



# NOVEMBER 2003



Member of the  
National Federation  
of High Schools



A Proud Member of  
The High School Internet Network

# Rhode Island Interscholastic League

Richard B. Lynch  
*Executive Director*

Richard R. Magarian  
*Assistant Executive Director*

Janz C. Halz  
*Treasurer*

Ruth Nicastro  
*Secretary*

Susana Borges  
*Secretary*

*Rhode Island Interscholastic League*

*Bldg. #6 R. I. College Campus ♦ 600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue ♦ Providence, RI 02908-1991*

*Tel: (401) 272-9844 ♦ Fax: (401) 272-9838*

*web site: [www.riil.org](http://www.riil.org) ♦ email: [info@riil.org](mailto:info@riil.org)*

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

**A**s we begin preparations for the winter sports season, we want to remind you to be sure that your schedule confirmations are entered online and that your eligibility lists for each sport are submitted at least one week prior to the first contest including Injury Fund contests. With regard to the home confirmations, please be sure to include non-league games and/or tournaments that your school is hosting. It is most important because we want to be sure that officials are assigned to all contests.

The Rhode Island Interscholastic League Alignment Committee has been meeting to develop criteria to be used in the realignment process that is on-going this school year in all sports. A survey will be sent to you in early December 2003 for your input on the proposal prepared by the Alignment Committee. It is imperative that all schools respond to the survey.

I suggest that all principals and athletic directors have a meeting with winter sports coaches, student-athletes and parents to review the rules and regulations of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League along with each school's particular requirements. Much emphasis should be placed on good citizenship and sportsmanship and how coaches, student-athletes and parents conduct themselves as representatives of their schools and community. They should be reminded that sports are an extension of the classroom and a large part of a student-athletes educational experience in high schools.

\* \* \* \* \*

**ARE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS IN OUR FUTURE?**

from the Wisconsin Athletic Association

**F**or nearly a century, interscholastic sport seasons in Wisconsin and states around the nation have culminated with championship tournaments within state boundaries.

The opportunity to play for a state championship, the journey through a tournament series that features a sudden elimination element and the length of the sports seasons have managed to satisfy the appetite of high school sports enthusiasts and advocates around the nation for many years.

However, opportunities to compete in post-season tournaments beyond state borders are beginning to surface, and it's a calculated assumption more national championship tournaments are on the horizon.

The WIAA, as a charter member of the National Federation of High School Associations, has maintained the stance that national championship competition is not in the best interest of interscholastic athletics and its membership schools nor is it the mission of the Association to provide these opportunities. In fact, WIAA rules prohibit school teams from participating in such tournaments.

Recently, our educational partners in this state have also indicated their disapproval of any national championship competition. However, to not even address the subject or consider the impact these types of opportunities might have would be burying our heads in the sand.

The NFHS has been approached by a corporation offering an attractive proposal for a national cross country

championship. In addition, national boys' basketball tournaments are being marketed by other corporations and foundations. Rogue national championships in other sports have surfaced, also. And how many national championship tournaments in a particular sport may arise? The concerned schools currently have with national cheer and pom pom competitions may lend some insight into what may develop.

National championship tournaments have a sensational appeal for a relatively large segment of the population, not all with the same commitment the NFHS and the WIAA have to the educational components of interscholastic athletics.

If national tournaments are going to become reality, the question that begs to be asked of the membership is what entity would you consider most favorable to organize and administer such events – the NFHS or corporate entities willing to exploit high school athletics for their own financial or marketing benefit?

The WIAA will wrestle with this issue if school teams from Wisconsin are selected to play in tournaments to compete for a national title. Enforcing the current rule would prevent a team from participating in these tournaments. What will be the public reaction to denying a school the opportunity for a national title? We can't be 100 percent sure, but we may want to disconnect the phones for a while.

Schools in our membership have not supported national team championship competition, but what would be the response of schools and their communities if they were chosen to play? Would they be able to separate reality from philosophy? We would probably hear "what a great and unique experience it would be for the school, community and participants," and any opposition to such an experience will be viewed as overly restrictive.

Whether we support national tournaments or not, their continuing emergence is inevitable. By recognizing their existence and addressing concerns associated with such events, we will be better equipped to respond with a membership already informed than we will if there is no preliminary dialog.

\* \* \* \* \*

**AND WE QUOTE:**

*"Character is doing the right thing even when it costs more than you want to pay."*

- Michael Josephson

**INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK NOVEMBER 2003**

Secretary Colin L. Powell, Washington, DC

**T**he department of State joins our friends in the Department of Education in welcoming all Americans to support our nation's annual week long celebration of international education.

We are all students of the world we live in, and today, our world is more interdependent than ever before. The challenges we face in areas such as security, democratic development, economics, and health cannot be addressed by any country acting alone. International education learning about other cultures and languages through study, living overseas, and interacting with people of other countries promotes the free exchange of ideas, allows us to seek joint

solutions to problems, and helps create lasting partnerships to meet our shared concerns.

The opportunities that I have had to live and travel overseas in my career were invaluable in expanding my horizons and giving me the tools to carry out my future responsibilities.

Through exchange programs, future leaders established with counterparts that increase mutual understanding and result in beneficial working relationships for years to come. Through Fulbright grants, Gilman fellowships for talented American college students with financial need to study abroad, teacher training programs, and exchanges that engage young people in the Muslim world and other regions in productive dialogue with Americans, the Department of State works to deepen understanding and strengthen voices of moderation around the world.

Our partners in schools, universities, businesses, nonprofit organizations and communities across America and abroad are essential to the success of this effort. Each day, thousands of privately supported exchanges are helping to build a community of caring and committed citizens around the world.

As we commemorate International Education Week, November 2003, I encourage Americans of all ages and from all walks of life to consider participating in an exchange or an international education program. Host a visitor from abroad for an evening or a school year. Learn a foreign language.

Take advantage of study and professional development programs that help you better understand another country and its people. You will serve as bridges from your communities to individuals and societies abroad, demonstrating our values but also bringing new insights that will enrich your lives and enhance our nation.

Let's all celebrate International Education Week! We look forward to hearing from you at our website (<http://exchanges.state.gov/iew>), where you can tell us of your plans. Together we can build a more peaceful and prosperous world.

\* \* \* \* \*

*"There is no victory without honor."*

- Michael Josephson

## SPORTSMANSHIP

from the North Kansas City School District Handbook

As a participant representing the North Kansas City School District, you have the responsibility of exhibiting good sportsmanship at all times. The moment you put on that school uniform, you become a representative of your student body, your school and your community. You will receive the ingredients of good sportsmanship through the teaching, coaching and examples of the coaching staff. So, be sure to exhibit what you learn.

A very important lesson we learn through interscholastic athletics/activities is that by hard work and dedication, we can improve. In America, we recognize we can take the ability given us and through hard work and dedication become

anything we want to be. No one can tell you what you must be. If you are willing to recognize the ability you possess and work hard, you can achieve success in athletics/activities.

Attitude is one of the principle requisites in becoming a champion in any sport and of course that is best defined by how you act, and how you feel and think in showing your disposition. The desire to excel, to win, to pay the price are all positive points or attributes of attitude that contribute to a winning philosophy.

Yes, a winning philosophy is important. But likewise realize the importance of how the game is played as well as viewed. Simple acts or gestures of respect such as: displaying good conduct, cooperating with officials, shaking hands with opponents before and after the contest, showing self-control at all times, accepting decisions and abiding by them, accepting both victor and defeat with pride and compassion, and never being boastful or bitter, will aid you, the individual, and your team, as well as to portray the standards of sportsmanship expected of athletes/participants in the N.K.C. School District.

Actually, interscholastic athletics/activities are much like everyday life. America thrives on competition that has made the country as great as it is today. You might say it is the backbone of our great nation. Regardless of your plans in later life, whether to be in labor, management, sales, professions, or whatever, you must realize there will be competition. There are and will be disappointments in all of life's activities. It's how you react to these disappointments that will measure what values you have learned through activity participation and athletic play on the athletic courts, fields, and mats during your high school days.

\* \* \* \* \*

### THE GAMESMANSHIP TRAP IN SPORTS AND LAW 331:3

Josephson Institute, Character Counts

There are great similarities between high level sports and the practice of law, especially regarding the gap in both fields between ideals and realities. The ideals of sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and notions like fair play and respect for opponents in the pursuit of athletic excellence. The ideals of law are similar in the pursuit of truth and justice.

Yet the reality is that too many athletes and attorneys disregard these ideals in the blind and ambitious pursuit of victor. Striving mightily to win is not the problem. It's wanting to win so badly that principles of decency, ethics and honor are ignored. It's the brazen adoption of gamesmanship strategies and the "whatever it takes to win" attitude that's the problem. It's valuing cleverness so highly that those who get away with braking or bending rules are admired. So athletes fake fouls, taunt or illegally hold opponents while lawyers assert groundless claims, confuse honest witnesses and use delay.

Gamesmanship tactics are so prevalent that some find it hard to imagine anyone being effective without them. But that's self-serving nonsense. Many people in both fields believe that no victory is real or worthy if it's achieved without honor.

The game of sports is about playing by the rules, not fooling referees or intimidating opponents. And law is not a game at all. The high road is not the easier road but it's the only road for a person of character.



**SUMMARY OF MEETING**

The following is a summary of the October 20, 2003 meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics:

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

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The Executive Director's Report from the September 15, 2003 meeting was approved.

**PROPOSE THAT FRED SILVA, PRINCIPAL LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL BE APPROVED TO SERVE ON PRINCIPALS' COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS AND TO BECOME THE DIRECTOR OF WRESTLING**

The Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously voted to appoint Fred Silva, Principal, Lincoln H.S. as Director of Wrestling.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer's Report was approved.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

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

**COMMITTEE RESIGNATION**

Mr. Lynch reported on a letter submitted by Kathryn Crowley, in which she rendered her resignation as Chairperson.

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

**ELECTION – CHAIRPERSON – PRINCIPALS' COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS**

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics voted to elect John Gray, Chairperson of the Principals' Committee on Athletics.

Since Mr. Gray was Assistant Chairperson, his election to the Chair created a vacancy in the Assistant Chairperson position. Nominations for the vacant Assistant Chairperson were accepted from the floor. Following the nomination of Ms. Betty Marquis for the position, the committee on a motion made and seconded, elected Ms. Marquis to the position of Assistant Chairperson of the Principals' Committee on Athletics.

**AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN CONTRACTS FOR THE RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE**

On advice of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League council, Mr. Lynch requested that the Committee vote to authorize the Executive Director and Assistant Executive Director to sign contracts for the use of a venue for Rhode Island Interscholastic League events.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee voted the following: to affirm the authorization to sign any necessary agreements for the use of venues for Rhode Island Interscholastic League events.

**ARTICLE 7, SECTION 7 – NON-SCHOOL COMPETITION**

Mr. Magarian reviewed Article 7, Section 7 – Non-School Competition with the Committee. He specifically referred to changes in the section which would reflect the changes in Article 7, Section 7c which were approved by the Committee at a previous meeting.

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

**INCOME/EXPENSE – ALL SPORTS REVIEW**

Mr. Magarian reviewed a set of charts he provided to the Committee which outlined recommendations on how the Rhode Island Interscholastic League could increase revenue in order to keep up with the normal increase in expenses to operate the League. That issue was addressed at the September 15, 2003 meeting. At that meeting, the Committee requested more information along with recommendations on how to increase income for the League. The following recommendations were presented to the Committee for their review:

1. To increase the sport dues for each sport offered by a school from \$85.00 to \$95.00.
2. To increase the sport entry fee/officials fee in: Cross Country, Golf, Indoor and Outdoor Track, Slowpitch Softball, Swimming and Tennis.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics voted to approve the recommendation beginning with the 2004-2005 school year.

A notice outlining the increases will be sent to each member school.

**THE PROUT SCHOOL – APPEAL OF WAIVER FOR MISSED INTERPRETATION MEETINGS FOR VOLLEYBALL AND TENNIS**

The Prout School requested a waiver of a fine for not having representation at a volleyball and tennis coaches interpretation meeting.

After discussion, the Principals' Committee on Athletics on a motion made and seconded voted to deny the request for a waiver of the fine. They stressed the importance for all schools to have representation at mandatory meetings.

**REPORT – SPORTS MEDICINE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Lynch gave a report on a meeting that was held by the Rhode Island Interscholastic League Sports Medicine Advisory Committee. Discussion took place on the following:

- Athletic Trainers – the Committee received the General Laws of Rhode Island regarding Athletic Trainers.
- A letter by the Sports Medicine Committee relative to the use of Athletic Trainers.

Mr. Lynch informed the Committee that the aforementioned will be sent to all member schools.

Mr. Magarian discussed the issue of a weight management program for wrestling. He reported that although the program will not be required by the NFHS until 2004-2005, the Rhode Island Interscholastic League will conduct a pilot program at the end of November for those schools who are interested.

#### **ALIGNMENT COMMITTEE**

Ms. Betty Marquis, as Chairperson of the Alignment Committee, gave a report from the last meeting of that Committee. She indicated that the proposal reported at an earlier Principals' Committee on Athletics Meeting addressed alignment by geography with four (4) or five (5) divisions in the state is now off the table. Under consideration now is alignment by 60% enrollment and 40% win/loss record over the last four years. Playoffs would be scheduled by enrollment with smaller schools being able to opt-up to a higher division.

Ms. Marquis also reported that counting parochial and private school enrollment by utilizing a percentage higher than one hundred percent is under consideration.

The Committee expressed interest in developing a philosophy of alignment. The Alignment Committee continues to meet on the issue of developing specific guidelines for alignment.

#### **BISHOP HENDRICKEN HIGH SCHOOL**

Mr. Lynch referred to a letter submitted by Bishop Hendricken High School in which the principal self-reported that the grade 9 hockey team played against a non-league team (Bantam Team) during the 2002-2003 school year. Since this was a violation of League rules and a potential for recruiting, the Principals' Committee on Athletics on a motion made and seconded voted the following:

1. To send the Principal of Bishop Hendricken High School a letter of reprimand.
2. To place the school on probation for a period of one year.
3. To assess a fine of \$200.00 on Bishop Hendricken High School for the violation.
4. To require the Principal to develop and implement a plan to educate coaches relative to the rules and regulations of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League. Said plan to be forwarded to the League office.

#### **BEACON CHARTER SCHOOL, WOONSOCKET – REQUEST TO JOIN LEAGUE AND TO ALLOW STUDENT-ATHLETES TO PLAY FOR FEEDER SCHOOL**

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics voted to grant the request for Beacon Charter School student-athletes to participate in athletics for their feeder school. This request was in line with the proposal approved by the Committee approximately two years ago which allows the aforementioned for charter schools and alternative schools. The student-athletes must meet all the standards and stipulations of the approved proposal. In addition, they must abide by all the rules and regulations of

the Rhode Island Interscholastic League. Also, the Principal (CEO) of the charter school must join the League and pay the dues and fees of the League. The Principal of the charter school must also join the Rhode Island Association of Secondary Principals.

#### **PRESENTATION – CRAIG BLANCHARD – RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE WEB MASTER**

Mr. Blanchard presented a handout to the Committee in which he outlined a proposal to expand the technology services the League already provides to the member schools.

The system will be expanded to allow family and friends to register online and will allow the following:

- Notification of cancellations, rescheduling and recent results, etc.
- Downloading of updated schedules and updated mailings
- The ability for schools to email their member list

Families, friends and other interested parties will pay a set determined fee for each sport season for the service. This will be a win-win situation for all and generate some revenue for the League. The Principals' Committee on Athletics recommended that a Committee be formed involving parents, students, etc. to further refine the program.

On a motion made and seconded the Principals' Committee on Athletics voted to allow Mr. Blanchard to proceed to develop the proposal.

#### **FALL SPORTS ISSUES**

Mr. Lynch recommended that the League not share in the revenue from the football semi-finals any longer. Previously, the League received 40% of the net revenue after all expenses were paid by the host school for the playoff.

On a motion made and seconded the Principals' Committee on Athletics voted to discontinue the League sharing the revenue for the football semi-finals.

#### **WINTER SPORTS ISSUES**

On a motion made and seconded the Principals' Committee on Athletics voted to increase the game cap for Boys Division II Basketball and Girls Division II Basketball from [24] games to [25] games. This is due to the fact that each of those divisions plays 20 League games. Mr. Lynch also informed the Committee that there will be no injury fund basketball games this 2003-2004 season.

Mr. Lynch also informed the Committee that the League has received a letter from Middletown High School notifying the League that they are withdrawing from Indoor Track.

#### **SPRING SPORTS ISSUES**

There were no Spring Sports issues reported and/or discussed at this meeting.

**RECOGNITION AWARD – SERVICE TO THE PRINCIPALS’ COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS**

Chairperson, John Gray, presented a plaque to Kathryn Crowley in appreciation for her distinguished service as a member and Chairperson of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League.

**HEARINGS**

**4:00 p.m. Marcus Maddox – East Providence H. S.**

**ARTICLE 3, SECTION 4a, THE AGE RULE**

*Background:* This is an appeal of the decision of the Waiver Hearing Committee on Monday, August 12, 2003 to deny the request.

Representing East Providence High School at this hearing were Toni-Maria Spencer, Retired Principal of East Providence; Phil Ricci, Director of Athletics; and Kevin Monagle, Head Boys’ Basketball Coach. Also present were Marcus Maddox, applicant and his mother JoAnn Maddox.

Principals’ Committee on Athletics members present and eligible to vote were Candace Calouri, Robert Cooney, Gerald Foley, John Gray, Colleen Gribbin, Marie Johnson, Robert Kavangah, Robert Littlefield, Dr. Elizabeth Mantelli, Betty Marquis, and Frederick Silva.

Marcus is seeking eligibility to play basketball at East Providence High School. He repeated grade 4 in elementary school and the eighth grade at middle school. His mother stated that Marcus may have suffered residual effects from his parents divorce.

It was noted that the school administration and Marcus understand the rationale of the Age Rule. Marcus, according to the Basketball Coach, is a talented player who will be an impact player as a starter.

On a motion made and seconded the Principals’ Committee on Athletics voted 5-6-1 to deny the request.

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

***The October meeting of the Principals’ Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 4:45 P.M.***

\* \* \* \* \*



*The RIIL is Proud to Recognize  
its Corporate Sponsors*

BADEN ATHLETIC BALLS

Bob's Stores

Brine

Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island

CVS Downtown 5K

Empire Corporate Federal Credit Union

Legg Mason

Martin Sczeron Print

MetLife Auto and Home

Pepsi Cola Co.

The Pawtucket Red Sox

Penn Monto

Rawlings Sporting Goods

Spalding

United States Air Force

United States Army

United States Marine Corp

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League  
Is to provide educational opportunities  
For students through interscholastic athletics  
And to provide governance and leadership  
For its member schools  
In the implementation of athletic programs.

## NATIONAL AFFILIATION

The Rhode Island Interscholastic League is a member of the National Federation of State High School Associations, which consists of the state high school associations of all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Guam, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and all provinces of Canada are affiliate members.

The objectives of the National Federation of State High School Associations are to:

- serve, protect, and enhance the interstate activity interests of the high schools belonging to the state associations;
- assist in those activities of the state associations which can best be operated on a nationwide scale;
- sponsor meetings, publications, and activities which will permit each state association to profit by the experience of all other member associations;
- coordinate the work so duplication will be minimized;
- formulate, copyright, and publish rules of play or event conduct pertaining to interscholastic activities;
- preserve interscholastic athletic records, and the tradition and heritage of interscholastic sports;
- provide programs, services, material and assistance to state associations, high schools and individual professionals involved in the conduct and administration of interscholastic activities;
- study in general all phases of interscholastic activities and serve as a national resource for information pertaining thereto;
- identify needs and problems related to interscholastic activities and where practical provide solutions thereto; and
- promote the educational values of interscholastic activities to the nation's public.



*a monthly publication  
of the  
Rhode Island Interscholastic League*