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# Rhode Island Interscholastic League

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# Holiday Greetings



**I**t seems almost impossible that the Holiday Season is upon us and that very shortly, we will begin a new year.

The Principals' Committee on Athletics and the Rhode Island Interscholastic League staff would like to wish all administrators, athletic directors, coaches, officials and student-athletes a Joyous Holiday Season and the Happiest of New Years.

This Holiday Season is a very special time of year. It is a time of joy and warmth and a time when everyone feels a special spirit of giving. It is also a time when we should pause to reflect on how fortunate we are to be involved with young people and to have the opportunity of making a positive impact on their lives. Nothing is as rewarding as encouraging people to realize their worth in this world and to learn they can achieve success in life.

We extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to all of you for all you have done, are doing, and will continue to do to provide a quality athletic program for the student-athletes of Rhode Island.

May each of you enjoy happiness and good health and may your New Year be filled with peace and good fortune.



## DURING THIS SEASON OF GIVING, LET US REMEMBER ...

We all have something to give.  
So if you know how to read,  
find someone who can't.  
If you've got a hammer,  
find a nail.  
If you're not hungry,  
not lonely, not in trouble –  
seek out someone who is.

- George Bush -



## A REMINDER TO EVERYONE:

### IT IS JUST A GAME

by R. Eugene Hill, Principal  
Ash Grove, Missouri High School

**R**ecently, in response to a request from the National Federation Sportsmanship Committee, the National Association of Secondary School Principals adopted the following resolution:

“The ideas of good sportsmanship, ethical behavior and integrity permeate our culture. The values of good citizenship and high behavioral standards apply equally to all activity and disciplines.

“In perception and practice, good sportsmanship shall be defined as those qualities of behavior which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others.

“Further, an awareness is expected of the impact of an individual's influence on the behavior of others.

“Good sportsmanship is viewed by the National Federation as a concrete measure of the understanding and commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity.”

Who is responsible for the sportsmanship displayed by our student-athletes? I believe everyone involved with athletics is responsible: the students, coaches, teachers, administrators, parents and spectators.

Players must be taught the proper fundamentals and given the necessary tools to help them be successful.

But at the same time they must know that there are rules by which a game is played and that breaking of those rules will not be tolerated.

They also must learn that although winning is important, knowing how to handle defeat is also important.

One of the biggest lessons a person can learn from the field of athletics is how to handle adversity and defeat – and go forward instead of quitting.

One important fact to remember about athletic games is that they are just games – to be enjoyed by both the participant and the spectator. Their outcome should not cause undue pressure to be placed on the players, the coaches and the officials.

When this begins to happen, perhaps we had better evaluate our athletic programs to see if they are teaching the ideals that were incorporated into our schools to teach.

If the answer is no, then we had better change priorities or eliminate the programs.

We need everybody's help in returning sportsmanship to the game. Next time you're at an athletic event, remember:

**IT IS JUST A GAME.**



### QUOTE OF THE DAY

*“You cannot shake hands with a clenched fist”*

- Indira Gandhi



## EDUCATIONAL (HIGH SCHOOL) SPORTS QUARTERBACK SPURNS RIGGED RECORD;

from Character Counts Sports

**T**ime was running out on the last game of the season for Springfield Southeast (IL) as quarterback Nate Haasis, 18, sought to break the conference career passing record. But the opposing high school, Cahokia, had the ball and could win by merely holding onto it. Suddenly Cahokia scored and Mr. Haasis was on the field again. With a minute left, he threw a 37-yard pass, ran his career total to 5,006 yards, and broke the record.

Yet he sensed a problem: No one had rushed him or guarded his receivers. He investigated and learned that the two coaches had struck a deal to give him the record. His coach Neal Taylor has agreed with Cahokia coach to let Cahokia score, then allow Mr. Haasis to complete the pass.

All at once he had an unearned record, and he asked the Central State Eight Conference to nullify the final pass. "It is my belief that the directions given to us in the final seconds of this game were made in 'the heat of battle' and do not represent the values of the athletes of the Southeast football team," the National Honor Society student wrote. "In respect to my teammates, and past and present football players of the Central State Eight, it is my hope that his pass is omitted from any conference records."

"There'd always be a 'but' on his record, and he didn't want that," said friend and teammate Andrew Redding.

The Conference complied. "Nate's request reveals that sportsmanship is alive and well in the CS8 Conference," officials said in a statement.

Soon after, Mr. Taylor resigned as football coach, saying, "It was just an attempt to do something good and no good came out of it."

\* \* \* \*

**AND WE QUOTE:**

*"Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.*

- William Arthur Ward, American college administrator

\* \* \* \*

**13 PERCENT OF HIGH SCHOOLS HAVE DRUG-TESTING POLICY**

from the WIAA Bulletin, Dec 03

About 13 percent of the nation's high schools have a drug-testing policy in place to test students for illegal or prohibited substances, according to a survey of high school athletic directors this summer.

The online survey was conducted jointly by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators (NIAAA) and the National Center for Drug Free Sport, Inc. A total of 861 athletic directors completed the survey.

Of the schools that have a drug-testing policy in place, 63 percent test student-athletes, while 20 percent test all students in the school. The testing is mandatory in 82 percent of the schools, and the method of testing is done randomly in 76 percent of the schools.

With regard to the types of drugs for which schools test, marijuana heads the list with testing by 95 percent of the schools, followed by cocaine (86 percent), amphetamine/methamphetamine (85 percent), opiates (67 percent), PCP (63 percent) and alcohol (62 percent).

When a student tests positive for a drug, 98 percent of the schools with a drug-testing policy notify the student's parents, 92 percent require some type of counseling or rehabilitation and, in 83 percent of the schools, the student is suspended from the sport or activity.

In addition to the 13 percent of the schools that currently have a drug-testing program in place, another 17 percent indicated that they were interested in pursuing one. The most common reasons given for not starting a drug-testing program were budget constraints (51 percent) and legal concerns (50

percent). Jerry Diehl, NFHS assistant director and liaison to the NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee, said he believes there are other factors as to why a large majority of schools are not involved in drug testing.

"Although many schools have difficulty admitting that performance-enhancing supplements, as well as illicit drugs, are entering their programs, they continually look for ways to deter such use," Diehl said. "I believe the majority of high school administrators believe the money devoted to education is better spent than the money necessary for drug testing.

In many instances, the amount of funding it takes for testing and rehabilitation exceeds what it takes for education and prevention. This education molds a long term healthy lifestyle rather than punitive measures that, many times, have little or no effect on the individual."

The survey indicated that the high school principal, not the athletic director, is most often in charge of the school's drug-prevention or drug-testing program. Fifty-four percent of the respondents indicated that the principal oversees the program, followed by the athletic director (33 percent), superintendent (25 percent) and athletic trainer (nine percent).

More than 80 percent of those schools with a drug-testing policy indicated that they review their policy annual and disseminate the policy annually to all students participating in the testing. In addition, 79 percent of schools have students sign drug-testing consent forms annually.

"A written drug-testing policy requires a clear explanation of the purpose of the program, the goals behind the monitoring of students' substance use, and the regulations and procedures involved," said Frank Uryasz, president of the National Center for Drug Free Sport. "Fortunately, 86 percent of high schools that drug test review and update their written policy annually. The survey also showed that 85 percent of schools present drug and alcohol education activities for their students as part of the regular curriculum, while 13 percent provide education outside the classroom. This survey provides valuable information regarding the extent of high school drug testing. Further, these data can be used as a point from which to measure any changes in the extent or nature of high school drug testing."

For information concerning drug-testing programs, contact Frank Uryasz, National Center for Drug Free Sport, 816-474-8655 ([www.drugfreesport.com](http://www.drugfreesport.com)).

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*I would rather be able to appreciate things I cannot have, than have things I cannot appreciate.*

- Elbert Hubbard, American entrepreneur and author

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The following is a summary of the November 17, 2003 meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics:

*The November meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was called to order at 1:35 P.M.*

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The Executive Director's Report from the October 20, 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.

**SPORT DIRECTOR RESIGNATION**

Mr. Lynch reported on a letter submitted by Charley Sweeney, in which he rendered his resignation as Director of Cross Country.

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

**APPOINTMENT OF A PERSON TO REPLACE CHARLES SWEENEY AS DIRECTOR OF CROSS COUNTRY**

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics voted to elect Ron Boemker, Cross Country Official and Cranston East High School teacher, as Director of Cross Country for the Rhode Island Interscholastic League.

**INDOOR FIELD HOCKEY (6-ON-6)**

Discussion took place as to whether Indoor Field Hockey is a different sport than outdoor. It was pointed out that the Committee declared Indoor Field Hockey a different sport than outdoor in the past.

**FALL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Mr. Lynch reviewed all of the 2003-2004 Fall Championships provided to the Committee.

- **Boys Cross Country**

***Dual Meet League Champions***

Northern	Cumberland High School
Southern	North Kingstown High School
Metropolitan	Barrington High School
Suburban	Bishop Hendricken High School

***Class Meets***

Class A	Cumberland High School
Class B	Barrington High School
Class C	Portsmouth High School

***State Meets***

North Kingstown High School

***Individual Championship***

Class A	Adam Moitoso – 16:03.3 Bishop Hendricken High School
Class B	Tom Webb – 16:09.6 Barrington High School

Class C	Tom Barek – 17:16.4 Portsmouth High School
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***State Meet***

Adam Moitoso – 15:48.2  
Bishop Hendricken High School

**Girls Cross Country**

***Dual Meet League Champions***

Northern	Ponaganset High School
Southern	North Kingstown High School
Metropolitan	Barrington High School
Suburban	Cranston West High School

***Class Meets***

Class A	North Kingstown High School
Class B	Barrington High School
Class C	East Greenwich High School

***State Meets***

North Kingstown High School

***Individual Championship***

Class A	Erin Lagasse – 19:27.6 Cranston West High School
Class B	Audrey Hawkins – 19:22.6 Barrington High School
Class C	Emily McCaffrey – 20:35.1 East Greenwich High School

***State Meet***

Audrey Hawkins – 19:33.8  
Barrington High School

- **Boys Soccer**

***Division Championships***

Open Division East	LaSalle Academy
Open Division West	South Kingstown H.S.
Large Division	Shea High School
Small Division North	Central Falls H.S.
Small Division South	Middletown High School

***State Championships***

Open Division	LaSalle Academy
Runner Up	South Kingstown H. S.
Large Division	Shea High School
Runner Up	Hope High School
Small Division	TBD

- **Girls Soccer**

***Division Championships***

Division I	LaSalle Academy
Division II North	East Providence H.S.
Division II South	Westerly High School

Division III North	Johnston High School
Division III South	Middletown High School
Division IV	Tolman High School

***State Champions***

Division I	LaSalle Academy
Runner Up	South Kingstown H.S.
Division II	Cumberland High School

Runner Up	East Providence H.S.
Division III	Woonsocket High School
Runner Up	Cranston East H.S.
Division IV	Tolman High School
Runner Up	Davies Voc Tech

- **Field Hockey**

**Division Championships**

Division I	North Kingstown High School
Division II	Woonsocket High School

**State Championships**

Division I	North Kingstown High School
Division II	South Kingstown High School

- **Girls' Tennis**

**Class Championships**

Class A North	Mount Saint Charles Academy
Class A South	Barrington High School
Class B North	Lincoln High School
Class B South	The Prout School
Class C North	East Providence High School
Class C South	Westerly High School

**State Championships**

Class A	The Wheeler School
Class B	The Prout School
Class C	Westerly High School

**Singles Championship**

Trish Devine – The Wheeler School  
 Runner Up – Megan McCooey – Mount Saint Charles Academy

**Doubles Championships**

Krysta Martin, Hillary Seiner – Lincoln School  
 Runners Up – Kaitlin Kelly, Danielle Falvo – Mount Saint Charles Academy

On a motion made and seconded, The Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the 2003-2004 Fall Championships.

In another matter, Jean Angell, Director of Field Hockey, reported on a letter of thanks she sent to Bryant College for the great accommodations made for the Field Hockey Championships.

On behalf of the administration and staff the RIIL, Mr. Lynch extended his gratitude and appreciation to all the fall sport directors for their time, commitment and dedication to providing quality programs for the student-athletes served by the RIIL.

**UPDATE – WRESTLING WEIGHT MANAGEMENT**

Mr. Magarian reported on a memorandum regarding a weight management program for wrestling he sent to schools notifying them about a pilot program the Rhode Island Interscholastic League is conducting on Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at Rhode Island College. The information collected will be used to track weight changes during the season. A follow

up random testing will be done at the State Tournament. Surveys will be sent to coaches and athletic directors at the end of the season.

**REPORT – ALIGNMENT COMMITTEE**

Ms. Betty Marquis, as Chairperson of the Alignment Committee, distributed a summary from the last meeting of the Committee. She reviewed the contents of the handout with the Committee. The information included a list of the sports included in the alignment proposal as well as a list of the sports not included; general criteria for the proposal, 60-40 percentage with enrollment and win lose record as criteria for alignment, division structure and playoff structure. She further explained the timeliness for completion of the proposal. There should be a meeting of all sport directors on December 6, 2003 to explain the proposal. Following that meeting, a survey will be sent to all schools for their input. The Principals' Committee on Athletics will be presented with a final draft for their action at the January meeting.

The Committee on Athletics held a lengthy discussion about the pros and cons of the draft proposal. Much of their discussion centered on the length of the new alignment.

Following that discussion, the consensus of the Committee was to continue with a 4-year alignment.

Ms. Marquis also requested that Fastpitch Softball be allowed to continue with the present alignment/schedule for the 2004 season and to realign with all sports for next year.

On a motion made and seconded the Principals' Committee on Athletics voted to approve the request.

The Alignment Committee continues to meet on the issue of developing specific guidelines for alignment.

**FALL SPORTS ISSUES**

Mr. Lynch referred to a letter submitted by Central Falls High School in which the principal self-reported that a player for their boys' soccer team, who was academically ineligible, participated in their semi-final soccer game versus North Providence High School on November 11, 2003. Mr. Lynch explained that Central Falls High School had to forfeit that game, which allowed North Providence High School to play in the finals on Tuesday, November 18, 2003 versus Exeter/West Greenwich High School.

Mr. Lynch also referred the Committee to Article 3, Section 5c, Use of Ineligible Athletes, specifically, to part of the language in the Article, "lack of care on the part of school authorities". He felt that language was not fair to any of the schools and should be changed. The staff will develop more appropriate language for the Committee to review for the December 2003 meeting.

**WINTER SPORTS ISSUES**

Mr. Ken Reall, Director of Swim, on behalf of the Swim Coaches Association, presented a proposal that all swimmers swim a minimum of 50 percent of the League meets in order to qualify in the event they plan to swim at the Rhode Island State Swim Championship.

The Committee asked Mr. Reall to put the request in writing and its impact on other sports to be presented to the Committee at the December meeting.

In another matter, Ms. Colleen Gribbin, Director of Freshman Boys and Girls Basketball reported that a number of schools, after declaring their intent to compete, were not able to field a team and dropped from the schedule which necessitated new schedules being made. The matter will be discussed at the December meeting of the Committee.

#### **SPRING SPORTS ISSUES**

Mr. George Finn, Director, Boys and Girls Lacrosse, presented a proposal to have two (2) divisions in both Boys and Girls Lacrosse and two (2) State Championships for each division. The purpose is to encourage new teams to join the League for the 2004 season. This would only happen if more than the present nine (9) teams were part of the League.

On a motion made and seconded the Principals' Committee on Athletics voted 4-6-1 to deny the request.

#### **RECOGNITION AWARD – SERVICE TO THE PRINCIPALS' COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS**

Chairperson, John Gray, presented a plaque to Ed Lemoi, Principal of Cranston West High School, in appreciation for his distinguished service as a member of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League.

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

*The November meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 3:50 P.M.*



*Seasons  
Greetings*

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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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