

Rhode Island Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association

NEWSLETTER

June 2013

The RIIAAA Executive Board would like to thank its members for all its dedication to athletics in the state of Rhode Island. Through your effort, student-athletes are able to attain higher goals and enrich their lives through sport.

We would also like to make you aware of our efforts to find better avenues to communicate with you. Our duty is to represent you and your needs to the best of our ability. Should you have an issue or idea that you feel our membership needs to be aware of please contact one of us? You are also encouraged to attend any Executive Board meeting to voice a concern or just see what we do once a month at the RIIL at RIC.

The following important information, which has come out of discussions from our recent meeting, is to help keep you aware of current issues or concerns in Rhode Island athletics.

1. Welcome Sue Reposa (Bay View) and Chris Cobain (East Greenwich) as members to the Executive Board. They fill retirement vacancies of Deb Bush (Central) and Al DiGregorio (Hope).
2. Al DiGregorio will remain on the Executive Board as a non-voting member. It was motioned and recommended that Al DiGregorio's name be sent to the NIAAA Awards Committee for the 2014 NIAAA Distinguished Service Award. Besides Al's dedicated service to RIIAAA in the capacity as Athletic Director at Hope High School, he has served on the RIIAAA as President, as an Executive Board Member, the Awards Committee and he currently serves on the NIAAA Credentials Committee to name a few of Al's services.
3. Athletic Directors serving as either Director or Co-Director of a sport committee are reminded to send meeting report(s) to Bob Palazzo Robert.Palazzo@ppsd.org as soon as possible. In order for Jeff Maidment and Mike Traficante to best serve you at Principals' Committee on Athletics meetings, Bob would need to pass on sport committee resolutions in advance of the PCOA meetings.
 - a. Softball sport committee meeting Wednesday, June 26, 2013
 - b. Baseball sport committee end of season meeting TBD.
4. Seventeen member schools have returned RIIAAA membership renewal forms for 2013-2014. NIAAA is asking that all states increase their membership by one for 2013-

2014. Since Rhode Island already has 100% NIAAA membership, the RIIAAA will be actively seeking Middle Schools Athletic Directors to join the RIIAAA/NIAAA ranks.

5. Jamey Vetelino (Westerly) and Jeff Maidment are to be commended for their organization of this year's RIIAAA golf tournament. Although tee sponsorship from schools was down from past years, the tournament successfully exceeded the \$3000 mark. Funds raised from the event are used for LTI course work completed by Athletic Directors as well as funding the RIIAAA recipients of the annual NIAAA Scholarship. Since this is the only fundraiser RIIAAA holds throughout the year, please consider sending in Tee sponsorship, raffle donation and/or at least one group of golfers for next year's event. Kudos to this year's winning team from East Providence followed by Cumberland and tournament sponsor Squad Locker finishing matching cards for third place.
6. Sport Committee Reports: none, however there was commentary to the following:
 - a. **Baseball and Softball** in that too many teams make the playoffs. Discussion on changing both number of teams that qualify and format (baseball) to double elimination will be brought back to both Sport Committees.
 - b. **JV/ Freshmen Football** – most RIIAAA member schools will continue to use their former assignors however, the Massachusetts Football Board is willing to take on both JV and freshman games.
 - c. **JV playoff and tournament play** is a major concern. It is the intention of Jeff Maidment, RIIAAA President, to notify the Presidents of each Coaches' Associations to suggest guidelines to adhere to for JV post-season competition. This meeting is being recommended a minimum of twice a year to maintain a good working relationship between the RIIAAA and Coaches' Associations.
7. Gerry Foley, Johnston HS and Principals' Committee of Athletics Chair will be retiring at the end of this school year. The RIIAAA extends its appreciation to Gerry for his continued support of RI Athletics. The PCOA as selected Kevin McNamara, Principal Lincoln High School as chair. Don Kavanagh, LaSalle Academy leaves the Vice Chair seat having served a five (5) year term. The new Vice Chair Mike Solito, Scituate High School.
8. Principals' Committee on Athletics Report includes:
 - a. Mention of Revenue Sharing to schools that make the playoffs. These discussions are still ongoing.
 - b. The National Federation of High School Sports (NFHS) proposed a five year program between Play On Sports and the NFHS. Play On Sports (\$15 million) along with NFHS (\$1 million) will partner to offer member States revenue sharing for Play On Sports videotaping of High School game/playoffs. Rhode Island is one of twenty-four (24) States needed to initiate the program. Other States are welcome to join the Play On Sports program. Cox Communications will continue to video tape Rhode Island State Finals.

- c. Boys' and Girls' Soccer are now aligned to three (3) points for a win and one (1) point for a tie.
- d. Welcome **new RIIL sports** programs:
 - i. Classical – Golf
 - ii. Masters Academy – Boys' Soccer
 - iii. Scituate – Boys' Outdoor Track
 - iv. St. Patrick's – Boys' and Girls' Cross Country
 - v. Toll Gate – Freshmen Football
 - vi. Mt Hope – Boys' Volleyball (TBD)
 - vii. Central – Girls' Indoor and Outdoor Track
 - viii. Central Falls – Competition Cheerleading
 - ix. Johnston – Girls' Lacrosse
 - x. Juanita Sanchez – Girls' Volleyball
 - xi. La Salle Academy – Field Hockey
 - xii. Wheeler School – Girls' Lacrosse (TBD)
 - xiii. St. Raphael's Academy – Girls' Swim (TBD)
- e. Co-Op Teams **approval** for 2013-2014 include:
 - i. Warwick/Pilgrim/Toll Gate – Girls' Hockey
 - ii. Cumberland/Lincoln – Girls' Hockey
 - iii. Scituate/Tolman – Boys' Hockey (one year only)
 - iv. Cranston West/Cranston East – Boys' Hockey
- f. Co-Op Teams **not yet** renewed include:
 - i. Barrington/Mt. Hope/ Portsmouth – Girls' Hockey
 - ii. Cranston West/Cranston East – Girls' Hockey
 - iii. Narragansett/North Kingstown/South Kingstown – Girls' Hockey
 - iv. PCD/Juanita Sanchez – Wrestling & Girls' Indoor Track
 - v. PCD/Wheeler/St. Raphael's Academy – Boys' Hockey
 - vi. Rogers/Tiverton/Rocky Hill – Boys' Hockey
- g. **Dropped sports** programs include:
 - i. Ponaganset – Freshmen Football
 - ii. Cranston East – Freshmen Baseball
 - iii. East Providence – Freshmen Basketball
 - iv. Tolman – Boys' Hockey
 - v. Mt. Hope Boys' Tennis (TBD)
- h. Warwick Vets girls' soccer has been approved to move down to Division II while Exeter/West Greenwich has been approved to move up to Division I for fall 2013-2014.
- i. Woonsocket girls' basketball was denied to move down to Division II.
- j. Officials fees have been approved for a three year contract of a 2%, 2%, 2% increase for 2013-2016.
- k. Football fee includes \$80 per field official (five) and \$50 for the clock operator (one). Each school will be assessed an \$80 Assignor's Fee for football. MA or CT officials doing freshmen or JV football receive \$57 per official.

- I. As a result of investigation of a Toll Gate Coach/Official incident, the coach has been given a one year suspension to include Cross Country, Indoor and Outdoor Track.
9. Kudos to Eric Godin, Middletown for his dedicated service to the Middletown Schools Athletic Program. Eric stepped down to go back to the classroom full time.
10. Unified Sports programs have been notified that RIIL member schools would have to absorb the bussing cost of their programs. Special Olympics RI continues to write grants to sustain future costs to RIIL member schools.
11. August 15, 2013 is the Fall Athletic Directors' workshop at Johnson and Wales Harbourside Campus. The workshop is scheduled for 8:00AM.

Any questions or concerns, please contact Beth Penkala at:
bethpenkala5@gmail.com