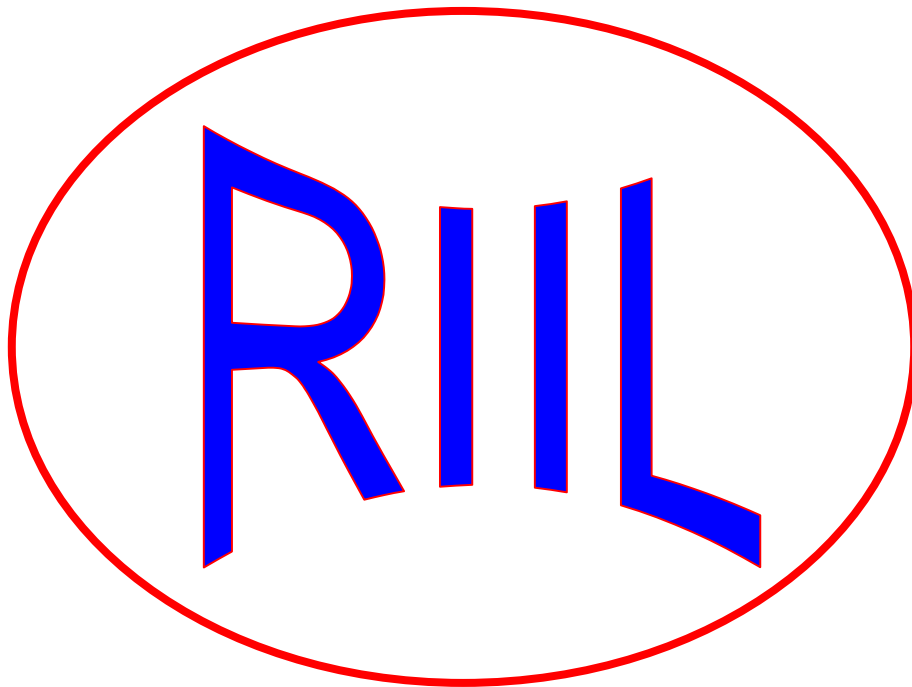




March-April 2002



**Member of the
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**FROM THE DESK OF
THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ...**

The RIIL Principals' Committee on Athletics, at its February 2002 meeting, voted to include Physical Education for academic eligibility purposes, to become effective with the beginning of the 2002-2003 school year. Previously, Physical Education was not included when determining whether a student-athlete was passing 60% of the student's programs (credits).

Therefore, the rule has been changed to read: "At all times, the athlete should have secured for the period from the beginning of the quarter or trimester up to the end of the regular marking period which shall not exceed a maximum of 12 weeks and a passing grade of 60% in the student program (credits) ***including*** Physical Education" (Article 3, Section 3A).

I would like to draw your attention to Article 3, Section 3A, which addresses consistency in applying the rule. The rule reads, "At the end of a course which meets for multiple marking periods, a school may utilize the grade earned during the last marking period (quarter) or the final mark earned in determining academic eligibility. *However, the school must be consistent in its application of this provision for ***all*** student-athletes in ***all*** sports.*

I urge you to please be consistent in the application of this rule. Thank you.

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REMINDER

Beginning with the Fall 2002, schedules for all sports will be listed online. In addition, the League will require that all Home Confirmation schedules be submitted online, as well as officials' assignments, where applicable. It will also be necessary to make any cancellations, postponements, and/or changes online as well. In the case of postponements, the (home) Athletic Director shall continue to personally call the assigned officials and the visiting school with the appropriate information. It is also important to note that when changes to the home confirmation are necessary for reasons other than inclement weather, it is necessary to submit the change request online to the director of the sport. Once s/he renders a decision on the request, an email will automatically be sent to the home school, the visiting school, the officials' assignor, and the change will appear on the home school confirmation online.

The League office has received positive feedback from those now using this online program in baseball and fastpitch softball, and we look forward to continued success in the Fall.

If you have any question or would like more information, please call the League office, 272-9844.

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RIIL SPRING CONFERENCE

The RIIL Annual Spring Conference will be held this year on Wednesday, May 15, 2002, from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm at Gaige Hall on the campus of Rhode Island College. The topic for this year's conference will be "Sport Nutrition for Health and Performance; Athletes, Ethics and Leadership." The use of supplements and ergonomic aids to enhance athletic performance is becoming more prevalent in athletics; however, there exists considerable safety concerns and myths surrounding their use.

This Conference is designed to set fact from fiction and will help our student-athletes and adult leaders by providing valuable knowledge and truth about supplements.

The target group for this seminar is four (4) student-athletes and two (2) adults from each school who are interested in this topic. The registration and program will be sent soon to all member schools. Please plan ahead and remember ... there is no cost to member schools for this event.

For more information, please call Dick Magarian at the League office, 272-9844.

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PARENTS: MAKING A WINNER OF YOUR YOUNG ATHLETE
by Bonnie Hutchins

Sports are very important to children and can help them develop physically and personally. But simply placing a child in a sport situation does not guarantee that they will benefit.

The kind of support parents give their children can make sports fun and rewarding -- or it can be a source of stress. Here are some ways parents can help their child, whether 6 or 16, enjoy their sports experience and benefit from it. By following these principles, parents can both motivate their young athlete in sports and help them develop a healthy, positive self-image.

Keep in mind the two major reasons kids play sports -- to have fun and to feel worthy, competent and successful.

Teach your son/daughter that success in sports is more than just winning. Help them feel successful when they are improving or mastering skills, giving maximum effort, and striving to win. In this way, parents can help their athlete accept disappointments, and not see losses as personal failures or a blow to self-worth.

Help your athlete set realistic, achievable, yet challenging goals. Then, offer to work with him/her to meet those goals. When your child's skill level improves, s/he will feel a sense of accomplishment.

Reward and encourage skill improvement, good plays, and good behavior. Remember to praise effort, not just performance, to motivate them to try hard. The best way to reward is verbally or with a physical response like a smile or a thumbs-up sign. Try to avoid money or other material rewards.

Athletes make plenty of mistakes -- they're part of learning the game. When your child makes a mistake, give encouragement and, if needed, ideas on how to correct the error. Be sure to do it in a positive way. Avoid criticizing and

punishing for mistakes. Criticism teaches athletes to fear failure, making them worry that they won't perform well and dread the possible disapproval of their parents, coach and teammates. It hurts rather than improves performance.

Show your children that you love and accept them, regardless of their performance. This is the basis for a positive self concept.

Some words of caution

Though it is perfectly natural to identify with your child, and want him/her to be successful, be careful not to live out your own dreams through them. Seeing your child's performance in sports as a reflection of your own self-worth and success can cause you to set unrealistically high goals for your child and place pressure on them to perform, a major cause of stress for kids.

Watch your behavior at games and practices. Remember - you are a role model for your children. If you want your son/daughter to show good sportsmanship and self-control, you need to exhibit it yourself, no matter how frustrating it may be to see a poor call or bad play.

During games and practices, leave the coaching to the coach. It confuses players when they get instruction from more than one source.

The positive attributes that can be developed through sports can be strengthened by a parent's wise management and support of their child's sports experience. Years from now, it won't matter whether an athlete could field a line drive or make a left-handed lay-up at age twelve. But the self-esteem, attitudes toward achievement, and understanding of success as maximum effort and improving skills that parents can help instill in children through sports can make them winners today and tomorrow.

Reprinted from the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Assoc.

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MESSAGE TO ADULTS: "YOUR ATTITUDE IS SHOWING!"

by Dr. Darrell Burnett

Why is profanity starting to show up more in youth sports? We know how kids learn to use profanity. They see it; they hear it; they try it. Kids have had their "mouths washed out with soap" for generations. Most sports have rules and consequences for using profanity. Some kids will respond - some won't.

A more important question is, how did the ten-year-olds quoted above develop an attitude toward youth sports that got them so upset, frustrated, stressed out, etc., that they reacted with profanity? I think the answer may lie in the old saying,

"The acorn doesn't fall far from the tree." As parents, we have to be aware that our behaviors, whether as spectators or as coaches, often set the tone for our kids' attitudes toward youth sports. Do we give positive encouragement, or critical judgmental remarks? Do we show a calm demeanor, or heated overreactions to mistakes? Do we praise participation or criticize game statistics? Are we preoccupied with standings, all-star status and trophy accumulation? Have we developed a reputation for hurling offensive remarks at the officials or opponents? It's confusing for kids. They're told to "have fun", but they see and hear adults on the sidelines who appear to be having anything but fun.

As adults, we often tend to focus on the "end product", rather than the "process". When an adult arrives at game's end and sees the kids coming off the field, what is the first word out of his/her mouth? It's usually, "Who won?" or "Did you score any goals (get any hits, Etc.)?" With our emphasis on the end product, we run the risk of teaching our kids to focus strictly on outcome rather than process. Their idea of success then becomes based upon outcome (winning) rather than process (skill improvement). Mistakes are no longer viewed as opportunities to learn. They are seen as occasions of failure, setting the scene for profane overreactions.

Research has shown that elite athletes focus on tasks, not trophies. That is, they focus on the process of their skill development, measuring their progress in terms of frequency, duration, or intensity. They have an intense desire to win, but most of their energy is spent competing against themselves. They don't overreact to their mistakes, to their opponent, or to questionable calls by the official. Success in their eyes is measured by progress, not trophy size. They learn to control their anger and stay focused, regardless of the situation. They take sole responsibility for their athletic performance, blaming no one. These are solid goals for parents to set for their young athletes and profanity can only get in the way.

So if you're an adult involved in youth sports and you come across one of those mouthy ten-year-olds mentioned above, it's not enough to go for the soap. You've got to change the attitude. And it might involve changing your own. As parents, if you're looking to develop a positive attitude in your kids, you would do well to watch your own behaviors at athletic events. Next time you go to a game, remember ... your attitude is showing and your kids are watching.

Dr. Darrell Burnett is a clinical and sport psychologist, author and lecturer. He was selected as a Sports Ethics Fellow by the University of Rhode Island's Institute for International Sport. He can be contacted through FUNAGAIN Press, P.O. Box 7223, Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-7223. Phone: 1-800-493-5943; Fax (949)495-8204; email: funagain@pacbell.net

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"Integrity is doing the right thing, even is nobody is watching."

Jim Stovall

MOTHERS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING

Youth in Action Team

Last year, MADD held a seminar with young people from the state to discuss possible prevention strategies targeting underage drinking. After much discussion and debate, the young participants voted to focus on parent prevention training. Most young people felt that although they had been receiving prevention education since their early years, their parents and those of their friends hadn't been afforded the same opportunity. These teens felt that, if given some education surrounding the underage drinking issues, parents might take ownership and responsibility. They basically said that if parents don't believe that there *IS* a problem, they won't see a need to address it in their families, schools, and communities. These same young people also thought that anything they could do to enhance communication between parents and young people would make a huge difference.

And so these young people went to work and created a 6-hour parental prevention training. Once developed, we asked that they pare the training down to only 2 hours since most parents might have a difficult time finding six unplanned hours in most of their work weeks. It was a challenging request but they stepped up and have developed a training that is pretty time-flexible. In each training they include statistics, legal responsibilities and ramifications, and honest open shared discussion. These young people really believe that the answer to most problems they are faced with lie within building strong partnerships with the adults in their lives. They've named their training "TNT" believing that it will go far to "explode myths surrounding the underage drinking issue."

TNT (Teaching New Techniques) focuses on the issues that Rhode Island parents encounter on a daily basis in their homes, schools, and communities.

The workshop includes a statistical exercise, large and small group discussions, and an opportunity to learn about issues from the young people themselves.

TNT covers such questions as:

- What is happening with teens and underage drinking across Rhode Island?
- What are the laws regarding underage drinking, hosting teenage parties, supplying alcohol to minors, and impaired driving?
- How can I help young people and their friends in my community?
- What can I do to help create safer environments for young people?

Please consider spending a morning being educated by Rhode Island youth. The TNT training program will be held on Wednesday, May 14th from 9:30 am to 12:00 noon at the Arnold Conference Center, Eleanor Slater Hospital at the State Medical Complex in Cranston, RI.

This young training has been sponsored by the Rhode Island Department MHRH, Division of Prevention, along with the Rhode Island Department of Transportation, Governor's Office of Highway Safety.

To RSVP for this event, which includes a continental breakfast, please call 1-800-242-6233 - or - email at gabymaddri@ids.net.

Come and be inspired by Rhode Island teens.

Providing programs such as this requires the time and effort of a great many people. It also requires financial resources. MADD RI is a non-profit chapter that works to stop drunk driving, support the victims of this violent crime and prevent underage drinking.

MADD RI is sponsoring a Golf Tournament (for men *and* women) on Wednesday, May 22, 2002 at the North Kingstown Country Club. Registration is at 7:15 am; Tee Time will be 8:00 am. It will be a shotgun start with a scramble format. We ask that you wear soft cleat golf shoes only. A luncheon will follow at 2:00 pm. The fee for this tournament is \$100 per player. space is limited and those interested will be registered on a first-come, first-serve basis. Not a foursome - no problem. You will be grouped with other golfers.

All proceeds from players, sponsors, and benefactors will be used to increase public awareness and support the many youth education programs sponsored by MADD RI.

To register, send your name, address, and telephone, along with your check for \$100/per player to: MADD RI, 2 Regency Plaza, Suite 3, Providence, RI 02903

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"Character - the willingness to accept responsibility for one's own life - is the source from which self-respect springs."

Joan Didion

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AN EXCELLENT LETTER TO YOUR COACHES ABOUT SPORTSMANSHIP

We are in this business of coaching at the high school level to teach skills and values associated with team sports. Among the values to be taught are: responsibility for one's actions, working together as a team, controlling emotions, and sportsmanship towards teammates, opponents, and officials. yes, we would like to win each game. But, as you know, that will not happen. The bottom line at every contest is this: we, the coaches, must set an example to players, parents, and fans of how to win and how to lose with class and dignity. I ask you: "If we do not set this example, who will?"

Rarely do referees cost us games. Most games are decided by the participants on the field. I will admit that there are some officials who are not as good as others. But generally, good players, good teams, and good coaches adjust to the conditions surrounding the game. They adjust to the officiating - if they are calling them tightly or loosely or inconsistently. When you are confronted with poor officiating, please stay under control and be a good example to your players.

We have a responsibility to make athletes be accountable for their performances. Instead of blaming referees for defeat, failures, or short-comings, perhaps coaches need to look at missed scoring opportunities, penalties at key points in the game, missed free throws, and poor offensive execution. Gary Pinkel, new head football coach at Mizzou, is quoted as follows:

“What you see on video is what you coached. What a great coaching point. That guy didn’t do very well? Guess what? That’s what you coached. That’s called accountability. And those are the guys I want working for me. People who have excuses don’t achieve. OK? ... You know what excuses do? They buffer your feeling. They soften the blow. It’s a little easier to handle things when you give yourself an excuse. But you go nowhere. You spin your wheels.”

Do not ever let your players use poor officiating as an excuse for their lack of performance. And don’t you, as a coach, ever let that be your crutch!

I ask these questions of all of our coaches for all sports:

- ✓ Do you talk to your team about how to play on the road?
- ✓ Do you talk about adversity and how to handle it?
- ✓ Do you talk about hostile crowds, rough or overly aggressive play by the opponent, and inconsistent officiating?
- ✓ Are your kids totally prepared for the worst?

Finally, there are ways that you can talk to referees without getting in trouble and without appearing confrontational and without showing poor sportsmanship. In almost every sport at the end of the year, a coach has the right to grade and evaluate the officials.

We ask all coaches to look at their philosophy in dealing with poor play, defeats, bench conduct, and game management. Do you really coach? Do you stay calm and under control when things are unraveling on the field or court? Do you rant and rave and “lose it”? And most importantly, think about how all of this affects your players and the parents and fans in the stands.

Finally, we appreciate your efforts. We value your care for your kids. We are willing to support you on almost anything you ask. But P-L-E-A-S-E, be careful about attacking and berating referees in the presence of your athletes and our fans.

*Reprinted from The Maine Apprise, March 2002
a publication of the Maine Principals’ Association*

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“A coach must remember that he is a teacher and teachers also learn from listening to others. You must be more interested in finding the best way than in having your own way. Almost as much as can be learned by listening to those under our supervision as from your peers and from those whose supervision you are under. We learn from listening - not from speaking.”

John Wooden

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TRUE SPORTSMANSHIP

When the 1964 Olympic Winter Games in Innsbruck opened, the clear favorites in the four-man bobsled event were the hometown Austrians and the Italians. Experts gave the Canadians an outside chance. But something magical happened.

Canada 1 broke the Olympic record in the first heat and had a half-second lead on the rest of the field. But on that record setting first run, there had been a problem. The Canadians went into the last turn too fast and the sled hit the ice wall and went up on two runners. The accident damaged the sled axle. If it wasn’t fixed, the Canadians would be disqualified.

Eugenio Monti and his Italian team didn’t want to win unless they raced against the best and on equal terms. Fifteen minutes before Canada’s next run, Victor Emery reached the top of the track to find his sled upside down. The Italians had it torn apart. The collision with the wall had caused Canada 1’s axle to seize. Monti’s mechanics were doing their best to fix it.

With Monti’s help, Canada 1 was able to race and hold on to its lead. By the fourth and final run, they were so far ahead that only a disaster would keep them from the gold medal.

When the Canadians came to a stop, it was clear that no one was going to catch them. The gold medal was theirs. In the end, Italy’s Eugenio Monti and his team received the bronze medal. But this is only the beginning of a great story.

In the two-man bobsled event, Tony Nash of Great Britain, after his first run, recorded the fastest time. A bolt attaching the runners to the shell of the sled had sheared. Eugenio Monti, who was about to steer the Italian number one sled down the track said, “Get an Englishman and a spanner to the finish and they can have my bolt.” True to his word and ignoring inquiries from mystified Italian journalists, the bolt was ferried back up to the start and quickly attached to the British sled. In the end, Tony Nash and Robin Dixon of Great Britain took home the gold and Eugenio Monti took home the bronze and the “Pierre de Coubertin” award for fair play.

Monti was viciously criticized in the Italian press but he was steadfast. “Nash didn’t win because I gave him the bolt,” he said. “He won because he had the fastest run.”

Every real competitor wants to win, but Olympic medallist John Naber says, “a true sportsman who understands the Olympic ideal wants to win against his best opponent on his best day. So the sportsman is not elated but disappointed when top competitors are injured or disqualified.”

As a follow-up, Eugenio Monti won the gold medal at the 1968 Winter Olympics in BOTH the two-man and four-man bobsled events. But it was his willingness to lose that earned him a prominent place in Olympic history. His acts represent sportsmanship at its best: the pursuit of victory with zeal and passion, recognizing that there is no true victory without honor.

Today, parents and coaches should be teaching youngsters that the real glory of sport is in the striving - not the winning. With so many athletes willing to cheat or behave badly just to win, we need reminders of the noble potential of sport.

Eugenio Monti and his Italian team represent everything that is important in life. We must not only give the best of ourselves, but also give the best to everyone around us!

*Brian Proctor
© 2002*

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SELF CONTROL

“The best time for you to hold your tongue

*is the time you feel
you must say something or bust."*

Josh Billings

SUMMARY OF MEETING

The following is a summary of the February 25,, 2002 meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics:

The February 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.

BASKETBALL

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

It was reported that the following Playoff Coaches Meetings will be held on Saturday, March 2nd:

Girls

9:30 am at RIIL Office

Boys

9:00 am at No. Prov. H.S.

Mr. Foley, Director of Boys' Basketball, reported that there are nine (9) teams in Division I-AA [boys' basketball]. Inasmuch as eight (8) teams are needed to complete a playoff bracket, Mr. Foley proposed that a [preliminary] playoff game between the 8th and 9th seeded teams be held so that the brackets can be completed.

On a vote of 12-1, with 1 abstention, the proposal was approved for Division I-AA boys basketball only.

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

DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIPS

Boys

North Lincoln H.S.
South Chariho H.S. West
East Middletown H.S.
West Bishop Hendricken H.S.

Girls

East Portsmouth H.S.
West Cumberland H.S.

STATE CHAMPIONS

Boys

Bishop Hendricken H.S.

Girls

Cumberland H.S.

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

In other business, Mr. Lynch reported on an incident in which a girl from Lincoln H.S. was ejected from a basketball game. However, because of a misinterpretation of the rule which requires an [ejected] student-athlete to sit out the next League game, the young lady participated in the next League game for Lincoln H.S. Inasmuch as she was considered an ineligible student-athlete, the Rhode Island Interscholastic League ruled that the game, which was won by Lincoln H.S., be forfeited to the opponent (Warwick Veterans Memorial H.S.). This decision is being appealed and will be heard on Thursday, February 28, 2002.

HOCKEY

Mr. Daniel Sheehan

Mr. Sheehan reported that the regular League season is over. The first round of playoffs will begin on March 1st and Mr. Sheehan stated that the rinks have been very cooperative in providing ice time.

Mr. Sheehan further reported that he will meet with R. I. hockey officials on Wednesday, February 27th to review the evaluation forms that were implemented this year.

In other business, Mr. Lynch submitted a request from Mt. St. Charles Academy, seeking approval of the rules and regulations for the 2002 MSC Hockey Holiday Face-Off.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics *approved* the rules and regulations as outlined.

Mr. Lynch reported that the League office has been notified that North Kingstown H.S. and Middletown H.S. have expressed their intent to join the RIIL hockey league beginning with the 2002-2003 school year. In addition, Mr. Lynch stated that the University of Rhode Island has expressed interest in hosting RIIL hockey League and tournament games at the U.R.I. Ice Rink.

Mr. Lynch also reported that the R. I. Hockey Coaches' Association sponsored a [scholarship games] tournament on Sunday, February 24th. From the proceeds of this event, the R. I. Hockey Coaches' Association donated \$6,400.00 to the R. I. Interscholastic Injury Fund.

FOOTBALL

Mr. James Murano

Mr. Murano submitted a proposed adjustment to the present football alignment, resulting from a request from Mt. Hope High School in which they want to move out of Division I. After polling schools in Division II, Mr. Murano learned that there were no schools in Division II that neither wanted to move to up Division I or down to Division III. As a result, Mt. Hope H.S. has been placed in Division III [football]. The football alignment is now Division I - 9 teams; Division II - 10 teams; Divisions III and IV - each 11 teams.

On a vote of 11-2, with 1 abstention, the Principals' Committee on Athletics *approved* the proposed adjusted football alignment for 2002-2003.

Mr. Murano also reported on the following important dates for the 2002-2003 football season:

Mon., June 3 rd	Coaches Pre-Season Interpretation Mtg.
Mon., Aug. 19 th	First Day of Authorized Practice
Thurs., Aug. 29 th	First Day for Allowed Scrimmages
Fri. & Sat.,	Challenge Cup Games
Sept. 13 th -14 th	
Thurs., Nov. 28 th	Thanksgiving Day Games
Tues., Dec. 3 rd	Semifinals Games
Sun. & Mon.	Superbowl Games
Dec. 8 th -9 th	

The following motions were made and seconded by the Principals' Committee on Athletics:

August 19, 2002 starting date for football (for 2002 only) - *approved* 12-1, with 1 abstention

2002-2003 Football schedule - reflecting approved adjustment to the alignment - *unanimously approved*.

WRESTLING

Mr. Edmond Lemoi

Mr. Lemoi stated that the 2001-2002 wrestling season has been completed and was very competitive. He will submit the championships at the March 18th meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics.

Mr. Lemoi reported that the Rhode Island will host the New England Wrestling Meet on Friday and Saturday, March 1-2, 2002 at Roger Williams University.

In other business, Mr. Lynch commended Messrs. Lemoi and Magarian for their work throughout the season and for a well-run state tournament.

SWIMMING

Mr. James Quinn

Mr. Magarian reported that the season and playoffs went well. The 2001-2002 championships will be submitted at the March 18th meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics.

INDOOR TRACK

Ms. Jane Headley
Mr. Charles Sweeney

Mr. Sweeney submitted the following 2001-2002 Boys' Indoor Track Championships for the Committee's review and consideration:

Class Championships

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

Division Championships

North	Cumberland H.S.
South	South Kingstown H.S.
Metro	Classical H.S.
Suburban	Bishop Hendricken H.S.

State Championship Bishop Hendricken H.S.
Runner Up Hope H.S.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the 2001-2002 Boys' Indoor Track Championships.

Ms. Headley submitted the following 2001-2002 Girls' Indoor Track Championships for the Committee's review and consideration:

Class Championships

Small Schools	Barrington H.S.
Medium Schools	Westerly H.S.
Large Schools	Cumberland H.S.

Division Championships

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

State Championship Westerly H.S.
Runner Up Toll Gate H.S.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the 2001-2002 Girls' Indoor Track Championships.

GYMNASTICS

Mr. Richard Stapleton
Ms. Melissa Gendreau

Mr. Stapleton submitted the following 2001-2002 Team Championships for the Committee's review and consideration:

Division Championships

Division I (<i>tie</i>)	Coventry H.S.
	North Kingstown H.S.
Division II (<i>tie</i>)	Portsmouth H.S.
	South Kingstown H.S.

State Championship North Kingstown H.S.
Runner Up Coventry H.S.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the 2001-2002 Gymnastics Team Championships.

In other business, Mr. Lynch reported on a situation in which a young lady who participates in RIIL gymnastics as an individual allegedly participated as a team member in an outside club meet and earned points. This is a violation of the RIIL Rules and Regulations. This matter is being investigated. If the student-athlete is found to be in violation of the rule, she will be rendered ineligible to participate in the RIIL Individual State Championship.

VOLLEYBALL

Ms. Elaine Botelho
Mr. Donald Kavanagh

Ms. Botelho, Director of Girls' Volleyball, reported that the Coaches' Interpretation Meeting was held on Wednesday, February 6, 2002. As approved by the Principals' Committee on Athletics last year, the rally-point format will be used for the regular season and the playoffs if a volleyball match

advances to the 5th game. Twenty-five (25) points will be required to win the 5th game. Also, a team must win by two (2) points.

In other business, Mr. Lynch reported that the League has received a request from Casey Machon, a senior student-athlete at Toll Gate H.S., seeking permission to participate in several tournaments with a Junior Olympic team.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics voted 14-0, with 1 abstention, to deny the request to participate in all tournaments with the Junior Olympic team.

On a subsequent motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics voted 14-0, with 1 abstention, to grant permission for the student-athlete to participate in three (3) tournaments of her choice, of which she must notify Toll Gate H.S. and the R. I. Interscholastic League.

TENNIS

Ms. Candace Caluori
Ms. Denise Boulé

Ms. Caluori, Director of Boys' Tennis, reported that the Coaches' Interpretation Meeting will be held on March 12th at the League office. Further, she submitted the 2001-2002 boys' tennis schedule for the Committee's review and consideration.

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

LACROSSE

Mr. George Finn

The 2001-2002 Boys' and Girls' Lacrosse schedules were submitted for the Committee's review and consideration.

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

OUTDOOR TRACK

Mr. Robert Littlefield

Mr. Littlefield submitted the 2001-2002 Boys' and Girls' Outdoor Track schedules for the Committee's review and consideration.

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

In other business, Mr. Lynch reported that he received a letter from George Finn, Director of Athletics, Barrington High School, regarding safety issues during pole vault events. This matter was referred to the Track Committee.

GOLF

Mr. John Gray

Mr. Gray submitted a report from the Golf Advisory Committee for the Committee's review and reported that the Golf Advisory Committee will not meet again until after the 2001-2002 season has ended.

Mr. Gray also submitted the following proposal from the Golf Advisory Committee for the Committee's consideration:

That the top two (2) teams in a division shall automatically qualify for the playoffs. The third, fourth, and fifth teams shall engage in a playoff match at the site of the highest ranked team. The winner of this match shall advance to the playoff round.

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

Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of the golf alignment dividing into two - North and South. If this occurred, Mr. Gray reported that there would be a problem within the Northern division. This matter will be reviewed more extensively at the end of the 2001-2002 season.

In other business, Mr. Gray reported that there is concern about the possible formation of a girls' golf league and the impact it would have on courses. However, due to the level of competition, he believes that girls will opt to play on a co-ed team in the regular league.

SOCCER

Mrs. Kathryn A. Crowley
Mr. Victor Mercurio

Mrs. Crowley and Mr. Mercurio reported on a meeting of the Joint Boys' and Girls' Soccer Meeting, at which there was no representation from the soccer coaches' associations. Mrs. Crowley and Mr. Mercurio entered into discussion with representatives of the soccer officials' association that were present regarding the development of an officials' evaluation form. Inasmuch as the boys' soccer officials' association does not believe an evaluation form is necessary, this matter is still tabled.

Also at the meeting of the Joint Soccer Committee, discussion ensued regarding the total number of soccer games scheduled in a season. While the girls' soccer officials' association is more receptive and supportive to a reduction in the number of games, the boys' soccer officials' association is vehemently opposed to the idea. Mrs. Crowley and Mr. Mercurio will keep the Principals' Committee on Athletics apprised of the situation.

Mr. Lynch reported that Moses Brown School has withdrawn from the RIIL girls' soccer league. Citing that the RIIL Rules and Regulations challenge the philosophy of the school, they will join the SENE league in girls' soccer.

In other business, concerns have been expressed regarding the playoff qualification format. The Joint Soccer Committee will review this before the next season and report back to the Principals' Committee on Athletics.

BASEBALL

Mr. John Blaess

Mr. Magarian submitted the 2001-2002 Freshman Baseball Schedule for the Committee's review and consideration.

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

In other business, Mr. Lynch submitted a proposed R. I. Baseball Umpires' Contract as follows:

2001-2002 - Even though the contract does not expire until after the 2002 baseball season, and in order to secure a contract, the RIIL has offered the Umpires' Association a \$2.00 base increase for this season. For the each of the next four (4) years, they will receive a 3% increase.

REGULAR SEASON FEES

2001-2002	\$60.00
2002-2003	\$61.80
2003-2004	\$63.65
2004-2005	\$65.56
2005-2006	\$67.53

PLAYOFFS	QRTFNL	SEMIS	FINALS
2001-2002	+ \$8.00	+ \$8.00	+ \$12.00
2002-2003	+ \$8.00	+ \$10.00	+ \$13.00
2003-2004	+ \$8.00	+ \$10.00	+ \$13.00
2004-2005	+ \$8.00	+ \$10.00	+ \$13.00
2005-2006	+ \$8.00	+ \$10.00	+ \$13.00

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the proposed contract for the R. I. Baseball Umpires' Association.

WARWICK VETERANS MEMORIAL H.S. - Transfer Affidavit Interpretation of participation at the varsity level

Background: A student-athlete transferred from Bishop Hendricken to Warwick Veterans High School. The Transfer Affidavit states that he played golf at Bishop Hendricken High School in Spring 2001. According to Mr. Daniel Sheehan, Principal, BHHS, the student did not play in any varsity golf matches. However, he did participate in the Challenge Cup matches. The question posed to the Principals' Committee on Athletics: *Is this considered varsity participation and is the student-athlete required to sit out one-half (1/2) of the League golf schedule?*

Discussion ensued regarding this matter. The Committee determined that the Challenge Cup is not part of the high school schedule and, as such, does not constitute varsity competition. Therefore, the student-athlete is not subject to the Transfer Rule and is immediately eligible to participate in golf at Warwick Veterans Memorial High School.

REPORT OF JOINT PRINCIPALS' AND ATHLETIC DIRECTORS' COMMITTEE

- **Starting Dates for Sport Seasons**
Discussion ensued regarding the recommendation to send a survey to all member schools for their input on this subject. It was stressed that the surveys should be specific and should accurately outline what the ramifications will be if starting dates are changed for each season and each sport. It was also pointed out that each sport could be affected differently because of the number of games scheduled and the number of games allowed [game cap].

Mr. Lynch will develop a survey and submit it to the Committee on Athletics at its March 18th meeting.

- **Academic Eligibility**
Mr. Lynch reported that several schools have expressed concerns regarding the present academic eligibility rules and the fact that physical education is not considered when determining student-athletes' eligibility for participation in interscholastic athletics.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics voted 12-2, with 1 abstention, to send a questionnaire to all member schools regarding the inclusion of physical education for eligibility purposes, to become effective with the beginning of the 2002-2003 school year.

- **Article 7, Section 7c - Non-School Competition**
Article 7, Section 7c (Non-School Competition), of the RIIL Rules and Regulations, states that a student may compete in outside club contest but must participate unattached and may not earn points.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved referring this issue to the Joint Principals' and Athletic Directors' Committee for further review and the possibility of sending a survey to all [RIIL] member schools.

HEARING

- 4:45 pm **Stephen D'Ercole - Cranston High School West**
Background: This is an appeal by the student-athlete and his parents of a sanction imposed by the Hockey Executive Committee whereby the student-athlete was suspended for the remainder of the 2001-2002 hockey season.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously voted to deny the appeal and to uphold the suspension as imposed by the Hockey Executive Committee.

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

The February meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 5:15 pm.

* * * * *



The following is a summary of the March 18, 2002 meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics:

The March meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was called to order at 2:05 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.

HOCKEY

Mr. Daniel Sheehan

Inasmuch as there was one more championship game to be played on the evening of Monday, March 18, 2002 (same evening as this meeting), Mr. Sheehan stated that he will present the 2001-2002 championships at the next meeting.

Mr. Sheehan reported that major altercations occurred at the end of the game(s) during the Class B Quarterfinals and Semifinals. In the quarterfinal game between Barrington High School and Cranston High School West, a fight ensued just as the game ended. Subsequently, two players from each team were ejected for fighting. Upon review of the game tape by Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Lynch, and the coaches and athletic directors of the schools involved, one additional player from each team was also ejected.

Mr. Sheehan also reported that a fight occurred following the semifinal game between Smithfield High School and Moses Brown School, in which there were four ejections - two from each team. During that game, an altercation also took place in the stands between a parent from Moses Brown School and two spectators from Smithfield. The possibility remains that the altercation between the spectators will result in charges being filed with the police by the parent from Moses Brown School.

Mr. Sheehan expressed his concern for the lack of respect between coaches and hockey officials, which is witnessed by student-athletes. He believes that the evaluation system that was implemented this year has only added to the disrespect. Alternative ways of implementing the evaluation system were discussed. However, no immediate conclusion and/or resolution to the problem was reached.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding ways in which to improve the overall behavior of coaches, players, officials, and spectators. The Principals' Committee on Athletics voted to form a sub-committee to address the issues of sportsmanship and overall behavior in athletics. The following members of the Principals' Committee on Athletics volunteered to serve on the sub-committee: Kathy Crowley, Denise Boulé, Dan Sheehan, Bob Littlefield, Victor Mercurio, and David Light.

In other business, the Committee approved requests from Middletown High School to join the RIIL hockey league and from Tolman High School to move from the Met B to the Met C Division. Insofar as it is expected that additional requests

will be forthcoming, the Principals' Committee on Athletics referred all matters to the Hockey Committee.

Mr. Lynch reported on the progress being made in the realization of starting a girls' hockey league for the 2002-2003 season. He noted that at least four (4) schools will offer hockey for girls. Several other schools have stated that they are interested, but because of low enrollments, they will be able to enter the girls' hockey league only if they are allowed to co-op with another school.

Discussion ensued regarding co-op programs and, on a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously voted to allow schools to co-op with other schools for the 2002-2003 season only and for girls' hockey only. The co-op program will be reviewed by the Committee on Athletics as the end of the 2002-2003 school year.

The Committee also directed Mr. Lynch to survey all schools to determine if they are interested in girls' hockey inasmuch as they may co-op with another school according to parameters to be developed.

The Committee also voted to not allow Grade 8 girls to participate in the RIIL girls' hockey program as requested by some schools.

BASKETBALL

Mr. Gerald Foley Ms. Cindy Neal

Ms. Neal, Director of Girls' Basketball, submitted the following 2001-2002 Girls' Basketball Championships for the Committee's review and consideration:

DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIPS

Division I North	Cumberland H.S.
Division I South	North Kingstown H.S.
Division I Central	Classical H.S.
Division II North	Shea H.S.
Division II South	South Kingstown H.S.
Division II East	Tiverton H.S.
Division II Central	Johnston H.S.
Division III (tie)	Central H.S. Mount St. Charles Academy

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Division I	LaSalle Academy
Runner Up	Classical H.S.
Division II	Johnston H.S.
Runner Up	South Kingstown H.S.
Division III	Central H.S.
Runner Up	Mount St. Charles Academy

CREDIT UNION PLAYERS OF THE GAME

Division I	Jamie Angell, LaSalle Academy Joanna Skiba, Classical H.S.
Division II	Chelsea Marandola, Johnston H.S. Kristina Weasal, So. Kingstown H.S.
Division III	Nicole Okubanjo, Central H.S. Nicole Audet, Mt. St. Charles Academy

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

Mr. Foley, Director of Boys' Basketball, submitted the following 2001-2002 Boys' Basketball Championships for the Committee's review and consideration:

DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIPS

Division I-AA	Classical H.S.
Division I-A North (<i>tie</i>)	Cumberland H.S. North Providence H.S.
Division I-A Central	West Warwick H.S.
Division I-A South	Rogers H.S.
Division II-North	Ponaganset H.S.
Division II-South	Mt. Hope H.S.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Division I-AA	St. Raphael Academy
Runner Up	Hope H.S.
Division I-A	Cranston H.S. East
Runner Up	Westerly H.S.
Division II	Ponaganset H.S.
Runner-Up	Mt. Hope H.S.

Credit Union Players of the Game

Division I-AA	Michael Williams, St. Raphael Acad. Derrick Knighton, Hope H.S.
Division I-A	Sopheeng Toun, Cranston H.S. East Michael Gigliotti, Westerly H.S.
Division II	Mark Santucci, Ponaganset H.S. Kyle Cimbron, Mt. Hope H.S.

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

Ms. Neal and Mr. Foley reported that they will convene the Joint Basketball Committee to review the 2001-2002 season, address the issue of schools requesting to move up in the alignment, and a site for next year's basketball finals.

Mr. Lynch reported that he received a call from Providence City Councilman informing him that he (the councilman) had received complaints about alcoholic beverages being served at the Dunkin' Donuts Center during the RIIL Boys and Girls Basketball Championships. Mr. Lynch subsequently called the Executive Director of the Dunkin' Donuts Center who confirmed that alcohol was served. Mr. Lynch also informed the Director of the Center, and the Director agreed, that the distribution of alcoholic beverages during the high school event was in direct violation of the contract between the Rhode Island Interscholastic League and the Dunkin' Donuts Center. The Executive Director of the Center is investigating the matter to ascertain how this was allowed to happen. The Director assured Mr. Lynch that he will take appropriate disciplinary action against those found to be in violation.

In other business, Mr. Lynch submitted a letter from the R. I. Girls' Basketball Coaches Association, seeking permission to conduct the Annual All-Star Game(s) on Sunday, March 17, 2002. He informed the Committee that due to the lateness of

the letter, he granted permission to the Coaches Association in advance of submitting the request to the Committee. He emphasized that approval was given for the event with the proviso that permission for these events be submitted in the future in a timely manner to allow the request to be brought before the Principals' Committee on Athletics.

WRESTLING

Mr. Edmond Lemoi

Mr. Lemoi submitted the 2001-2002 Wrestling Championship Financial Report and the following 2001-2002 Wrestling Championships for the Committee's review and consideration:

Class Championships

Class A-1	Cranston H.S. East
Class A-2	East Providence H.S.
Class B-1	Ponaganset H.S.
Class B-2	Toll Gate H.S.
Class C-1	North Providence H.S.
Class C-2	Narragansett H.S.

Sectional Tournament

Class B	LaSalle Academy
Class C	North Providence H.S.

State Champion

Cranston H.S. East

On separate motions made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the 2001-2002 Wrestling Championships Financial Report and the 2001-2002 Wrestling Championships.

In other business, Mr. Lynch submitted a letter from LaSalle Academy requesting to move from Class B to Class A in wrestling. The matter was referred to Mr. Lemoi, Director of Wrestling, who will review the request.

SWIMMING

Mr. Magarian submitted the following 2001-2002 Swimming Championships, as submitted by James Quinn, Director, for the Committee's review and consideration:

Division Championships

Boys

Northern	Lincoln H.S.
Central	Bishop Hendricken H.S.
Eastern	East Providence H.S.
Western	South Kingstown H.S.

Girls

Northern	Lincoln H.S.
Central	LaSalle Academy
Eastern	St. Mary Academy-Bay View
Western	Narragansett H.S.

Class Championships

Boys

Class A	Bishop Hendricken H.S.
Class B	South Kingstown H.S.
Class C	Mount St. Charles Academy

Girls

Class A	Lincoln H.S.
Class B	South Kingstown H.S.

Class C Narragansett H.S.

State Championships

Boys Bishop Hendricken H.S.
Girls Lincoln H.S.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the 2001-2002 Swimming Championships.

GYMNASTICS

The 2001-2002 Gymnastics Championships will be presented at the April meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics.

VOLLEYBALL

Ms. Elaine Botelho
Mr. Donald Kavanagh

Mr. Lynch submitted a proposed R. I. Volleyball Officials' contract as follows:

Recommend: Both officials receive the same amount for the 2002-2003 school year.

Recommend: 3% increase for 2001-2002 [payable 2002-2003]
3% 2002-2003 [payable 2002-2003]

Recommend: 3% increase in years 3 and 4 of contract

2001-2002	\$51.00 - first official
	\$47.00 - second official
2002-2003	\$54.11
2003-2004	\$55.73
2004-2005	\$57.40

Playoffs	Qrtfnl	Semis	Finals
2001-2002	+ \$7.00	+ \$ 9.00	+ \$12.00
2002-2003	+ \$8.00	+ \$10.00	+ \$13.00
2003-2004	+ \$8.00	+ \$10.00	+ \$13.00
2004=2005	+ \$8.00	+ \$10.00	+ \$13.00

Varsity Tournament Fee: \$25.00/hr.

Lines People: \$30.00 \$30.00 \$35.00 \$35.00

Scorekeepers: Same as other sports

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the proposed contact for the Rhode Island Volleyball Officials' Association (RIVOA).

Injury Fund:

1. The Officials' Association is proposing to join other sports officials' associations that are paid the established fee and make one 'lump-sum' donation to Injury Fund at the rate of \$5.00 per person.
2. When are Injury Fund games played?
 - a. First game of the Season
 - b. Other

The RIVOA is seeking to change the manner in which they will participate in Injury Fund games. The Committee expressed its concerns about how the R. I. Injury Fund will view the proposed changes. As a result, the Committee directed Mr. Lynch to invite representatives from the Injury Fund to attend the April meeting of the Committee on Athletics to discuss the issue.

In another matter, Mr. Lynch reported that The Community College of Rhode Island sent a letter requesting to conduct a ten-team varsity volleyball tournament at the [CCRI] Lincoln Campus on Friday, April 19, 2002. This is the sixth year this tournament will be held.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics voted to approve the request with the stipulation that each team be charged with two (2) games toward the allowed game cap (24) for volleyball.

The Committee also received a request from Susan Chace for her daughter, Kori, who is a student at East Providence High School, to participate in the R. I. Blast Junior Olympic Volleyball League.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics voted to allow Kori to participate in three (3) matches of her choice and must notify the League office of which events she has chosen.

In a similar request, Mr. Lynch reported that he received a letter from James Roch, head girls' volleyball coach at Toll Gate High School. In his letter, Mr. Roch requested that one of his student-athletes, Casey Machon, be allowed to participate in more than three (3) matches with an elite volleyball team as previously approved by the Committee on Athletics. Inasmuch as the request was not formally submitted by the school administration, the Committee directed that no action be taken and that the letter be filed in the League office.

TENNIS

There was no report in Tennis at this time.

LACROSSE

Mr. George Finn

Mr. Finn reported that Lincoln H.S. is interested in participating in boys' lacrosse this spring as a club team. Since no formal letter of request has been received, the Committee voted to allow Lincoln H.S. to participate as a club for the 2002 spring season if a letter requesting same and signed by the Principal of Lincoln H.S. is received.

Mr. Finn submitted for the Committee's review and consideration a revised boys' lacrosse schedule consisting of seven (7) teams.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the revised schedule, pending the aforementioned letter from the Principal of Lincoln H.S.

FASTPITCH SOFTBALL

Mrs. Elizabeth Marquis

Mrs. Marquis reported that the site for the 2002 playoffs has not yet been confirmed. Donald Tencher, Director of Athletics at Rhode Island College, has submitted a letter to the League requesting that Rhode Island College be considered as the site for the 2002 playoffs. Town officials from North Providence are very interested in again hosting the playoffs at Notte Park and will sponsor a luncheon for the participating (playoff) teams if the games are held at Notte Park. A lengthy

discussion ensued without a resolution. Consequently, the matter was referred to the Fastpitch Softball Committee.

BASEBALL

There was no report in Baseball at this time.

SLOWPITCH SOFTBALL

There was no report in Slowpitch Softball at this time.

OUTDOOR TRACK

Mr. Robert Littlefield

Mr. Lynch reported that Middletown H.S. has requested permission to host the 5th Annual Relays Under the Stars" on Thursday, May 2, 2000.

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

In other business, Mr. Littlefield presented the sites for the Boys' Outdoor Track Class Championships on Saturday, May 18, 2002 as follows: Class A - Bishop Hendricken H.S.; Class B - Toll Gate H.S.; Class C - Ponaganset H.S.; Class D - Rogers H.S.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the dates and sites for the 2002 Boys' Outdoor Track Class Championships.

Mr. Littlefield reported that the boys' and girls' track coach from Burrillville H.S. was present at the Coaches' Interpretation Meeting, but that a formal request to participate has not been received. The Committee directed Mr. Lynch to contact the administration of Burrillville H.S. to ascertain their interest to participate in outdoor track. If they would like to participate, they must submit a letter requesting same and signed by the Principal.

GOLF

Mr. John Gray

Mr. Gray submitted a revised 2002 golf schedule for the Western Division only which reflects the request of Hope High School to withdraw from RIIL golf for the 2001-2002 season.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the revised 2002 golf schedule for the Western Division only.

FALL SCHEDULES / INTERPRETATION MEETING DATES

- **Soccer (Girls)**

Mrs. Kathryn Crowley, Director of Girls' Soccer, submitted the 2002-2003 Girls' Soccer Schedule for the Committee's review and consideration. The proposed schedule reflects the placement of Narragansett H.S. in Division III and West Warwick H.S. in Division I. In addition, Moses Brown School has withdrawn from the RIIL girls' soccer league and this, also, is reflected in the proposed schedule.

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

In other business, Mrs. Crowley reported that the Girls' Soccer Coaches Interpretation Meeting will be held on Monday, June 17, 2002 at the RIIL Office.

Mrs. Crowley also reported that dates have not yet been set for the girls' soccer playoffs at Pierce Field in East Providence.

ATHLETIC DIRECTORS' ASSOCIATION

The Athletic Directors' Association will report at the April meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics regarding the role they play in their respective school(s).

OTHER SPORTS / ISSUES

- **Update - Online Scheduling**

Mr. Lynch reported on the progress being made with online scheduling. He informed the Committee that schedules and home confirmations for baseball and fastpitch softball are presently being entered online as well as officials' assignments for those sports. Beginning with the 2002-2003 school year, all sports will be scheduled and assigned via the online program.

Beginning with Fall 2002, officials assignments will no longer be listed in The Sunday Journal. A link will be created that will allow The Providence Journal to access the schedules for all sports so that they may obtain the schedules only to publish on a weekly/daily basis.

A meeting for all sport directors and assignors (fall, winter, spring) will be scheduled in the near future. Mrs. Marquis, Director of Fastpitch Softball, requested to meet regarding the online process that is in place. A meeting will be scheduled for early April.

Mr. Lynch commended Craig Blanchard, RIIL webmaster, and his partner, Ben Averill, for their innovation, expertise, and cooperation in writing and implementing the online program.

- **Field Hockey**

Mr. Lynch reported that a letter was submitted by Tiverton H.S. requesting a move from Division II to Division I in Field Hockey. The letter was referred to Jean Angell, Director of RIIL Field Hockey.

- **Football**

A letter was submitted by Paul Alianiello, Director of Athletics, Bishop Hendricken H.S., requesting a waiver of Article 16, Section 1A, the practice limitation rule for football. After a lengthy discussion, the Committee directed Mr. Lynch to seek an advisory opinion from the RIIL Sports Medicine Advisory Committee and report back to the Committee on Athletics at its April meeting.

REPORT OF JOINT PRINCIPALS' AND ATHLETIC DIRECTORS' COMMITTEE

Mrs. Kathryn Crowley, Chairperson, reported that the next meeting of the Joint Principals' and Athletic Directors Committee will be held on Wednesday, April 24, 2002 at the League office. The issues to be addressed include: start of

season dates; dual participation; proposal to give public schools an opportunity to be successful and development of survey for same to be sent to all schools.

NFHS PROPOSAL: BY-LAW FOR FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The Principals' Committee on Athletics expressed its concerns with two specific areas of the National Federation's proposal; namely, the length of the 5-page questionnaire that international students would be required to complete; and, the stipulation that Rhode Island high schools would be required to charge tuition for said students. This conflicts with the policy of the R. I. Department of Education, which maintains the position that if a student resides in a district, that district is obligated to educate him/her.

The Principals' Committee on Athletics feels it cannot adopt the tuition issue because it cannot enforce the payment of tuition even though it is a Federal law.

Mr. Lynch informed the Committee that he would develop and present a shorter questionnaire to the Committee at a later date.

TEXTRON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ACADEMY

Mr. Richard Landau, CEO, Textron Chamber of Commerce Academy, submitted a letter seeking a waiver of the eligibility rule to allow students at the Academy to participate in interscholastic athletics at their feeder school(s) in the community in which the student resides.

Inasmuch as the Principals' Committee on Athletics adopted the Alternative Education Plan for schools such as the Academy and because all of the eligibility requirements of the RIIL will be met, the Principals' Committee on Athletics voted to approve the request.

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 March meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 4:40 pm.



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