

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

One of the goals of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League is to increase the use of technology in the operation of the League office. The plan is to eventually conduct most of the day-to-day business on line.

Submitting eligibility lists on line for all sports, which was implemented last year, has gone extremely well. All eligibility lists are now on line and the League staff will no longer accept hard copies.

This year, we are launching some additional features which we believe will benefit our member schools, as well as the League staff. We will be asking member schools to maintain their own profile information on the RIIL home page as the changes occur; i.e., principals, athletic directors, etc. Also, beginning with the Winter 2001-2002 season and thereafter, we will require Home Confirmation Schedules to be submitted on line. In addition, as the 2001-2002 Winter Sports Season draws nearer, we will require that all team [playoff] rosters be submitted online. This will not only assist us in the preparation of playoff programs, but will also better insure the [spelling] accuracy of student-athletes names by not having to be re-typed.

Effective immediately, the League staff now has the capability of sending a "broadcast" email to all Principals and Athletic Directors [with email capability] with one click of the mouse. This will afford the League staff the ability to better disseminate information quickly and easily.

Beginning in September this (issue), the RIIL monthly bulletin will be available online via the RIIL web site and will no longer be mailed to member schools. Once the bulletin is posted on the web site, an announcement will be sent via email to all Principals and Athletic Directors, informing them that the Bulletin is available. I encourage you to read each bulletin faithfully, because it contains rules changes/updates, important announcements regarding various events, a summary of the minutes of the principals' Committee on Athletics meetings, and information on a wide range of topics pertaining to high school athletics.

We are excited about these advancements in the operation of the League office and we welcome and encourage your input and ideas.

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...Before you were born, your parents weren't as boring as they are now. They got that way from paying your bills, cleaning your clothes, and listening to you talk about how cool you are. So before you save the rain forest from the parasites of your parents' generation, try "delousing" the closet in your own room

from *Bill Gates Speaks*
by Janet Lowe

DIRECTOR OF BOYS' TENNIS

The RIIL is looking for a person who may be interested in serving as Director of Boys' Tennis. The person must be a Principal, Assistant Principal, or School Administrator who has knowledge of tennis and wants to become involved in the League.

If you are interested, please contact Mr. Lynch at the League Office, 272-9844 or by email at info@riil.org.

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**TRUISMS FOR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS TO
SHARE AS WE BEGIN ANOTHER SCHOOL YEAR**

Listed below are several truisms for school administrators which appeared in an article by Blanche Fraser, a former AASA Executive Board Member.

There is no ladder to success; you have to take the stairs. Be passionate about what you do.

The glass is half full, not half empty. Be an optimist. Success is as much a matter of attitude as of hard work and talent.

Believing is seeing. Power is the ability to influence people's perceptions without them realizing it.

No one gets to the top by themselves; no one stays on the top by themselves. Develop a support system within and outside your organization.

There will be challenges to your authority. If what you did was not important, if it did not make a difference, no one else would care.

Be kind to yourself. Peak performance, more often than not, occurs in a state of calm, not frenzy. Schedule time for yourself.

Children First! Putting children first must be our central, core value. It sounds good; it sounds easy. But it is easier said than done. Too often than not, schools are run by adults for adults.

Hopefully, reflection upon these truisms will help you as you prepare for the year ahead.

*Reprinted from Leadership Links
The Newsletter of the R.I. Assoc. of School Administrators*

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RECOMMENDED SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HOSTING OFFICIALS

Quality officiating makes any athletic contest run smoothly. It also creates a positive experience for the players, coaches, and fans. As the host school, it is your responsibility to make the officials feel welcome and comfortable when they are working a game at your facilities.

Always remember that these individuals are working these contests because of their love for school sport and the enjoyment received from working with the high school athlete.

It is the athletic department's responsibility to provide the necessary information prior to the officials assigned contest as well as being available during and following the contest.

Fine officiating and good game management often go unnoticed, but together the officials and athletic department can make the competitive aspect of the game a positive one.

Hopefully, the suggestions that follow will help show the necessary respect, appreciation and preparation needed before an official comes to your school.

✓ *School's Responsibility to an Official Upon Arrival at the Contest*

1. Have a host assigned to meet the officials as they arrive. The host should do the following for the officials:
 - a) provide a reserved parking space.
 - b) meet officials and take them to the dressing room.
 - c) have refreshments available for halftime and postgame.
 - d) ask for any additional needs.
 - e) have the escort or preferably the athletic director introduce the officials to those game workers pertinent to the contest (i.e., scorer, announcer, chain crew, etc.).
2. Have competent adult workers assigned at all contests (scorers, announcers, chain crew, etc.). These people are of great assistance to the official during the contest.
3. Provide the officials with the name of the adult supervisor for that contest and where they can be found in the event a challenging situation should occur.
4. Athletic director should discuss with the officials any special events, conference rules, National Anthem time, etc. that would effect game.
5. Make officials aware of location of trainer or paramedics during the contest. Emergency medical personnel should be available whenever possible, especially at football and soccer contests.
6. Make sure all bench personnel are properly attired.

✓ *School's Responsibility to an Official During the Contest*

1. Insist coaches display good sportsmanship and are proper examples for your players and crowd.

2. Have your public address announcer, team member, or cheerleader read a sportsmanship statement and remain unbiased during the contest.
3. Make sure an event supervisor on scene understands the duties and responsibilities pertinent to that contest.
 - a. Make sure crowd control is visible and in place.
 - b. Observe the crowd during the contest and prevent any disturbances that may occur.
 - c. Work with the official during the game regarding crowd control.
4. Make sure the playing area is maintained during halftime of each contest.
5. Retrieve the game ball at the end of the contest.
6. Escort the officials back to the dressing room at halftime and at the conclusion of the contest.
7. Home management must assist with any fan behavior.

✓ *School's Responsibility to an Official After the Contest*

1. Escort the officials safely back to the dressing room.
2. Do not allow unauthorized persons in the dressing room after the game.
3. Have refreshments available for the officials after the contest.
4. Be sure to thank the officials for their time and effort, regardless of the outcome of the game.
5. Make sure arrangements for paying the officials have been completed.

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TOP 10 REASONS WHY TOTS, CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS (NOT TO MENTION ADULTS AND SENIORS) SHOULD PLAY SPORTS **

10. Slows the aging process, reduces the risks of injury, improves the ability to recover from illness and injury while decreasing susceptibility to physical disorders.
9. Establishes a healthy pattern of life-time physical activity.
8. Establishes transfer to training which helps negotiate a variety of physical environments.
7. Aids sleep and muscular relaxation while adjusting to and coping with stress and tension.
6. Improves cardiovascular fitness, weight control, and appearance.
5. Can become competent in a positive activity that also develops self concept, aids self-esteem, and learning about self.
4. Learn social interaction while being exposed to leadership opportunities.
3. Increases the growth of bone and muscle in children, not to mention osteoporosis prevention in adults.
2. Learn new [sic] skills.
1. It's fun!

**Sport is taken in the broadest context and includes fitness, recreation, dance and instructional physical education. ■

THE DRUGS THAT CHILDREN USE

The following is a list compiled by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). It shows the drug's name, duration, effects, and symptoms of children who use them.

DRUG/STREET NAME	SYMPTOMS
Alcohol	Puffiness of face, redness of eyes, depression, disorientation, nausea, cold and clammy skin. Dehydration.
Marijuana/pot Reefer, Grass	Euphoria, relaxed inhibitions, disoriented behavior, staring off into space, hilarity without cause, time distortion. Bloodshot eyes, dry mouth and throat.
Barbiturates, Methaqualone/ Quaaludes, yellow jackets, red devils	Slurred speech, disorientation, drunken behavior with no odor of alcohol. Sedation
Cocaine/coke, show, blow, lady gold dust	Apathy, anxiety, sleeplessness, paranoia, hallucinations, craving for more cocaine. Weight loss. Constant sniffing.
Crack Cocaine	Same as Cocaine
Amphetamines/ uppers, speed black beauties	Decreased appetite, dilated pupils, sleeplessness, agitation, unusual increase in activity.
PCP (angel dust, killer week, crystal cyclone, elephant tranquilizer, rocket fuel	Sweating, dizziness, numbness, hallucinations, confusion, agitation. Violence and aggression or silence and withdrawn state.
Heroin/Mexican brown, China white, Persian porcelain, "H"	Watery eyes, runny nose, yawning, loss of appetite, tremors, irritability, panic, chills, sweating, cramps, nausea.
Gas & Glue/Rush Locker Room, aerosol cans, lighter fluid, gasoline (Inhaled through a saturated cloth or in a bag covering nose and mouth)	Very alert, keen senses, hallucinations, dizziness, scrambled words and disconnected sentences. Smells like whatever the child was doing.
Hallucinogens, LSD, Mescaline, Peyote, Mushrooms	Beady eyes, nervous, erratic behavior, laughing, crying, personality changes, "sees" smells, "hears" colors. marked depersonalization.
MDMA/Adam Ecstasy, X-TC	Confusion, depression, sleep problems, anxiety, paranoi, muscle tension, involuntary teeth clenching, nausea.

Reprinted from *Scholastic Athletics*
A Publication of the N.Y. State Public H.S. Athletic Assoc.

TOP TEN TRAITS OF SCHOOL LEADERS

Education World recently asked principals which traits they felt were important in school leaders. The top 10:

1. Has a stated vision for the school and a plan to achieve that vision.
2. Clearly states goals and expectations for students, staff, and parents.
3. Is visible – gets out of the office and is seen all over the school.
4. Is trustworthy and straight with students and staff.
5. Helps develop leadership skills in others.
6. Develops strong teachers; cultivates good teaching practice.
7. Shows that s/he is not in charge alone and involves others in decision making.
8. Has a sense of humor.
9. Is a role model for students and staff.
10. Offers meaningful kindnesses and kudos to staff and students.

-- Dateline NAESP

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Kids and Sports – Sixty-eight percent of boys and sixty-five percent of girls age 9 to 13 play or practice organized sports for one hour or more per week. In the age 14 to 18 age group, sixty-nine percent of boys and fifty-three percent of girls play or practice organized sports for one hour or more per week.

Source: "A League of Their Own",
American Demographics, March 2001

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PRE-CONTEST ANNOUNCEMENT PROMOTES GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

Good sportsmanship is vital to the educational integrity of interscholastic activities. With that in mind, the following is presented as a possible pre-game announcement for any interscholastic contest during the school year.

“Activity programs at _____ High School are primarily for student participants. The PURPOSE of these activities is to provide a positive learning experience and the opportunity for personal growth for those participating.

We are pleased to host as our guests this (afternoon/evening) _____ High School.

This competition is being conducted according to the rules of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League and the National Federation of State High School Associations.

Cheerleaders, officials and spectators can – and are expected to – assist in the promotion and achievement of good sportsmanship by taking personal responsibility for keeping this and all interscholastic contests at a high level of fair, clean, wholesome competition.”

ON FROZEN POND

A one-hour video program sponsored by the RIIL, made possible in part by grants from the R.I. Committee for the Humanities, and The June Rockwell Levy Foundation.

For information, contact Kathi Wheater, 401-568-9623.

TV DOCUMENTARY FEATURING R. I. SCHOOLBOY HOCKEY NEEDS ARCHIVAL PHOTOS, HOME MOVIES AND MEMORABILIA

ON FROZEN POND is an historical heritage documentary chronicling the first 50 years of schoolboy hockey competition in Rhode Island, and focusing on a group of Burrillville small town boys and the coaches who turned their teams of “hicks from the sticks” into a succession of state and New England champs.

Inspired by the memory of Rhode Island’s legendary educator and coach Tom Eccleston who passed away at age 90 in December 2000, the program explores something that no film has explored before: the unique origins and development of Rhode Island hockey culture and its link to American Hockey as distinct from Canadian Hockey.

The film’s time period covers 1938 to 1974, 1986 to 1990, and includes BHS Broncos and opponents on ponds, rinks, and in State and new England Championship games; plus Coach Eccleston’s P.C. hockey teams at R. I. Auditorium from 1956 through 1964.

ON FROZEN POND is a project of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League. WSBE-TV 36 will broadcast the program in Rhode Island and act as presenting station to the national PBS network. Projected air date is Winter 2002.

Hope us recreate the period! If you have photos, home movies or memorabilia such as hockey jackets or uniforms, period hockey skates, banners, trophies or other items that could be used to provide historical context for the film, please contact Producer/Director Kathi Wheater at 401-568-9623.

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TO EVERY CHEERLEADER

There are little eyes upon you
and they’re watching night & day;
There are little ears that quickly take in every word you say;
There are little hands all eager to do anything you do,
And the little girl who’s dreaming
of the day she’ll be like you.
You’re the little girl’s idol; you’re the wisest of the wise,
In her little mind about you no suspicions ever rise;
She believes in you devoutly, holds that all you say & do
She will say & do, in you way, when she’s grown-up like you.
There’s a wide-eyed little girl
who believes you’re always right,
And her ears are always open, and she watches day & night!
You are setting an example every day in all you do.
for the little girl who’s waiting ...
to grow up and be like you.

Author Unknown

ATHLETICS AND SCHOOL VIOLENCE Safety, Security, and Supervision

Athletics and activities shape your school’s image and have a strong influence on the school climate. Schools can use their staff, and in particular coaches and athletes, to serve as role models and “watch guards” for such issues as hazing, exclusion, elitism and more violent behavior.

I. Indicators of Hazing

- Is alcohol involved?
- Will current members refuse to do what initiates are asked to do?
- Does activity risk emotional or physical abuse?
- Is there risk of injury?
- Would participants have any reservation describing activity to their parents or teachers?
- Would you object to having activity photographed or filmed by media?

Any “yes” answer indicates the activity is probably “hazing.”

II. Effect of Hazing

- Fighting
- Injuries
- Lowered classroom performance due to lowered self-esteem and stress
- Missing school or practice
- Withdrawal
- Predecessor to violent school behaviors

III. Eliminating Hazing

- In-service faculty and staff
 - It can happen here.
 - Take it seriously.
- Supervise locker rooms, weight rooms and training facilities, physical education classrooms, etc.
- Coaches and teachers need to be proactive.
- Develop a school hazing polity.
 - Post in locker rooms, etc.
 - Part of student handbook
 - Educate students
- Take action if hazing occurs.

IV. Other School Violence/Safety Issues

- Bullying – School administration must determine severity and act accordingly; develop a school policy and train school personnel – particularly guidance counselor.
- School Security Plan – Include PSA announcements on procedures for exit. Why the necessity to discontinue the event and plans for resumption of the event.
- Bomb Threats – Never take lightly. If an athletic event, notify game officials immediately for procedures to suspend/delay play.

David Turner
Illinois Principals’ Association

I AM A TEACHER

by John W. Schlatter

I am a Teacher.

I was born the first moment that a question leaped from the mouth of a child.

I have been many people in many places.

I am Socrates exciting the youth of Athens to discover new ideas through the use of questions.

I am Anne Sullivan tapping out the secrets of the universe into the outstretched hand of Helen Keller.

I am Aesop and Hans Christian Andersen revealing truth through countless stories.

I am Marva Collins fighting for every child's right to an education.

I am Mary McCleod Bethune building a great college for my people, using orange crates for desks.

And **I am** Bel Kaufman struggling to go Up The Down Staircase.

The names of those who have practiced my profession ring like a hall of fame for humanity...Booker T. Washington, Guddha, Confucious, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Leo Buscaglia, Moses and Jesus.

I am also those whose names and faces have long been forgotten but whose lessons and character will always be remembered in the accomplishments of their students.

I have wept for joy at the weddings of former students, laughed with glee at the birth of their children and stood with head bowed in grief and confusion by graves dug too soon for bodies far too young.

Throughout the course of a day, **I have** been called upon to be an actor, friend, nurse, doctor, coach, finder of lost articles, money lender, taxi driver, psychologist, substitute parent, salesman, politician, and a keep of the faith.

Reprinted from *The Interscholastic*

A Publication of the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Comm.

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If a child lives with honesty,
he learns what truth is.
If a child lives with fairness,
he learns what justice is.
If a child lives with encouragement,
he learns self-confidence.
If a child lives with fear,
he learns to be apprehensive.
if a child lives with criticism,
he learns to condemn.

NFHS SUMMIT SHEDS LIGHT ON FOREIGN INFLUENCE IN HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

by Chris Boone

As he welcomed attendees to the NFHS Summit Meeting on International Students on April 20 in Indianapolis, NFHS Executive Director Bob Kanaby quipped that he had the perfect basketball team waiting in the hallway for anyone who was interested in fielding a team.

He had a frontline, all taller than 6-foot-8, and two quick guards who could shoot. All five were from other countries and were looking for a high school program to further develop their talents in the American system.

"It may sound crazy," Kanaby said, "but it can be that easy."

Because it has become that easy for international students to find a place on high school teams across the country, evidence has been found that it is often done in conflict with state association rules and at the expense of other players. With that in mind, nearly 80 representatives from state associations around the country convened at the summit to discuss the issue.

Evidence of just how prevalent the foreign influence is on the high school game was offered by ESPN and the Dayton (Ohio) Daily News. Justin Gubar, from ESPN Outside the Lines, produced a one-hour program on the foreign game that highlighted different pipelines of basketball talent to American high schools.

"The stories we showed were, by no means, comprehensive," Gubar said. "A lot of individuals we talked to were very intimidated and sensitive to the issue."

The show profiled a group of boys from Nigeria, among others, who took the circuitous route through Moscow, where they signed a contract, then moved to Toronto, where they lived with a talent scout, and then finally, to the United States. It illustrates the great desire of young players to use their undeniable basketball talent in the American system, but it also shows the unique and unusual ordeals these players bring with them into the high school system.

Consequently, state associations are cast in the unenviable role of often ruling against these players who are simply trying to use their talent to better their lives. Unfortunately for the players, third parties in the process, such as coaches, administrators, and scouts aren't always altruistic in their motives for bringing them here.

"Coaches don't believe they are doing anything wrong," Gubar said. "They seem to be missing the point in the pursuit of winning."

In addition, Gubar said many school administrators were reluctant to talk about these specific instances, claiming a student's right to privacy as justification for their silence.

So where do the NFHS and state association start to address the problem? John Erickson and Christine Vasconez of the Dayton Daily News traveled around the country and the world investigating the phenomenon. Who better to understand where the problem lies, right? Wrong.

“There is no easy answer regarding with whom to start,” Erickson said. “There is a circle of people around each kid, and they don’t all say the same thing. You don’t know who to believe.”

The two journalists found a very intricate system for players to use and people to help them use it. Those people range from exchange program administrators, coaches from both high school and college, agents and scouts. With so many people willing to help players find a path to a high school team, they find ways to get around any roadblocks that may arise.

“With these players, it is very easy for them to get around the rules or there are no rules at all,” Vasconez said.

Whether it is an oral agreement with an agent, a fake birth certificate, a change on a school transcript or any number of ways to gain eligibility, they all have been used. Charlie Rodriguez, a highly touted player from the Dominican Republic, played for Fresno (California) Clovis West High School from 1998 to 2000, and was featured in the ESPN program. When asked about two separate birth certificates, one of which documented Rodriguez to be too old for high school, he could not explain the difference. The California Interscholastic Federation-Central Section consequently ordered Clovis West to forfeit as many as 70 games in which Rodriguez played because the birth certificate submitted for eligibility was determined to be a fake. Vasconez said, however, the evidence of ineligibility isn’t always in print.

The task force first clarified the difference between a foreign exchange student and an international student. According to the task force, a foreign exchange student is one who attends school in the United States through an established exchange program, while an international student attends school while living in the United States, but not with his/her parents.

“A lot of these dealings are handshakes only,” she said. “They are verbal agreements and nothing is written.”

That makes a state association’s job that much harder.

“(State associations) run great events and do it better than anybody else,” Illinois High School Association Executive Director David Fry said. “We have to enforce our policies, and the intent of the rules is shaky in one area in particular right now.”

Fry chaired a task force assigned to assess the problem in that particular area and came to the summit with recommendations to combat the problem. He reported that the task force found, in general, that state associations and their member schools support foreign exchange programs and that current state association rules are substantial and quite effectively address eligibility issues. He did concede, however, that there are some concerns that need to be addressed.

Fry believes that an already positive relationship between the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) and the NFHS needs to continue to be the foundation

for any solution. CSIET monitors and approves student travel from other countries to the United States through approved exchange programs.

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Among the recommendations by the task force for exchange students was for CSIET to develop a form and procedure for use by state associations when reporting possible sports-related violations. They should also facilitate any eligibility investigation by a state association by securing requested information and reporting it to the association.

When Dan Boyd, associate commissioner of the Florida High School Activities Association, investigated the Berkshire School in Homestead, Florida, for possible recruiting violations, he found both the boys and girls basketball teams comprised entirely of international students living in dorms on the campus.

“We were naïve about the situation,” said Boyd. “I had never handled anything like that before. I didn’t know what to look for.”

The FHSAA was one of the first state associations to deal with the problem and, therefore, had no guidelines by which to go. The task force doesn’t want future situations to put state associations in such unfamiliar territory, and as a result, has developed guidelines to aid state associations in the investigations of international student eligibility issues. Training, guidelines and even individuals

experienced in investigations should be at each state association’s disposal for assistance. The importance of quick and just action was paramount to Boyd and the Florida office.

“The intent and purpose of the association depends on how we handle these crisis situations that arise from time to time,” Boyd said.

Boyd, along with FHSAA Commissioner Robert Hughes, shared with summit participants their experience and what was done in the Berkshire case. In addition to expelling the Berkshire School from the association, the FHSAA developed forms and procedure to deal with international students that may be used as the basis for many other states or as national guidelines.

Chuck Smart of the Compliance Group advised attendees to establish a plan that will eliminate special treatment and be consistent in the application of that plan. Smart also said even if required forms don’t raise any suspicion, they will protect the state associations in the future.

“Any wrongdoing in the future, you can point to the form to prove that they had said they hadn’t done anything wrong,”

Smart said. "Put the impetus on them to keep you from being liable down the road."

While basketball is the primary sport that is affected by this issue, other sports such as soccer could tap into the foreign talent pool in the future.

Fry was very encouraged with the information presented at the summit and the reaction of the participants.

"I am pleased and excited with the outcome of the work conducted by the task force and the response of summit participants to our recommendations," Fry said. "I believe the summit produced a heightened understanding of the concerns the task force addressed, along with a very greatly enhanced sense of urgency to implement at least some of our recommendations as soon as possible."

The recommendations made by the task force will go to the NFHS Board of Directors to decide what action should be taken.

"I believe that some of those recommendations will come before the board and national council at the summer meeting," Fry said. "If approved there, they could be implemented for next school year. That's a great response."

Chris Boone is an intern in the NFHS publications/communications department.

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The following is a summary of the August 20, 2001 meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics.

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Executive Director's Report was approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report was approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

RESIGNATION

John Lyle submitted his resignation as a member of the Principals' Committee on Athletics and as Director of Boys' Tennis. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee on Athletics accepted, with regret, Mr. Lyle's resignation.

MISSED INTERPRETATION MEETING(S)

The following schools requested a waiver of the \$50.00 fine for missing [mandatory] coaches' interpretation meetings:

Barrington H.S. - missed boys' cross country meeting;
Johnston H.S. - missed girls' cross country meeting.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously voted to deny the waiver requests and uphold the imposed fines.

FOOTBALL

Mr. James Murano

Mr. Murano reported that the RIIL and the R. I. Football Officials Association [RIFOA] have agreed on a four-year contract. Based upon the number of games that [each] official worked last year (most officials worked five premium games at \$73/game and five regular games at \$63/game) and using a base fee of \$68.00, it was agreed that the RIFOA will receive a 3% increase each year for the next four (4) years, beginning with the 2001 Fall season. The fee scale shall be as follows: 2001 - \$70.04; 2002 - \$72.14; 2003 - \$74.30; 2004 - \$76.30. **In addition, there shall be NO differential for night/holiday games, including Thanksgiving.** Officials who are assigned to Playoff and Superbowl games shall receive an additional \$10.00.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the proposed contract with the R. I. Football Officials' Association.

CROSS COUNTRY

Mr. Charles Sweeney

Mr. Sweeney submitted a revised schedule which was necessary because Cranston High School East and Davies Career & Technical School have joined the RIIL girls' cross country league. As a result, St. Mary Academy-Bay View was moved to the Metro Division.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the revised 2001-2002 Boys & Girls Cross Country Schedule.

SOCCER

Mr. Victor Mercurio

Mr. Mercurio reported that he received a letter from the Boys' Coaches Association requesting that the procedure for the issuance of yellow cards be reviewed and [possibly] revised. Mr. Mercurio will address this matter before the Soccer Committee.

In other business, Mr. Lynch reported that he and Mr. Mercurio will meet on Thursday, August 23, 2001 with representatives of the boys soccer officials association to discuss contract negotiations. He will report back to the Principals' Committee on Athletics at its September meeting.

TENNIS

Mrs. Denise Boulé

Mrs. Boulé reported that she has received requests for teams to move down in divisions, which she will review with the Tennis Committee.

Mr. Lynch reported that, as the result of Mr. Lyle's resignation, a new director is needed for Boys Tennis.

In other business, Mr. Lynch reported on a letter he received from Richard Lawrence, Director of Athletics, Mount St.

Charles Academy, in which Mr. Lawrence is seeking permission to continue conducting an intramural tennis program for students Grades 7-12 and staff members. Insofar as Mr. Lawrence himself participates in the program, as well as coaching boys and girls tennis at Mt. St. Charles Academy, the Academy is in jeopardy of violating Article 7, Section 7, [Coaching Out-of-Season] of the Rules and Regulations of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously voted that Mr. Lawrence can set up the program but may not be present during competition.

VOLLEYBALL

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

Mr. Lynch reported that he received a letter from the Boys Volleyball Coaches Association regarding moving boys volleyball from Fall to Spring in 2004 when girls volleyball moves from Spring to Fall. Several reasons for this request were cited, including coaches who coach both boys and girls volleyball and not enough officials if both were to be played in the same season. This matter was tabled to the Volleyball Committee.

Mr. Lynch also reported that Mr. Kavanagh, Ms. Botelho, Mr. Magarian and he will meet on Tuesday, August 21, 2001 with a representative of the volleyball officials association to discuss contract negotiations. He will report back to the Principals' Committee on Athletics at its September meeting.

FIELD HOCKEY

Ms. Jean Angell

Ms. Angell reported that, with the addition of St. Mary Academy-Bay View to the field hockey schedule, the number of games has increased from eighteen (18) games to twenty (20) games. Therefore, she is requesting an increase in the present game cap of twenty-two (22) games to twenty-four (24) games.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the request to increase the game cap to twenty-four (24) games.

Mr. Lynch reported that Ms. Angell, Mr. Magarian and he will meet on Thursday, August 30, 2001 with representatives of the field hockey officials association to discuss contract negotiations. He will report back to the Principals' Committee on Athletics at its September meeting.

SWIMMING

Mr. Magarian distributed copies of the proposed 2001-2002 Boys and Girls Swim Schedule for the Committee's review and consideration.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the 2001-2002 Boys and Girls Swim Schedule.

In other business, Ms. Cindy Neal, Director of Athletics, St. Mary Academy-Bay View, reported that she is having difficulty securing pool time for the meets that are scheduled as home meets for St. Mary Academy-Bay View. As a result,

St. Mary's may not be able to host any meets. Ms. Neal will report the status of this situation to the Principals' Committee on Athletics at its next meeting

BASEBALL

Mr. Lynch reported that the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) has ruled that, beginning with the 2003 season, all non-wood bats must have a BESR (Ball Exit Speed Ratio) of 97 mph and that the bat has met moment-of-inertia requirements. In addition, all bats must have a BESR certification mark to be considered legal for high school baseball. It was noted that the RIIL adheres to the American League rules in baseball and does not play by NFHS Rules. This matter was referred to the Baseball Committee.

SOFTBALL

Mr. Lynch reported that he received a letter from John Lyle, Principal, Central Falls High School, requesting permission for the CFHS fastpitch softball team to rejoin the RIIL for the 2002 Spring season. The CFHS fastpitch softball team withdrew from the RIIL last year (2001 Spring season) because there were not enough student-athletes to field a team.

Inasmuch as the Mrs. Marquis, Director of Fastpitch Softball was not present at this meeting, the matter was tabled for discussion at the September meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics.

HOCKEY

Mr. Daniel Sheehan

Mr. Sheehan reported that he has received the following requests: Tolman H.S. has requested to move from Division B down to Division C; and Burrillville and Warwick Veterans High Schools have requested to move from Division A down to Division B. Discussion ensued regarding these requests. Mr. Sheehan stated that he would like to re-convene the Hockey Committee for the purpose of revisiting the alignment.

The Principals' Committee on Athletics voted 2-5 to defeat a motion to grant permission for the Hockey Committee to meet and realign the hockey program to accommodate the aforementioned requests.

Discussion continued regarding the integrity of the League's policy of four-year alignments and the importance of adhering to the process.

BASKETBALL

**Mr. Gerald Foley
Mr. David Light
Ms. Cindy Neal**

Mr. Foley submitted a proposed revised schedule for Division II South boys only to include Times² Academy, which is a new member school in the RIIL.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the revised boys basketball schedule for Division II South only.

Mr. Foley also reported that the addition of Times² Academy brings the total number of teams to eleven (11) in Division II South, with a twenty (20) game schedule. Insofar as the

present cap is twenty-four (24) games, Mr. Foley requested that the cap be increased to twenty-five (25) games for Division II South.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved increasing the game cap from twenty-four (24) to twenty-five (25) for **Division II South only**.

RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS

- **Grade 9 Participation - allow to participate w/varsity team(s)**

Discussion: if student-athlete's name is placed on varsity eligibility list, it effects his/her eligibility to participate with non-school/club teams. It was also noted that placing a Grade 9 student-athlete's name on a varsity eligibility list could pose a risk to his/her safety insofar as 'older' student-athletes are faster, bigger and more athletic. It was the directive of the Principals' Committee on Athletics that the RIIL caution schools about playing Grade 9 students on varsity teams and the ramifications that could result from same.

- **Penalties for Forfeit of Games - Article 6, Section 10**

Mr. Magarian submitted the following proposed language regarding penalties for [voluntary] forfeits of games - to be added to Article 6, Section 10 - Penalties:

"All RIIL scheduled League contests are to be played. In the event a school cancels or forfeits a RIIL scheduled League contest with the required consent, the following penalty will be imposed:

1. *the school team will immediately be on probation for one (1) calendar year from the date of the unauthorized forfeiture/cancellation;*
2. *if another unauthorized forfeiture/cancellation occurs in the same season, the team will not be allowed to participate in any post season play. In addition, the probation will be extended for one (1) calendar year from the unauthorized forfeiture/cancellation - or - the school team will be subject to any other penalties as listed in Article 6 by the Principals' Committee on Athletics."*

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the proposed addition to Article 6, Section 10 of the RIIL Rules and Regulations.

RIIL ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Magarian submitted a copy of the 2000-2001 Athletic Participation Survey that is required of all state associations by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). Of the fifty-five (55) RIIL member schools (public, private and parochial), there are 22,110 boys and 21,506 girls enrolled. Of those, 14,206 boys and 10,187 girls participate in interscholastic athletics. It was noted, however, that the participation figures do not accurately report the number of

participants inasmuch as some of the student-athletes participate in more than one sport.

COACHES EDUCATION

Mr. Lynch reported that he and Mr. Magarian will be meeting with representatives from the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). He will report back to the Principals' Committee on Athletics at its September meeting regarding the status of the Coaches Education Program.

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 August meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 5:05 pm.

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