

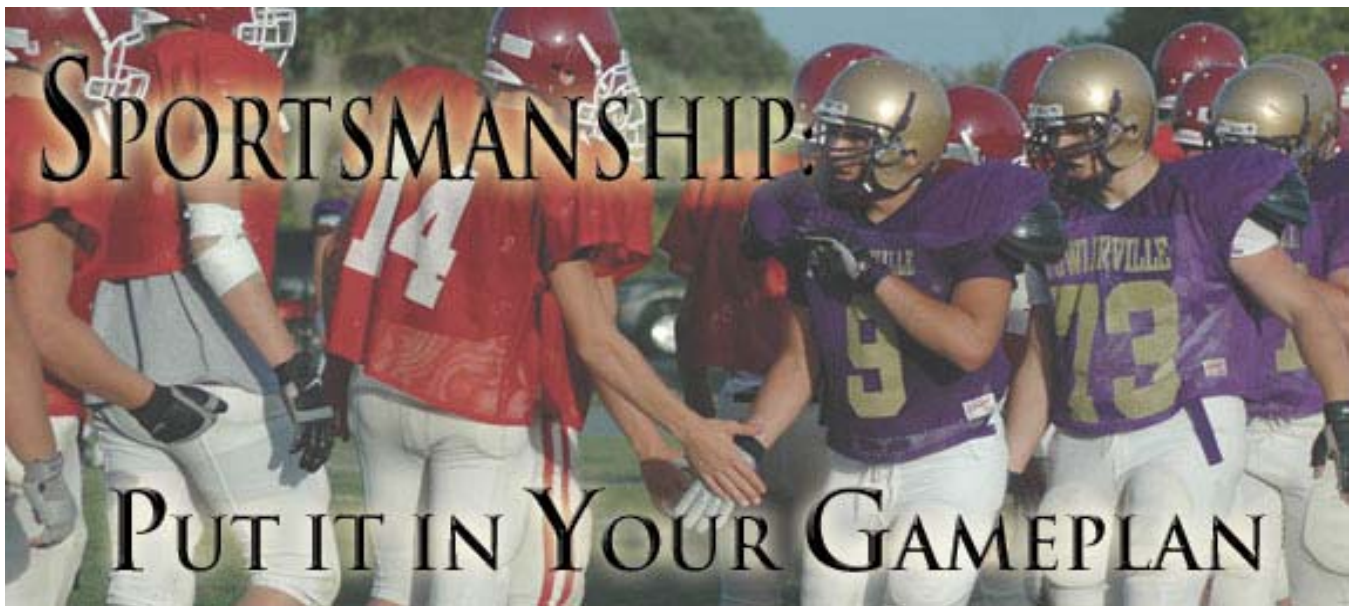


Rhode Island Interscholastic League

Online @ www.riril.org

Monthly Bulletin
January
2005

Happy New Year!!!!



RESPECT IS THE KEY TO GOOD
SPORTSMANSHIP

**Member of the
National Federation
of High Schools**



**A Proud Member of
The High School Internet Network**

Rhode Island Interscholastic League

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Executive Director

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**FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR.....**

The recent events regarding student athletic eligibility involving one of our member schools was extremely unfortunate. Without question, it is a matter of great concern for all of us because the consequences involve student athletes. Nothing is more important in our interscholastic athletic program than the assurance that all competitors are eligible under the rules of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League. The purpose of our Association, as stated in the Rules and Regulations of the RIIL, is to:

- Formulate minimum uniform and equitable standards of eligibility that must be met by students to attain the privilege of representing their schools in interscholastic activities.
- Provide a fundamentally fair and equitable framework in which interscholastic athletic competition in an educational setting can take place....

Our schools and their principals pledge to accept and monitor their compliance to these Rules and Regulations. Principals, athletic directors, coaches, teachers, parents, and students should become familiar with these rules especially as they relate to the student eligibility provisions. If there is any question about an athlete's eligibility, it should be checked with the RIIL.

Moses Brown unintentionally violated the eligibility rule that no student can compete more than eight semesters in a high school sports program. True to their school motto: "For the Honor of Truth," Moses Brown School admitted their error and accepted the penalties imposed by the Principals Committee on Athletics. On behalf of the League, we take this opportunity to convey our thanks to the entire Moses Brown School Community for respecting and supporting the decisions of the RIIL.

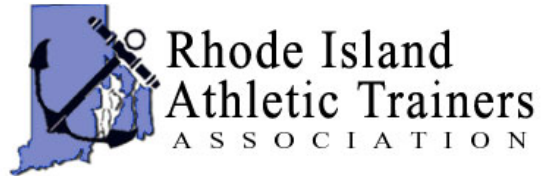
Finally, after five months on the job my feet are firmly on the ground (I hope). I really appreciate the willingness of many of you to call with your opinions, comments, concerns and suggestions. In this way our office is able to know what is going on in the "trenches." Your input has helped us to solve problems clear up some misconceptions and provide better support for our schools. Please continue to provide this input. The RIIL staff and Committee on Athletics value your ideas and always consider your comments and suggestions.

* * * *

And we quote....

"The greatest secret of success in life is for a person to be ready when their opportunity comes."

Benjamin Disraeli



Rhode Island Athletic Trainers Association (RIATA) has a website www.riathletictrainers.org that is a great resource for our member schools. Through this website the association targets schools and the general public and discusses many important issues regarding the protection of our athletes in the secondary school setting and sports medicine in general. Recently, they have added a section called "ask the athletic trainer". In addition, they provide information about prevention and treatment of athletic injuries and public announcements. I encourage all coaches, athletic directors and school officials to visit this site.



**"I fear there will be no future
for those who do not change."
Louis L'Amour**



Principals of Positive Coaching
(a seminar for aspiring coaches)



Saturday, February 12, 2005
8:45am – 3:00pm
Hosted by
Johnson & Wales University
at the Hospitality Center
Cranston, RI
(885-6314)

Sportsmanship Tip of the Month – January

RESPECT is the Key to Good Sportsmanship

- R** Stands for: **Role** – Play your own role, not anyone else's.
- Coaches – coach
 - Dancers- dance
 - Judges – judge
 - Parents and Spectators – cheer
- E** Stands for: **Ethical Behavior**
- Follow the golden rule
 - Treat others as you would like to be treated
- S** Stands for: **Stop Second Guessing**
- Officials
 - Rivals and their motives
- P** Stands for: **Plan of Action** – HAVE ONE!!!
- Plan how your team and spectators can exhibit good sportsmanship and work the plan
 - Before meets, discuss how your team is perceived and perception is built by: the way you act; the way you look at others; the way you carry yourselves; and the message conveyed by the above
- E** Stands for: **Execute**
- Execute your plan and remind your teammates to do the same
- C** Stands for: **Celebrate!**
- Not just the placement of your team at a meet, but the “wins” or positive experiences you had as a team and as a coach from working your plan
- I** Stands for: **Togetherness**
- Look at the “Big Picture” or team as a whole
 - What we say or do and how we act, effects the image of the team and experience of others in the activity

SO.....
YOU WANT TO BE A COACH?



MENTOR **trainer**
MOTIVATOR
EDUCATOR **role model**

SO, YOU WANT TO BE A COACH?



Today, millions of young people participate in activities ranging from athletics to drama. Unlike their grandparents, these young people begin organized activities as early as five years old. It seems that youth today rarely play unsupervised; they are always under the watchful eye of a coach. The demand for coaches today has skyrocketed well beyond the supply.

There is a general perception in our society that anyone can coach. The perception is that if you played the sport, or were associated with it in some way (such as a statistician), or you just plain have the interest to coach that's all it takes. Don't be fooled by that perception. Coaching is a profession that can be tremendously rewarding, but to be successful and effective you must possess and develop your coaching skills.

WHAT ARE THE BASIC SKILLS OF COACHING?



A coach today must possess many skills to be successful.

Coaches must:

- Understand what motivates young people. Each person may have a different reason why he or she plays and how he or she is motivated. Coaches must learn the skills of communication and reinforcement.
- Know the principles of conditioning to be sure athletes exercise properly for their particular sport. Athletes condition and warm up differently

for baseball than they would for soccer, as an example. A coach must know how nutrition affects the athlete's performance. Very young athletes do not need the extensive warm-up that a physically mature athlete does.

- Know the legal duties of coaching. Coaches must always act in a prudent manner or they may be sued in a court of law for negligence. As a coach you must:
 - Properly plan and teach skills in progression
 - Properly instruct athletes on the correct procedures and skills
 - Make sure the environment where athletes play and practice is safe
 - Be sure to match athletes by size and ability to avoid mismatches
 - Be able to evaluate and respond to injuries sustained by your athletes
 - Supervise the activity and make sure athletes are safe and not involved in horseplay
 - Make sure an emergency plan is developed and in place to be sure emergency personnel and vehicles can enter the playing area.
- Be organized for practice and contests. This means a coach must develop lesson plans for each practice and game just as a teacher would prepare for class each day. Coaches must understand the sport well enough to teach skills from the general to the specific and in progression, which means in steps from single to complex.
- Must understand the role that a parent plays in their child's sport experience. The coach should plan for a preseason meeting to inform parents of what they can expect from you during the season.



*"Today is a new day. You will get out of it what you put into it."
Mary Pickford*

Healthy Lifestyles and Sports Medicine

Use and Implementation of Automated External Defibrillators



Every year in the U.S.A, 250,000 people die of sudden cardiac arrest. The American Heart Association (AHA) reports that 20,000 – 50,000 lives could be saved annually by prompt use of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs).

A federal law was passed in April 2004 requiring AEDs on all U.S.A. originated flights. NYS law and Department of Education Rules and Regulations require the presence of an AED at every high school athletic game, practice and scrimmage.

In 2004, a law was passed in R.I. requiring AEDs in all R.I. Health Clubs. In 2000, RI Bill H7336 required 2 AEDs in every city and town, all state colleges and judicial offices.

There has never been a lawsuit against an AED user in the U.S. according to the AHA. On the contrary, as awareness of AEDs grows, we may face greater liability by not having one available.

Recently, this committee sent you a survey regarding current usage of AEDs in RI schools. Forty-eight of fifty-seven schools responded. Nineteen schools currently have AEDs. Each of these schools has between one and seven units. Four of these schools have plans to purchase additional AEDs. Another 10 schools have plans to purchase their first AED in the near future.

Our committee is strongly recommending that all R.I. High School Athletic Departments purchase at least one AED for their athletic programs. These units can be purchased for as little as \$1000 per AED. They cannot be purchased without a prescription from a physician. Medical supervision of your program is required. The physician is not required to be present when the AED is used, but must be aware of how you were trained (and follow-up training), and any uses of the AED.

In addition, we recommend that each school set up a temporary task force to provide the training for use of AEDs. This task force should have representation from administration, coaching, nursing and a physician to act as Medical Director. This physician could be your school physician, an ER physician, a cardiologist or any other physician interested in this area.

Our goal is to improve the safety of our athletes and spectators. Please consider the importance of this recommendation. We would be happy to assist you in any way we can during any phase of implementation at your school.



RIIL Sports Medicine Advisory Committee

the purpose of
High School Athletics
is not for the development of
College or
Professional Athletes

By Mike Blackburn, CMAA



The purpose of a high school athletic program is not to provide Division I college scholarships, develop athletes to produce a college national championship, to provide candidates for professional sports, or to prepare gifted athletes for Olympic competition. All of these high levels of play are tremendous accomplishments for a few; however, they are not our goal in coaching and administering sports.

For some parents, the reason for their sons or daughters to be involved in athletics stems from their assumption that athletics is a means to an end. That is, with the future that parents face in college expenses, they may see the purpose of athletics to be the provision of a college scholarship. They may see pouring a great deal of money into private lessons, club play, tournaments sanctioned by private agencies, league play, skills camps, entry fees and travel expenses as cash well-spent in order to do what it takes to see the goal of a scholarship attained.

You may know of families that have spent enough money in this manner, over a period of years, to pay for four years of college at a state institution. In the athletic community of today, such out-of-season involvements have become an expectation. I contend that the family must develop a philosophy regarding the intensity of participation, opportunities and its impact upon the family prior to becoming involved. Once the onslaught of opportunities begins, it can be all-consuming of the family schedule, time together, weekends, finances, church involvement and other priorities.

Encourage the parents in your school district to discuss ahead of time what their priorities will be and what parameters they will set. Far too many parents view their child's athletic ability as a potential cost-savings for a household because of the chance of a scholarship. They look at the elite college and pro athletes and tell their child that is the level they should attain.

Chris Boone of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) calculated the number of high school athletes who will participate at an NCAA school. He compared the number of high school students participating in each sport from the NFHS High School Athletics Participation Survey to the NCAA statistical report of student-athletes. These percentages of college participants include not only scholarship athletes, but all non-scholarship players from three divisions. The following percentage of high school participants in that sport will play at an NCAA school.

Certainly, we all do take pride in our athletes who go on to play at the college level and we will work to assist legitimate candidates to find a place to compete. However, scholarships are not why we offer athletic opportunities. Statistics for the 2003-04 school year show the overall high school

participation numbers to be almost seven million student-athletes nationally. According to the 2003-04 High School Athletics Participation Survey conducted by the NFHS, 6,903,552 student-athletes participated in high school athletics last year. That figure represents the all-time record for the 31 years the survey has been conducted. While athletes-on-line.com reported that more than 100,000 athletic scholarships are given annually by colleges in the United States amounting to \$50 million, consider the following statistics and the odds of scholarship money for 98 percent of high school athletes.

59% of high school football and basketball players believe they will receive a college scholarship.

Of about **920,000** high school football players, **50,000** will play at an NCAA school and **215** will play in the NFL.

Of more than **515,000** high school basketball players, **13,000** will play at an NCAA school, while **60** will play in the NBA.

The odds of a high school football player becoming a pro are approximately **1** in **1000**.

3 in every **10,000** high school basketball players will play in the NBA.

1-2% of high school athletes will receive a Division I athletic scholarship.

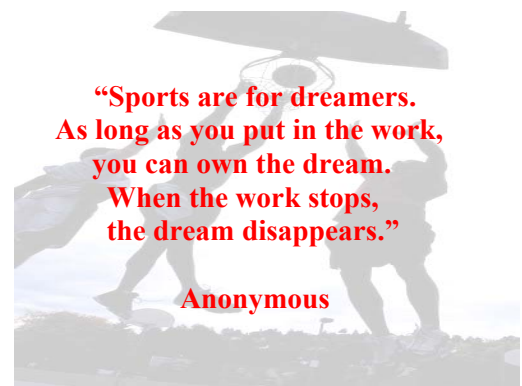
12,999 out of **13,000** high school athletes will never be professional athletes.

1 in **4,200** college baseball players will become professional players.

1 in **5,200** college football players will become professional players.

The odds of becoming a brain surgeon are greater than earning a spot on an NBA team.

The author, Mike Blackburn, CMAA, is director of athletics at Northwestern High School in Kokomo, Indiana.



“A runner must run with hope in his heart and dreams in his head”

Emil Zatupek

Athletics & Achievement



The Report of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE)
Commission on High School Athletics in
an ERA of Reform

Introduction

In January 2004, the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) convened a blue-ribbon commission of national, state, and local education policymakers and committed stakeholders. The Commission set out to assess the state of high school athletics and recommend policies for adoption by states, districts, and schools advocating that athletic programs support, rather than undermine, student academic achievement. It should be noted that in focusing their attention on the relationship between interscholastic athletics and classroom success, Commission members were aware that a number of other critical areas, such as the state of Title IX or the current role of physical education in the school curriculum, must be left for another day.

Background

One of the fundamental duties of state boards of education is to ensure uniformly high academic standards and to establish objective measures of student academic performance. Yet few state boards have taken action to guarantee that interscholastic athletics do not take precedence over student academic performance. Given their statewide responsibilities for K-12 education, state boards play a critical role in ensuring that athletics does not compromise the high academic standards and rigorous academic accountability measures that apply to all schools.

Athletics is one of the largest nonacademic school programs in which students participate. As more and more money enters the picture through scholarships and revenue, and as the importance of a solid academic education grows, the stakes have never been higher for both students and schools. Historically state boards have not exercised their authority in this realm, particularly in determining the academic eligibility criteria for student athletes. There is an urgent need to address this issue as professional sports increasingly encroach upon academics. Indeed, the problems that have plagued college athletics—such as unscrupulous agents, mercenary coaches, questionable recruiting practices, and extravagant benefits bestowed upon players—are now becoming more frequent at the high school and, in some instances, the middle school level.

These practices compromise the school's educational mission and undermine the public's confidence in the education system. While colleges have taken steps to address these issues over the past two decades, there has been little discussion or even acknowledgment among state education policymakers of the increasingly troubling situation.

The Commission began by affirming the following basic assumptions:

1. All students can learn;
2. All students must be held to high expectations;
3. Academic achievement has precedence over extracurricular activities;
4. Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege that must be earned, not a right that is conferred;
5. Involvement in extracurricular activities adds to the education of the *whole* student; and
6. Athletics provide *every* student with the opportunity to benefit from, and contribute to, the school environment.

This report is structured into five sections with each emphasizing an area of central concern.

CHAPTER ONE discusses the manner in which athletics contribute to academic success through balanced academic-athletic programs and highlights information on the relationship between a student's participation in sports and their academic achievement.

CHAPTER TWO focuses on the student-athlete as a *whole* student. Social and health-related topics, such as short- and long-term health benefits, and the impact of performance enhancing drugs are discussed along with the impact of sports specialization on school programs and its effects on student-athletes.

CHAPTER THREE discusses the critical role of coaches and their impact on the student-athlete. Coaching certification, professional development, and the impact on the ethical development of student-athletes is examined in determining the role of high school coaches.

CHAPTER FOUR examines the role of the state in funding extracurricular activities and in considering policy implications for the participation of students identified under IDEA and Section 504; students attending publicly-funded charter schools; and cyber and home schooled students.

CHAPTER FIVE brings attention to the often-limited role of state boards of education in overseeing high school athletics and stresses the benefits of developing stronger working relationships with state high school activities associations to address overlapping areas of concern.

In the following months, we will review each of these chapters in more detail.

“Sports do not build character.
They reveal it.”

Casey Stengel

Guidance Counselors Play Key Role in Communicating Eligibility Rules



It is important that all counselors be fully knowledgeable of the essential eligibility requirements students must meet to represent the school and participate in interscholastic activities. Counselors are frequently asked by students to advise them on matters dealing with the preparation of, or changes in their class schedules. In doing so, counselors should be sure that they do not advise a course of action which will result in students forfeiting their eligibility to compete in interscholastic athletics or activities through violation of RIIL rules of eligibility. Counselors should discuss eligibility requirements with all students. Member school principals should emphasize to all guidance counselors the importance of having copies of RIIL eligibility requirements on file at all times in the guidance offices www.riil.org. The following "Checklist for School Counselors" can be extremely helpful when checking students status for eligibility:

1. Check to see that the student has not turned 19 before September 1st.
2. Check to see that the student has not been enrolled in high school (grades 9-12) for more than eight semesters.
3. Check to see that all student athletes are passing 60% of their subjects including physical education.
4. Check to see that the student athlete has not changed schools without a corresponding move by their parents or persons with whom they are living.
5. If a student has transferred check to see if they participated in any athletic program at the previous school.
6. Check to see that the student athlete is taking at least four subjects, each involving at least four periods of work or an aggregate of fifteen periods per week.
7. If the student athlete repeats work for which credit has once been received, the student athlete cannot count that subject a second time for eligibility.
8. The student athlete cannot count for eligibility points obtained in a subject taken during the summer that had not previously been regularly pursued in the classroom.



RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE ANNOUNCES HALL OF FAME 2005 CLASS

The following ten (10) distinguished athletes, coaches, officials and administrators will be inducted into the Rhode Island Interscholastic League High School Athletic Hall of Fame class of 2005.

Pasquale (Pat) J. Abbruzzi - was one of the most outstanding football players and coaches in RI Gridiron history. Pat first came to

the attention of the state's sports fans in 1948, as an outstanding football player at Warren High School. After achieving All-State honors in football at Warren High School, Pat went on to the University of Rhode Island, where he rewrote the rushing record books. In 1954, he was named the RI Athlete of the Year and was also honored as the RI Italia American Athlete of the Year in both 1953 and 1954. After playing professional football, Pat returned to coach football at Warren High School and led teams to 8 divisional championships and a Class B Super Bowl title in 1975. For his outstanding accomplishments, Pat was named as one of the greatest RI sports figures of the 20th century by the Providence Journal in 2000.

Robert L. Brooks – Robert “Bobby” Brooks attended St. Raphael Academy during the Mid 1960's. He was an “All Blackstone Valley” selection in football, basketball and baseball during his high school years. As a gifted all-around athlete, he was selected as an “All State” athlete on four (4) different occasions. He was named as one of the top 100 athletes in RI Sports History by the Providence Journal in 2000. He was, and remains, a person who is admired and emulated by younger athletes.

Lenore Cranston – When Lenore Cranston was a student at North Kingstown High School in the 1950's there were not interscholastic sports for girls. Instead, she was active in the band and yearbook and earned membership in the RI Honor Society. After graduation from college, Lenore returned to North Kingstown and was a pioneer in girls' athletics through her activities as a physical education teacher and coach. In her 30 year career she coached numerous girls' teams in volleyball, softball, track and field, field hockey and basketball. Under her direction, the North Kingstown girls' basketball teams won 8 divisional titles, 2 state runners-up and 2 state championships. In 1991 she was honored with the RI Women in Sports Award for Service, named the A. Lenore Cranston Award. In 1996, she was inducted into the North Kingstown High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

G. Gail Davis – Gail Davis is recognized as the “First Lady” of RI Volleyball for leading Toll Gate High School to 10 State Championships in girls' volleyball as well as 18 semi-final appearances. As the CCRI Women's Volleyball coach, she guided teams to several NJCAA New England Championships. In recognition for her success, she received several “Coach of the Year” awards from the RI Volleyball Coaches Association and was named two times RI School Girl Coach of the Year by Words Unlimited. In addition to coaching the girls' volleyball team, she always had time to instruct boys who fell in love with the sport and was one of the people pushing for boys' volleyball to attain varsity status. Gail was one of the first coaches in the state to organize boys' club volleyball teams, which unofficially competed against several other teams. One of her philosophies was very simple, but so instrumental to her success – “the team comes first” – “you can only achieve greatness as team if you put teamwork ahead of yourself.”

Joseph Hassett – Joe Hassett's performance during his high school days at LaSalle Academy was remarkable. Despite being the target of attention by the opponent's defense, he was always equal to the task of performing within the team's structure while scoring huge totals, game after game. He always played with focus, concentration and with a burning desire to win. As his nickname “Sonar” indicated, Joe was noted for his ability to shoot from the outside. He spent all of his high school and college years playing before the introduction of the three-point shot. While blessed with great physical tools, it was his hard work and dedication that made him the outstanding player he was. His greatness was attributed to the endless hours of practice and drills. After an outstanding career at LaSalle, Joe went on to star at Providence College and the NBA.



Karen McAvoy - Many people have described Karen McAvoy's accomplishments at Barrington High School as legendary. She is regarded as one of the all-time superb female student-athletes. During her career at Barrington High School, she was a key member of the undefeated and state championship girls' basketball team in 1970 and 1971. As a member of the field hockey team for three years, Karen was the leading scorer and most valuable player in leading her team to an undefeated season. In addition, in 1970, as a member of the track team, she helped the team win the State Title and earned the Outstanding Athlete of the State Meet Award. As a senior, Karen was the recipient of the Barrington Girl's Athletic Association's Top Female Athlete honor.

Frank Eugene Morey, Jr. - Frank Morey was truly a man who cared about youth sports. Frank was a native Rhode Islander and graduated from St. Raphael Academy in 1950, where he had an outstanding football career. He served in the US Coast Guard prior to entering the University of Rhode Island, where he went on to have a stand-out career in Football and Co-captained the Rams in his senior season of 1959. He was a member of the Providence Steamrollers, a semi-professional football team and the Fairhaven Varsity Club. In 1962, he began his lifetime profession as a high school football coach and Physical Education instructor at Woonsocket High School. While serving as head coach at Woonsocket High School his 1972 team won the Class A Small Division Championship and played in the first RI High School Class-A Super Bowl game. Frank coached at Woonsocket High School for twenty-five (25) years and developed relationships with former players and opposing coaches that continued throughout his lifetime.

Ann Morris - Dedicated friend of Rhode Island Interscholastic League Girls' Sports since 1968, as a coach and administration. Anne Morris' involvement with the Rhode Island Interscholastic League began as a member of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League Sub-Committee on Girls' Athletics for 28 years. She served in various positions; Director of Girls' Cross Country, Track and Gymnastics, and still continues as a gymnastics judge trainer, official and assignor. She has coached State Championship winning teams in Girls' Track and Gymnastics at Warren High School. Among the honors bestowed upon her are the following: Rhode Island Athletic Directors outstanding contribution to girls athletics in 1975; Rhode Island Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance meritorious service award in 1976; University of Rhode Island High School Girls Coach of the Year for 1978; the Bridgewater State College Athletic Hall of Fame in 1988; the Brown University honorary referee award for track in 1991.

Alfred Morro - Alfred Morro's scholastic and athletic portfolio in the classroom and on the athletic field is nothing short of outstanding. As an athlete at Central High School (1933-37), Al dominated the discus competition winning three (3) consecutive AAU New England Championships. In addition, he starred in football. In college Al played football for the legendary coach Frank Leahy at Boston College. In 1940 he played on the national championship team that won the Sugar Bowl. He continued his record setting ways at Boston College, setting the discus records and winning the AAU New England title for four (4) more years. All together, Al Morro owned the discus title in New England as a High School and Collegiate thrower. Al Morro is a member of the Boston College Athletic Hall of Fame and the RI Track Coaches Hall of Fame. As a teacher and coach at Classical High School for over fifty-four (54) years, Al

Morro stood as a role model for students and the force behind the school's tradition of rich academic and athletic success. As the athletic director, football and track coach, Al Morro earned many championships. Al Morro will be remembered most for his accomplishments as a track coach. He single-handedly put RI on the map for its unique ability to produce hammer champions nationally for many years. His athletes went on to win NCAA titles in the hammer and heptagonal and New England titles in the hammer. Even more astounding, his track teams won 325 major team championships, produced 32 All Americans, 8 National Champions, 9 state record holders in different events, and 2 World Record Holders, Age 15-17.

Haig Varadian - Haig Varadian is an accomplished educator, administrator and coach who has brought fame and distinction to his Cranston community, state and nation. After graduating from Cranston High School in 1944, where he was an All-State wrestler, he entered WWII in the US Army. He was a Master Sergeant with the famed 3rd Infantry Division in France and Germany where he received a Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and two Battle Stars. While attending Brown University in 1949, he began his coaching career as the coach of the Cranston High School wrestling team. As the 'father' of schoolboy wrestling in RI, Haig coached at Cranston for 14 years. Simultaneously, he served as a wrestling official for 17 years. In addition, he coached outdoor track at Cranston High School for 7 seasons. Throughout his career he gained legendary status in the sport of wrestling. He was president of the Rhode Island Coaches Association and Officials as well as the New England Wrestling Officials Association. Haig served as Director of Wrestling for the New England Council for forty-three (43) years and was an active member of the Principals' Committee on Athletics for twenty-two (22) years.



* * * *

SUMMARY OF MEETING

The December meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was called to order at 1:40 p.m.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Executive Director's Report from the November 15, 2004 meeting was approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report was approved. Ms. Hale reported a number of member schools have not paid their league dues and fees. They have already been charged \$100.00 late fee. If bills are not paid by January, the schools will have to report to the January Principals' Committee on Athletics Meeting for a show cause hearing.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Mezzanotte referred to several letters, memoranda and publications that were placed in each member's folder or filed in the League office.

A discussion was held regarding "Responses to an Inquiry Regarding the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act." The National Federation of High Schools sent out a survey to all state associations and their responses were shared with the Committee relative to student transfers and their athletic eligibility.

USE OF INELIGIBLE ATHLETES, ARTICLE 6, SECTION 5C

The Principals' Committee on Athletics discussed the issues relating to the penalty for using an ineligible athlete. Specifically, Article 6, Section 5C. Discussion was tabled to next months meeting.

REPORT FROM THE RIIL HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE

Based on the Hall of Fame's recommendations, Ms. Marquis, H.O.F Committee Chair submitted the following ten (10) names for consideration as inductees into the 2005 Class of the RIIL High School Athletic Hall of Fame: Pasquale J. Abbruzzi [posthumously]; Robert L. Brooks; Alice Lenore Cranston; G. Gail Davis; Joseph P. Hassett; Karen M. McAvoy; Frank E. Morey, Jr. [posthumously]; Ann H. Morris; Alfred Morro and Haig Varadian.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the recommended names for the Class of 2005 Hall of Fame induction.

SPORT COMMITTEES

Mr. Mezzanotte stressed the importance of sport committees to meet and discuss issues relative to their sport--not just alignment--on a regular basis, especially after the season. At the end of each season, the RIIL office will ask coaches, athletic directors and principals for comments, concerns and questions to that sport committee. Mr. Finn suggested a list of members of the Principals' Committee on Athletics and sport directors be posted on the RIIL website.

RIIL RULES & REGULATIONS BLUE BOOK CHANGES

The Principals' Committee on Athletics discussed having the League print hard copies of the Rules and Regulations of the RIIL. A minimum of two (2) copies will be sent to member schools with an opportunity to purchase additional copies. The League will get an estimate of the cost.

NEW ASSUMPTION OF RISK FORM FOR 2005-2006

The Principals' Committee on Athletics discussed the new Assumption of Risk Form. Comments and recommendations were made. Recommendations will be forwarded to the league attorney and submitted at the January meeting for approval.

FALL SPORTS

• Football

Division Champions

Division I – Cranston High School West
Division II – Tolman High School
Division III – East Greenwich High School
Division IV – Moses Brown School

State Champions

State Champion Division – Cranston HS West
LaSalle – *Runner-up*
Division I – Barrington High School
Bishop Hendricken – *Runner-up*
Division II – Tolman High School
Cumberland High School – *Runner-up*
Division III – Woonsocket High School
Mt. Hope High School – *Runner-up*
Division IV – Moses Brown School
Central High School – *Runner-up*

Freshman Football

State Champions - Bishop Hendricken High School **Division Champions**

Eastern Division – Portsmouth High School

Western Division – Bishop Hendricken High School

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the 2004-2005 Football Championships.

➤ **Football** – Mr. Mezzanotte reported on football revenue from the Superbowls.

• Girls' Volleyball

Division Champions

Division I North – East Providence High School
Division I South – Coventry High School
Division II North – Classical High School
Division II South – Barrington High School
Division III – Central High School

State Champions

Division I – East Providence High School
North Kingstown High School - *Runner-up*
Division II – Classical High School
Ponaganset High School – *Runner-up*
Division III – Johnston High School
The Prout School – *Runner-up*

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the 2004-2005 Girls' Volleyball Championships.

➤ **Girls' Volleyball** – Ms. Botelho, Director of Girls' Volleyball, proposed a volleyball play-off tie breaker.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the Volleyball play-off tie breaker proposal.

WINTER SPORTS

- **Hockey** – Mr. Mezzanotte reported all is going well.
- **Basketball (Boys)** – Mr. Foley, Director of Boys' Basketball, reported a concern with the Boys' Freshman Basketball season. He stated there is not enough time from the start of season to the first game and suggested a later starting date in 2005-2006.
- **Wrestling Weight Management** – Mr. Silva, Director of Wrestling, reported all is going well.
- **Basketball (Girls), Swim, Gymnastics & Indoor Track (Boys & Girls)** – No report was given.

SPRING SPORTS – ALIGNMENT UPDATE

Mr. Mezzanotte reminded the Committee that all spring sport alignments are due by the January meeting.

- **Baseball** – Mr. Mezzanotte reported the alignment would be presented at the January meeting.
- **Softball (Fastpitch)** – Ms. Marquis, Director of Fastpitch Softball, reported all is going well.
- **Softball (Slowpitch)** – No report was given.
- **Outdoor Track** – Mr. Littlefield, Director of Boys' & Girls' Outdoor Track, reported all is going well.
- **Boys' Volleyball** – Mr. Kavanagh, Director of Boys' Volleyball, submitted the 2004-2006 Boys' Volleyball alignment for approval. The alignment proposal was developed using the guidelines approved by the Principals' Committee on Athletics.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics voted 12-1 to approve the 2004-2006 Boys' Volleyball Alignment.

➤ **Lacrosse (Boys and Girls)** – Mr. Finn, Director of Boys' and Girls' Lacrosse, reported all is going well.

- **Golf** – Director of Golf vacancy. Reappoint Mike Lunney as Interim Director of Golf.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously voted to approve the reappointment of Mike Lunney as Interim Director of Golf for 2004-2005. In the meantime, the Committee asked that a position vacancy be sent to all committee members for the Director of Golf.

- **Boys' Tennis** – Ms. Calouri, Director of Boys' Tennis, reported the alignment would be presented at the January meeting.

BEFORE THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED, A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION. THE COMMITTEE VOTED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Mr. Mezzanotte reported that a football player from Saint Raphael Academy who was ejected from the last game (play-off) has refused to submit a letter to the league explaining why he should not be placed on probation during the next sport season. The student will remain ineligible unless he submits the requested letter.

In another matter, Mr. Mezzanotte reviewed the information and letters submitted by the Principals of West Warwick and Coventry High School regarding the altercation between both football teams on Thanksgiving Day. The Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously voted to recommend the following to:

1. Enforce Article 6, Section 6 as it pertains to the ejection of a Coventry and West Warwick High School player.
2. Place both football teams on probation for the 2005 season.
3. Encourage the administration at Coventry High School to discuss and site the Coventry football coaches for allowing their team to enter the field without supervision.
4. Suspend the West Warwick High School football coach for one league game in the 2005 season.
5. Encourage both teams and coaches to meet to build "good will between the groups" and send a message that both schools support and model mutual respect and sportsmanship both on and off the field.

HEARINGS

3:45 pm **Taylor Harrington – Saint Raphael Academy**
Waiver of Article 3, Section 5 – The Transfer Rule.
Appealing a decision of Waiver Committee.
Motion to approve basketball: 10-2 (approved) Motion to approve baseball: 2-10 (denied)

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 December meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 4:25 pm.

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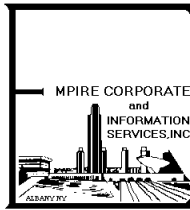
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The Mission of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League
Is to provide educational opportunities
For students through interscholastic athletics
And to provide governance and leadership
For its member schools
In the implementation of athletic programs.

NATIONAL AFFILIATION

The Rhode Island Interscholastic League is a member of the National Federation of State High School Associations, which consists of the state high school associations of all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Guam, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and all provinces of Canada are affiliate members.

The objectives of the National Federation of State High School Associations are to:

- serve, protect, and enhance the interstate activity interests of the high schools belonging to the state associations;
- assist in those activities of the state associations which can best be operated on a nationwide scale;
- sponsor meetings, publications, and activities which will permit each state association to profit by the experience of all other member associations;
- coordinate the work so duplication will be minimized;
- formulate, copyright, and publish rules of play or event conduct pertaining to interscholastic activities;
- preserve interscholastic athletic records, and the tradition and heritage of interscholastic sports;
- provide programs, services, material and assistance to state associations, high schools and individual professionals involved in the conduct and administration of interscholastic activities;
- study in general all phases of interscholastic activities and serve as a national resource for information pertaining thereto;
- identify needs and problems related to interscholastic activities and where practical provide solutions thereto; and
- promote the educational values of interscholastic activities to the nation's public.



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