

*Rhode Island Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association*

**NEWSLETTER**

*November 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 new Principal's Committee on Athletics members: Tom Kenworthy, North Kingstown High School and Michaela Keegan, Juanita Sanchez School.
2. 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](mailto: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. **Football** is scheduled to meet the week after Thanksgiving to break any playoff ties in accordance with RIIL Tie Breaker Rules.
3. A reminder that all RIIAAA membership renewal forms for 2013-2014 should have already been sent in with a dues check.
4. Sport Committee Reports:
  - a. **RIIL Hall of Fame Class of 2013** as been announced. Kudos to *Frank Geiselman, Athletic Director Cumberland* as one of this year's recipients.
  - b. **By-Laws committee** met in October. Recommended changes will be voted upon at the December 2013 General Meeting.
  - c. **Co-Op** committee will be making a report to the PCOA at the January 2014 meeting.
  - d. **Boys' Soccer** realignment ranking has been released. A survey is out to RIIL member schools on Division choice.

- e. **Boys' and Girls' Lacrosse** sports committees met. Wheeler School, Division II and Johnston, Division III are adding girls' lacrosse. Narragansett will be moving up to Division II.
  - f. **Baseball:** The RIIL is waiting for response from the Paw Sox as to availability of McCoy Stadium for playoff finals. Once confirmed, the seasons schedule will be drafted.
  - g. **Girls' Hockey** has instituted a mercy rule for girls' hockey. 6 goals ahead in the third period and the game clock will run till the end of the game.
  - h. **Wrestling:** A survey on division choice will be sent to RIIL member schools soon.
5. The RIIAAA ([www.RIIAAA.org](http://www.RIIAAA.org)) and The RI Injury Fund ([www.InjuryFund.org](http://www.InjuryFund.org)) new website is up and running.
6. *The RIIAAA Executive Board is planning an appreciation dinner to honor the accomplishments of Allen Huestis, retired Ponaganset.* The NIAAA Board of Directors has selected him to receive the Thomas E. Frederick Award of Excellence. Allen's name was placed in nomination by the Past Presidents' Council and was wholeheartedly endorsed by the Board of Directors as someone who exemplifies the qualities of leadership as well as contributions to the field of interscholastic athletics in the tradition of Tom Frederick. Presentation of the award will take place at the NIAAA Conference in Anaheim, CA this December.
7. RIIAAA Award nomination forms are out to the RIIAAA membership. Please take the time to recommend a noteworthy person for each of the categories. The deadline for nominations is Friday, December 13, 2013. If not returned by mail, criteria forms for your nominees can be brought to the RIIAAA Appreciation Breakfast Wednesday, December 4, 2013 at the Airport Radisson, Warwick, RI.
8. Agenda items for the December 4, 2013 General Session:
- a. Welcome Middle School Athletic Directors'
  - b. Realignment protocol
  - c. Coaches for Cancer Flyer information
  - d. Kudos to Allen Huestis, retired Ponaganset
  - e. Cox Sports Awards information.
9. Principals' Committee on Athletics:
- a. In the Providence Schools, the **Nurses Institute** and the **Textron School** students will be given a one-time choice of athletic participation to a Providence RIIL member school. However, if they should decide to change to another participating school, they will be considered a transfer student and are subject to the 50% rule as outlined in the RIIL Rules and Regulations.

- b. **Indoor Track** was waived from 10 days of pre-season practice to eight days prior to the seasons start due to restriction on use of the Providence Technical Career Academy.
  - c. All RIIL member schools were sent changes on **Article 7: Limitation of Season** “Captains’ Practice” and **Article 28: Indoor Track** “posting line ups in advance”.
  - d. **Pole Vaulting** has been added as a non-scoring event for Indoor Track.
  - e. Coventry, Smithfield, and North Smithfield have been approved to **Co-Op in Girls’ Hockey for 2013-2014**. Smithfield is the host school for this program.
  - f. In reference to **Foreign Exchange Students**: Students that have obtained a four year visa for US enrollment may participate in only 1 year of varsity competition and up to 3 years of junior varsity competition in the RI Interscholastic League.
  - g. Congratulations to **Steven O’Donnell, LaSalle Academy** for being selected as Rhode Island’s NFHS Coach of the Year.
  - h. The **MA/CT Football Officials Association** has asked for a one year extension on their current officials’ contract.
10. There has been a problem with some football players being ejected from a game by MA/ CT officials and then after appeal have been allowed to play in their next game. This is against what our Blue book rules say (there are no appeals allowed for a player being ejected from a contest).
11. Kudos to Brian Fineberg. Lincoln HS, for passing his CAA exam. RI will continue to give the CAA exam in October as this serves a need for RI. It will also be offered at the Section 1 Summer Institute in Brewster, MA.
12. Mike Shiels, Chariho HS, has taken all the courses and is scheduled to complete the CAA exam. There are also a couple of people who either have or will have the requirements for an RAA.
13. Looking at topics for the State meetings March 2014. Two that were mention are:
- a. What schools do for awards?
  - b. The plus and minuses of Video Streaming!
14. Tom Marcello, Ponaganset has sent out realignment listings for fall sports that reflect the 2013 standings.

**Any questions or concerns, please contact Beth Penkala at:**  
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