



March-April 2003



Rhode Island
Interscholastic League

Member of the
National Federation
of High Schools



A Proud Member of
The High School Internet Network



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

As we all know, the 2002-2003 year has been plagued by inclement weather, necessitating continual postponements and cancellations. With your cooperation, understanding and patience, the online scheduling program has been invaluable and successful in rescheduling the numerous contests affected by the elements.

The administration and staff of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League would like to thank Athletic Directors, Sport Directors, and Assignors for their cooperation. Without their efforts, time and interest, Rhode Island student-athletes would not enjoy the meaningful and educationally sound athletic programs we provide.

As always, we are here to serve you and stand ready to assist you in any way we can.

More and more frequently, the League office is relying on technology to disseminate information. Emails are sent to all Principals and Athletic Directors, and/or announcements are posted on the 'Members Only' page of the RIIL website. We urge you to check these areas often for important information. If you have trouble accessing any of this information, please do not hesitate to call the League office, 272-9844.

From time to time, the League sends out surveys and/or questionnaires seeking information and input pertinent to important issues. The disappointing thing is that we often do not receive a high number of responses and, in many cases, must send out a second survey. This is your organization – information sought is important to what the League is trying to accomplish. This spring and all next year, you will be receiving surveys seeking your input on alignment of our sport leagues. I would ask all Principals and Athletic Directors to please respond to the surveys and/or questionnaires in accordance with the determined timelines. In addition, I respectfully request that you respond to all inquiries from the League; i.e., October 1st enrollment, graduation dates, playoff rosters, etc.

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*“Our schools should reinforce good character ...
Our children must be educated in reading
and writing, but also in right and wrong.”*

President George W. Bush

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TEEN [DOMESTIC] VIOLENCE

The RIIL offers the following in a continuing series regarding teen domestic violence:

“I was there and he got real mad. First he started screaming at her and calling her names. Then he shoved her into the car and started slapping her. She was scared and tried to tell him she loved him. I got mad and yelled at him to stop – that she didn’t do anything wrong. My boyfriend also tried to get him to stop. He told him to calm down, that this was not the way to treat a girlfriend. Later, we talked with her and kept telling her that he had no right to hit her:”
Abbie, 15

Teens are most likely to go to a friend for help. Here’s what you can do:



- **Point out the different types of abuse** - Help your friend recognize that abuse is more than getting shoved against the locker, hit or slapped. Abuse can be emotional, verbal, physical or sexual. Let your friend know that abuse happens and hurts more over time and it won't stop on its own. Let them know that being abused is not their fault - the abuser chooses how to act.
- **Express your concerns** - Tell your friend you are glad they confided in you. Let them know you are sorry this is happening. You can never say the following things too much: *I'm worried about you; It's not your fault; I'm glad you told me about what you're going through; You deserve better; or, I'm here for you.*
- **Be Accepting** - Try to understand that there are both good and bad times in your friend's relationship. Don't become upset if they are not ready to break off the relationship or keep returning to the abusive partner. Hold back from telling them they are wrong. Help your friend see they are not to blame for the violence and that changing their behavior will not stop the abuse. Tell your friend you are worried about their safety. Let them know you are there for them and will support them in whatever decisions they make.
- **Work on a Safety Plan** - Help your friend think of ways to increase their safety. Remember the abuse may temporarily increase if your friend takes steps to end the relationship. Offer to walk with her to and from school or between classes. Encourage her to tell other friends so they can help. Find local resources that can offer additional support.
- **Be concerned about your own safety** - Know that helping someone in an abusive relationship might also put you at risk.
- **Support your friend's strengths** - Point out your friend's strengths. Remember, abusive partners often put down, make fun of, or ridicule their partner to make them feel no one will accept them. Encourage your friend to take time for themselves and spend time with people who support them.
- **Reach out to an adult for help** - Encourage your friend to find someone to talk to about the abuse. Some suggestions: the local domestic violence agency, school counselor, teacher, clergy, member or relative. Crisis lines are answered 24 hours a day and you don't have to give your name. Offer to go with them or to make the first call for them.
- **Talk to the abusive partner** - If you feel safe doing this, tell the abusive partner that you know what's going on and you want it to stop. Refuse to accept their excuses for the abuse. The blame for abuse cannot be put on the dating partner or external factors. Let them know you are still their friend, but their behavior is unacceptable.
- **Be there, listen and stay there** - You may feel like a broken record that no one is listening to. Keep supporting your friend. Avoid blaming them so they will know you are standing beside them. If your friend is ready to end the relationship, continue to be supportive

If you are frightened or frustrated, Get support for yourself. Remember .. you can't rescue or solve your friend's Problems, but you can offer support.

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EPHEDRINE ALERT!

From the National Center for Drug Free Sport, Inc.

“We want to caution all Americans – particularly athletes ... about using dietary supplements that contain ephedra. We are particularly concerned about the risks of using products containing ephedrine during heavy workouts, with caffeine and other stimulants. The FDA is going to immediately execute a series of actions against ephedra products making unsubstantiated claims about sports performance enhancement.”

To learn more about actions taken by the federal government on February 28, 2003 to protect Americans from ephedrine risks go to the News Center at www.drugfreesport.com.

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WHAT IS A CHAMPION?

A Champion's Creed...

*Reprinted from the website of
The Heart of A Champion Foundation*

- ✓ Champions get up one more time than they have been knocked down.
- ✓ Champions give their all no matter the score.
- ✓ Champions do what is right even when it hurts.
- ✓ Champions know winning is not necessarily measured by the final score.
- ✓ Champions take a stand for what is right, even when they stand alone.
- ✓ Champions see every challenge as an opportunity.
- ✓ Champions make those around them better.
- ✓ Champions do the right thing even when no one is watching.
- ✓ Champions dedicate themselves to prepare for success.
- ✓ Champions put the success of others above individual achievement.
- ✓ Champions understand winning is not the only thing.
- ✓ Champions live by a higher personal standard.
- ✓ Champions stand firm when others around them fall.
- ✓ Champions live what they speak and speak what they live.
- ✓ Champions lay down their own desires for the benefit of others.
- ✓ Champions willingly accept responsibility, and graciously deflect honor.
- ✓ Champions never sacrifice what is best for something good.
- ✓ Champions may fail...but they never quit.

The Heart of a Champion Foundation is an organization dedicated to providing character for America's youth. For more information, visit their website at www.heartofachampion.org.

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Open Football Dates



Bishop Feehan High School (MA) is seeking varsity football opponents to fill two of the possible open dates listed below:

Friday-Saturday, October 3-4

Friday-Saturday, October 10-11

Friday-Saturday, November 7-8

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact: Paul O'Boy, Director of Athletics, 508-226-6223.

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WINNING ESSAYS: 'DO YOU DARE TO PLAY FAIR?'

Tuesday, March 4, 2003 marked the 13th National Sportsmanship Day across the United States. The event, started by the Institute for International Sport, raises awareness about fair play, sportsmanship, and ethics in athletics and society. In the spirit of sportsmanship, more than 12,000 students at all levels – elementary, middle and high school and college – were asked: Do you dare to play fair? More than 500 essays were submitted addressing sportsmanship and ethics or offering a personal reflection on good or poor sportsmanship. A panel of judges chose the four winners: Stephanie Schlobohm, Grade 3, Saints Simon & Jude Elementary School, Huntington Beach, CA; Morgan Fields, Grade 7, Mauldin Middle School, Simpsonville, SC; Brian Giaccone, Grade 11, Enfield High School, Enfield, CT; and Ian Gordona, Senior, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH. Below is an excerpt from Ian's essay:

'The sportsman does not know of footprints; he is always first in line. The sportsman does not cry over loss but is the shoulder for all other tears. The sportsman does not see the light of victory; he is the light. The sportsman does not own the hand that scores the winning point; he owns the hand that all others want to shake. The sportsman is not the one waking up early to make himself better, but the one waking up early to make a team better. The sportsman does not dream; he is the dream. The sportsman is not the fan, but the reason for fans. The sportsman does not see the distance between two points as a challenge but a requirement. The sportsman does not know how far talent can take the heart but knows how far the heart can take the talent. The sportsman does not know of arrogance but shows all signs of confidence. The sportsman does not bit the hand that feeds but is the feeding hand. The sportsman does not see black and white but all the colors in between. The sportsman is not the one

waiving the flag, but the one saluting it. The sportsman is not the one crossing the finish line first, but the first one to congratulate all those who do. The sportsman does not win the medal; he works for it. The sportsman is not the role model; he just plays the role. The sportsman is not the most valuable player but is the most valued. The sportsman is not the one being called a hero. After all, he is the sportsman.'

Log on for more on sportsmanship:

- The four winning sportsmanship essays can be read in their entirety and a list of individuals selected as Sports Ethics Fellows can be found at www.sports.usatoday.com.

- Download the "Dare to Play Fair" CD-ROM presentation, a three-part lesson plan for schools and teachers at www.internationalsport.com/nsd/nsd.cfm.

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*"Victory is the quality of the competition ...
not the final score."*

Mike Marshall

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FAILING TO SUCCEED

*Curt Spencer, Assistant Director
New Mexico Athletic Association*

How many times a day are you experiencing failure? If you are not experiencing failure on a semi-regular basis, you are simply not trying hard enough! I would say you are in a comfort zone. If this is allowed to happen, we are limiting ourselves in creativity.

Most of us grew up thinking that mistakes were a bad thing, and that they should be avoided at all costs. We tend to associate mistakes with low intelligence. The more mistakes you make, the dumber you are. How many of us want to be perceived as dumb? According to Abraham H. Maslow, once our basic fundamental needs for survival are met, we then place a premium on peer acceptance; the need for being loved and having a sense of belonging is very important to each of us.'

The reality is that our potential to learn and grow will be directly related to and affected by our ability to accept failure and rejection, and to persevere against all odds. Our ability to overcome perceived failure and to keep getting up, "keep swinging the bat," will invariably determine our levels of success. To succeed, we must risk failure. Every time our name is called, we must step up to the plate and take our cuts. We must leave the confines of the dugout. We must leave our areas of comfort, where our friends and loved ones are. We must enter the game of life, a world where the playing field is not always level.

Not everyone will play by the rules, but we must be strong in maintaining our integrity and not give in to the temptation to lie, steal or cheat. We must always attempt to do the right thing. Our faith must be strong and our courage undeniable.

Mistakes are simply stepping-stones to bigger and better things. As quoted by Roger Kiyosaki in his book, *Rich Dad/Poor Dad*, “there is a bit of magic in every mistake, that magic is called learning.” We must allow, even encourage, those under our direct supervision to take chances, and calculated risks; to experience failure. Then – we must teach them the art of turning a mistake into an opportunity to gain wisdom. Before teaching, we must first seek to understand, and secondly to be understood.

It is not easy to learn from our mistakes and setbacks. How we react to them tells us, and the world, who we are and who we will become.

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HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS HOLD SPECIAL ATTRACTION

*By Jack Roberts, Executive Director
Michigan High School Athletic Assoc.*

For years, I have been attending meetings where I have heard that AAU basketball especially, but also similar non-school groups for volleyball, soccer, swimming and other sports, will soon overwhelm and take over school programs. It is alleged that these programs are so aggressive and attractive that they will steal students away from the more regulated and restrictive interscholastic athletic programs.

More aggressive? Yes. More attractive? No.

The aggressiveness was observed again at the MHSAA Girls’ Basketball Semifinals and Finals when AAU coaches were so bold that they interrupted players’ postgame celebrations to recruit them to AAU teams. This was in spite of a so-called agreement between the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan and AAU Michigan that this would **not** occur.

AAU basketball will never be as attractive as high school basketball. The AAU’s best card – college recruiters at summer tournaments – may be trumped by new NCAA rules that will restrict attendance by NCAA coaches at these meat markets.

And the charm of school sports is still most appealing to coaches, players and their parents. Here are just a few aspects of school sports that the AAU can’t duplicate:

- Student cheering sections
- Pep bands
- Cheerleaders
- Pep assemblies
- League and conference affiliations

- Local radio doing play-by-play and reporting scores
- Local television providing scores and highlights
- Local newspapers providing box scores and game summaries on an almost-every-game basis

School administrators and coaches hold the best cards. They must continue to promote a pure, wholesome, amateur, local, educational program that is both right in principle and most popular with the participants. ■

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*“Never mistake knowledge for wisdom ...
One helps you make a living; the other helps
you make a life.”*

Sandra Carey

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“MAKE THE POINT!” FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS

On October 25, 2003, millions of high school students across the nation will have the opportunity to participate in *Make the Point! for Special Olympics*, a basketball fund-raiser to benefit participating schools and Special Olympics. The alliance between the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and Special Olympics brings together two organizations dedicated to empowering individuals to be respected, contributing members of society through their involvement in sports.

Make the Point! is simple –

1. Students establish a personal goal of free throws they will attempt in a 60-second time period.
2. Based on that number, students solicit donations per free-throw attempt from friends and family.
3. On October 25, 2003, the participating students will gather at your schools’ gymnasiums, bring the revenue they raised, and shoot as many free throws as they possibly can during the 60-second period.
4. As an added bonus, participating schools will be financially rewarded for their efforts by receiving 19% gross of all revenue generated by their school.

How does your school get involved?

1. Contact Maryann Brown, Administrative Assistant, RIIL, at mbrown@riil.org; 272-9844; or via FAX at 272-9838 by May 1, 2003 to register.
2. Special Olympics will forward each registered school a complete Make the

Point! for Special Olympics implementation kit. This kit will include detailed how-to instructions, free K-12 curriculum information, marketing materials, student recruiting materials, day-of-event materials – everything you need to implement a successful event.

3. Once your school receives the kit, you are ready to implement the *Make the Point!* event.
4. As an added bonus, you can visit www.specialolympics.org/getintoit and download the free *Special Olympics Get Into It™* standards based K-12 curriculum so your educators can teach their students about respecting and embracing differences and similarities in people with and without mental retardation and how to overcome barriers to achieve their goals.

Be a part of this history-making venture and, most importantly, give your students the opportunity to lead their communities, our nations and its future generations in the pursuit of empowerment, acceptance and inclusion for all individuals.

The *Make the Point!* event on October 25th will conclude the 24th annual celebration of National High School Activities Week (October 19-25), which was created by the NFHS in 1980 to increase the public's awareness of values of and need for interscholastic activity programs.

**Together – we ALL can *Make the Point!*
For Special Olympics**

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The following is from February 24, 2003 and March 17, 2003 meetings of the Principals' Committee on Athletics.

The February meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was called to order at 1:45 pm.

Mr. Lynch introduced the guests from the Tiverton H.S. Code of Conduct Review Committee who were in attendance to observe the proceedings and to gain a better understanding about the operation of the RIIL.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Executive Director's Report from the January 27, 2003 meeting was approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report was approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

FOOTBALL

Mr. James A. Murano, Jr.

Mr. Lynch submitted the 2002 Playoff/Superbowl Financial Report. He noted that [2002] revenue was considerably less than previous years because of the season's inclement weather and continual postponements/cancellations. In addition, the weather was severely cold, which reduced the number of attendees on those nights when the games were played.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the 2002 Football Financial Report.

ARTICLE 7, SECTION 7 -

NON-SCHOOL COMPETITION SURVEY

Discussion ensued regarding the responses to the [second] survey that was sent to all member schools regarding the non-school competition rule. Of the 55 member schools, 38 responses were submitted. Of those, 26 were in favor of changing the rule and 12 were opposed to it. Seventeen (17) schools did not respond at all to the survey. The majority of concerns expressed in the responses centered on safety and policing of the rule.

Inasmuch as several members of the Principals' Committee on Athletics were absent due to a national meeting of the NASSP, the members present agreed to table this discussion to the March meeting when the full membership will be present.

VOLLEYBALL

**Ms. Elaine Botelho
Mr. Donald Kavanagh**

Mr. Kavanagh reported on the findings from the survey sent to member schools regarding the change in the boys' volleyball season from Fall to Spring. Of the 24 schools that participate in boys' volleyball, 18 favor the move to the Spring season and 6 are opposed to the change. Some of the concerns expressed were: conflicts in scheduling facilities; coaching conflicts, in that many coach both boys and girls volleyball; and problems with the quantity and quality of officials.

Inasmuch as several members of the Principals' Committee on Athletics were absent due to a national meeting of the NASSP, the members present agreed to table this discussion to the March meeting when the full membership will be present.

In other business, Mr. Lynch reported that Central High School appealed an imposed fine of \$50.00 for lack of representation at the Girls' Volleyball Coaches' Interpretation meeting. The information packet was picked up by the Athletic Director prior to

the start of the interpretation meeting, but no one was in attendance at the interpretation meeting itself.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics voted 9-0 to deny the appeal.

REVIEW OF TRANSFER RULE

Mr. Lynch addressed the Transfer Rule as it applies to student-athletes who transfer from a parochial/private school to a public school *with* a change of address. In accordance with the existing rule, said student-athlete would be subject to the Transfer Rule; i.e., ineligible for 50% of the (new) school's League season in any/all sports s/he participated in at the varsity level at his/her previous school. Although a student in this situation does change residence, s/he may continue to attend the parochial/private school inasmuch as there are no 'district' limitations.

On the advice of the Executive Director, the Committee agreed to table this issue until the impending Federal court case is resolved.

BLUE BOOK CHANGE

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding member schools' failure to pay their RIIL dues and fees by the deadline of December 1st of the billing year in accordance with the RIIL Rules and Regulations. It was emphasized that, each year, invoices for Dues and Fees are sent at the beginning of September to the Principal of each school and that all invoices are sent at the same time.

It was proposed that the deadline for payment be changed to October 1st of the billing year and that, if payment is not received by that date, schools in violation shall not receive winter and/or spring schedules. Once payment is received, the schools' administration would need to appear before the Principals' Committee on Athletics for reinstatement.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics voted 8-1 to deny to proposal and to retain the December 1st deadline for payment of membership dues and fees.

NATIONAL FEDERATION SECTION I MEETING

Mr. Lynch provided the Committee with an update on the NFHS Section I meeting, which is being hosted this year by the RIIL. The event will be held on Sunday-Tuesday, April 13-15, 2003 at the Hyatt Regency, Newport. Representatives from the eight (8) Section I states, as well as New York, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Washington, D.C. will be in attendance. Mr. Lynch extended an invitation to members of the Principals' Committee on Athletics for the opening reception 6:00 pm on Sunday, April 13, 2003.

RIIL HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Mr. Lynch reported on the status of plans for the inaugural RIIL High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Eleven (11) honorees will be inducted into the Class

of 2002 on Wednesday, April 30, 2003 at the Quidnesset Country Club. The Hall of Fame Committee has met and plans are proceeding for the event. He reported that tickets are \$35.00/per person and may be purchased by calling the League office.

WINTER SPORTS ISSUES

➤ **Girls Basketball**

Mr. Lynch reported on an event that took place during half-time at a game between North Kingstown H.S. and LaSalle Academy (at LaSalle) on February 4, 2003 at which time fourth grade girls from Lincoln and Cumberland played a 'mini game' without referees and without time or score being kept. The event was scheduled to help celebrate National Girls & Women in Sports Week. Although innocent in nature and intent, the event drew concerns about the potential for recruiting.

Donald Kavanagh, Principal of LaSalle Academy, stated that neither he nor the Athletic Director knew in advance of this event. Subsequent to the incident, the Principal and Athletic Director met with the girls' basketball coaches and told them that the event was not ethical and presented the appearance of impropriety and that it was never to happen again.

The Committee agreed to have the administration of LaSalle Academy address the issue internally.

➤ **Hockey**

Mr. Sheehan reported that two (2) separate snowstorms on February 7th and February 17th resulted in several cancellations. In addition, a problem with the ice at the Thayer Arena in Warwick resulted in one card being stopped half-way into the first game and another card cancelled altogether on February 15th. Mr. Sheehan has been working diligently to reschedule all cancelled games in time to complete the regular season prior to the scheduled start of the playoffs.

In other business, Mr. Lynch submitted a request from the R. I. Hockey Coaches' Association to conduct its Annual Scholarship Games on Sunday, March 2, 2003. Proceeds from this event provide scholarships to five (5) players who will be entering college. In addition, the proceeds are supplemented with a \$1000.00 donation to the Coaches Scholarship Fund from the R. I. Summer Hockey program conducted by Donald Armstrong.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics approved the request.

Mr. Lynch also reported that the St. Raphael vs. Warwick Vets game that was cancelled on February 7th was rescheduled to February 14th. However, inasmuch as this date presented a

conflict with a scheduled St. Raphael Winter Ball, the St. Raphael hockey team chose to voluntarily forfeit the game. Mr. Sheehan stated that St. Raphael was told in advance of the rescheduled date. In addition, he deliberately scheduled their game as the first game of a triple header (6:00 pm) to try to accommodate the students who wanted to attend the school dance.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics voted 8-0 to place the St. Raphael Academy hockey team on probation for one (1) year.

➤ **Freshman Boys & Girls Basketball Championships**

Ms. Colleen Gribbin, Director of Freshman Boys and Girls Basketball, submitted the following 2002-2003 championships for the Committee's review and consideration:

Boys

<i>North</i>	North Providence H.S.
<i>South</i>	North Kingstown H.S.
<i>East</i>	Barrington H.S.
<i>West</i>	Cranston High School East
<i>State Champion</i>	North Providence H.S.

Girls

<i>East</i>	Portsmouth H.S.
<i>West</i>	LaSalle Academy
<i>State Champion</i>	LaSalle Academy

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the 2002-2003 Freshman Boys and Girls Basketball Championships.

➤ **Swimming**

Mr. Richard Magarian submitted the following 2002-2003 championships for the Committee's review and consideration:

Boys Division Championships

<i>Northern</i>	Mt. St. Charles Academy
<i>Central</i>	Bishop Hendricken H.S.
<i>Eastern</i>	Rogers H.S.
<i>Western</i>	South Kingstown H.S.

Boys Class Championships

<i>Class A</i>	Bishop Hendricken H.S.
<i>Class B</i>	South Kingstown H.S.
<i>Class C</i>	Mt. St. Charles Academy

Boys State Championship

Bishop Hendricken H.S.

Girls Division Championships

<i>Northern</i>	Lincoln H.S.
<i>Central</i>	Cranston H.S. East
<i>Eastern</i>	Barrington H.S.
<i>Western</i>	Narragansett H.S.

Girls Class Championships

<i>Class A</i>	Lincoln H.S.
<i>Class B</i>	South Kingstown H.S.

Class C

Mt. St. Charles Academy

Girls State Championship

Lincoln H.S.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the 2002-2003 Swimming Championships.

SPRING SPORTS ISSUES

➤ **Baseball**

Mr. Lynch submitted a request to allow regular season games to begin on Monday, March 31st as opposed to April 1st as stated in the RIIL Rules and Regulations.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics approved the request.

➤ **Outdoor Track – Pole Vault Safety**

Mr. Lynch reported on a proposed mandatory [pole vault] coaches certification program that will now be necessary in order to allow student-athletes to participate in pole vault, ***including practice***. There are two (2) training sessions scheduled; Thursday, March 6th at the RIIL Office; and Thursday, March 27th at South Kingstown High School. An additional training session is being conducted in Massachusetts on March 21st. Attendance at the Massachusetts session will satisfy the requirement for certification.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee unanimously approved the mandatory certification program for pole vault coaches.

➤ **Girls Volleyball**

Mr. Lynch reported on requests from several member schools seeking permission for their [female] student-athletes to participate in [non-school] junior volleyball programs [R. I. Blast and Ocean State Spikers] while competing at the varsity level for their respective high schools. The schools submitting requests were East Greenwich High School, Cranston High School East, and Cranston High School West.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the request, allowing the student-athletes to participate in only three (3) events with the junior volleyball program. Further, they must notify the League office of which three (3) events they will participate in.

Inasmuch as similar requests are frequently submitted to the League office at the start of the Spring sport season, the Principals' Committee on Athletics authorized Mr. Lynch to approve any additional requests as they come in with the aforementioned provisos.

➤ **Fastpitch Softball**

Mr. Lynch submitted a request from the Fastpitch Softball coaches to conduct a mid-season All-Star Game for Divisions I and II.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the request.

➤ **Boys Tennis**

Mr. Lynch submitted a request for a pre-season boys tennis tournament.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the request.

➤ **Golf**

Mr. John Gray, Director, reported that the format for the first day of this year's state tournament will consist of all participants starting off on the first tee. The starting time will change from 7:00 am to 6:30 am.

Mr. Gray also reported that the Golf Realignment Committee has met and does not want to have to realign into two divisions. Inasmuch as the golf courses mandate tee-times, the existing regional format better allows for beginning scheduled matches on time. He will report back to the Committee on Athletics.

FALL SPORTS ISSUES

Mr. Lynch proposed that Robert Cavanagh, Director of Athletics at South Kingstown High School, be appointed to the position of Assistant Director for Boys' Soccer.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the appointment of Robert Cavanagh to the position of Assistant Director for Boys' Soccer.

The Committee then adopted the following Closing Motion: THAT ANY AND ALL MOTIONS, AMENDMENTS AND ACTIONS BY THE COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS AND THE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS TO THIS DATE BE REAFFIRMED AND RATIFIED.

The February meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 4:20 pm

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The March meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was called to order at 1:40 pm.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Executive Director's Report from the February 24, 2003 meeting was approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report was approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

RESIGNATIONS

A letter was submitted by Kevin Sheehan, in which he announced his resignation as Chairperson of the Waiver Hearing Committee and member of the Principals' Committee on Athletics, effective immediately.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics accepted, with regret, Mr. Sheehan's resignation.

A letter was submitted by Maryann Brown, in which she announced her resignation as Administrative Assistant for the Rhode Island Interscholastic League, effective September 26, 2003. Mr. Lynch noted that Mrs. Brown's resignation is being submitted at this meeting in order to allow time to search for, hire, and train a replacement.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics accepted, with deep regret, Mrs. Brown's resignation.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBER TO PRINCIPALS' COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS

It was proposed that Marie Johnson, Assistant Principal, Pilgrim High School, be appointed to the Principals' Committee on Athletics to serve as Co-Director of Girls' Soccer. Kevin McNamara, Director of Athletics at Lincoln High School, has been serving as Co-Director of Girls Soccer with Kathryn Crowley. However, due to the aforementioned resignation of Kevin Sheehan, Mrs. Crowley will now assume the position of Chairperson of the Waiver Hearing Committee, thereby vacating the position of Director of Girls' Soccer.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the appointment of Marie Johnson to the Principals' Committee on Athletics.

FOOTBALL

Mr. James Murano

Mr. Murano reported that the RIIL Football Committee met on Thursday, March 13, 2003, at which time several considerations were discussed. Among the considerations were the following: 1) One certified official for each J.V. game; 2) Use of place kicker from other fall sports; 3) Ejections prior to Thanksgiving game; 4) Ejections from J.V. games; 5) The manner in which officials report ejections; and, 6) Alignment Proposal.

The issue of [football] place kickers participating in other fall sports was referred to the RIIL Sports Medicine Advisory Committee.

Members of the Football Committee will be invited to appear before the Principals' Committee on Athletics at its April 21st meeting. They will be

asked to be prepared with two (2) different alignment proposals.

The remaining considerations of the Football Committee were discussed without resolution. The issues will be discussed further at the April 21st meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics.

In other business, Mr. Murano reported that the Football Committee is requesting a waiver of Article 16, Section 1A - the Practice Limitation Rule for Football. The existing rule, which states that helmets only may be used for Days 1-3 of [football] practice and that the use of shoulder pads may begin with Days 4-5, was amended last year to allow shoulder pads be beginning with Day 2. It was noted that the amendment was approved last year for one year only – the 2002-2003 school year.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics voted 11-2 to deny the request. The matter will be referred to the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee for further discussion and review.

In other business, discussion ensued regarding the alignment procedure for football, as well as for other sports. The following members of the Principals' Committee on Athletics will serve on a Realignment Committee to review the criteria and procedure for aligning all sports: Mmes. Crowley, Marquis, Neal, and Dan Sheehan. In addition, Elaine Botelho, Director of Girls' Volleyball will serve on this committee, as well as two (2) members of the R. I. Athletic Directors' Association.

VOLLEYBALL

**Ms. Elaine Botelho
Mr. Donald Kavanagh**

Mr. Kavanagh reported that the Volleyball Committee is in favor of changing the boys' volleyball season to Spring beginning in Spring 2005.

A motion was made and seconded to change boys' volleyball to Spring beginning in Spring 2006. This move would cause boys and girls volleyball to be played in the same season for one year. This would result in additional conflicts with gym time, availability of officials, and scheduling conflicts with coaches who coach both boys and girls volleyball.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics voted 7-5, with 1 abstention, to deny the motion to move boys' volleyball to Spring beginning in Spring 2006.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics voted 10-2, with 1 abstention, to move boys' volleyball from Fall to Spring, to become effective in Spring 2005.

With these approved changes, boys volleyball will be played in the Fall of 2003 and then not until Spring 2005 and each subsequent Spring. Reminder: Girls Volleyball will be played in the Spring of 2004 and

then will play each Fall beginning with the Fall 2004. {see chart below}

FALL 2003	SPRING 2004	FALL 2004	SPRING 2005
Boys' Vlybl	Girls' Vlybl	Girls' Vlybl	Boys' Vlybl

ARTICLE 7, SECTION 7 – NON-SCHOOL COMPETITION

The proposed changes to [RIIL] Article 7, Section 7– the Non-Competition Rule, were discussed at a previous meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics and tabled because several members of the Principals' Committee on Athletics were absent due to a national NASSP meeting. The following proposed rule change(s) were submitted to the Principals' Committee on Athletics for consideration and review:

ARTICLE 7, SECTION 7C – NON-SCHOOL COMPETITION AND LOYALTY TO SCHOOL TEAM (REVISED 3/17/03)

1. A member of a school team is defined as a student-athlete who is listed on a freshman, junior varsity, or varsity Eligibility List who is regularly present for and/or actively participates in, all team practices and competitions.
2. Bonafide members of a school team are prevented from missing a practice or competition to compete with an "out-of-school" team.
3. If a conflict arises between the high school team practice/competition and *an out-of-school practice/competition* on the same day, the high school team practice/competition must be honored by the student-athlete. Priority/loyalty must be given at all times to the high school team practices and contests unless a waiver has been granted by the Principal and Athletic Director on a case-by-case basis.
4. *Student-athletes may be a member of and compete for "out-of-school" teams if the conditions set forth in #1, 2, and 3 above are met.*
5. **Penalties:**
 - A. Any student-athlete who is in violation shall be ineligible for the next two (2) consecutive RIIIL League contests in which the student-athlete is a participant. This penalty is effective from the date of his/her last participation in a high school sport and may carry over to the next sports season in which s/he participates.
 - B. Any student-athlete who is found to be in violation of the rule a second (2nd) time or subsequent time(s) shall be ineligible for participation for the rest of that sport season. *A student-athlete found to be in violation of Article 7, Section 7c at the end of that sport season shall be ineligible for the first two (2) RIIIL League contests of the same sport in the following year. If the student-athlete has senior eligibility, s/he shall be ineligible for the first two (2) contests of the next sport in which s/he participates. In*

both instances, the student-athlete may be declared ineligible for participation in all interscholastic athletics for his/her school for the remainder of the school year.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics voted 8-4, with 1 abstention, to approve the proposed changes to Article 7, Section 7 – to become effective beginning with the 2003-2004 school year.

WINTER CHAMPIONSHIPS

GYMNASTICS

Class Championships

Class A LaSalle Academy
Class B South Kingstown H.S.

State Championships

Class A LaSalle Academy
Class B South Kingstown H.S.

State Individual Championship

Amanda Fogarty LaSalle Academy

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the 2002-2003 Gymnastics Championships.

BOYS INDOOR TRACK

Division Championships

Southern Westerly H.S.
Suburban Bishop Hendricken H.S.
Metropolitan Classical H.S.
Northern Cumberland H.S.

Class Championships

Class A Bishop Hendricken H.S.
Class B LaSalle Academy
Class C Classical H.S.

State Championships

Bishop Hendricken H.S.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the 2002-2003 Boys Indoor Track Championships.

GIRLS INDOOR TRACK

Division Championship

Dwyer LaSalle Academy
Hird Toll Gate H.S.
Morris Cumberland H.S.
Sullivan Chariho H.S.

Class Championships

Small Lincoln H.S.
Medium Westerly H.S.
Large South Kingstown H.S.

State Championship

Westerly H.S.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the 2002-2003 Girls Indoor Track Championships.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Division Championships

I North Cumberland H.S.
I South LaSalle Academy
I Central Classical H.S.
II North Shea H.S.
II East Tiverton H.S.
II South Chariho H.S.
Ii West Cranston H.S. East
III North (tie) Burrillville H.S.
Central H.S.
Tolman H.S.

State Champions

Division I LaSalle Academy
Runner-Up North Kingstown H.S.

Division II Shea H.S.
Runner-Up Cranston H.S. East

Division III Burrillville H.S.
Runner-Up Davies Career & Technical HS

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the 2002-2003 Girls Basketball Championships.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Division Championships

I-AA (tie) Mt. Pleasant H.S.
Hope H.S.
I-A North Tolman H.S.
I-A South Westerly H.S.
I-A Central Cranston H.S. East
I-A East Pilgrim H.S.
II-North Lincoln H.S.
II-South Mt. Hope H.S.

State Championships

Division I-AA Mt. Pleasant H.S.
Division I-A Cranston H.S. East
Division II Mt. Hope H.S.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the 2002-2003 Boys Basketball Championships.

WRESTLING

Class Championships

A-1 Johnston H.S.
A-2 LaSalle Academy
B-1 North Providence H.S.
B-2 Exeter-West Greenwich H.S.
C-1 Woonsocket H.S.
C-2 Narragansett H.S.

Sectional Tournament Champions

Class B Exeter-West Greenwich H.S.
Class C Woonsocket H.S.

State Champion

Cranston H.S. East
(2nd Consecutive Year)

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the 2002-2003 Wrestling Championships.

Mr. Lynch thanked all Directors of Winter Sports and complimented them on successful seasons.

SPRING SPORTS ISSUES

- **Freshman Baseball**

Mr. Magarian submitted a request to allow regular season games to begin on Saturday, March 29th as opposed to April 1st as stated in the RIIL Rules and Regulations.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics approved the request.

PRINCIPALS' COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS TO THIS DATE BE REAFFIRMED AND RATIFIED.

The March meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 4:05 pm

Think
Sunshine!



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

Rhode Island Interscholastic League

Richard B. Lynch
Executive Director

Richard R. Magarian
Assistant Executive Director

Maryann Brown
Administrative Assistant

Jane C. Hale
Treasurer

Ruth Nicastro
Secretary

Rhode Island Interscholastic League

Bldg. #6 R. I. College Campus ♦ 600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue ♦ Providence, RI 02908-1991

Tel: (401) 272-9844 ♦ Fax: (401)272-9838

web site: www.riil.org ♦ email: info@riil.org

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Mission Statement

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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