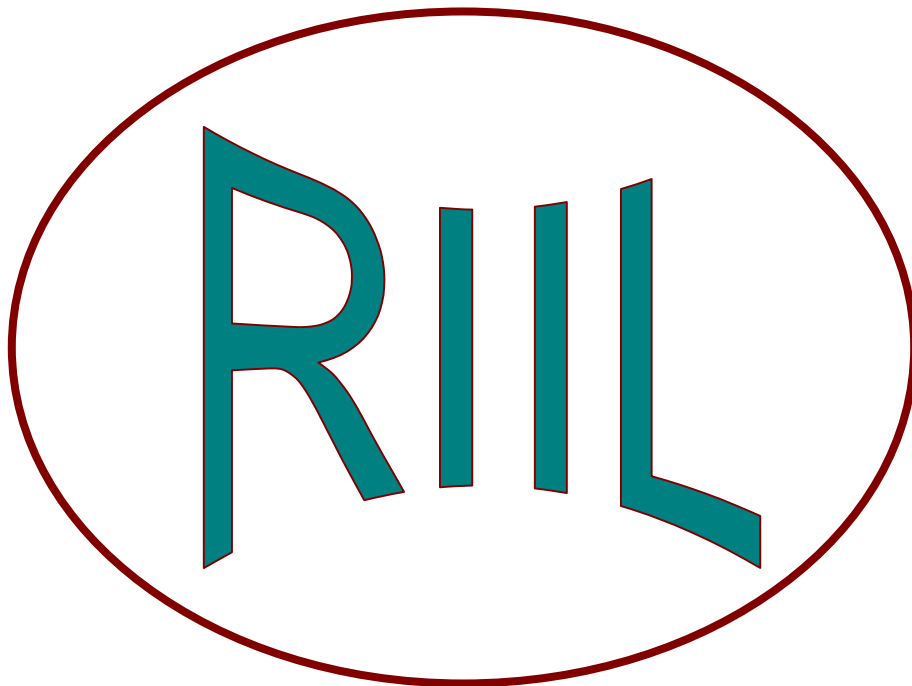




May 2002



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



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

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

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; however, officials assignments will be available *only* online.

However, technology cannot replace the human element. Therefore, we encourage you 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.

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→ IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS ←

OFFICIAL BALL ADOPTIONS have been awarded to the following companies for the sports indicated:

Baden

Soccer - Girls & Boys - Lexum ® SX550/551
Volleyball - Girls & Boys - Lexum ® 15-0

Brine

Lacrosse - Girls (Yellow); Boys (White)

Penn Monto

Field Hockey

Rawlings

Baseball - S100NF

Basketball - Girls & Boys - Composite

Football - ST5

Spalding

Softball - Fastpitch & Slowpitch (*Dudley balls*)

Fast - WT12 Polyurethane Core-Leather Cover/White

Slow - WT12 - Polyurethane Core-Leather Cover/Yellow

The contracts begin with the 2002-2003 school year and ends June 30, 2005. Each company will supply the balls for the RIIL championships.

FOOTBALL - PRACTICE LIMITATIONS - *For the 2002 season only*, the Principals' Committee on Athletics voted to allow the use of shoulder pads on Days 2-5 ***for all schools***. The modification to the rule was made as a result of a request from a member school for a modification of the rule. The matter will be referred to the RIIL Sports Medicine Advisory Committee for further review.

* * * * *

"Athletics creates experiences and relationships and gives us all the opportunity to be better. No matter who it is that you come in contact with, treat every individual with respect."

Ronnie Carter
President, National Federation of High Schools

WHEN A TEENAGER IS SAD ...

PAY ATTENTION

Up to 8 percent of American adolescents are seriously depressed, but most parents don't recognize the signs.

The National Institute of Mental Health estimates that up to 8% of American teenagers suffer from major depression; girls are twice as susceptible as boys. According to a 1999 survey, about 20% of high school students have seriously considered suicide. And every year, about 8 to 11 in every 100,000 teens do take their own lives - as many as those who die from all other natural causes combined.

"Depression is the most common emotional problem in adolescence and the single greatest risk factor for teen suicide," says Dr. Peter Jensen, a child psychiatrist and director of the Center for the Advancement of Children's Mental Health at Columbia University in New York.

Depression is a treatable biological disease characterized by changes in brain chemistry. The greatest challenges for parents are recognizing depression in young people notorious for their moodiness and admitting that their child has a mental disorder. "The knee-jerk reaction is a sense of failure," says Dr. Jensen. "Many people still believe that home and family problems cause depression, but the opposite is true: depression causes home and family problems."

WARNING SIGNS OF TEEN DEPRESSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MOOD CHANGES, including feeling sad, irritable, becoming easily angered or having difficulty getting along with family members• LOSS OF INTEREST in hobbies, sports or social activities• LACK OF ENJOYMENT, even when involved in an activity previously enjoyed.• CHANGES IN SLEEP PATTERNS, such as difficulty falling asleep or staying asleep.• CHANGES IN APPETITE - gaining or losing weight.• CHANGES IN ENERGY LEVELS, such as frequent fatigue, restlessness or agitation.• SCHOOL DIFFICULTIES, including problems concentrating or a decline in grades.• SELF-CRITICISM, even taking blame for things that are not really their fault.
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Spotting Depression

Many depressed teens don't look or act sad. They may hide their tears, snap at parents or burst into angry tirades. Some turn to alcohol or drugs in hopes of feeling better, or become depressed *after* they start abusing these substances. Many depressed teens drop out of activities and pull away from friends. Their schoolwork suffers; many are labeled as underachievers. One overlooked risk factor is cigarette smoking. According to psychologists at the University of Alabama, depressed teens may smoke to feel better, but

nicotine alters brain chemistry and actually can make them feel worse.

Getting Treatment

Many parents are afraid to ask teens if they've thought about killing themselves. "They're scared of the answers," says Dr. Miriam Kaufman, author of *Overcoming Teen Depression: A guide for Parents*. She advises parents not to panic if teens say they've thought about suicide. "Let them know you understand that they must be in a great deal of emotional pain and assure them that they won't always feel this way." She suggests asking troubled teens to promise they will talk to a parent "in person" before attempting suicide. "This is a promise that teens usually keep," she adds. Most important of all is seeking treatment from a qualified professional.

In the last decade, mental health researchers have learned that 60% - 75% of teens respond to treatment with the medications called SSRIs (antidepressants such as Prozac and Paxil). Studies have also shown that cognitive-behavioral therapy - which focuses on teaching new ways to deal with stress and sadness, such as changing unrealistic or highly negative ways of thinking - can be as effective as medication.

What Parents Can Do

1. **TALK WITH YOUR CHILD** and let him/her know you care and want to help. Don't assume that a teen's moodiness is "just a phase."
 2. **HAVE YOUR TEEN SCREENED FOR DEPRESSION**. You can get information from a school counselor or pediatrician.
 3. **GET PROFESSIONAL HELP EARLY**. The sooner teen depression is treated, the better.
 4. **LOCK UP MEDICATIONS** that may be deadly - or don't keep them around at all.
 5. **REMOVE ALL GUNS**, including hunting rifles, from the home.
 6. **MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD'S TREATMENT IS UP-TO-DATE** and that his or her therapist is aware of the most effective approaches.
 7. **ADDRESS THE DANGERS OF ALCOHOL AND ILLEGAL DRUGS**, explaining to teens that they are especially vulnerable.
-

WHERE TO TURN FOR HELP

A NEW TEST is now available nationwide through the Youth Depression Screening Initiative. The test allows kids to hear questions over headphones and response in complete privacy on laptop computers. The Center for the Advancement of Children's Mental Health at Columbia University is working with schools and communities to administer the test and provide treatment, if necessary. For information, contact www.kidsmentalhealth.org.

THE NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS CAMPAIGN provides resources for various mental illnesses at www.nostigma.org. For local referrals, and crisis intervention, call 1-877-495-0009.

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH has launched the Treatment for Adolescents with Depression Study (TADS) to compare the effectiveness of Prozac,

cognitive-behavioral therapy and a combination of both. Visit www.nimh.nih.gov/studies/tads.cfm or call 1-866-458-7425. The consent of one parent is required.

May is Mental Health Month. For more information about teen depression and for links to the Web sites mentioned here, visit www.parade.com.

Reprinted from *The Parade Magazine*
The Providence Sunday Journal, May 5, 2002

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EQUIPPED 2 PLAY GRANT AVAILABLE

The Women's Sports Foundation and The Gatorade company announce a grant program available to girls' sports programs in junior high and high school, club and other recreational organizations in need of equipment and apparel.

In its second year, the Gatorade/Women's Sports Foundation **Equipped 2 Play** grant application is currently available via www.WomensSportsFoundation.org and then by clicking on Funding

- or -

by calling the Foundation at
(800) 227-3988.

The deadline for applications is
Thursday, May 30, 2002.

Winners will be announced in
August 2002.

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THE OPTIMIST'S CREED

Promise Yourself:

- To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.
- To talk health, happiness, and prosperity to every person you meet.
- To make all your friends feel there is something in them.
- To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.
- To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and expect only the best.
- To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.
- To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.
- To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.
- To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.
- To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

Optimist International

STUDENT VOICE:

Verbal Abuse Takes A Toll

This article was written by Morgan Caldwell, a senior at Daniel Hand H.S. in Madison, Connecticut. Reprinted with the permission of the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference.

“Hey, ref! What kind of call was that?”
“Why don’t you watch the game, man?”
“Don’t you even know that offsides is?”

Throughout the course of a typical soccer game, these are only some of the things you would probably hear if you were standing on the sidelines. Over-eager parents shouting insults and making their personal opinions known to everyone in the stadium, on the field, and probably the parking lot.

But it is not only the parents who contribute to the overwhelming amount of noise that is heard at a game; there are many other factors, both positive and negative, that add to this symphony of sound.

“Good hustle, team, keep it up!”
“Nice effort, you’ve got her!”
“Great passing, ladies, good work!”

The sounds that our team makes are unbelievable as well. When players make errors and get down on themselves, there is always a team member to look them in the eye and say, “It’s okay, don’t worry about it, keep your head up, and keep playing hard!” The support system we have is amazing, and can be heard loud and clear.

However, there are some comments that we hear which defeat the purpose of the game. When players argue with the referees, or yell at their teammates, or even instigate verbal conflicts with opposing players, the sportsmanship previously felt is gone.

While some players can make the game less enjoyable, parents can make any soccer match a terrible experience for players and spectators alike. Granted, there are many parents who know how to sit still on the sidelines and only scream words of encouragement and praise to the team, but there are others for whom this concept is incomprehensible. They demand fouls, yellow cards, and ejections.

They insist that the referee does not know what he is doing; that they could do the job better.

They yell at their children, and some even at other’s children. They hurl insults at coaches, both their own child’s and the opposing team’s. And they take away from the meaning of the game.

During 80 minutes of playing time, sometimes all that we can hear is the commentary of the people in the stands. This is of no benefit to anyone on the field. We players are out there to have fun, to win games, and to play our hearts out. But if overzealous parents and spectators are screaming on the sidelines, then how are we supposed to concentrate? They create distractions as they try to coach us from the bleachers, when in reality the only person who should be instructing us is the coach. Telling us how we should play takes away from our focus and our efforts, and in turn causes us to play with less of the emotion and excitement that is essential to our success.

The parents tell us what we should and should not be doing, as if they know the game better than we do or our coaches do. But the reality is, those parents wouldn’t survive too long on the soccer field doing what we do.

Thus, the message is simple: let us play! Sit down, offer congratulations on a job well done and remember that it is not always as easy as it looks out there. Offer us words of motivation; positive words of recognition and praise, not negative criticism that can deflate the confidence necessary for even the most talented players to succeed. When we hear you cheering for us, we are inspired to play that much harder.

So please, respect what the players, coaches, and referees are doing, and just let us play the game. It is what we are there to do.

* * * * *

BELIEVE IN YOURSELF

And in your dream
Though impossible things may seem
Someday, somehow you’ll get through
To the goal you have in view.
Mountains fall and seas divide
Before the one who in his stride
Takes a hard road day by day
Sweeping obstacles aside.
Believe in yourself and in your plan
Say not - I cannot - but I can.
The prizes of life we fail to win
Because we doubt the power within.

Author Unknown

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DIVISIVE DIVERSITY ISSUES IMPACT PROMS & YEARBOOKS

As the weather gets warmer, students’ thoughts turn to prom dates and yearbooks. Controversy over issues of diversity could be heating up, too. Will you be prepared?

A Tale of Two Communities

In Dover (NH), high school seniors voted for the “best couple” honors in their class yearbook. The award went to a lesbian couple. A church group traveled from Kansas to picket the school, but no local residents participated in the protest. In fact, local clergy spoke out against the protesters. Most Dover H.S. students simply ignored the protesters and went about their school day.

In Ferndale (WA), high school seniors cast their votes for the prom king and prom queen. The king’s crown went to a lesbian student. The prom queen, a straight female student whose boyfriend was runner-up for prom king, shrugged it off as no big deal.

Again, the same Kansas church group that picketed in Dover (NH) showed up to protest at the Washington school’s graduation.

In the Ferndale (WA) case, the school responded by adding a new policy to the student handbook. Future prom kings must be boys and prom queens must be girls. In Dover (NH), no plans to change policy governing class couples have been reported.

No one ever said being principal would be easy. But you can make life a bit simpler by planning for diversity issues. The time to decide what action you'll take if something similar happens in your school is before it happens...before the church members from Kansas begin a trip to *your* school's hometown.

Who's Your Prom Date?

The issue of same-sex class couples and non-traditional prom kings and queens is still a matter of school policy - so far there's been no major court cases reported on the subject. But there's less doubt about other diversity issues, starting with same-sex prom dates. The landmark case on the issue, *Aaron Fricke v. Richard B. Lynch*, is more than 20 years old. Fricke was a student at Cumberland H.S. in Rhode Island. Lynch was the principal who refused him permission to attend the senior formal with a male escort.

Mr. Lynch said he feared for the safety of Fricke and his date. Indeed, when word got out that Fricke had asked to attend the dance with a male escort, one of his classmates punched him. After that, the school offered Fricke the protection of an escort between classes and a parking space closer to the school. The principal wrote Fricke a letter saying the reason he'd turned down his request was concern for his safety and the safety of others.

Fricke sued, saying the school's action violated his First Amendment rights of association and free speech, and his Fourteenth Amendment right to equal protection of the laws.

U.S. District Judge Raymond J. Pettine agreed that his attending the dance was a type of political statement - and thus constituted speech. So the school had an obligation to employ the "least restrictive alternative" before curtailing speech. And it hadn't done so, the judge ruled.

Pettine wrote that Principal Lynch showed "obvious concern and good faith" in his handling of the matter. He noted that Lynch sincerely believed Fricke and his date could face physical harm if they attended the dance. Lynch also proved his concern for disruption at the event. But concern for the student's safety just wasn't enough. The students had the right to attend the function, and the school had an obligation to protect them.

Principal's Pause

Concerns over safety are not an automatic justification for denying gay and lesbian students access to the same rights and privileges that other students enjoy. Every year without fail, lawyers take up cases on behalf of students who have been denied permission to bring a same-sex date to the prom.

All schools should have an anti-harassment (not just sex) policy in place. Schools should develop and publicize rules that explain how harassment can be reported and how reports of harassment will be handled. In some cases, schools are required to do so by federal law. These rules should require staff to report harassment to a designated school official; prohibit retaliation against anyone who reports harassment; and, to the extent possible, protect the confidentiality of anyone who is involved in a report of harassment.

The following is a sample policy provided by the ACLU.

MODEL ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY

The _____ School District is committed to providing all students with a safe and supportive school environment. Members of the school community are expected to treat each other with respect. Teachers and other staff members are expected to teach and to demonstrate by example that all members of the community are entitled to respect.

Harassment of a student by another student or by a teacher or other staff member is a violation of school policy. This includes (but is not limited to) harassment based on race, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, or disability. Punishable harassment is conduct, including verbal conduct, (1) that creates (or will certainly create) a hostile environment by substantially interfering with a student's educational benefits, opportunities, or performance, or with a student's physical or psychological well-being; or (2) that is threatening or seriously intimidating.

Sexual harassment is a form of harassment that also violates school policy. Punishable sexual harassment is an unwelcome sexual advance or sexual conduct, including verbal conduct, (1) that is tied to a student's educational benefits, opportunities, or performance, or with a student's physical or psychological well-being; (2) that creates (or will certainly create) a hostile environment by substantially interfering with a student's educational benefits, opportunities, or performance, or with a student's physical or psychological well-being; or (3) that is threatening or seriously intimidating.

*Reprinted from the School Principal's Legal Alert
April 2002*

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NATIONAL TESTING DATES REMINDER

Test dates for the 2002-03 school year:

ACT Test Dates

June 8, 2002
October 26, 2002
December 14, 2002
February 8, 2003
April 12, 2003
June 14, 2003

Registration Deadline

May 3, 2002
September 20, 2002
November 8, 2002
January 3, 2003
March 7, 2003
May 9, 2003

SAT Test Dates

June 1, 2002
October 12, 2002
November 2, 2002
December 7, 2002
January 25, 2003
April 5, 2003
May 3, 2003
June 7, 2003

Registration Deadline

April 26, 2002
September 10, 2002
September 27, 2002
November 1, 2002
December 23, 2002
February 28, 2003
March 28, 2003
May 2, 2003

PSAT/NMSQT Test Dates

October 15, 2002
October 19, 2002

Advance Placement Test Dates

May 5-9, 2003
May 12-16, 2003

“Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgement that something else is more important than fear.”

Ambrose Redmoon

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PARENT/COACH RELATIONSHIPS

State high school athletic associations regularly receive inquiries regarding the parent/coach relationship. By establishing understanding of each other’s role, the student-athlete will only benefit from the athletic experience. Research has proven that dialogue should include, but not limit itself to:

1. What parents should expect from their child’s coach:
 - ✓ Coach and programs philosophy
 - ✓ Individual and team expectations
 - ✓ Location and times of all practices and games
 - ✓ Team requirements, i.e., practices, special equipment, off-season conditioning.
 - ✓ Procedure to follow should their child be injured during a practice or game.
 - ✓ Any discipline that may result in the denial of their child’s participation.
2. What coaches should expect from the parents:
 - ✓ Concerns expressed directly to them.
 - ✓ Notification of family schedule conflicts well in advance.
 - ✓ Specific concerns with regard to a coach’s philosophy and/or expectations.
 - ✓ Support for the program and the attributes of dedication and responsibility that are essential ingredients for success and excellence.
 - ✓ Encourage their child to excel.

While their child is involved in interscholastic athletics, they will experience some of the most rewarding and inspiring moments of their lives. It is also important to understand that there might also be times when things do not go the way the parent of a child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

3. What are appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:
 - ✓ The treatment of their child, mentally and physically.
 - ✓ Ways to help their child improve and develop.
 - ✓ Concerns about their child’s behavior.

It is very difficult to accept a child not playing as much as hoped. Coaches are professionals. They make decisions based on what they believe is best for the team and all athletes involved. There are certain areas and issues that can and should be discussed with a child’s coach. Other things, such as those below, should be left to the direction of the coach.

4. Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches:

- ✓ Playing time
- ✓ Team strategy
- ✓ Play calling
- ✓ Other student-athletes

5. If a parent has a concern to discuss with a coach:
 - ✓ Call to set up an appointment with the coach
 - ✓ If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Director. A meeting will be set up with the coach.
 - ✓ Do not attempt to confront a coach before, after or during a practice or game. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach, and this situation does not promote resolution nor objective analysis.
6. What a parent can do if the meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution:
 - ✓ Call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director and follow due process to discuss the situation.

Research indicates that students involved in athletics are most likely to succeed at their chosen profession and make creative contributions to their communities. Many of the character traits, qualities, and attributes required to be a successful student athlete are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school.

To have a successful interscholastic athletic program, communication is vital and requires involvement, dedication, sacrifice, and commitment from parents, student-athletes, and coaches.

*Source: Parent’s Checklist for Quality Youth Programs
Reprinted from the N.H. Interscholastic Athletic Association Stator
Spring 2002*

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SUMMARY OF MEETING

The following is a summary of the April 22, 2002 meeting of the Principals’ Committee on Athletics:

The April meeting of the Principals’ Committee on Athletics was called to order at 1:45 pm.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

The Executive Director’s Report was approved.

TREASURER’S REPORT

The incorrect Treasurer’s Report was included in each member’s packet. Therefore, the Treasurer’s Report was tabled to the May meeting of the Principals’ Committee on Athletics.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

FOOTBALL

Mr. James Murano

Mr. Lynch reported on a proposal by (Pawtucket) schools whereby the schedule for Thanksgiving Day would change to the following: St. Raphael Academy would compete against Bishop Feehan H.S.; and Tolman H.S. and Shea H.S. would compete each other. This would eliminate the 'traditional' Thanksgiving Day (League) game between Shea H.S. and Lincoln H.S. The proposal would schedule the Lincoln vs Shea game on the Saturday before Thanksgiving Day.

Mr. Murano reported that he has received a request from Woonsocket High School to join the RIIL Freshman Football League.

Both aforementioned issues have been referred to the Football Committee for review and consideration.

BASKETBALL

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

The following requests in girls' basketball were submitted to the League office and referred to the Joint Basketball Committee:

- South Kingstown H.S. requests to move from Division II to Division I
- Johnston H.S. requests to move from Division II to Division I
- West Warwick H.S. requests to move from Division I to Division II

BASEBALL

Mr. John Blaess

There was no report in Baseball at this time.

GYMNASTICS

Mr. Richard Stapleton

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

Divisional Team Championships

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

<i>State Team Championship</i>	North Kingstown H.S.
Runner-Up	Coventry High School

Individual Championships

1 st Vault	Megan Joseph Coventry H.S.
1 st Bars	Amanda Fogarty LaSalle Academy
1 st Beam	Amanda Fogarty LaSalle Academy
1 st Floor	Amanda Fogarty LaSalle Academy
1 st All Around	Amanda Fogarty LaSalle Academy [36.95 - <i>State Record</i>]

All-State Championships

Cassandra Webb	Coventry H.S.
Kristy Tate	Westerly H.S.
Kyla Normand	North Kingstown H.S.
Tiffany Rodrigues	Mt. Hope H.s.
Megan Joseph	Coventry H.S.
Amanda Fogarty	LaSalle Academy

Academic All-State

(Awarded by Gymnastics Coaches Association to Seniors on National Honor Society)

Megan Joseph	Coventry H.S.
Lauren Artizzone	Toll Gate H.S.
Holly Landry	Woonsocket H.S.
Kerri Morgiera	Woonsocket H.S.
Kerri Hebert	North Smithfield H.S.
Stephanie Olynk	North Smithfield H.S.

Sportsmanship Award

Coventry H.S.

Coach of the Year

Debbie Valentine West Warwick H.S.

Judge of the Year

(Awarded by Gymnastics Coaches Association)

Melissa Gendreau

Mr. Stapleton reported that the season went very well and that over 200 attended the end-of-season banquet.

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

HOCKEY

Mr. Daniel Sheehan

Mr. Lynch reported on a letter from Barrington High School in which they disclosed that one hundred twenty-nine (129) hockey tickets from the 2001-2002 season were discarded by an employee at Starbucks (Barrington) where tickets had been left for sale. The employee assumed that, because the season was over, the tickets were no longer needed and, subsequently, threw them away.

On a vote of 10-0, with 2 abstentions, the Principals' Committee on Athletics voted to relieve Barrington High School of its responsibility to pay the RIIL for the missing tickets. Further, the Committee requested that Mr. Lynch research the League files for documentation on similar [past] situations. If the research indicates that action was taken against schools in similar situations, Barrington H.S. Principal, John Gray, stated that they would be open to a revote of the issue.

In other business, Mr. David Light, Principal, Scituate Jr.-Sr. High School, reported that Scituate High School is the recipient of the R. I. Hockey Officials Association Sportsmanship Award. This honor is particularly meaningful in that this is the first year Scituate High School has participated in RIIL hockey.

FASTPITCH SOFTBALL

Mrs. Elizabeth Marquis

Mrs. Marquis addressed the issue of the NFHS approved bats that must display the ASA stamp. Schools are still using bats without the stamp and are not being allowed by officials. It was emphasized that the NFHS began notification of the revised rule in the Fall 1998. Some schools are finding themselves in a situation of not having enough bats that comply with the rule.

Discussion ensued regarding liability issues and who would assume responsibility if the use of non-approved bats were allowed. Mrs. Marquis recommended to the Principals' Committee on Athletics that all member schools be required to adhere to the NFHS bat rule.

Mr. Lynch stated that the League has received a report of a rules violation at a member school whereby [softball] assistant coaches were coaching their student-athletes out-of-season on a travel team. However, upon investigation and conversations with the school administration, Mr. Lynch determined that the allegations were unfounded.

In other business, Mrs. Marquis reported that discussions are underway with Providence College, Rhode Island College, and Notte Park (North Providence) as possible sites for the fastpitch softball playoffs. It was noted that the Town of North Providence has been very accommodating in the past and has offered to sponsor a [playoff] Press Conference if the playoffs are held at Notte Park.

Mrs. Marquis will meet with Mr. Lynch and Mr. Magarian to discuss this issue.

SLOWPITCH

There was no report in Slowpitch Softball at this time.

VOLLEYBALL

Ms. Elaine Botelho

Mr. Lynch reported that the administration of Central High School self-reported that an ineligible student-athlete participated in the first game of the season. The game was a loss for Central High School and the student-athlete is no longer a member of the team.

Mr. Lynch also reported that the League received a report from a volleyball official that Central High School is not in compliance with equipment standards as set forth by the NFHS rules. A letter was sent to Debra DeCarlo, Principal, asking that the issue be rectified.

OUTDOOR TRACK

Mr. Robert Littlefield

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the use of helmets in pole vault competitions as a result of recent deaths in this event. Mr. Lynch reported that this issue was discussed at the recent [NFHS] Section I meeting. The consensus was that because there is not a specific 'pole vault helmet' that is NOCSAE approved, schools would be subject to liability issues. In addition, because there are not official pole vault helmets, whatever equipment is used could have an effect on the event in that the weight of the helmet would effect the balance of the student-athlete.

Mr. Lynch further reported that the NFHS Outdoor Track Committee will be meeting regarding the size, length, thickness, etc. of the [pole vault] landing pad and the ratio of the athlete's weight to the pole.

Mr. Littlefield stated that the R. I. track coaches are planning for an end-of-season clinic regarding the pole vault and hammer events. In addition, it was suggested that the League bring in a speaker to address coaches at the pre-season mandatory interpretation meetings.

TENNIS

Ms. Candace Caluori
Mrs. Denise Boulé

Ms. Caluori, Director of Boys' Tennis, addressed the issue of schools being required to play during spring vacation. She expressed her concern at the lack of scores reported in the newspaper as well as the limited number of match reports she has received. In accordance with the RIIL's rules and regulations, if games are rescheduled which results in no game being played during spring vacation, said contests must be forfeited.

Mr. Magarian will work with Ms. Caluori to determine the number of boys' tennis matches that were scheduled and played during the spring vacation week (April 15-19).

Mrs. Boulé, Director of Girls' Tennis, addressed the issue of a female student-athlete who is participating on the boys' tennis team at a member school. Mrs. Boulé is concerned that this will give female athletes an advantage that male athletes do not have in that the females are allowed to 'pick and choose'. This would allow them the opportunity to participate in a girls' sport in the Fall and still participate in [boys'] tennis in the Spring.

Mr. Lynch emphasized that it is the policy of the Interscholastic League to allow girls to participate in boys' sports, although boys are not permitted to participate in girls' sports. He further stated that the League's legal counsel advises against changing the rule.

In other business, Mrs. Boulé submitted the 2002-2003 girls' tennis schedule for the Committee's review and consideration. She noted that requests from Exeter/West Greenwich High School to move to Class C and The Prout School's request to move to Class B were granted.

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

LACROSSE

Mr. George Finn

There was no report in Boys and Girls Lacrosse at this time.

GOLF

Mr. John Gray

Mr. Gray reported that Hope High School and Times² Academy, both of which were new to the RIIL golf league this year, have withdrawn from the league. Hope High School's withdrawal from the league (Western Division) did not have an impact on the schedule. However, when Times² Academy withdrew (also Western Division) it created a problem. Mr.

Gray stated that Smithfield High School, which was in the Northern Division, agreed to move (back) to the Western Division, thereby creating equity in the schedule. As such, the schedules for the Northern and Western Divisions have been revised and sent to all participating schools.

In other business, Mr. Gray reported that he is pursuing the possibility of a co-sponsor for the State Championship and will report back to the Committee at its May meeting.

SWIMMING

Mr. James Quinn

There was no report in Swimming at this time.

FALL SCHEDULES / INTERPRETATION MEETINGS

Mr. Victor Mercurio, Director of Boys' Soccer, submitted the 2002-2003 boys' soccer schedule for the Committee's review and consideration.

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

Mr. Mercurio reported that the Coaches' Pre-Season Interpretation Meeting will be held at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, June 12, 2002, at the League office.

OTHER SPORTS / ISSUES

- **North Providence High School**
 - Request to move up in wrestling
 - Request to move up in girls' soccer

Both requests referred to the respective sport directors.

- **Middletown High School**

Request for student-athlete to participate in 2002 Senior National Gymnastics Championship on May 15-19, 2002. It was noted that the student-athlete is a senior at Middletown H.S. and does not participate in any other sports.

On a motion made and seconded that the League takes no action on this request, the Committee voted 5-5, with 2 abstentions, defeating the motion.

On a subsequent motion made and seconded, the Committee voted 10-1, with 2 abstentions, to send a letter to the principal of Middletown High School acknowledging the rule, and emphasizing that no penalty will be assessed against the school because the student in question is a senior and does not participate in any other sport(s). However, if circumstances change, a penalty will be imposed as outlined in the RIIL Rules and Regulations.

- **Portsmouth Abbey School**

Mr. Daniel McDonough, track coach at Portsmouth Abbey School, has sought and received permission to conduct the Annual Knights of Columbus Newport County Boys and Girls Championship Track Meet on May 14-15, 2002. Upon receiving approval for the meet, he subsequently requested that the RIIL allow two (2) 5th year seniors from Portsmouth Abbey School to participate in the event.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics voted 10-2, with 1 abstention, to deny the request.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S ASSOCIATION REPORT

An Athletic Director's job description, which was established by the national organization, was submitted and will be addressed at the next meeting of the Joint Principals and Athletic Directors Committee on Wednesday, April 24th. It was also reported that the (R.I.) Athletic Directors' are seeking support from the RIIL regarding their desire to take athletic directors out of the classroom and make their position(s) full time.

SCHOOLS ATHLETIC COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS

This issue was tabled to a future meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics.

PROVIDENCE HEALTH & SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL - and -PROVIDENCE ACADEMY OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

These two schools in the City of Providence are separate schools, each with its own administration, but housed in the same building. They are seeking a waiver to allow eligibility for their students to participate in interscholastic athletics at the students' feeder school(s) in the community in which they reside.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ball Bids

Mr. Lynch recommend the following companies be awarded the Official Ball Adoption of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League.

RAWLINGS

Baseball; Basketball (Boys & Girls); Football

BADEN

Soccer (Boys & Girls);
Volleyball (Boys & Girls)

BRINE

Lacrosse (Boys & Girls)

SPALDING

Softball (Fastpitch & Slowpitch- Dudley Ball)

PENN MONTO

Field Hockey

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the proposed ball bid adoption, with possible modifications.

3:45 pm Bishop Hendricken High School

Request for a waiver of Article 16, Section 1A - the Practice Limitation Rule for Football

Representing Bishop Hendricken High School were Daniel Sheehan, Principal; and Ronald Mosca, Head Football Coach.

The existing rule states that helmets only may be used for Days 1-3 of [football] practice and that the use of shoulder pads may begin with Days 4-5. Bishop Hendricken High School is asking that shoulder pads be allowed beginning with Day 2.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously voted to allow the use of shoulder pads on Days 2-5 for ***all schools for this year only***. Further, the matter will be referred to the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee for review.

4:05 pm RIIL Injury Fund

Representing the Injury Fund at this hearing were Ted Stebbins, President; and Raymond Dwyer, Treasurer.

At the March meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics, the Committee requested that representatives of the Injury Fund appear before the Committee to address the issue of the payment of officials' at Injury Fund contests. The long-standing practice has been that officials donate their time to officiate an Injury Fund contest and that the host schools donate the monies that would be paid in officials' fees, as well as any funds collected by passing the hat, to the Injury Fund. The exception was in baseball, whereby officials were paid for officiating and the R. I. Baseball Umpires' Association made one lump-sum contribution to the Injury Fund.

However, various officials' associations are now suggesting that they follow the practice of the Baseball Umpires Association. The representatives from the Injury Fund believe that this will result in a loss in the amount of contributions.

It was recommended that this matter be added to the agenda for the Annual Athletic Directors' Conference in the Spring and that presentations emphasizing the importance of the Injury Fund be made at each Coaches' Pre-Season Interpretation Meeting. In addition, the issue will be addressed at the meeting of the Joint Principals and Athletic Directors Committee on Wednesday, April 24th.

**5:20 pm Cranston High School East
Appeal Hearing - Ineligible Student-Athlete/
Wrestling**

Background: Cranston H.S. East violated Article 6, Section 5, the use of an ineligible student-athlete, in wrestling. The student-athlete had not met the 60% academic requirement for the 3rd

quarter of the 2001-2002 academic year. Consequently, the school was required to forfeit all matches in which the student-athlete participated as an ineligible student-athlete, including the State Championship, which was won by Cranston High School.

Representing Cranston High School East at this hearing were Donald Frederick, Principal; Emmett Cooney, Assistant Principal; Tony Centore, Guidance Counselor; Chris Tribelli, Head Wrestling Coach; and, Steve Yanku, Parent of a wrestler at Cranston H.S. East and President of the R. I. Wrestling Officials' Association. Also present was John Gillooly, Sportswriter for *The Providence Journal*.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics voted 11-0, with 1 abstention, to grant a waiver of the penalty as outlined in the RIIL Rules and Regulations. Further, all points earned by the ineligible student-athlete in dual meets after February 4, 2002 [the date report cards were issued] and in the State Championship shall be deducted from the team's total score.

On a subsequent motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics voted 10-2 to impose a fine of \$100 per event [dual meets and State Championship] in which the school allowed the student to participate as an ineligible athlete. It was noted that the State Championship will be considered as one event for purposes of determining the student-athlete's ineligibility.

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 April meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

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