

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

As we begin another academic year along with another Fall Athletic season, I have listed below a few reminders to assist Principals and Athletic Directors in getting the sports activities off to a good start and to ensure all student-athletes and coaches have a smooth year.

- Recommend every coach read the RIIL Rules and Regulations (Blue Book) which contains all rules of the Association. Be sure all coaches and student-athletes know the rules pertaining to eligibility, season of [sport] limitations, and the importance of exhibiting good sportsmanship
- Communicate the school's philosophy of interscholastic sports - especially responsibilities in sportsmanship - to coaches, student-athletes and parents.
- Develop an athletic handbook which establishes rules, regulations, expectations, and practice guidelines for each sport. Conduct a parents/student-athletes meeting to review the handbook.
- *Thoroughly* check all requirements for any transfer student for whom eligibility is being considered; specifically, residence, age, scholastic requirements, and sports played at the varsity level during the previous school year.
- Check to ensure each student participating in athletics has a valid [completed] Pre-Participation Physical Examination Form on file prior to practicing.
- Verify that each student-athlete participating in athletics for the first time has completed, and had notarized, and submitted an Assumption of Risk Form.
- *Thoroughly* check to ensure that the name of each student-athlete who is participating in a sport appears on the official RIIL Eligibility List. Verify that the list has been submitted **online** to the RIIL according to the timelines outlined in the RIIL Rules and Regulations. ***(Please note that only those eligibility lists submitted online will be accepted. Hard copies are not acceptable.)***

Only by working together can we provide quality programs for the student-athletes we serve.

Thank you for your cooperation.

* * * * *

MARK THE DATE ...

The Rhode Island Interscholastic League will conduct the **5th Annual Principals and Athletic Directors Conference** on **Wednesday, September 12, 2001, 8:00 am.** Please Note: The Principals' Committee on Athletics has declared this a **MANDATORY MEETING** and is requiring that **all** Principals and his/her designee and **all** Athletic Directors attend.

Details and Registration Form will follow.

PARENTAL MISCONDUCT IN YOUTH SPORTS

*Leonard D. Zaichkowsky, Ph.D
with the assistance of
Ryan Hedstom, Tim Herzog, Lee Igel*

How Do We Stop the Violence:

Somewhere along the way, sportsmanship seems to have gotten lost, while winning, succeeding, or advancing have become the curse of sport. The lesson parents seem to be teaching today is that winning, not fun, is the goal. Furthermore, the message seems to be win at any cost ... even violence. While the pursuit of victory has always been an important part of sports, it is the pursuit of victory with honor and sportsmanship that is really what sports should be about.

How can we instill the values of sportsmanship? Here are a few simple suggestions:

- ✓ Show by your actions and words, everyday, that you really care about sportsmanship. Set a good example--actions speak louder than words.
- ✓ **Expect and demand** that everyone involved follows all the rules, including fans and parents. If they don't, they should not be allowed to participate. Leagues and teams should communicate the importance of sportsmanship to all participants on a regular basis, not just the beginning of the season.
- ✓ Have team discussions about sportsmanship throughout the season. Use this as a time to relate sportsmanship--good and bad--as it is seen on TV or in person.
- ✓ **Never tolerate** violent behavior in practice or in competition ... **never**.
- ✓ There should be clear and immediate penalties for unsportsmanlike actions, no matter what the surrounding circumstances are or how important a game is to a season. This applies to both children and parents.

What should coaches and parents do if children have been exposed to violence? Here are some suggestions:

- Let children know that it is normal to be upset after viewing violence.
- Hold sessions with entire teams and individual children to address the situation.
- Hold meetings with parents to discuss the event, how their children may respond to it, and what they can do.

Coaches rely on parents to teach skills and parents rely on coaches to teach skills. Here again, the kids lose. So what can adults do to ultimately help their kids "win"?

- Model sportsmanship and appropriate ways of dealing with feelings of aggression.
- Allow children to play as children, where winning and losing a game does not matter (which can be utilized as a learning experience).
- Remember that the programs are for the benefit of the children, not the adults.
- Parents should get out and spend lots of time helping their children develop higher and higher levels of skill. Higher

skill levels lead to less frustration, a successful experience, and more fun.

Leonard Zaichowsky, Ph.D., Professor and Head of Sport & Exercise Psychology, Developmental Studies and Counseling, Boston University; National Youth Sports Safety Foundation Board of Advisors. Ryan Hedston, Tim Herzog, and Lee Igel are graduate students at Boston University.

* * * * *

“Sportsmanship is very significant in all elements of life. However, it should always be maintained in the environment of a sporting event, especially at one sponsored by a school. Sportsmanship teaches players and coaches to be respectful in a difficult time and hold one’s composure at all times.”

*Becky A. Stepp
Student-Athlete, Waterford Kettering, Michigan
Girls’ Basketball*

* * * * *

ATHLETES AND PESTICIDES

An official statement from the American College of Sports Medicine written by Priscilla M. Clarkson, Ph.D., FACSM, recommends that pesticides be used with caution in or around athletic facilities and recreational areas. It cites the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which states that all pesticides are toxic to some degree and it should never be assumed that pesticide is harmless. Care should be taken, especially at facilities where contact sports are played. Exposure to pesticides initially may cause no symptoms or symptoms not generally associated with pesticide exposure, including: sore throat, fever, headache, muscle and joint pains, muscle weakness, lack of coordination, nausea rash and irregular menstruation. Epidemiological studies have noted possible associations in three areas: cancer, neurotoxic effects and reproductive disorders. More research is needed. Because athletes and coaches spend several hours at athletic facilities, improper use of pesticides could increase the risk for health problems and might also hinder performance, especially in such individuals as the chemically sensitive and those with asthma. The EPA has published a booklet, “Pest Control in the School Environment: Adopting Integrated Pest Management.”

For more information and a copy of the above statements, contact:

The American College of Sports Medicine
401 W. Michigan Street,
Indianapolis, IN 46202
317-637-9200 ♦ www.acsm.org

* * * * *

WHAT DOES A FATHER SAY TO HIS SON BEFORE HIS FIRST GAME?

This is your first game, son.
I hope you win.
I hope you win for your sake, not mine.
Because winning’s nice.
It’s a good feeling.
Like the whole world is yours.
But it passes, this feeling.
And what lasts is what you’ve learned.
And what you learn about is life.
That’s what sports are all about.
There’s no telling how you’ll do.
You might be a hero - or -
You might be absolutely nothing.
There’s just no telling.
Too much depends on chance.
Or how the ball bounces.
I’m not talking about the game, son.
I’m talking about life.
But it’s life that the game is all about.
Just as I said.
Because every game is life.
And life is a game.
A serious one.
Dead serious.
But that’s what you do with serious things.
You do your best.
You take what comes.
You take what comes and you run with it.
Winning is fun.
Sure.
But winning is not the point.
Wanting to win is the point.
Not giving up is the point.
Never being satisfied with what you’ve done is the point.
Never letting up is the point.
Never letting anyone down is the point.
Play to win.
Sure.
But lose like a champion.
Because it’s not winning that counts.
What counts is trying.

*Reprinted with permission from “The Coach,”
published by Wilson Sporting Goods*

* * * * *

*“He who does nothing except what s/he is paid for
will wonder some day
what on earth s/he was made for.”*

SOMEONE ONCE SAID ...

"When wealth is lost, nothing is lost; when health is lost; something is lost; when character is lost, all is lost."

* * * * *

ATTENTION HOCKEY FANS!!

PROVIDENCE, RI (July 31, 2001) - Rhode Island Hockey News, the state's first online publication devoted exclusively to local ice hockey news, features and opinion, debuts this month at www.rihockeynews.com.

"Rhode Island hockey fans are intense when it comes to their sport and have a voracious appetite for news of the people, teams and issues that make up their game," said Shawn Fennell, RIHN publisher. "We believe strongly that the time is right for an online publication that serves the needs of this readership."

Fennell's partner and RIHN editor is Tom Walsh, a former Providence Journal reporter and editor who has also written for Rhode Island Monthly, the Washington Post, Newsweek and the Christian Science Monitor. Walsh is a partner in the RDW Group, Inc., Rhode Island's premier advertising and public relations firm. Fennell is a partner in New England Computer Resources (NECR) Inc., one of the state's foremost technology services and consulting firms.

"We intend to provide those who follow Rhode Island Hockey with a consistent menu of news, features and commentary on local hockey," Walsh said. "RIHN will cover youth teams and players, high school hockey, junior hockey, the folks who run the sport and any other hockey issues with a Rhode Island flavor." He said an emphasis would be placed on the burgeoning interest in girls' and women's hockey. "This promises to be an area where hockey will grow explosively here," Walsh said. "We will be there every step of the way."

Fennell said the idea behind the online site is to provide coverage that is not regularly available in more traditional media outlets. "Our research shows there is a market for this type of publication," Fennell said. For example, he said research shows that a high percentage of hockey fans in Rhode Island enjoy daily Internet access.

A year's subscription to RIHN will cost \$47.50. However, to introduce the site to Rhode Island hockey followers, access to www.rihockeynews.com will be free until September 1.

For more information, contact:



Rhode Island Hockey News
P.O. Box 41060
Providence, RI 02940-1060

* * * * *

BITTER PILL:

SUPPLEMENT USE CASTS SHADOW OVER SPORTS

by Luke Cyphers and Michael O'Keefe

New York Daily News

Reprinted from The Providence Sunday Journal

August 5, 2001

As Barry Bonds chases baseball's single-season home run record, he faces the daily question that drove Roger Maris and Mark McGwire crazy. Can you do it?

He's also hearing another, thoroughly modern query: What supplements are you on?

Everyone in sports is assumed to be taking something, and for good reason. In the last decade, dietary supplements have swallowed sports, filling lockers from the pros to junior high schools and fueling profits for fine firms run out of garage labs to giant companies overseen by multinational conglomerates. Sports products account for a quarter of the \$16.7 billion dietary supplement industry, says stock analyst Scott Van Winkle.

"It plays right into an attitude in society that says, 'If you've got an ill, we've got a pill,' and people discovered you can make millions of dollars at it," says Mark Asanovich, Tampa Bay Bucs strength coach and supplement critic.

While many athletes credit supplements with enhancing performance, an analysis by the New York Daily News finds these pill-popping jocks and the companies who serve them are changing the culture of sports, and creating, in the eyes of experts, a public health menace.

Leading physicians say some sports supplements, many of them wildly popular among high school athletes, pose risks for cancer, heart attack, stroke and psychosis - even mad-cow disease - and have already claimed dozens of lives.

On the field, supplements have changed the way games are played, as potions like creatine create ever-larger athletes.

Meanwhile, substances banned by the Olympics and other sports show up in legal supplements, causing failed drug tests and suspensions for elite athletes.

More than that, top sports officials believe they act as "gateway drugs" into illegal steroids and growth hormone. "If a kid takes something to build muscle faster," says Larry Bowers of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, "there's always a guy at the gym who's got something better."

No one knows where the supplement feeding frenzy will lead. A 1994 federal law, the Dietary Supplement Health & Education Act, known as DSHEA, leaves consumers with no guarantees of a product's safety, ingredients or country of origin. Dosage strengths can vary wildly from product to product and pill to pill, and some companies' quality control is hardly better than for street drugs, say experts.

Major supplement makers blame the FDA for not policing the industry, the FDA has neither the authority nor the budget to catch wrongdoers: just 21 full-time employees work in the dietary supplements program, and five of those are devoted to regulatory and compliance issues.

Exploding Industry

Sports supplement makers say many of the problems of the last decade are overhyped and result from consumers' willful abuse of their products, and that others are part of the growing pains of an exploding industry. Rik Deitsch, director of science at Unicity, a sports supplement company, says fly-by-night peddlers of dangerous products are hurting the entire industry.

“As the industry consolidates, the bar is going to be raised,” says Deitsch. “Everyone is trying to validate their product with science.”

Others, however, are doubtful that the industry can self-regulate, including Gerard Weissmann, an NYU physician who has warned of the possibility of mad-cow disease in popular supplements containing chondroitin. “These supplements are basically unregulated,” he says. “Taking them is like getting on a plane with no metal detector, no FAA scrutiny, a pilot who may or may not be licensed, and mechanics who may or may not be qualified to do the proper maintenance. The plane may or may not fly. I wouldn’t get on that airplane.”

Weissmann, a past president of the American College of Rheumatology, recently outlined the risk on the Rheumatologyweb.com site, saying chondroitin supplements sold to promote joint health, and widely used by athletes, may be derived from European cattle - and potentially contaminated with mad-cow disease.

A Spanish manufacturer of chondroitin disputed that, saying it uses American beef and only cattle parts thought to be unable to transmit the disease.

But Weissman says undercurrent U.S. laws, there is simply no way to verify products’ origins. “When hundreds of thousands are taking ground-up beef cartilage and there’s no certainty where it’s from, there’s cause for concern. The risk is there.”

Collision Course

Several medical experts see potential for crashes everywhere, and place blame squarely on DSHEA. The law, passed by Congress and signed by former President Bill Clinton, essentially freed any product that called itself a dietary supplement from federal regulation before going on the market. It can take years and millions of dollars to get a drug approved by the FDA; a supplement can make it to store shelves in the time it takes to bottle and deliver it.

Critics say the law has led to a series of health disasters, many involving sports supplements. One example is GHB, a dangerous sedative marketed as a muscle-building supplement and sleep aid from 1994-1999. Sold legally under names such as Verve, Renewtrient and Invigorate, the drug was pulled off shelves and listed as a controlled substance last year after it was linked with several fatal overdoses and date rapes. More recently, GHB has been shown to be as addictive as heroin, and its withdrawal symptoms have been linked to a half-dozen suicides of body-builders.

Ephedra products - used as energy boosters and for weight loss - have been blamed for 80 deaths and more than 1,400 adverse reactions since 1994, according to the FDA.

The reason, says Barb Michals, who heads an anti-ephedra organization called HEAT, is these products are alkaloids of ephedrine, which is the active chemical in the illegal drug crystal meth. “It’s legalized speed, and they’re selling it to kids,” Michals says.

Federal regulators attempted to toughen laws on ephedra supplements last year, but the efforts stalled in the face of a massive lobbying campaign from the supplement industry.

With the purchase of companies such as GNC and MetRx by conglomerates with big tobacco-like financial and legal

clout - and powerful backing in Congress and the White House - the industry is becoming, if anything, more powerful.

The lobbying money allows the industry to do a regulatory dance with the government. The FDA has few resources to research products to see if they’re dangerous, so when regulators try to pull substances, the industry says there’s not enough science to justify it.

The tangle has slowed efforts to rid stores of hormonal supplements like DHEA and androstenedione, the so-called Mark McGwire pills. “I think andro is still the most dangerous product out there, on a par with ephedrine,” says Gary Wadler, a Long Island sports physician and expert on doping.

Prolonging Careers

The huge growth in the sports-supplement industry has changed the face, and the body, of competition. Supplement use - along with weight training and, many believe, steroid use - is acknowledged to have contributed to the last decade’s increase in home runs in Major League Baseball.

“It’s enabled a lot of players to maintain fitness and stay in the game longer,” says former Yankee Jim Leyritz, who believes a fitness and supplement regimen prolonged his big-league tenure.

A generation of athletes conditioned to take substances to improve performance, says Wadler, will be more likely to misuse the next class of performance-enhancers - genetherapy drugs.

Times Have Changed

Until 1994, mass-market consumption of sports supplements was limited mostly to skinny teenagers chugging protein shakes. That all changed with DSHEA. Pushed through by Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah, whose state is a center of the supplement industry, Iowa Sen. Tom Harkin and Indiana Rep Dan Burton, it had massive congressional support despite warnings by medical groups.

Unshackled by FDA laws, hippie health-food gurus rejoiced for the first few years after DSHEA’s passage; then they began noticing a change at their conventions. Sports supplement booths blared music and screamed claims about products that could make you bigger and leaner and sexier all at once. The industry was shifting from “health” to “enhancement.”

Some of these companies had shady beginnings. Colorado-based EAS was founded by an admitted steroid user, Bill Phillips, and its magazines featured columns by Dan Duchaine, author of *The Underground Steroid Handbook*. A felon who did time for steroid distribution, Duchaine died last year at the age of 48 from kidney disease.

MetRx’s list of endorsers now includes the Yankees, the Jets’ Wayne Chrebet and the Giants’ Jason Sehorn, but in past years, they paid bodybuilders Craig Titus, incarcerated for violating probation on a steroid possession charge; and Paul DeMayo, a bodybuilder given a 30-month sentence for firing a gun during an argument with his wife.

MetaboLife’s founder, Michael J. Ellis, is a former cop who pleaded guilty in 1990 to charges linking him to a San Diego methamphetamine lab, but he’s become a titan selling legal ephedrine alkaloids to dieters and workout buffs.

“It plays right into an attitude in society that says, ‘If you’ve got an ill, we’ve got a pill.’”

- Mark Asanovich
NFL strength coach

Supplement suppliers are entrenched in big-time sports, cutting deals with many pro teams and elite athletes. Cytodyne Technologies, a supplier of several sports supplements, is endorsed by all-pro NFL back Marshall Faulk and Giants wideout Joe Jurevicius. Unicity has consulting agreements with the Rangers, Knicks and Islanders, and ex-Jet Keith Byars is a distributor. The company forged a marketing pact with the Toronto Blue Jays last year, until the Jays found a more lucrative deal with CytoSport. Members of the Denver Broncos and the Colorado Avalanche have prominent ties to EAS.

It isn't just stars who get supplement bucks; the companies provide some of the only outside endorsement opportunities for non-superstar pro athletes, now that equipment and sneaker companies have scaled back, says sports agent Joseph Linta.

So sports supplements are here to stay. Athletes use them. Politicians and big money protect them. But few safeguards exist for the average folks who buy them.

And there's no change on the horizon. For the foreseeable future, the sports supplement industry is likely to remain a mostly unsupervised experiment in what the market, and the human body, will bear.

Teenagers Warned of Dangers

Athletes - especially teens - should consult with a doctor before taking sports supplements, the Blue Cross and Blue Shield's Health Competition Foundation urged in an advisory that was released last week and will be distributed to thousands of schools nationwide.

Athletes who take supplements containing ephedra, androstenedione and creatine may be sacrificing their long-term health to enhance sports performance, the advisory said.

"Young people, in alarming numbers, are taking unregulated sports supplements with little or no scientific evidence of their safety," said Allan Korn, chief medical officer of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, which provides health care coverage for 81 million people.

The Healthy Competition Foundation, founded in 1999 to educate the public about the dangers of performance-enhancing drugs, "urges young athletes to abstain from using ephedra, andro or creatine," Korn added.

The use of sports supplements has skyrocketed since regulation of the supplement industry was loosened in 1994.

Ephedra products have been blamed for a wide range of ailments, including strokes and heart attacks.

Studies show andro increases the risk of heart disease and testicular cancer, Blue Cross and Blue Shield say.

* * * * *



The following is a summary of the *June 18, 2001 meeting* of the *Principals' Committee on Athletics*:

The June meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was called to order at 1:45 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 each member's folder or filed in the League office.

FOOTBALL

Mr. James Murano

Mr. Murano reported that the Football Committee met on Monday, June 11, 2001 prior to the Coaches Interpretation Meeting. At the coaches' meeting, the 2001-02 schedule was distributed, and it was reported that the Round Robin will be held on August 30-September 1, 2001.

Following the coaches' meeting, the Football Committee met with representatives of the R. I. Football Officials' Association [RIFOA] for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations. Insofar as an agreement could not be reached regarding the amount of a (fee) increase for the next four (4) year contract, the meeting was adjourned without having resolved the issue.

A lengthy discussion ensued and it was agreed that Mr. Lynch, together with members of the Football Committee and the Principals' Committee on Athletics, will meet with the RIFOA during the month of July in hopes of coming to an agreement so that a contract can be in place for the beginning of the 2001-02 season.

BASKETBALL

Mr. Gerald Foley
Mr. David Light
Ms. Cindy Neal
Ms. Colleen Gribbin

The 2001-2002 girls' basketball schedule was submitted for the Committee's consideration and review. It was noted that Times² Academy (Providence) has expressed their intent to join the RIIL girls' basketball league and, as such, has been placed in Division III.

On a motion made and seconded, the 2001-02 Girls' Basketball Schedule was approved.

It was further noted that Times² Academy will also join the boys' basketball league and will be added to the schedule. Insofar as the 2001-02 boys' basketball schedule was approved at a previous meeting, Mr. Foley will submit the revised schedule, to reflect the addition of Times² Academy, at the August meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics.

GOLF

Mr. John Gray

Mr. Gray submitted the following 2001 Golf Championships for the Committee's consideration:

Division Championships

North	Mount St. Charles Academy
South	North Kingstown High School
East	Barrington High School
West	LaSalle Academy
Central	Bishop Hendricken High School

Team Championship

Bishop Hendricken High School

Individual Championship

Colby Pacheco South Kingstown High School

Mr. Magarian reported that Anna Grzebien from Narragansett High School won the Girls' State Golf Tournament, which was held on June 4, 2001 at Pt. Judith Country Club.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics approved the 2001 [Boys & Girls] Golf Championships.

Mr. Gray reported that the sponsor that previously provided a green jacket for the individual champion withdrew their support. On very short notice, the R. I. Golf Coaches' Association provided a trophy. It was proposed that the RIIL provide a trophy for the individual golf champion as it does in other sports.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics approved the proposal for the RIIL to provide an individual golf championship trophy.

Mr. Gray reported that the [new] geographical alignment worked out well, in that it cut down on travel time and eliminated the necessity for early dismissal to make tee times. However, there were some problems with the playoff format, which will be reviewed for next year.

In other business, Mr. Gray reported that there is interest in forming a girls' golf league for the Fall. It was agreed that a survey will be sent to all member schools to determine the level of interest in a Fall girls' golf league and the impact it will have on other Fall sports offered to female student-athletes.

Mr. Lynch reported that Times² Academy will be joining the RIIL golf league, beginning with the 2001-02 season.

BASEBALL

Mr. Lynch reported that the playoffs are underway at McCoy Stadium. In Class A, Toll Gate High School will meet four-time state champion Bishop Hendricken High School and West Warwick High School and Burrillville High School will compete for the Class B State Championship.

Mr. Lynch also stated that Times² Academy will be joining the RIIL baseball league, beginning with the 2001-02 season.

VOLLEYBALL

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

Ms. Botelho, Director of Girls' Volleyball, submitted the following 2001 Girls' Volleyball Championships for the Committee's review and consideration:

Division Championships

Class A North Mount St. Charles Academy
Class A South Toll Gate High School
Class B North Scituate High School
Class B South Westerly High School
Class C Central Falls High School

State Championships

Class A Toll Gate High School
Class B LaSalle Academy
Class C Central Falls High School

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics approved the 2001 Girls Volleyball Championships.

Mr. Kavanagh, Director of Boys' Volleyball, distributed the 2001-02 Boys' Volleyball Schedule for the Committee's review and consideration. It was noted that Lincoln High School [Division II North] and Our Lady of Fatima High School [Division II South] will be participating in the RIIL boys' volleyball league for the first time, beginning with the 2001-02 season.

On a motion made and seconded, the principals' Committee on Athletics approved the 2001-02 Boys' Volleyball Schedule.

OUTDOOR TRACK

Mr. Robert Littlefield

Mr. Littlefield submitted the following 2001 Girls' and Boys' Outdoor Track Championships for the Committee's review and consideration:

Class Championships

	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
Class A	Bish. Hend. H.S.	So. King. H.S.
Class B	So. King. H.S.	LaSalle Academy
Class C	Classical H.S.	Ea. Green. H.S.
Class D		

Division Championships

Northern	Cumb. H.S.	Cumb. H.S.
Southern	So. King. H.S.	So. King. H.S.
Central	Bish. Hend. H.S.	Toll Gate H.S.
Eastern	Midd. H.S.	Midd. H.S.

State Championships

Boys	Bishop Hendricken H.S.
Runner-Up	Rogers H.S.
Girls	South Kingstown H.S.
Runner-Up	Westerly H.S.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics approved the 2001 Boys & Girls Outdoor Track Championships.

Mr. Littlefield further reported that the Boys' and Girls' State Championship Meet was held at Chariho High School. He stated that the administration and staff at Chariho H.S. were extremely helpful and cooperative in making the site available and preparing it for the State Meet.

In other business, Mr. Littlefield reported on the new javelin rule as instituted by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). The new rules require that the center of gravity on the 'new' javelins be closer to the tip [3cm for girls and 4cm for boys]. An informal survey of athletic directors indicated that they would like a one-year delay in implementing this rule because of budgetary constraints. However, insofar as the NFHS issued notification of the change in 1999, the Committee felt that schools have

had sufficient time to prepare. Therefore, the new javelin will be mandatory beginning with the 2001-2002 school year.

Mr. Lynch reported that Mr. Charles Sweeney has submitted a letter indicating that he will retire *as meet* director for outdoor state track meets.

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

LACROSSE **Mr. George Finn**

Mr. Finn submitted the following 2001 Boys' and Girls' Lacrosse Championships for the Committee's review and consideration:

League Championships

Boys Bishop Hendricken High School
Girls Barrington High School

State Championships

Boys Providence Country Day School
Girls Barrington High School

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics approved the 2001 Boys & Girls Lacrosse Championships.

FIELD HOCKEY **Ms. Jean Angell**

Ms. Angell reported on a request from The Lincoln School to host Marr College High School from Troon, Scotland in field hockey competition. The schedule of events will be as follows:

Saturday, October 13, 2001 Lincoln School vs
Marr College H.S.
Sunday, October 14, 2001 Senior Showcase Teams
vs Marr College H.S.
Wednesday, October 17, 2001 North Kingstown H.S.
vs Marr College H.S.

Marr College H.S. is a public high school which has visited Rhode Island (and Lincoln School) in 1993, 1997, and 1999. The Marr College H.S. field hockey team is comprised of approximately eighteen (18) girls ranging in age from 15-17 years old.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics approved the request with the stipulation that Marr College High School complete the RIIL Agreement to Compete form.

SWIMMING

Mr. Lynch reported on a letter he received from the R. I. Swim Officials' Association regarding the length of swim meets. He noted that there has been no prior complaints or communication from participating schools regarding this matter. The letter will be kept on file in the League office.

TENNIS

The following 2001 Boys' Tennis Championships were submitted for the Committee's review and consideration:

Class Championships

Class A North Barrington H.S.
Class A South South Kingstown H.S.
Class B North Burrillville H.S.
Class B South The Wheeler School
Class C North Tolman H.S.
Class C South East Greenwich H.S.

State Championships

Class A South Kingstown H.S.
Finalist Bishop Hendricken H.S.
Class B East Providence H.S.
Finalist Burrillville H.S.
Class C East Greenwich H.S.
Finalist Narragansett H.S.

Singles Champion Andy Singer
South Kingstown H.S.
Finalist Mark Santucci
Ponaganset H.S.
Doubles Champions Mike Collins, Pat Shaughnessy
South Kingstown H.S.
Finalists Nick Appleman, Andy Jagger
LaSalle Academy

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics approved the 2001 Boys' Tennis Championships.

In other business, it was reported that North Providence High School has requested to move from Class B to Class C in boys' tennis. The request was referred to the Tennis Committee.

FASTPITCH SOFTBALL **Mrs. Elizabeth Marquis**

Mrs. Marquis submitted the following 2001 Fastpitch Softball Championships for the Committee's review and consideration:

Division Championships

Division I North (*tie*) North Providence High School
Lincoln High School
Cumberland High School
Division I South East Providence High School
Division II Tiverton High School

State Championships

Division I North Providence High School
Runner-Up Cumberland High School
Division II Tiverton High School
Runner-Up Coventry High School

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics approved the 2001 Fastpitch Softball Championships.

SLOWPITCH SOFTBALL

The following 2001 Slowpitch Softball Championships were submitted for the Committee's review and consideration:

Division Championships

Division I (*tie*) Cranston High School West
Warwick Veterans High School
Division II North Providence High School

State Championships

Division I Cranston High School West
Division II North Providence High School

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics approved the 2001 Slowpitch Softball Championships.

OTHER SPORTS/ISSUES

• **Sunday Competition**

Discussion ensued regarding starting time for Sunday contests. On a motion made and seconded, it was unanimously approved that ***RIIL athletic contests shall not commence prior to 12:00 noon on Sundays.***

• **Wrestling**

The 2001-2002 Wrestling Schedule was submitted for the Committee's review and consideration. It was noted that Rhode Island will host the 2002 New England Championships on Friday and Saturday, March 1-2, 2002 at Roger Williams University in Bristol.

On a motion made and seconded, the 2001-2002 wrestling schedule was approved.

• **Cross Country**

Mr. Lynch reported that Cranston High School East has expressed interest in joining the RIIL girls' cross country league. Mr. Lynch will contact Donald Frederick, Principal, to determine whether or not Cranston High School East will, in fact, join the RIIL girls' cross country league.

• **R. I. Boys Soccer Coaches' Association**

Mr. Lynch reported on a letter he received from the R. I. Boys Soccer Coaches' Association regarding the penalty and amount of time a student-athlete must sit out when they he has been issued a yellow card. The matter was referred to the Soccer Committee.

• **Grade 9 Participation**

Discussion ensued regarding a student-athlete's eligibility when his/her name is moved from the freshman/junior varsity eligibility list to the varsity eligibility list in any give sport. Participating at the varsity level not only hinders a student's participation in outside clubs, but may also effect his/her eligibility if s/he transfers to another school. This matter was taken into consideration and was tabled for further review.

• **Meeting Dates**

Mr. Lynch distributed a revised copy of 2001-02 meeting dates for the Principals' Committee on Athletics. Inasmuch as the Annual Principals/Athletic Directors' Meeting will be held in September rather than in August, as has been the practice, it was necessary to change the dates for the August 2001 and August 2002 meetings.

COACHES EJECTION(S)

The following verbiage regarding coaches' ejection(s) was submitted for consideration and review by the Principals' Committee on Athletics:

THAT: Prior to the start of any RIIL authorized contest at the pre-game conference, the Head Coach shall notify the official (Head Official/Chief Umpire) that s/he is the only coach or s/he shall identify additional certified assistant coaches of the team authorized by the school.

If a Head Coach is ejected from a contest and there is no certified assistant coach who is authorized by the school as being a member of the coaching staff who is available to assume the coaching responsibilities, the contest will end and a forfeit will be awarded to the opposing team.

EJECTION OF A COACH

In the event a coach is ejected from a contest and there is no certified assistant coach who had been identified to the officials prior to the start of the game, the game will end and the opposing team shall be awarded a victory by forfeit.

A coach who is ejected shall leave the vicinity [out of sight and sound] of the playing area immediately and shall not return to the playing area during the remainder of the contest. Further, said coach is prohibited from any further contact (direct and/or indirect) with the team or any team member for the remainder of the contest and not until both teams have left the playing area.

Any coach determined to be in violation of this provision may be subject to an additional period of disqualification.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the proposed rule(s) pertaining to Coaches' Ejection(s).

It was further recommended that the above (coaches ejection) rule be sent to all (sports) officials and outlined at all coaches' rules interpretation meetings prior to the start of every season.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A brief discussion ensued regarding what, if any, penalties should be imposed against schools for forfeiting RIIL contests. This matter was tabled to the August meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics.

The June meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

* * * * *

