory, who concludes his two-year term serving on the PCOA as President of the RI Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. As a result, and on a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved the nomination of Mr. Martin Crowley, athletic director at Cumberland High School to serve as the RIIAAA representative on the PCOA for a two-year term.

#### **OFFICIALS**

Mr. Lunney reported that the RIIL has been working with the officials’ organizations and sport committees during the 2023-2024 school year regarding the new agreements which will take effect beginning with the 2024-2025 school year.

**RIIL RULE VIOLATIONS**

None.

**FALL SPORTS**

Mr. Lunney reported the RIIL has been securing championship venues for the fall championships.

**WINTER SPORTS - ALIGNMENTS**

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (11-0) approved the following 2024-2026 Winter Sports Alignments: Boys' & Girls' Swimming, Boys' & Girls' Basketball, Boys' & Girls' Ice Hockey, Gymnastics and Wrestling.

**SPRING SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The following Spring Sports Championships were unanimously (11-0) approved: Boys' and Girls' Outdoor Track Field, Boys' and Girls' Lacrosse, Boys' Tennis, Boys' Volleyball, Unified Volleyball, Golf, Softball, 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 4:20 P.M.*

Signed:

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Susana Borges, RIIL Board Secretary

Date: \_\_\_\_\_