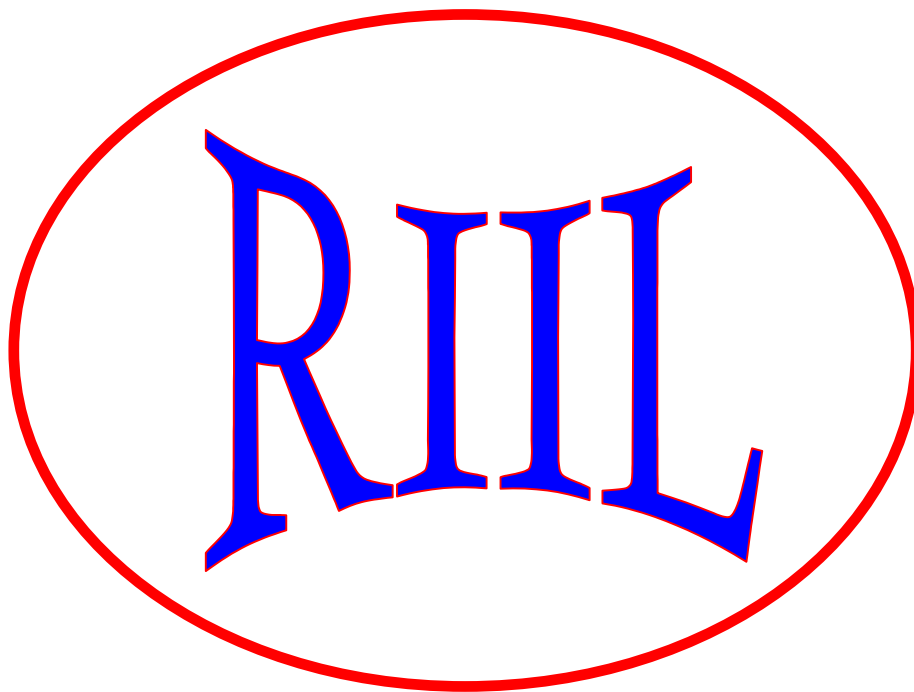




June 2002



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



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

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

♦ A SPECIAL THANKS ♦

As the school year draws to a close, a special thanks is indeed in order to the many individuals who combined their energies, efforts and talents to conduct our interscholastic athletic programs. On behalf of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League Principals' Committee on Athletics, and the RIIL staff, we truly appreciate your dedication to our young people and the work you do throughout the year. With their experiences through participation, the student-athletes we serve learn the skills and lessons of life that will carry them far beyond high school. Your endeavors to provide enjoyable and worthwhile experiences to these student-athletes has afforded them a valuable opportunity to apply what they learn through their education.

On behalf of the administration and staff of the RIIL, I would like to extend our thanks and best wishes for a safe and enjoyable summer vacation.

* * * * *

RIIL SUMMER HOURS

**Office Closed - Monday, July 1, 2002
Office Reopens - Monday, August 5, 2002**

**Regular office hours resume on
Monday, August 5, 2002**

8:00 am - 3:30 pm

* * * * *

→ IMPORTANT REMINDERS ←

USE OF SCHOOL EQUIPMENT DURING THE SUMMER

Principals and Athletic Directors are reminded that school equipment may not be loaned out for use during the summer months by students in your schools. The loaning of equipment is not only a violation of the policy of the Interscholastic League, but opens the schools and their administrators and coaches to serious liability risks in the event that the student borrowing the equipment or others who might use it are injured while using the equipment. Violations are not only subject to the penalties listed in Article 6 of the RIIL Rules and Regulations but are also subject to potential suits. The fact that the equipment was borrowed in violation of the League policy might be the very reason a court may find you negligent and award substantial damages in a negligent liability suit. The insurance policies of most schools do not provide coverage for the use of equipment during the summer months. Such use could well weaken the equipment

and, when used for school activities in the Fall, the weakened state could result in serious injuries to players and be the subject of a Kelly Fiske type of suit. In addition, the League's legal counsel maintains that the loaning of equipment that is owned by a public school without permission of the school committee could well be a violation of several criminal statutes that restrict use of publicly-owned equipment for private use. For all these reasons, administrators should make certain that no school equipment is loaned out for summer use.

* * * * *

REMINDER TO SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN FOOTBALL

Please be reminded that, once again this year, the Junior Varsity football schedule plays opposite the site of the Friday/Saturday varsity contest. Therefore, if Team A varsity plays Team B varsity on Friday/Saturday at Team A's field, the J.V. teams will play on Monday at Team B's field.

Please note that this is not automatic for Challenge Cup games. To schedule a J.V. game after a Challenge Cup game, schools need to contact the opposing school to set up a game for Monday.

* * * * *

ANNUAL PRINCIPALS/ATHLETIC DIRECTORS MEETING

The Annual Principals/Athletic Directors meeting will be held on **Wednesday, September 18, 2002 at 8:00 am**. The Principals' Committee on Athletics has declared this a mandatory meeting for the Principals or his/her designee and for all Athletic Directors. Please note that Assistant Principals and Administrators are also invited to attend this conference. The meeting will be held at the Rhode Island College Faculty Dining Center. Please mark this date on your calendar. More information will follow in August.

* * * * *

ONLINE SCHEDULING

The Rhode Island Interscholastic League is pleased to report that the new system of online scheduling and assigning of officials has met with great success. All reports to the League have indicated that the system is user-friendly and has simplified the process.

Please be reminded that, beginning with Fall 2002, this system will be used for ALL sports. The Providence Journal will continue to publish weekly schedules but officials assignments will be available *only* online.

However, technology cannot replace the human element. Therefore, please continue to follow-up with telephone calls where necessary.

As always, the League staff is available to assist you. Please do not hesitate to call the League office (272-9844) with any questions you may have.

* * * * *

"When you can do the common things of life in an uncommon way, you will command the attention of the world."

George Washington Carver

* * * * *

COACHES CODE OF ETHICS

The function of a coach is to properly educate students through participation in interscholastic competition. The interscholastic program is designed to enhance academic achievement and never should interfere with opportunities for academic success. Each child should be treated as though s/he were the coaches' own, and the child's welfare shall be uppermost at all times. In recognition of this, the following guidelines for coaches have been adopted by the NFICA Board of Directors:



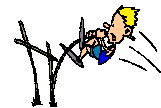
- ✓ **The coach** must be aware that s/he has a tremendous influence, either good or bad, in the education of the student-athlete and, thus, shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest desirable ideals of character.
- ✓ **The coach** must constantly uphold the honor and dignity of the profession. In all personal contact with the student-athlete, officials, athletic directors, school administrators, the state high school athletic association, the media and the public, the coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.
- ✓ **The coach** shall take an active role in the prevention of drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse and under no circumstances should authorize their use.
- ✓ **The coach** shall promote the entire interscholastic program of the school and direct his/her program in harmony with the total school program.
- ✓ **The coach** shall be acquainted thoroughly with the contest rules and is responsible for their interpretation to team members. The spirit and letter of rules should be regarded as mutual agreements. The coach shall not try to seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules.
- ✓ **Coaches** shall actively use their influence to enhance sportsmanship by their spectators, working closely with cheerleaders, pep club sponsors, booster clubs and administrators.
- ✓ **Coaches** shall respect and support contest officials. The coach shall not indulge in conduct which will incite players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials or players is unethical.
- ✓ **Before and after contests**, rival coaches should meet and exchange friendly greetings to set the correct tone for the event.

- ✓ **A coach** shall not exert pressure on faculty members to give student-athletes special consideration.
- ✓ **It is unethical** for coaches to scout opponents by any means other than those adopted by the league and/or state high school athletic association.

National Federation of State High School Associations

* * * * *

Pole Vault Rules And Equipment Alert



The NFHS Track and Field Rules Committee is studying the situation regarding the pole vault landing pad and is waiting for a national task force assigned to the American Society for Testing and Measurements (ASTM) to recommend a new minimum size landing pad.

If implemented by the NFHS rules committee, this would go into effect for the 2003 track season. The RIIL is providing this information to its members for budgeting and planning purposes, should the changes be made for next season.

The proposed rule change includes the following provisions:

- 1) Minimum width of the pole vault landing pad to be 1'98"
- 2) Minimum length of the pad to be 20'5" from the front edge of the vaulting box to the back of the pad. (must be a 16'5" of landing pad behind the vault box).
- 3) The thickness of the landing pad to be minimum of 26"
- 4) A collar to be placed around the vault box to help minimize injuries by vaulters falling into the box.
- 5) A coaching box to be painted on the cover of the landing pad that is 8' deep and 10' wide. The box would start 3'6" behind the back edge of the vault box (purpose is to serve as a guide to help coaches and athletes make performance adjustments).

Note that it is possible to upgrade your existing landing pad. However, the upgrade must be connected to the main pad and all seams must be covered so the vaulter cannot fall through the crack and strike the ground. The common cover must cover the entire landing pad.

Major manufacturers are aware of the National Task Force Committee's work and will make a pad available that is large enough to meet the new rule.

The NFHS Track and Field Rules Committee will make its decision in June.

* * * * *

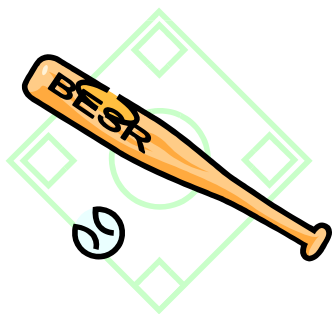
BATS WITH BESR STANDARD IMMEDIATELY LEGAL IN HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

Effective immediately, any bat that meets the Ball Exit Speed Ration (BESR) performance standard (BESR

certification mark on the bat) is legal for high school baseball competition governed by National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) rules.

In June 2001, the NFHS Baseball Rules Committee voted that all non-wood bats must have the BESR certification mark to be legal for high school baseball, effective January 1, 2003. Since many bats with the BESR standard are already on the market, this interpretation by the NFHS allows those bats to be used in the 2002 high school season.

“When purchasing bats, individuals can now be assured that no matter what materials are used in the bat composition, if it has the BESR certification mark, it is legal,” said Elliot Hopkins, NFHS assistant director and liaison to the Baseball Rules Committee. “Whether the bat composition is titanium, ceramic, or whatever, if it has the BESR mark, it can be used immediate.”



Hopkins said that bats with the BESR mark still are not required until January 1, 2003. Bats that are legal by current rules still can be used for the 2002 season; however, all bats must have the BESR mark for the 2003 season.

The BESR mark ensures a maximum exit speed of 97 miles per hour and that the bat has met the moment-of-inertia requirement. In addition, bat rules that were changed for the 2001 season, which are also a part of the BESR standard, have the following requirements: maximum of 2 5/8 inches for the diameter of the bat barrel and a minus-3 differential between the length and weight of the bat (a 33” long bat, for example, cannot weigh less than 30 ounces).

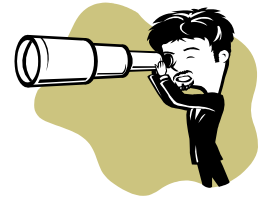
All recent changes in bat requirements have been to minimize the risk of injury to high school student-athletes, and maintain the balance between offense and defense and keep within the sound traditions of the game.

* * * * *

“Life is an unanswered question, but let us still believe in the dignity and importance of the question.”

Tennessee Williams

FOCUS On Sportsmanship



The following article was written by Mike Wortman, Principal at Lincoln High School (Nebraska), commending the students, athletes and coaches at Lincoln High for winning the Sportsmanship Award during the recent Boys State Basketball Tournament. The article is reprinted with the permission of Mr. Wortman and Lincoln High.

As a school, one of our primary functions is to help students gain academic skills so they can be successful in life. We have specific written curriculum objectives, organized classroom activities to help students learn the course content, and we have assessments to find out if students have met our expectations. We now have graduation demonstrations in the areas of reading, writing, and math. Students must demonstrate a certain level of competency in these subjects in order to earn a high school diploma.

While the academic side of school is our main focus, another important part of the school’s purpose is to help students gain the personal skills needed to be successful. At the recent Boys State Basketball Tournament, many students were able to demonstrate that Lincoln High School is a class act. Our students were honored by the Nebraska Coaches Association and the Nebraska State Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association as the Class A winner of the Sportsmanship Award for the 2002 State Tournament. This award reflects the pride of the students at Lincoln High. Sportsmanship means many different things to many different people, but good sportsmanship can be described as the “Golden Rule” or treating others as you would want them to treat you.

“... kind, respectful people are more apt to be successful than people who are arrogant and mean.”

Over the years there have been many efforts in society to down play the value of good sportsmanship. A book written several years ago “Winning through Intimidation” seems to sum up some people’s philosophy on how to get ahead. Some people really believe the saying that “nice people finish last.” Some coaches and fans believe that the overly aggressive, in-your-face kind of student performer will win most contests. At Lincoln H.S., the staff is making every effort to model the belief that kind, respectful people are more apt to be successful than people who are arrogant and mean. We want our students to have a sense of confidence, a knowledge that they are well prepared for any contest, and that they will win their share of events. We believe that it is possible to be

successful and a good sport. In fact, in many ways, being a good sport will help win contests. While referees are given the task of being impartial, they are more likely to give a break to a player who is respectful than to a player who is rude and obnoxious.

It was not an accident that Lincoln H.S. won the Sportsmanship Award. While the trophy itself was not the ultimate goal, there have been many activities and daily rituals designed to help students know the value in treating other people with dignity and respect. The Heartland Athletic Conference has supported a high standard of sportsmanship at all events. Lincoln H.S. has sent eight students to meet with students from other schools and discuss ways to improve sportsmanship. The Lincoln H.S. Athletic Department, with the leadership of Larry Parker, has had a goal for our athletes and coaches to represent Lincoln High in a positive light during the contests as well as before the contest, after the contest, and in the classroom. Our high standards for attendance and grades help to send the message that our participants have a responsibility to others. At all inter-city boys and girls basketball games this year, the cheerleaders from the two schools stood together as the sportsmanship code was read and the National Anthem played. This pre-game activity symbolized the unity of the Lincoln Public high schools and the respect the student bodies have for each other, even though we are highly competitive on the playing field. The adult sponsors of our Lincoln H.S. organizations such as the Pep Band, Cheerleaders, etc., have all worked to teach our students appropriate behavior in a variety of settings. head Coach Russ Uhing models appropriate behavior in practice and at games. He also communicates directly to his players that he expects good behavior from them. While Coach Uhing is very emotional and passionate about the game, he sends the message to people who are watching him that he understands the importance of being a good sport. He is not a “win-at-all-costs” kind of coach. He is under control and expects his athletes to be under control. They truly demonstrated the ability to be under control during two highly emotional games at the State Tournament. A group of students was formed through the efforts of DECA and call themselves “Superfans”. Senior Billy Galusha and many other “Superfans” have worked to make it fun to be at a Lincoln H.S. athletic contests. And “fun” can be defined as supporting our team in many creative and crazy ways. By cheering **FOR** our team and not **AGAINST** the opponent or officials, students are learning the positive approach that can benefit them in any role that they might have in the future. Someday, it will be our turn for a state championship, and it will be deserved. For now we will celebrate a great season and great fans.

We believe this is an important part of our mission, to help students use multiple perspectives and individual talents to live, learn, and work in a diverse society.

Twelve student-athletes on the team and hundreds of other students who were there to support the team, all passed their “Sportsmanship” demonstration. We are proud of the way they represented the LINKS and we say, “Another Lincoln

H.S. Job Well Done.” We have had recent examples nationally and locally of people in leadership roles in companies who did not treat their customers and employees using the “Golden Rule” when they kept large sums of money for themselves. We hope we are teaching our students many lessons in life through good sportsmanship. We believe this is an important part of our mission, to help students use multiple perspectives and individual talents to live, learn, and work in a diverse society.

* * * * *



SportsMed Briefs

DR ABC IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO A COLLAPSED ATHLETE

By William O. Roberts
M.D., M.S., F.A.C.S.M.

Chance medical emergencies do occur in all sports and preparation with the coaching staff and athletes will improve the chances of athlete survival if such an incident occurs on your team.

Fatal collapse is rare in high school athletes and when deaths occur, they are usually due to heart or heat problems. The incidence of high school cardiac death [based on Minnesota statistics] is 1:300,000 athletes.

Excerpts from 2001 news clippings imply that most of the deaths were related to high school and college football and occurred in the early part of the fall season with 12 fatalities this past season. The large number of football athletes skews the number of deaths and the cardiac death rate is no higher than for other sports with the exception of the deaths due to heat stroke. The risk of heat-related deaths in football was magnified by the death of Minnesota Vikings football player Korey Stringer. However, 10 players also died in the 2000 football season from heart- and heat-related problems, so the overall rate was probably the same in the last two years. Football was not the only sport for which 2001 fatalities were reported: there were also deaths in boys’ junior national gymnastics, men’s college soccer, boys’ cross-country running, and boys’ wrestling.

Athletes collapse during sports events because there has been physical disruption of brain function, inadequate oxygen for brain function, abnormal brain temperature, inadequate fuel for brain function, loss of circulatory support, and/or electrolyte imbalances. Regardless of the cause of collapse, it is critical for coaches to have an on-field response plan for practice and game situations. The emergency plan should include which personnel respond on the field, moving players to the bench away from the collapsed athlete, access to a phone, and a contact number for emergency medical services support and transportation.

The immediate management of a collapsed athlete should utilize the acronymic 'DR ABC.' It is simple to remember and initiate:

- "D" means remove from **D**anger while maintaining neck protection and stabilization. This includes moving other players to the bench to *Decrease the risk* of unwanted "help" for teammates that may accidentally worsen the situation.
- "R" means *check Response* for alert, verbal, pain, or unconscious. This information should be **R**elayed to the medical response team so they can prepare the equipment during the run to the site.
- "A" means *check the Airway* with cervical spine control and reposition the jaw and head if there is no Air movement.
- "B" means *check for spontaneous Breathing* and start mouth-to-mouth resuscitation if **B**reathing is absent.
- "C" means *check Circulation and begin CPR or Control heavy bleeding*. The legs and buttocks should be elevated to augment blood flow to the brain and heart. For many high school athletes, elevating the legs and buttocks will redistribute pooled blood and improve the medical status, especially if there is a verbal response. The most common first aid error made in the field is to put a collapsed athlete into a sitting position which accentuates the most common causes of collapse and slows the recovery process.

"DR ABC" initiates a first aid management protocol that will give the medical response team time to arrive and transition into their field management protocols. The information gathered during the "DR ABC" evaluation should be relayed to the response team for transfer to the appropriate emergency medical department. If a parent is not present, one of the coaches should accompany the player to the Emergency Room *in loco parentis* to advocate for the athlete.

Chance medical emergencies do occur in all sports and preparation with the coaching staff and athletes will improve the chances of athlete survival if such an incident occurs on your team. A collapse after or very near the finish line or during a break in play usually has a better outcome than a collapse that occurs during the height of competition.

Diabetics and asthmatics can experience worsening of the disease during athletic activity and the coach should be aware of athletes who have these problems and have emergency medications at the practice and game sites.

Heat-stroked athletes may not actually collapse to the ground until they have been overheated for an extended period of time. If a high body temperature or heat stroke is suspected, move the athlete to a cool or shaded area, remove excess clothing, and apply ice packs or cold wet towels to the neck, axilla (armpit), and groin to begin body cooling. Water from a sprinkler hose can also be used to cool hot athletes. In cool conditions, it is important to keep the athlete warm with a blanket or extra clothing.

Sudden cardiac death may not be totally preventable, but the pre-participation exam recommended by the League is a

screen for sudden death risk and should be taken seriously by coaches, athletes, and parents. Environmentally induced death due to exertional heat stroke should be preventable if you follow the League's Heat Index guidelines. Trauma injury should be reduced by rule enforcement that is critical for athlete safety. Coaches should keep their CPR certificate up to date. Although death is very rare in high school sports, it is essential to be prepared to begin emergency first aid and "DR ABC" will help you get started.

Dr. William O. Roberts practices with MinnHealth Family Physicians of White Bear Lake [Minnesota] and is a member of the Minnesota State High School League Sports Medicine Advisory Committee.

* * * * *



The following is a summary of the May 20, 2002 meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics:

The May 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 each member's folder or filed in the League office.

BASEBALL

Mr. John Blaess

Mr. Lynch reported on a request he received from the R. I. Baseball Coaches Association to conduct the Annual Class A and Class B All-Star Games on May 4th and May 11th. Insofar as the request was submitted on May 2nd and the games were scheduled to take place prior to this meeting, Mr. Lynch granted verbal approval to David Ulmschneider, secretary of the Coaches' Association. Mr. Lynch emphasized that he granted permission because these games are held each year and have been approved in the past.

However, he recommended to Mr. Ulmschneider that the dates for the Annual All-Star Games be included on the cover sheet of the baseball schedule so that the events can be submitted for approval along with the schedule prior to the start of each season.

In other business, Mr. Lynch reported that the Playoff Coaches Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 30, 2002 at North Kingstown High School.

FIELD HOCKEY

Ms. Jean Angell

Ms. Angell submitted the 2002-2003 field hockey schedule for the Committee's review and consideration. She proposed that the official starting time for all field hockey games be 3:45

pm, which will allow for officials who work to arrive at the games on time. In addition, she stated that Tiverton High School requested to be moved to Division I, which was approved.

Ms. Angell reported that the Coaches Interpretation Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 18, 2002 at the League office.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the 2002-2003 Field Hockey schedule, to include 3:45 pm as the official starting time.

BASKETBALL

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

Mr. Foley stated that he will be prepared to submit the 2002-2003 boys basketball schedule at the June meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics. He stated that Warwick Veterans Memorial High School has moved up to Division I-AA, which will create inter-city competition with other Warwick high schools.

Mr. Foley also stated that there will be a meeting of the Joint Basketball Committee on Tuesday, May 21, 2002.

In other business, Mr. Foley reported that there has been some discussion in the basketball community to hold all the playoffs at the new facility at The University of Rhode Island. Mr. Foley emphasized that the basketball playoffs have been held at the Dunkin' Donuts Center (formerly the Providence Civic Center) since 1980, and that the management of the Center has always been very cooperative with the Rhode Island Interscholastic League in making the Center and its facilities available. Mr. Foley will report back to the Committee on Athletics at its June meeting.

GOLF

Mr. John Gray

Mr. Gray reported that the season is just about complete and that playoffs will be completed by Thursday, May 23rd. The championships will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 28-29, 2002 at Cranston Country Club. The State Team Championship will be on May 28th and the State Individual Championship will be held on May 29th. If inclement weather forces a postponement on Tuesday, the tournament will be a one-day event with both team and individual competition held on the same day.

Mr. Gray also reported that \$1000 proceeds have been realized from the Challenge Cup competition. In addition, the R. I. Golf Course Superintendents' Association has donated 25 dozen Titleist golf balls to the RIIL golf league, and the R. I. Golf Coaches' Association provided bag tags, rule books, plaques, and the award for the individual state champion.

VOLLEYBALL

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

Mr. Kavanagh submitted the 2002-2003 Boys' Volleyball schedule to the Committee for its review and consideration.

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

Mr. Lynch reported that the girls' volleyball Class A semifinals are scheduled for Friday, May 24, 2002. Two (2) schools that may be participating in the semifinals (Toll Gate and Woonsocket) have proms that evening. At the playoff coaches meeting, the coaches of Toll Gate and Woonsocket flipped a coin and determined that Woonsocket would play the 5:00 pm match and Toll Gate would play in the 7:30 pm match. However, the 7:30 pm starting time is a conflict with Toll Gate High School's senior prom.

Mr. Lynch stated that he has spoken with Elaine Botelho, Director of Girls' Volleyball. Insofar as the policy of the RIIL is to postpone playoff games in the Spring only for graduation, they discussed the possibility of changing the games to 3:00 pm and 5:30 pm on the same day. Nothing can or will be done until it is determined who will be participating in the semifinals.

It was suggested that in the future, no [Spring sport] playoffs be scheduled on a Friday and/or Saturday evening because those are 'traditional' nights for proms and there is always a conflict. This will be reviewed and discussed further prior to the development of next Spring's schedules.

FASTPITCH SOFTBALL

Mrs. Betty Marquis

Mrs. Marquis reported that the Playoff Coaches Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 30th at the League office. Playoffs will begin on Saturday, June 1st at home sites. There will be a Playoff Press Conference for fastpitch and slowpitch softball on Tuesday, June 4, 2002 at the North Providence Town Hall.

Mrs. Marquis reported that, although there was some discussion about changing the site for the fastpitch playoffs, the events will be held at Notte Park as in the past. The Town of North Providence has been very loyal and cooperative with the RIIL in providing the facility for the playoffs. Further, there are lights at the park if a rainout forces night games.

SLOWPITCH SOFTBALL

Mr. Tony Torregrossa

There was no report in Slowpitch Softball at this meeting.

TENNIS

**Ms. Candace Caluori
Mrs. Denise Boulé**

Ms. Caluori, Director of Boys' Tennis, reported that the main draw was rained out on Saturday, May 18th and subsequently played on Saturday, May 25th.

In other business, Ms. Caluori reported on two (2) separate incidents. One incident involved a player from Warwick Veterans High School [allegedly] verbally assaulting the opposing coach from Prout High School.

In the second incident, the coach of Scituate High School alleged that the [opposing] coach from Burrillville High School violated the rules regarding substitution of players.

These issues will be investigated, reviewed further and brought before the Tennis Executive Committee.

OUTDOOR TRACK

Mr. Robert Littlefield

Mr. Littlefield reported that the dual meet season has been completed. The class meets that were scheduled for Saturday, May 18th were postponed due to inclement weather and will be held on Sunday, May 19th at the same sites.

The State Championship Meet will be held on Saturday, June 1st at Brown University. Mr. Littlefield and Mr. Lynch will meet with representatives from Brown University to review details for the event. Brown University cannot host the javelin event(s); subsequently, these events will be held at Bishop Hendricken High School.

Mr. Lynch reported that the cost to use the facilities at Brown University is \$4,570.00. The United States Air Force has agreed to sponsor the RIIL track and field championships and will provide a sum of \$2,675.00. Mr. Lynch stated that the Air Force was secured as a sponsor through the efforts of iHigh.com and Craig Blanchard.

HOCKEY

Mr. Daniel Sheehan

Mr. Sheehan stated that there will be a meeting of the Hockey Committee on Tuesday, May 21, 2002. He also reported that information published in The Providence Journal regarding separate divisions [in Met A] for catholic schools and private schools is inaccurate. While there was discussion among the hockey community regarding this issue, Mr. Sheehan stated emphatically that he is not proposing it and that the hockey coaches are not in favor of it.

In other business, Mr. Lynch reported on the inception of a RIIL girls hockey league. Seven (7) schools have declared their intent to participate in girls hockey beginning with the 2002-2003 school year. The schools are: Mount St. Charles Academy, North Smithfield H.S., and Burrillville H.S. The following schools will form co-op teams: The Lincoln School with Providence Country Day; and St. Mary Academy-Bay View will co-op with Bishop Keough H.S.

Mr. Lynch stated that the Principals' Committee on Athletics will need to discuss and determine a RIIL fee for girls hockey and how ice time for girls hockey games will be secured. Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of scheduling girls and boys teams (from the same school) on the same night to form double and/or triple-headers. These issues will be reviewed and discussed further.

LACROSSE

Mr. George Finn

Mr. Lynch reported on a request for a Boys' Senior Game to be held on Friday, May 31st at North Kingstown High School.

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

WRESTLING

Mr. Edmond Lemoi

Mr. Lynch submitted the final report regarding the issue of an ineligible student-athlete at Cranston High School East. As a

result of the student's ineligible status, all points he earned in all matches while ineligible were deducted from the [team's] total score. Consequently, Cranston High School East was required to forfeit the division championship, which was awarded to Bishop Hendricken High School. However, Cranston High School East retains the State Championship.

OTHER SPORTS / ISSUES

• **Fall Sports Schedules**

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the 2002-2003 Boys and Girls Cross Country Schedule as submitted for their review and consideration.

• **Forfeits**

Exeter/West Greenwich High School - Girls' Outdoor Track

The EWG girls track team was scheduled to participate in a meet on April 30th at West Warwick. After arriving at the site, the coaches agreed to postpone the meet due to inclement weather and to reschedule the meet for the next day. Inasmuch as the [EWG] coach did not notify the Athletic Director of the reschedule until the late in the afternoon on the day of the meet, the Athletic Director was not able to secure transportation for the team. Consequently, the EWG girls track team did not participate in the [rescheduled] meet.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously voted to impose the forfeit penalty on the Exeter/West Greenwich High School girls' track team.

Central High School - Girls' Volleyball

The Central High School girls volleyball team [voluntarily] forfeited two (2) League contests because of an insufficient number of players. In both cases, the opposing team was not made aware of the situation until they were already at the site of the game. One of the contests was a home game and one was an away game.

Discussion ensued regarding this most recent incident and the fact that there has been a history of problems at Central High School with various issues involving the Interscholastic League.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously voted to require that the Principal, Director of Athletics, and Girls' Volleyball Coach appear before the Committee at its June meeting.

North Smithfield High School - Golf

Mr. Gray, Director of Golf, reported that North Smithfield High School [voluntarily] forfeited four (4) League matches on the following dates: April 29th, May 2nd, May 9th, and May 16th. He stated that North Smithfield H.S. has had a difficult season. However, he noted that a poor season is not a reason and/or excuse for forfeiting contests.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics voted to send a letter to the Principal of North Smithfield High School requesting the facts and reasons for the forfeits in golf.

Cranston High School East - Slowpitch

Mr. Lynch reported that Cranston High School East [voluntarily] forfeited two (2) slowpitch softball.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics voted to send a letter to the Principal of Cranston High School East requesting the facts and reasons for the forfeits in slowpitch softball.

Lincoln High School - Boys' Lacrosse

Mr. Lynch reported that Lincoln High School [voluntarily] forfeited a two(2) boys' lacrosse contests.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics voted to send a letter to the Principal of Lincoln High School requesting the facts and reasons for the forfeits in boys lacrosse.

• **Boys Soccer**

Mr. Mercurio, Director of Boys Soccer, proposed that Section B4 (Article 21-Boys & Girls Soccer) be eliminated. This paragraph addresses the issue of yellow cards issued. Mr. Mercurio stated that, since this rule was implemented, it has not effected anyone. Further, while the number of red cards issued has decreased, the amount of yellow cards remains the same.

On a vote of 13-0, with 1 abstention, the Principals Committee on Athletics voted to remove Section B4 from Article 21 of the Rules and Regulations of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League.

• **RIIL High School Athletic Hall of Fame**

Mr. Lynch submitted timelines, by-laws, and nomination forms for the proposed RIIL Hall of Fame. He stated that he had sent said documentation to the Mr. James McAleer, the League's legal counsel for his review that the proposal met with Mr. McAleer's approval.

The Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously voted to approved the following motions that were made and seconded:

- To establish the Rhode Island Interscholastic League High School Athletic Hall of Fame as recommended by the Executive Director.
- To establish a maximum of ten (10) inductees for the first year.
- The number of inductees each year following the inaugural year shall not exceed six (6).
- To research by-laws from other established Halls of Fame to determine the percentage of the total number of inductees (in each class) that must be alive.

• **Article 6, Section 5c [Penalties] - Proposed Modification to the Rule**

Mr. Lynch submitted the following proposed verbiage for Article 6, Section 5c [Penalties] as it applies to ineligible athletes: (*bold, italics indicate proposed language.*)

“A school which plays a student who is later found to be ineligible (whether because of the student's own misstatement or lack of care on the part of the school authorities), should by written notice to the schools affected immediately forfeit every game in which the ineligible player participated. *In the sports of cross country, tennis, gymnastics, indoor and outdoor track, swimming, golf, and wrestling, all points earned by the ineligible student-athlete will be deducted (from the team's total score) and subsequent results of all regular season, playoff and championship events in which the student-athlete participated which may cause a forfeit of these events. Additional penalties may also be imposed on the member school.* The Executive Director should also be notified and, if trophies, plaques *and medals* are involved, they must be returned to the RIIL. The failure of a Principal/school to promptly and automatically implement the forfeiture provisions of this section shall subject a member Principal/school to additional penalties pursuant to Article 6, Section 3.”

Mr. Lynch stated that the above proposed language was submitted to Mr. James McAleer, the League's legal counsel, for his review and input.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the proposed change(s) to Article 6, Section 5c of the Rules and Regulations of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League.

• **Eligibility - Failure of Schools to Submit Eligibility Lists**

Mr. Lynch reported that, as of April 29, 2002, several schools did not submit eligibility lists for Spring sports. In accordance with the RIIL rule(s), failure to submit eligibility lists will result in forfeiture of all contests played (and won) prior to the eligibility list being submitted. However, if a team has losing record, in effect there is no penalty imposed against the team (school). Therefore, Mr. Lynch was seeking input from the Committee regarding ways in which to impose a penalty for failure to submit eligibility lists that would be fair and equitable to all schools involved.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics voted to assess a \$200/per sport fine against schools that fail to submit eligibility lists. If, after receiving two (2) notices that they are in violation of the rule and have still not complied, an additional \$200/per sport fine shall be imposed.

On a vote of 13-1, the Principals' Committee on Athletics approved the motion as outlined above.

- **Technology**

The Principals' Committee on Athletics discussed ideas on how to better utilize technology to enhance the operation of the League office. The following members volunteered to serve on a Technology Committee to review this matter: John Gray, Donald Kavanagh, and Betty Marquis.

REPORT ON ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE

Mr. Magarian reported that the Annual Spring Conference held on Wednesday, May 15, 2002 was very successful. This year's event addressed "Sport Nutrition for Health and Performance; Athletics, Ethics and Leadership." A total of 264 students-athletes and adults representing 44 schools attended the day-long conference.

Mr. Lynch expressed his appreciation and commended Mr. Magarian and Ruth Nicastro for their work in preparing for the conference and on the day of the event.

MILEAGE FORMS

Mileage forms for the 2001-2002 school year were placed in each member's folder. Mr. Lynch reminded all Directors that mileage will be reimbursed at the rate of 33¢/mile and that completed forms are due in the League office no later than Friday, June 28, 2002.

RENAISSANCE GAMES

Mr. Magarian reported on the 2002 Renaissance Games. This is the third year that the RIIL has sponsored the event in conjunction with the Institute of International Sport. The semifinals were held on Sunday, April 29th at [school] sites around the state. The Championship was held on Sunday, May 5, 2002 at The University of Rhode Island. South Kingstown High School emerged the 2002 State Champion for the second consecutive year, with Cumberland High School taking second place.

MEETING DATES

Mr. Lynch submitted meeting dates for the Principals' Committee on Athletics and the RIIL Waiver Hearing Committee for the 2002-2003 school year.

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 May meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 4:30 pm.



**THE RIIL IS PROUD TO RECOGNIZE
ITS CORPORATE SPONSORS**

Baden Athletic Balls

Bob's Stores

Brine

Empire Corporate Federal Credit Union

Legg Mason

MetLife Auto and Home

Pepsi Cola Co.

The Pawtucket Red Sox

Rawlings Sporting Goods

Spalding

United States Air Force

Worth Sporting Goods

Thank You.