

**FROM THE DESK OF ...
The Executive Director**

For the fourth consecutive year, a bill [House Bill 2000 H-6935] has been introduced in the General Assembly that, if passed, would permit students who attend a private school to participate as a member of a public school team if their private school does not field a team in that sport.

16-40-17, Participation by private school students in public school sports program states, *“Any student attending a private elementary or secondary school within the state and the student wishes to participate and compete as a member of a school sports team, and the private school does not sponsor, field or maintain a team in that sport, may participate and compete on a team sponsored, fielded or maintained by the public school that said student would be eligible to attend without charge because of his or her residency in a city or town. The student may compete on the team without payment of any fees other than those fees required of a student enrolled in the public school. The private school student shall be subject to the same rules, regulations, and obligations applicable to all public school students. The provisions of this section shall apply only to those sports for which a league is sponsored by the Rhode Island Interscholastic League.”*

This is a very dangerous bill that has far reaching ramifications if passed. As stated by John Gillooly, sportswriter for *The Providence Journal*, “...the bill endangers one of the most important aspects of high school sports. High School sports is a part of a student’s complete education process, not just free agency athletics.”

The RIIL is an association of public, private, and parochial high school principals who pledge their high schools and participants to follow the Rules and Regulations of the League. If there are problems with a student-athlete’s conduct, eligibility, or attendance, the League deals with the Principal of the school in which the student-athlete is enrolled. Principals have complete control of a student-athlete’s education, from the classroom to the playing field. With this bill, the Principal of the public school for which the student-athlete participates would have no jurisdiction over the private school student-athlete.

It has been upheld in court throughout the United States that it is not a right to participate in athletics. This bill creates a right for the private school student-athlete.

As you can see, there are many ramifications associated with this bill. As in the past three (3) years, the RIIL will closely monitor this bill. If a hearing is held, the RIIL will testify against it.

Mr. Magarian and I met with representatives of the Northern Rhode Island Wolves Girls’ Ice Hockey Association to discuss the possibilities of girls’ ice hockey as a RIIL sport. This organization is establishing a girls-only youth league for children between the ages of 8-13. The organization will be looking to convince area school districts to add girls’ ice hockey as a varsity sport in time for the year 2001. A League such as this would provide young ladies with yet another way to grow athletically and sociably and to attain the values that boys have derived from athletics for so many years.

As always, the position of the RIIL is that if there are enough schools (4-6) that wish to start a league in any given sport, the RIIL will sponsor the sport.

* * * * *

**To laugh often and love much; to win the respect
of intelligent persons and the affection of children;
to earn the approbation of honest citizens
and endure the betrayal of false friends;
to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others;
to give of one’s self;
to leave the world a bit better, whether by a
healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed
social condition;
to have played and laughed with enthusiasm
and sung with exultation;
to know even one life has breathed easier
because you have lived;
...this is to have succeeded.**

Ralph Waldo Emerson

**COACHES TRAINING PROGRAM:
Fueling the Growing Athlete**

The R. I. Team Nutrition Training Institute at Kids First is working in partnership with Dr. Kathleen Laquale to develop and deliver a first-ever intensive training program for R. I. coaches on the topic of Sports Nutrition. Dr. Laquale, with the assistance of Johnson & Wales Chef Instructor, Adam Sacks, will present a full day training program for coaches at no cost. [However, a \$15.00 deposit is required to hold each spot and will be returned upon attendance at this workshop].

In the back of this bulletin, you will find a flyer/registration form regarding this training program. This workshop will be held on Saturday, March 11, 2000 from 8:30 am – 3:00 pm at the Harborside Campus of Johnson & Wales University.

Please take the time to copy this flyer and place one in each of your coaches' mailboxes and please encourage them to attend this program. Sign-ups are limited and are first-come first-served.

* * * * *

Communication Skills

"The Lord gave us two ears and one mouth because he wants us to listen twice as much as we speak."

* * * * *

NATIONAL SPORTSMANSHIP DAY

The Institute for International Sport and the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports have designated March 7, 2000 at the tenth annual National Sportsmanship Day (NSD). Last year, over 12,000 schools in all 50 states and 101 countries participated in National Sportsmanship Day's "Dare to Play Fair" program. The 2000 National Sportsmanship Day will be celebrated by elementary, middle and high schools, as well as colleges and universities. With your help, we plan to increase this year's participation to over 14,000 schools as well as reach a more diverse group of students and schools. Listed below is information which will provide you with a clear understanding of this event and the importance of your role to implement this important day throughout our state.

Media images serve as a constant reminder of the poor state of sportsmanship that exists today, from youth programs to professional sports. The Institute for International Sport, a non-profit organization based at The University of Rhode Island, established NSD in 1991 to promote appreciation of the critical role of *ethics, honesty, peaceful conflict resolution and fair play* in athletics and society through student-athlete outreach programs, essay and poster contests, coaches' forums and other activities aimed at furthering the principles of sportsmanship and ethics. As a leader of academics and athletics, you have the ability to involve thousands of individuals across the state in the educational promotion of ethics and sportsmanship. In 2000, the state with the most new participants will be recognized in a national press release sent out by the Institute.

WHAT?

National Sportsmanship Day serves as a forum for administrators, coaches, student-athletes, parents and fans to discuss the issues of ethics, fair play and sportsmanship. The program involves the participation of colleges, universities, high schools, middle schools, and elementary schools throughout the United States and the world.

WHY?

National Sportsmanship Day was conceived to create an awareness of issues related to sportsmanship in athletics and daily life, as well as to stimulate meaningful dialogue among school administrators, coaches, teachers, and students.

WHEN?

National Sportsmanship Day takes place annually and this year will be held on Tuesday, March 7, 2000.

WHERE?

National Sportsmanship Day will be held at over 12,000 schools and institutions across the country and around the world.

HOW?

National Sportsmanship Day can take place at your school by registering at www.internationalsport.com. Once registered, you will be mailed an official NSD informational packet in mid-winter. Your packet will include: role-playing scenarios, sportsmanship websites, sports quotes, discussion questions, and many more activities!

* * * * *

"Contrary to the opinion of many people, leaders are not born. Leaders are made, and they are made by effort and hard work."

Vince Lombardi

* * * * *

NO PASS, NO PLAY

A "No Pass, No Play" policy has been adopted in varying forms by 16 states, but the underlying premise is the same: students with failing grades are barred from participating in extracurricular activities for a set period of time (ranging from several weeks to an entire grading period). Proponents argue that this time is needed for students to concentrate on their schoolwork and improve their grades. These supporters maintain that academics should be the students' highest priority and that the eligibility rules provide a deterrent to student-athletes inclined to ignore their class work. Detractors, however, contend that the punishment is too harsh; that it negatively affects at-risk students by eliminating one of their primary incentives for continuing in school; and that it discourages students, particularly marginal ones, from selecting challenging academic courses.

The issue of eligibility has become more divisive because of the benefits athletics and school activities impart upon students. There are those who believe that academics and school activities are intertwined and that neither component should be denied a student. participation in youth sports, they note, can have many benefits for the individual and for society in general. The evidence is compelling, they point

out, that participation in school sports is a protective factor against delinquency, gang membership, and other risk behaviors, particularly among low-income youth. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services found in 1995 that students who spend no time in extracurricular activities are:

- 57% more likely to have dropped out of school by the time they would have been seniors;
- 49% more likely to have used drugs;
- 37% more likely to have become teen parents;
- 35% more likely to have smoked cigarettes; and
- 27% more likely to have been arrested

than those who spend one to four hours per week in extracurricular activities. In addition, sports participants have better school attendance rates, and they are less likely to carry weapons or attempt suicide.

At their best, sports programs promote responsible social behaviors and greater academic success, confidence in one's physical abilities, an appreciation of personal health and fitness, and strong social bonds with individuals and institutions. Participation in extracurricular activities enhances social bonding by increasing opportunities for students to feel a sense of belonging and attachment.

On the other hand, many educators consider extracurricular activities a privilege and not a right. Along those lines, states have begun looking at linking other adolescent privileges to academic performance. Seventeen states have adopted some form of a "No Pass, No Drive" policy to suspend or refuse a driver's license to any student who drops out of school or is failing.

Reprinted from the National Association of State Boards of Education Policy Update, July 1999

* * * * *

Axiom: "Inches make the Champion, and a Champion makes his own luck."

Vince Lombardi

* * * * *

DUNLAP INDUSTRIES

Dunlap Industries has protective gym floor covers and baseball infield covers available to schools for the net cost of the material and hem on the outer edge. Shipping costs are free.

3 sections 30'x60' [60x90] covers basketball court
4 sections 40'x50' [80x100] covers total gym floor
3 sections 50'x150' [150x150] covers baseball infield

To order, contact: Richard Kraft @ 530-272-2206.

* * * * *

Who's Responsible?



It is not unusual for the State Associations to receive reports from coaches and athletic directors to the effect that the officials "let the game get completely out of hand."

Who really lets a game get out of hand? Who is held responsible for unsportsmanlike acts on the floor or field? On this point, association rules are quite clear. It is the responsibility of the schools and the schools representatives to maintain the highest ethics of good attitudes and good sportsmanship. The officials can only inflict penalties and, if occasion demands, eject players from the game. This authority is not always enough to insure sportsmanlike attitudes.

To be sure, a competent official, one who has the know-how and the courage to call a game the way it should be called, can sometimes by the sheer force of his personality keep the game from becoming a brawl. Yet, there are situations where a coach must intervene. As soon as a coach sees one of his players lose his temper or otherwise conduct himself in an unsportsmanlike manner, he should replace this player at the first opportunity. This should be done not only to prevent the possibility of game deterioration, but because a player in this state will seldom play good ball and may cause his team to be penalized.

Quite often a conference with the coach will cause the disturbed player to settle down and regain his composure after which he might be permitted to reenter. If, thereafter, his conduct has not improved, he should be withdrawn permanently. **No coach has a right to expect an official to serve as a disciplinarian.** *Instilling right attitudes and controlling the emotions of players under his direction remains the coach's prime responsibility and his precious privilege.*

This matter of keeping a game under control is the joint responsibility of the coach and the officials. The responsibility thus places coach and official on the same side. **Any actions on the part of a coach which would indicate to the spectators that he must "defend and protect" his players against the officials is looking for cheap sympathy and maybe, furthermore, inciting a riot.** The official who is inconsistent, hesitant, inefficient and lacking in courage increases the problems of the coach as he tries to keep his players on an even keel.

With coach and official presenting a united front and giving the impression of working toward a common goal, no game should ever get out of hand.

Reprinted from the Texas Interscholastic Leaguer

**A PARENT TALKS TO A CHILD
BEFORE THE FIRST GAME**

This is your first game, my child. I hope you win.
I hope you win for your sake, not mine.
Because winning's nice.
It's a good feeling.
Like the whole world is yours.
But it passes, this feeling.
And what lasts is what you've learned.
That's what sports is all about. Life.
The whole thing is played out in an afternoon.
The happiness of life.
The miseries. The joys. The heartbreaks.
There's no telling what'll turn up.
There's no telling whether they'll toss you out
in the first five minutes or whether you'll stay
for the long haul.
There's no telling how you'll do.
You might be a hero or you might be absolutely
nothing.
There's just no telling.
Too much depends on chance.
On how the ball bounces.
I'm not talking about the game, my child.
I'm talking about life. But it's life that the game is
all about.
Just as I said. Because every game is life.
And life is a game. A serious game. Dead serious.
But that's what you do with serious things.
You do your best. You take what comes. And you
run with it.
Winning is fun. Sure. But winning is not the point.
Wanting to win is the point.
Not giving up is the point.
Never being satisfied with what you've done is the
point.
Never letting up is the point.
Play to win. Sure. But lose like a champion.
Because its not winning that counts.
What counts is trying.

*Reprinted from Wooden: A Lifetime of Observations and
Reflections On and Off the Court
by John Wooden and Steve Jamison*

the tools we can provide to allow learning to take place. They need pride, self-esteem, career goals, academic success, etc. But, more than anything else, what kids need are *adults who care*.

The single most important factor that will determine the success of students, is if they know the teacher cares about them. The subject is usually not enough to inspire students to be successful on their own. Peer pressure may or may not be a factor. Parental involvement certainly helps. But, if you as a teacher or administrator have created a positive bond with a student that clearly says, "*I care about you,*" they will work to maintain that bond.

When we take the time to get to know individual students, call them by name and regularly connect with them, we are establishing a bond. Now it is up to us to communicate what we expect from these children. A student may not complete their homework or regularly come to school on time because they think it is important. Although they may be very likely to carry through with these positive behaviors because *we* think it is important. When a bond has been established with a positive adult, students are more likely to do their homework and come to school on time because they do not wish to break that bond.

My teachers will hear the same message each year at the start of the school year retreat. We make it a practice to always discuss caring. Classroom teachers can become consumed by the curriculum, timelines and academic achievement. Our focus becomes so narrow that we overlook the obvious. We must first establish a caring rapport (the groundwork) for our youngsters before we can begin with academic instruction. When students feel that we care, they will be successful and begin developing positive character traits and take on appropriate responsibilities. If they won't do it for themselves, make them do it for you; because *they know you care*.

* * * * *

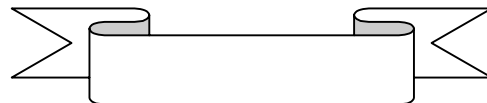
* * * * *



DO WE REALLY CARE?

*Glen J. Suppes, Principal
Hillsboro High School, Kansas*

The young people in your buildings have needs for a great many things. Yes, they need a safe environment in which to learn. Of course they need



The following is a summary of the January 24, 2000 meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics:

The January meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was called to order at 1:40 pm.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Executive Director's Report was approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report was approved. Ms. Hale reported that two (2) schools have not yet paid their 1999-2000 dues and fees to the R. I. Interscholastic League.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the following: a two (2) week period shall be granted to the two (2) schools that have not yet paid their dues and fees. If at the end of the two (2) week period, payment has not been received, there shall be no officials assigned to any contests for said schools.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Lynch referred to several memoranda and publications which were placed in member's folders or filed in the League office.

Mr. Lynch reported that the following awards are being presented by the R. I. Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women and the URI Athletic Dept. at the URI women's basketball game on Saturday, January 29, 2000: **1999 R. I. Interscholastic Female Coach of the Year** – Melissa Lipa, Head Girls' Indoor Track Coach, Mt. Pleasant H.S.; **[RIAGWS] A. Lenore Cranston Award** – Susan McNamara, Director, RIIL Girls' Gymnastics.

APPOINTMENT OF GIRLS' SOCCER DIRECTOR

The Committee unanimously voted to appoint Mrs. Kathryn Crowley as Director of Girls' Soccer, a position previously held by Jane Hale, who retired in November 1999.

FOOTBALL

Mr. Thomas Mezzanotte
Mr. James Murano

Mr. Lynch detailed the 1999 Football Playoff and Superbowl financial report. He stated that the Interscholastic League realized an increase in revenue over past years. The [financial] report will be distributed to the Football Committee at its next meeting on February 2nd.

BASKETBALL

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

Mr. Foley reported that the Joint (Boys and Girls) Basketball Committee met and developed a proposed realignment for boys' and girls' basketball. The proposed realignment survey will be sent to all participating schools for review/comment. The deadline for returning the survey is Friday, February 11th.

Mr. Lynch reported that the Division I [boys and girls] Basketball Finals at The Providence Civic Center on Saturday, March 18, 2000 will be broadcast live on radio station 790 The Score.

HOCKEY

Mr. Daniel Sheehan

Mr. Sheehan reported that he will be scheduling a meeting of the Hockey Alignment Committee in the near future. He also reported that North Providence High School has requested to move up from Class C to Class B.

In other business, Mr. Sheehan requested a change to the playoff structure. Presently, all eight (8) teams in Met A and eight (8) of the twelve (12) teams in Class B are eligible for participation in the playoffs. Mr. Sheehan is proposing that all (eight) teams in Class C become eligible for the playoffs, thereby creating a quarterfinal round. Further, this structure would eliminate a period of two (2) weeks without competition.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics voted 9-1 to approve the proposed [hockey] playoff structure granting [playoff] eligibility to all eight (8) teams in Class C.

In other business, Mr. Lynch reported that he and Mr. Magarian will be meeting on February 2nd with representatives from the Northern Rhode Island Wolves Girls' Ice Hockey Association regarding the possibility of a girls' hockey league.

WRESTLING

Mr. Edmond Lemoi

Mr. Lemoi reported that the Wrestling Committee has met to discuss realignment. He will report on the proposed realignment at the next meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics on March 9th.

GYMNASTICS

There was no report in Gymnastics at this meeting.

SWIMMING

Mr. Kenneth Reall

Mr. Reall distributed the most current standings. He reported that the [annual] Max Read Invitational Swim Meet, sponsored by the R. I. Swim Coaches Association, will be held on February 5, 2000 at Attleboro High School.

Mr. Reall stated that work is underway on next year's alignment. Beginning with the 2000-2001 school year, swim will be divided into two (2) leagues --- a boys' league and a girls' league.

In other business, Mr. Reall reported that [Speedo] swim goggles which are presently used by several swimmers are in violation of the NFHS rules, which state that a logo may be no more than 1 ½" square and that there shall not be multiple logos on any high

school athletic equipment. The [Speedo] logo appears on the goggle's bridge and strap.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved to allow multiple logos for goggles only.

INDOOR TRACK

There was no report in Indoor Track at this meeting.

TENNIS

Mrs. Kathryn Crowley

Mrs. Crowley reported on the proposed girls' tennis alignment. Ponaganset H.S., East Greenwich H.S., and St. Mary Academy-Bay View have moved up to Class A. Their overall four-year record indicates that they can be competitive in Class A. The teams in Class A will play each other once and cross over twice; the teams in Class(es) B and C will play each other twice. The proposed alignment survey will be sent to all participating schools with a February 8th deadline for responses.

In other business, Mrs. Crowley reported that there is an ongoing problem of coaches not attending the playoff meeting. This makes it difficult to set the ladder(s) for the playoffs. This matter was tabled for review by the Tennis Committee.

OUTDOOR TRACK

Mr. Robert Littlefield

Mr. Lynch reported that Brown University will host the RIIL State Outdoor Track meet on June 3, 2000.

In other business, an officials' fee structure was discussed. On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the following fee structure: for the RIIL State Meet, there shall be thirty-five (35) officials. Fees shall be paid in accordance with a 3-tier program categorizing the fee for each tier along with the responsibility of each official in each category.

CROSS COUNTRY

There was no report in Cross Country at this meeting.

BASEBALL

Mr. Martin Biancuzzo

Mr. Lynch reported that the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) has implemented a new bat rule to become effective in the 2000-2001 school year. However, the Interscholastic League follows American League baseball rules and not NFHS rules. Mr. Biancuzzo will discuss this matter with the Baseball Committee.

GOLF

Mr. John Gray

Mr. Gray reported that participation in Golf has expanded to forty (40) teams this year. Chariho High School has joined the [golf] League and has been placed in the Eastern Division.

Mr. Gray presented the 2000 Golf Schedule for review and approval.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the 2000 Golf Schedule.

FASTPITCH SOFTBALL

Mrs. Elizabeth Marquis

Mr. Magarian distributed the proposed 2000 Fastpitch Softball schedule for review and approval. This schedule represents the first year of a new four-year alignment. Due to the increase in the number of teams participating in fastpitch softball, the fastpitch softball alignment has been divided into two divisions.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the 2000 Fastpitch Softball Schedule.

VOLLEYBALL

Mrs. Patricia Pitocchi

Ms. Elaine Botelho

Mrs. Pitocchi reported that the Joint Volleyball Committee has met and has developed a proposal to be sent to all participating schools. She will report the findings to the Principals' Committee on Athletics at its March 9th meeting.

Ms. Botelho distributed the proposed 2000 Girls' Volleyball schedule for review and approval. She reported that the playoff dates are tentative based upon graduation dates for schools that may be participating in the playoffs.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the 2000 Girls' Volleyball Schedule.

MEETING DATE(S)

It was proposed that the previously scheduled March 20th meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics be rescheduled for March 9th. Inasmuch as the proposed reschedule date is considerably earlier in the month, it was further proposed that the February 28th meeting be cancelled.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the change in meeting date(s).