



# September 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*

Maryann Brown  
*Administrative Assistant*

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 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

This is the last RIIL Monthly Bulletin I will be producing. For those of you who do not know, my husband and I will be moving to Florida next month to enjoy some sunshine and golf.

This past August 15<sup>th</sup> marked the ninth year I have been employed at the League office. Sometimes, it seems like just yesterday. And, yet, at other times, it is as though I have always been here.

Throughout my tenure, I have spoken with many of you – sometimes on a daily basis. During those conversations, we discussed many issues and – *sometimes* – even solved a problem or two. Whatever the nature of the conversation, we always managed to enjoy some laughter and lighter moments.

To my colleagues at the League office, I extend my heartfelt thanks for making it enjoyable to come to work each and every day. I would also like to thank all of you – Principals, Athletic Directors, Secretaries, Coaches, and Officials – for your support and assistance throughout the years. Without your cooperation, the League could not continue in its efforts to provide quality athletic programs for the student-athletes we serve.

In the past nine years, the League has experienced considerable expansion and changes. I am proud and privileged to have been part of that growth. In addition, I have had the pleasure of making many new acquaintances and forging new friendships. As I embark on a new chapter in my life, I will take with me those friendships that have been such a big part of my life these past nine years.

My best wishes to all of you for continued success in this very important business. I hope our paths cross in the future.

Thank you.

*Maryann Brown*

\*\*\*\*\*

**BACK-TO-SCHOOL CHECKLIST**

The following is a suggested checklist for school Administrators and/or Athletic Directors to help make sure things go as smoothly as possible for you and your student-athletes as we get the new school year started:

- Check the RIIL Rules Book for the updated and correct forms that need to be completed and sent to our office *prior* to the start of each activity.
- Recommend that each coach read the RIIL Rules and Regulations. Please consider providing each head coach with a copy of the RIIL Rules and Regulations and the monthly bulletins, which often contain changes or up-to-date announcements. Be certain coaches and students participating in activities know the rules pertaining to eligibility, prizes, season limitations, contest limits, and the importance of starting dates for practices and competitions.

- Communicate the school's philosophy of interscholastic activities, especially responsibilities in sportsmanship, to coaches, boosters, students, and parents. Develop a handbook which establishes rules, regulations, expectations, practice guidelines and lettering criteria for each activity. Conduct a pre-season meeting with parents and student-athletes to review the handbook. Give parents the opportunity to have their questions answered at this time.
- Thoroughly check all requirements for any transfer student(s) for whom eligibility is being sought, specifically residence, age, and scholastic requirements.
- Thoroughly check to make sure that each student participating in a RIIL activity has a valid Annual Physical Examination on file at the school prior to participating in any athletic tryout, practice, or contest.
- Each and every student participating in a RIIL activity must be listed on an eligibility form and must have an Assumption of Risk Form filed with the RIIL office. The eligibility list must be submitted online; the original of the Risk Form must be mailed or delivered to the League office – faxes are not acceptable for the Risk Form.

\*\*\*\*\*

**TOP TEN REASONS TO BE A GOOD SPORT**

10. Because taunting, trash talking and intimidating behavior have no place in high school athletics – or sports at *any* level.
9. Your admission is to watch the performance of highly impressionable student-athletes – not a license to abuse coaches, officials, participants, or other spectators.
8. You want others to treat you the way you want to be treated, and how many people want to be treated with disrespect?
7. We need more positive role models for all students to look up to.
6. People don't always remember the final score, but they always remember the fan in Section 3 who made a fool of him/herself.
5. Because many coaches and officials are also teachers. Would you harass them in their classroom?
4. Surveys indicate student-athletes play high school sports to have fun – not to be number one!
3. It's how you play the game that counts.
2. It's simply the right thing to do.
1. Because sportsmanship begins with you!

*Taken from the Arkansas Activities Association  
2001 Sportsmanship Summit Handbook*

**REMEMBER, IN ATHLETICS, AS IN LIFE ...  
CHARACTER COUNTS!**

\*\*\*\*\*

**AND WE QUOTE:**

***“Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great.***

- Mark Twain

## DO'S AND DON'TS

### DON'T:

- ✓ Fax and then mail originals for any forms, surveys, etc. Remember ... Assumption of Risk Forms are the only form for which we must have the original copy.
- ✓ Call an assignor with a head's up about possible change in your home schedule; when the proper procedure is processed online, s/he will be automatically notified by email.
- ✓ Call the League office with postponements/cancellations. The online program will alert all the necessary people.
- ✓ Send in partial Hardship Applications with a note "more to follow". Please submit all appropriate documentation together.

### DO:

- ✓ File your eligibility lists on time (one week prior to the first contest, *including* Injury Fund games).
- ✓ File your eligibility lists online – faxes are not acceptable.
- ✓ When filing for a waiver of the rule, make sure you have submitted all necessary information in one package.
- ✓ Have the school name on each page – be sure the proper signatures have been obtained where necessary.

### **REMINDER ...**

Nominations for the RIIL High School Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2004 are due in the RIIL office no later than Oct 1<sup>st</sup>. All nominations must be on the official Nomination Form, which may be obtained Online at [www.riil.org](http://www.riil.org), or by calling the League office at 272-9844.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **DID YOU KNOW?????**

**D**id you know that athletes who are ejected from high school contests for unsportsmanlike conduct are ineligible for the remainder of that contest plus the next contest at that level of competition, as well as all other contests in the interim?

Coaches who are ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct are ineligible for the remainder of that contest plus the next two contests as well as subject to a \$50.00 fine. Further, the coach shall remain ineligible until such time as the fine is paid.

In addition, athletes and coaches who are ejected from a contest must submit an Unsportsmanlike Conduct Questionnaire to the RIIL office.

\* \* \* \* \*

*"When an archer misses the mark, he turns and looks for the fault within himself. Failure to hit the bull's-eye is never the fault of the target. To improve your aim – improve yourself."*

Gilbert Arland

\* \* \* \* \*

### **ATTENTION ALL ATHLETIC DIRECTORS, COACHES, PARENTS AND STUDENT –ATHLETES**

From the University of Arizona

There is a new practical, educational, inspirational, and thought provoking book on the market for student-athletes! **"If I Knew Then What I Know Now – Life Skills Strategies for Success from Today's Student-Athlete Leaders"** is the first and only one of its kind. Hundreds of student-athletes nationally have been interviewed and offered their top pieces of advice in each of the 5 CHAMPS/Life Skills areas of academics, athletics, personal development, career development and community service. This resulted in the discovery of things they would do differently, obstacles they've overcome, best practices, reasons for their success, and the changes, challenges and choices they face in college. Students were also asked to challenge their assumptions in each area. There is an insightful self-assessment at the end of each chapter.

Dr. Cedric Dempsey, former President of the NCAA, writes the foreword and the book is being endorsed by, among others, Jackie Joyner Kersee, Lute Olson, Dick Vitale, Ann Meyers Drysdale, Lorena Ochoa, Steve Kerr, Dough Weight, Jennie Finch, renowned sports psychologist Dr. Jim Loehr and former Division 1A Student-Athlete Advisory Committee President Michael Aguirre. This book is ideal for high school student-athletes as well as those already in college.

To date, over 125 colleges and universities are supporting it, as well as the U.S. Olympic Committee. It is also being endorsed by the National Junior College Association, the National High School Coaches Association, the National High School Athletic Coaches, Association, and was featured in the April 14<sup>th</sup> issue of the NCAA News.

For more information, please refer to the publisher's website at [www.u.arizona.edu/~bell](http://www.u.arizona.edu/~bell) for the table of contents, sample chapters, testimonials, who is using it, and much more about this innovative book. All educational institutions will receive 40\$ off the list price of \$19.95. It is also available on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

The better we prepare our students for what lies ahead, the better their chances for success. The feedback to this book is overwhelming and the general consensus is that the information in the book is both needed and welcomed at the high school level.

Get a great start on the upcoming year by having this outstanding book as a resource for your athletic department personnel.

---

*“The choices that make a significant difference in our lives are the tough ones. They’re not often fun or easy, but they’re the ones we have to make, and each is a deliberate step toward better understanding who we really are.”*

Alexandra Stoddard  
Author and Lecturer

---

\* \* \* \* \*

#### PROFESSIONAL ATHLETICS?

In the mid-1980’s, Arnold and Hulda Grobman from St. Louis University looked at professional athletes in football, basketball, baseball, hockey, tennis, and boxing.

Their study revealed that for every single opening in professional athletics, there will be:

- 325 openings for teachers
- 60 openings for physicians
- 125 openings for occupational therapists, physical therapists, and health technologists
- 10 openings for architects
- 75 openings for attorneys
- 15 openings for dentists
- 80 openings for computer programmers
- 20 openings for librarians
- 40 openings for social workers

Only two out of 100 high school athletes will ever play in college, and **only one out of 12,000 high school athletes will ever become professional players.**

From: Minnesota State High School League  
March 4, 2002

\* \* \* \* \*



The following is a summary of the August 25, 2003 meeting of the Principals’ Committee on Athletics:

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

Kathryn Crowley, Chairperson of the RIIL Principals’ Committee on Athletics, opened the meeting by introducing and welcoming Susana Borges, who has recently joined the RIIL office staff in the position of full-time secretary.

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

The Executive Director’s Report from the June 16, 2003 meeting was approved.

#### TREASURER’S REPORT

The Treasurer’s Report was approved.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

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

#### APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE PRINCIPALS’ COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS

The Principals’ Committee on Athletics unanimously voted to elect John Gray, Principal of Barrington High School and Director of RIIL Golf, to the position of Assistant Chairperson of the Principals’ Committee on Athletics. Mr. Gray replaces James Murano, who has retired as Principal of Westerly High School and as Assistant Chairperson and Director of Football for the Principals’ Committee on Athletics.

#### RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

The Principals’ Committee on Athletics unanimously voted on the following:

- Resignation of Edmond Lemoi as Director of Wrestling - *accepted with regret*
- Resignation of James Murano as Director of Football and Assistant Chairperson of the Principals’ Committee on Athletics - *accepted with regret*
- Appointment of John Craig, Assistant Principal, Mt. Pleasant H.S. as Director of Boys’ Soccer - *unanimously approved*
- Appointed Edward Daft, Principal, East Providence H.S. as Assistant Director of Boys’ Basketball - *unanimously approved*
- Appointed Dr. Elizabeth Mantelli, Principal, Johnston H.S. as Assistant Director of Girls Fastpitch Softball - *unanimously approved*
- Appointed E. Robert Cooney, Assistant Principal, Cranston H.S. East as Director of Football (*previous-Asst. Director of Boys Basketball*) - *unanimously approved*

#### REPORT OF ALIGNMENT COMMITTEE

Mrs. Crowley reported that the RIIL Alignment Committee met on Thursday, August 7, 2003 to discuss criteria for realignment in an effort to prepare for the upcoming [new] four-year alignment for 2004-2008. Members of the Alignment Committee were each assigned several sports to review and propose a realignment. Overall, the Alignment Committee developed five [5] geographical zones in which to place schools during the season in order to determine if this would provide a good foundation for alignment. For the playoffs, schools would be placed in divisions by enrollment.

Mrs. Crowley stated that the Alignment Committee will meet again on Wednesday, September 10, 2003 to develop a proposed alignment for all sports that will be presented to the Principals Committee on Athletics for its examination and consideration. Upon approval of the proposal by the Principals’ Committee on Athletics, a survey will be sent to all member schools for input and review.

## VOLLEYBALL

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

Mr. Kavanagh presented a proposal whereby scoring in volleyball be changed to the Rally scoring format whereby both the serving and receiving teams may earn points.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved that Rally Scoring to become effective immediately beginning with the 2003-2004 school year. Said approval shall be for boys and girls volleyball.

In another matter, the Principals' Committee discussed the issue of Let Serve whereby the ball remains in play if, when served, it hits the top of the net and continues into the opponent's court.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the Let Serve format to become effective immediately beginning with the 2003-2004 school year. Said approval shall be for boys and girls volleyball.

## FALL SPORTS ISSUES

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

## WINTER SPORTS ISSUES

Mr. Lynch reminded the Directors of all Winter Sports that winter sport schedules are due.

## REVIEW OF ARTICLE 7, SECTION 7

### NON-SCHOOL COMPETITION

At the March 17, 2003 meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics, the Committee voted to change Article 7, Section 7c (Non-school Competition Rule), thus allowing students who play varsity sports for their school(s) to participate in non-school clubs/teams, effective with the start of the 2003-2004 school year.

At this meeting, the Committee discussed how this change affects the 50% rule, which states that, "*Prospective members of a high school club, freshman, junior varsity or varsity team do not comprise in excess of fifty (50%) percent of the active members of the non-school team or athletes on the high school varsity eligibility list are not comprised of members of the non-school team in excess of fifty (50%) of the membership of the non-school team during the next RIIL season for the sport in question. This does not include 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.*"

After a lengthy discussion, the Committee ruled that the 50% Rule as stated above would remain in effect.

## HOCKEY

**Mr. Daniel Sheehan**

Mr. Lynch reported on a problem that has arisen relative to the use of the Rhode Island Sports Center and the Cranston Arena. The insurance company for both rinks has required that the RIIL sign a contract for each arena. The Rhode Island Sports Center contract has been reviewed by the League's attorney who has advised the League not to sign it. It is too restrictive,

places more liability on the League, and totally changes the way the League has been doing business with the rinks.

The Cranston Arena contract, which has also been reviewed by the League's attorney, is less restrictive and does not change how we do business with all rinks.

At this point, it appears we will not be utilizing the Rhode Island Sports Center for girls and boys hockey games. Mr. Lynch and the League's attorney will meet with representatives from the Cranston Arena to try to salvage our ties with them.

In other business, Mr. Sheehan reported on the hockey realignment. He stated that the most competitive schools not presently in the championship division do not want to compete against the 'power' teams; i.e., Bishop Hendricken, LaSalle, and Mt. St. Charles. Mr. Lynch and Mr. Sheehan will meet with the Presidents, Principals, and Athletic Directors of the aforementioned schools to initiate the process of rectifying some of the problems that exist; i.e., uncontrolled scores (running up the scores), emotions, etc.

Mr. Sheehan also reported that the 2003-2004 hockey schedule is being developed and should be ready shortly.

- ***RIIL Budget 2003-2004***

Mr. Lynch submitted the results of the meeting with the RIIL Budget Sub-Committee along with the proposed 2003-2004 budget for the Committee's perusal and consideration. He reviewed the proposed budget, as compared to previous years, and informed the Committee of the status of the RIIL's investments.

After a lengthy discussion, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the proposed RIIL budget for the 2003-2004 school year along with the following recommendations of the Budget Committee:

Increase ticket price from \$4.00 to \$5.00 for ***all*** quarterfinal and semifinal games

- ***Football*** – no presale and share by schools for the Superbowls

- ***Basketball*** no reduced price tickets sold at schools for finals

\*\*Approximate increase in income from these recommendations = \$19,112.00

Look at possible increase in fees for non-revenue sports beginning with the 2004-2005 school year

- ***Hockey***

- Ticket price for all regular season, quarterfinal, and semifinal games be set at \$4.00

- Advance sales of (\$3.00) tickets at participating schools be discontinued

- Schools will not share in revenue for regular season and playoffs

HEARINGS

3:20 pm

***Alpha Mamadou Camara  
Woonsocket High School***

*Background:* This is an appeal of the decision of the Waiver Hearing Committee on Tuesday, August 12, 2003 to deny the request for a waiver of Article 3, Section 4A, the Age Rule – **denied**.

3:45pm

***Stephen W. LaDuke, Jr.  
Tolman High School***

*Background:* This is an appeal of the decision of the Waiver Hearing Committee on Tuesday, August 19, 2003 to deny the request for a waiver of Article 3, Section 4c, the 8-Semester Rule – **granted**.

***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 August meeting of the Principals' Committee on  
Athletics was adjourned at 4:15 pm.***

---

---

***“Don’t let your wins go to your head...  
Don’t let your losses go to your heart.”***

---

---

➤ **FOR YOUR PLANNING** ◀

• ***Winter Interpretation Meeting Dates*** •

**Wrestling**

Tuesday, October 14, 2003  
7:00 pm  
Warwick Veterans High School

**Girls Indoor Track**

Tuesday, October 14, 2003  
6:30 pm  
RIIL Office

**Boys Indoor Track**

Thursday, October 16, 2003  
7:00 pm  
RIIL Office

**Girls Basketball**

Tuesday, October 21, 2003  
6:30 pm  
RIIL Office

**Boys Hockey**

Tuesday, October 21, 2003  
6:30 pm  
Bishop Hendricken High School

**Gymnastics**

Thursday, October 23, 2003  
7:00 pm  
RIIL Office  
(Individuals Also)

**Swimming**

Thursday, October 23, 2003  
6:30pm  
RIIL Office  
(Individuals Also)

**Boys Basketball**

Thursday, October 23, 2003  
6:30pm  
Johnson & Wales University  
(Harborside Campus)

**Girls Hockey**

Thursday, October 30, 2003  
6:30 pm  
RIIL Office

*The RIIL is Proud to Recognize  
its Corporate Sponsors*

BADEN ATHLETIC BALLS

Bob's Stores

Brinz

Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island

CVS Downtown 5K

Empire Corporate Federal Credit Union

Legg Mason

Martin Screeen 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*