

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

USE OF SCHOOL EQUIPMENT DURING THE SUMMER

Prin cipals and Athletic Directors are reminded that school equipment may not be loaned out for use during the summer months by students in your schools. The loaning of equipment is not only a violation of the policy of the Interscholastic league, but opens the schools and their administrators and coaches to serious liability risks in the event that the student borrowing the equipment or others who might use it are injured in using the equipment. Violations are not only subject to the penalties listed in Article 6 of the Rules and Regulations but also to potential suits. The fact that the equipment was borrowed in violation of the league policy might be the very reason a court might find you negligent and award substantial damages in a negligent liability suit. The insurance policies of most schools do not provide coverage for the use of equipment during the summer months. Such use could well weaken the equipment and, when used for school activities in the Fall, the weakened state could result in serious injuries to players and be the subject of a Kelly Fiske type of suit. In addition, the League's legal counsel maintains that the loaning of equipment that is owned by a public school without permission of the school committee could well be a violation of several criminal statutes that restrict use of publicly-owned equipment for private use. For all of these reasons, administrators should make certain that no school equipment is loaned out for summer use.

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NOTICE

RIIL SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Office Closed – Monday, July 3, 2000
Office Reopens – Monday, July 31, 2000

Regular office hours resume on
Monday, July 31, 2000

8:00 am – 3:30 pm

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SPECIAL THANKS TO MEMBER SCHOOLS

As the 1999-2000 school year draws to a close, we wish to express our sincere appreciation for another year of great cooperation and support from all of the member schools. A special thank you to all who have given their time and efforts to serve on the Principals' Committee on Athletics, various sub-committees, and for assisting the League by your lending your professional expertise and providing your much appreciated suggestions. The success of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League is predicated on your involvement and strong leadership skills.

Thank you for joining with us to provide quality athletic programs for the student-athletes who represent our member schools.

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REMINDER ...

August 2000 ... *All* eligibility lists must be submitted to the League office electronically. **NO HARD COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THIS DATE.**

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PRINCIPALS'/ATHLETIC DIRECTORS' CONFERENCE

The Fourth Annual Principals' / Assistant Principals'/ Athletic Directors' Conference will be held on **Wednesday, August 23, 2000, from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm at the League office.** Lunch will be provided.

This year, we encourage you to invite the secretary/clerk in your building who is responsible for completing and maintaining the 'mounds' of paperwork for the athletic department.

An agenda and registration form will be sent to each Principal in early August.

Please mark this date on your calendar and make every effort to attend. This is your organization and your involvement is necessary, encouraged, and respected.

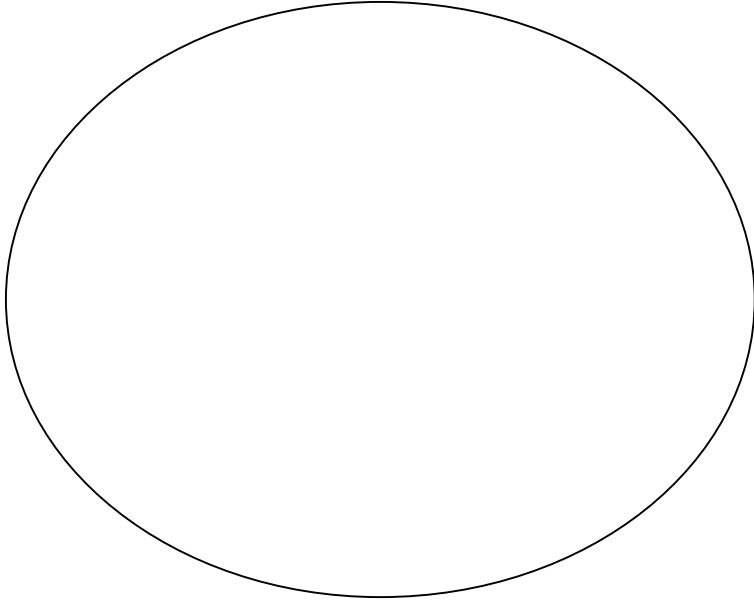
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A NEW AND EXCITING PROGRAM FOR THE RIIL AND ITS MEMBER SCHOOLS

- The RIIL has entered into a partnership with iHigh.com to provide a Rhode Island based web site to promote RIIL related sports and activities.
- The site can be found at www.rhodeisland.ihigh.com or by going to the RIIL home page, www.riil.org and clicking onto the iHigh.com link.
- The site is just getting started but will grow and evolve significantly over the next couple of months. The site's theme is "For Students, About Students, By Students."
- As part of the program, every high school under the RIIL umbrella can have a free, automated, state-of-the-art web site. We are just starting to activate the high school web sites. To date, eleven Rhode Island high schools have been activated.
- iHigh.com offers great opportunities for students who like to write or just want to voice an opinion on an important subject. Where else can students write a story and have it published nationally?

- iHigh.com is partnering with, and sponsoring, organizations all over the country to spread the word and build an audience.
- iHigh.com is proud to be in partnership with the RIIL and is excited about providing internet-based opportunities for the students of Rhode Island.

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PRE-PARTICIPATION PHYSICAL FORM

Enclosed with this bulletin is the RIIL physical exam form that is recommended for use by all member schools. Please feel free to copy the form and distribute it appropriately. You can also download this form on the RIIL web site, www.riil.org.

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<p>→ <u>2000-01 NATIONAL TEST DATES</u> ←</p> <p><u>ACT Assessment</u> October 28, 2000 December 9, 2000 February 10, 2001 April 7, 2001 June 9, 2001</p> <p><u>SAT</u> October 14, 2000 November 4, 2000 December 2, 2000 January 27, 2001 March 31, 2001 May 5, 2001 June 2, 2001</p> <p><u>Advanced Placement</u> May 7-18, 2001</p> <p><u>PSAT/NMSQT</u> October 17, 2000 October 21, 2000</p>
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"No one has a finer command of the language than the person who keeps his mouth shut."

Sam Rayburn

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KEYS TO SUCCESS

A winning attitude means better conditioning and better preparation. It means having the confidence to know that in easy or tough situations, you'll make the right decision for you and for your teammates. It's also that aura about you --- no matter if you are outspoken or shy. It's your look, the way you walk, and how you perform. The mindset of a winner is a great asset to have working for you. It's essential that you develop this part of your game and feel comfortable about your efforts. Many of the top players have an extraordinary mentality. Through hard work and extra effort, they have become superstars.

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The following is a summary of the Principals' Committee on Athletics April 24th meeting:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Executive Director's Report was approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's report was approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Lynch referred to several letters and publications which had been placed in each member's folder or filed in the League office.

FOOTBALL

**Mr. Thomas Mezzanotte
 Mr. James Murano**

Mr. Mezzanotte reported that a meeting of all Principals, Athletic Directors, and Head Football Coaches was held on Monday, April 10, 2000 to explain and discuss the criteria used in the proposed football alignment.

On motions made and seconded, the Principals' Committee unanimously approved the following: the

proposed football alignment for 2000-2003; the 2000 Football Challenge Cup schedule; and, the 2000-01 football schedule.

The issue of the Football Officials' Evaluation was tabled to the May meeting.

FIELD HOCKEY **Ms. Jean Angell**

Ms. Angell stated that the Field Hockey realignment survey results had been tabulated. Subsequently, Ms. Angell distributed copies of the proposed alignment, which will consist of two (2) divisions with ten (10) teams in each division.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the proposed Field Hockey alignment. The Committee also approved [in advance] the 2000-01 Field Hockey schedule to be distributed to participating schools upon completion of the schedule.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee also unanimously approved the proposed rule(s) change for Field Hockey: *"If a team is ahead by five (5) or more goals, the clock will not stop after a goal is scored."*

In other business, Ms. Angell reported that there are very few neutral sites with lights that are available to host night games. She is in the process of trying to secure alternate sites for the playoffs.

Ms. Angell also reported that the Field Hockey Coaches Interpretation Meeting will be held on Monday, June 19, 2000 at the League office. This meeting will be the first in which field hockey coaches' and officials will meet at the same time.

Mr. Lynch reported on a request from North Kingstown High School for its Field Hockey Team to participate in a Field Hockey tournament at Greenhill School, Dallas, TX on September 22-23, 2000.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved the request.

HOCKEY

Mr. Lynch reported on the following 1999-2000 Hockey Championships as submitted by Daniel Sheehan, Director, RIIL Hockey:

Division Championships

Championship Division	LaSalle Academy
Metropolitan B	Cumberland H.S.
Metropolitan C	Portsmouth H.S.

State Championships

State Champion	Mt. St. Charles Acad.
[23 rd consecutive state championship]	
Finalist	LaSalle Academy
Metropolitan B	Ponaganset H.S.
Finalist	Cumberland H.S.

Metropolitan C Finalist	Providence Country Day School Portsmouth High School
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Mr. Lynch submitted the proposed 2000-2004 Hockey Alignment, which was unanimously approved by the Principals' Committee on Athletics.

In other business, Mr. Lynch submitted for approval the following proposed Hockey rule(s) changes [Article 19]:

Section 1. **RULES**

D. The penalty schedule is as follows:

- 1. 12-minute periods (Divisions B & C)**
Minor 1 ½ minutes
Major 4 minutes
Misconduct 6 minutes
- 2. 15-minute periods (Championship Division and all Playoffs)**
Minor 2 minutes
Major 5 minutes
Misconduct 7 ½ minutes
- 3. Game Misconduct –** A player is out of the game and the next scheduled League game. (will not count toward season disqualification)
- 4. Game Disqualification –** A player is out of the game and the next scheduled League game (counts toward game disqualification)

H. **DELETE**

I. **DELETE**

P. **DELETE**

P.1 **DELETE**

Section 2. **SCHEDULE/GAMES**

DELETE – ...twelve (12) minute ... 3rd sentence should read: Each regular match will consist of three (3) periods.

Section 5. **PLAYOFFS**

C. 2nd sentence should read: ... If a tie then exists, a 7 ½ minute sudden death overtime period will follow.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved the proposed rule(s) changes.

Additionally, the Principals' Committee on Athletics requested that the following two issues be sent back to the Hockey Committee for further review:

- In the Class B Division, the Committee has asked the Hockey Committee to reconsider the 40% rule to qualify for the playoffs. This is contingent on rink availability.
- The Committee has also asked the Hockey Committee to consider single elimination for the hockey playoffs.

SOCCER

**Mrs. Kathryn Crowley
Mr. Victor Mercurio**

Mrs. Crowley submitted for approval the proposed 4-year girls' soccer realignment and the 2000-01 girls' soccer schedule. Mrs. Crowley stated that requests from North Smithfield High School and LaSalle Academy to move up were approved. However, the requests from Narragansett High School and St. Raphael Academy to move down were denied.

On a motion made and seconded, the proposed girls' soccer 4-year alignment and the 2000-01 schedule were approved.

In other business, Mrs. Crowley reported that the Girls' Soccer Coaches' Interpretation Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 15, 2000 at the League office.

In Boys' Soccer, Mr. Mercurio submitted for approval the proposed 2000-01 boys' soccer schedule, which was unanimously approved by the Committee.

In other business, Mr. Mercurio reported that the Boys' Soccer Coaches' Interpretation Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 7, 2000 at the League office.

WRESTLING

Mr. Edmond Lemoi

Mr. Lemoi reported that the Wrestling Committee is continuing work on a 4-year alignment. He will submit the proposed wrestling alignment for approval at the May meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics.

SWIMMING

Mr. Richard Magarian

Mr. Magarian reported that the proposed 4-year alignment and the 2000-01 boys' and girls' swimming schedules will be submitted for approval at the May meeting of the Committee on Athletics.

BASKETBALL

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

Mr. Foley reported that a *final* survey regarding the proposed 4-year boys' basketball alignment was sent to all schools. The deadline for responses is May 3, 2000. Mr. Foley and Ms. Neal will report the

findings to the Committee on Athletics at its May meeting.

Mr. Magarian reported that a proposed 4-year girls' basketball alignment was also sent to all participating schools.

GOLF

Mr. John Gray

Mr. Gray reported that the Golf Realignment Committee has met twice. The present alignment of four (4) ten-team divisions does not work well in that only the top three (3) teams of each division qualify for the playoffs. The Golf Committee is presently considering a five (5) division alignment – North, South, East, West, Central – which will work out well geographically for all participating schools.

Mr. Gray will report back to the Committee on Athletics at its May meeting.

BASEBALL

Mr. Lynch reported that the Baseball Realignment Committee is continuing to meet.

In other business, Mr. Lynch addressed the issue of a new Bat Rule which is being implemented by the National Federation of State High School Associations. It is anticipated that this rule will be adopted by the Principals' Committee on Athletics at its May meeting, which will afford member schools sufficient time to budget allowances for new equipment for the 2000-2001 school year.

VOLLEYBALL

Ms. Elaine Botelho

Ms. Botelho reported that Ms. Pitocchi will submit the 2000-2001 boys' volleyball schedule to the Principals' Committee on Athletics for its approval at its May meeting.

OUTDOOR TRACK

There was no Outdoor Track report at this time.

SOFTBALL

Mrs. Elizabeth Marquis

Mrs. Marquis reported that she has received a request from the Rhode Island Softball Coaches' Association to sponsor a Senior Game in which each participant would play three (3) innings.

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

In other business, the Committee discussed the issue of an increase in schools changing from slowpitch softball to fastpitch softball. Presently, there are sixteen (16) schools that participate in slowpitch softball, two of which also participate in fastpitch softball. Dr. Gary Spemullo, Chairperson, Committee on Junior High Athletics, reported that his Committee no longer offers slowpitch softball. This

may have an impact on high school slowpitch softball in that the number of feeder programs will diminish.

This matter was tabled for further review.

LACROSSE

Mr. Lynch reminded the Committee that Declarations of Intent for the 2000-01 school year have been sent to all member schools and that the RIIL will be officiating boys' and girls' lacrosse beginning in the Spring 2000-01. The RIIL Rules and Regulations state that there must be six (6) or more schools interested in a sport in order for the League to offer the sport to all member schools. However, it was suggested that the League consider offering the sport even if less than six (6) schools express interest. It is the consensus of the Committee that the popularity of the sport will grow, thus generating an increase in interest in lacrosse.

There are presently five (5) member schools which have boys' lacrosse teams participating on a club basis. In their opinion, participation in lacrosse does not detract interest in other spring sports; i.e., baseball, track, etc.

The deadline for submission of Declarations of Intent is June 2nd. The issue of a RIIL-sponsored lacrosse league will be reviewed and discussed at a later meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics.

TENNIS

**Mr. John Lyle
Mrs. Denise Boule**

Mr. Lyle reported that his visit to the North Smithfield High School tennis courts revealed that the courts are in a serious state of disrepair and, therefore, cannot be used for high school tennis. Kevin Sheehan, Principal, North Smithfield High School, stated that the tennis courts of town operated and that the town has been made aware of the situation.

PRACTICE LIMITATIONS

Mr. Lynch addressed the issue of practice/conditioning limitations for all sports. Presently, Article 7, Section 3, [Limitation of Seasons] of the Rules and Regulations of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League outlines the number of practice/conditioning days which must be observed before scheduling outside scrimmages/contests. However, there are no penalties listed for violation(s) of this rule.

Following a discussion on this matter, the Committee agreed to address any and all violations as they occur and to impose penalties for same as outlined in Article 6 [Penalties] of the Rules and Regulations of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League.

RENAISSANCE GAMES

Mr. Magarian reported that a reception for all Renaissance participants will be hosted by Johnson &

Wales-Harborside facility on Thursday, April 27, 2000. On Saturday and Sunday, April 29-30, 2000, the semifinal rounds will be held. The Championships will be held on Sunday, May 7, 2000 at the University of Rhode Island.

SPRING CONFERENCE

Mr. Magarian reported that the Rhode Island Interscholastic League will again sponsor a Spring conference on Wednesday, May 17, 2000 at Rhode Island College. This is the third Spring conference conducted by the League. This year's conference will address "Diversity, Conflict Resolution, and Leadership/Commitment." A 'team' of nine (9) people from each member school [3 boys; 3 girls; 3 adults] have been invited to attend this day-long program. Following opening remarks, the participants will break into work groups which will address each of the [title] topics.

To date, approximately thirty-five (35) member schools have registered for the conference.

RECRUITMENT OF FEMALE OFFICIALS

Mr. Magarian reported that the Rhode Island Interscholastic League, in collaboration with the state associations from all New England states, has received a \$50,000 grant to recruit female [basketball] officials. Approximately 25-30 women have applied in Rhode Island, of which there is a solid core of fifteen (15).

It is anticipated that this program will serve as a model to recruit female officials in all sports.

ATHLETIC DIRECTORS' ASSOCIATION

Mr. Michael Murphy

Mr. Murphy, President of the R. I. Athletic Directors' Association, reported on the following:

- The Annual Ad's Conference will be held on Thursday, May 11, 2000 at the Providence Holiday Inn. A portion of the agenda will consist of roundtable discussions with representatives from Section I (New England states, New York, and New Jersey) states.
- Craig Blanchard will make a presentation on iHigh.com, a national high school athletics web site, which has recently contracted with the Rhode Island Interscholastic League.
- The R. I. Athletic Directors' Association Executive Board will be writing a letter to *The Providence Journal* regarding the trash talk that is taking place on the *Journal's* website; specifically on the community bulleting board, "Your Two Cents Worth."

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2000-2001

Mr. Lynch submitted a list of proposed 2000-2001 meeting dates for the Principals' Committee on Athletics and for the Waiver Hearing Committee, which were unanimously approved by the

Committee. The Committee further discussed the possibility of eliminating meetings as deemed appropriate according to the issues which must be brought before the Committee.

The April meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

The following is a summary of the Principals' Committee on Athletics May 15th meeting:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Executive Director's Report was approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's report was approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Lynch referred to several letters and publications which had been placed in each member's folder or filed in the League office.

Thomas Mezzanotte, Chairperson of the Principals' Committee on Athletics congratulated the following individuals/schools for awards received at the Annual Athletic Directors' Conference held on May 11, 2000:

<i>PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR</i>	Edmond Lemoi Cranston H. S. West
<i>ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR</i>	Elaine Botelho Middletown H. S.
<i>SCHOOL OF THE YEAR</i>	North Kingstown H. S.

Mr. Mezzanotte also recognized and congratulated Richard Lynch, RIIL Executive Director, who received the inaugural Frank Keaney Award, presented by the Institute for International Sport at the Institute's Annual Hall of Fame Induction Dinner on May 5, 2000.

In other business, Mr. Mezzanotte proposed that the starting time for the June meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics be changed to 2:30 pm from the scheduled time of 1:30 pm. The later time would be more convenient because it is the last day of school for some principals who serve on the Committee.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously *approved* the change of starting time for the June meeting of the Committee.

VOLLEYBALL

**Ms. Elaine Botelho
Mrs. Patricia Pitocchi**

Mrs. Pitocchi discussed the 2000-04 boys' volleyball alignment and the 2000-01 boys' volleyball schedule, both of which were in each member's folder.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics *approved* the 2000-04 boys'

volleyball alignment and the 2000-01 boys' volleyball schedule.

Ms. Botelho reported that a survey has been sent to all [girls' volleyball] participating schools regarding the change of seasons for girls' volleyball. If approved, girls' volleyball would be played in the Fall, as opposed to the present spring schedule. Boys' volleyball would remain in the Fall. This change would become effective at the start of the 2004 school year, which is the end of the existing alignment. The [survey] responses are due in the League office on June 7th. Ms. Botelho will report the findings to the Principals' Committee on Athletics at its June 19th meeting.

In other business, Mr. Lynch reported on a request to move an All-Star Game, conducted by the R. I. Volleyball Coaches Association, from June 9th to June 14th after the end of the regular season.

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

FOOTBALL

**Mr. Thomas A. Mezzanotte
Mr. James Murano**

Mr. Mezzanotte reported on the evaluation system of football officials which has been agreed upon by the Coaches' and Officials' Associations.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously *approved* the system for evaluation football officials and for assigning officials to Superbowl games.

FIELD HOCKEY

Mr. Lynch reported on a request from The Wheeler School seeking permission to loan school equipment to student-athletes for use in summer programs/camps. Discussion ensued regarding the liability issues that could occur if student-athletes use school equipment during the summer months.

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

WRESTLING

Mr. Edmond Lemoi

Mr. Lemoi submitted the proposed 2000-04 wrestling realignment for the Committee's consideration. He reported that the proposed alignment consists of six [6] divisions, and that he has been able to accommodate all requests.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously *approved* the 2000-04 wrestling alignment.

BASKETBALL

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

Mr. Foley reported that a meeting of the Joint Boys' and Girls' Basketball Committee will be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2000. The alignment survey results will be reviewed and discussed at that time, and a 2000-2001 schedule will be developed. Mr. Foley will report back to the Principals' Committee on Athletics at its June 19th meeting.

GOLF

Mr. John Gray

Mr. Gray reported that everything has been finalized for the State Golf Tournament to be held on May 30 (Team) and May 31 (Individual). The Golf Superintendents' Association is donating a sleeve of golf balls to each participant, and iHigh.com is donating golf towels for each participant.

Mr. Magarian reported that the Girls' State Tournament will be held on Monday, June 5th, at the Point Judith Country Club.

BASEBALL

Mr. Lynch reported on the baseball playoff schedule as follows: Saturday, June 10 at 11:00 am and 2:00 pm; Monday, June 12th at 3:30 pm and 6:30 pm; third 'if necessary' games will be played on Tuesday, June 13th – Class B at 3:30 pm and Class A at 6:30 pm; The rain date is June 14th. All games will be played at McCoy Stadium in Pawtucket.

In other business, Mr. Lynch reported on a new bat rule which has been adopted by the National Federation of State High School Associations [NFHS] for the 2001 high school baseball season. The NFHS approved the rule calling for narrower, heavier, and more wood-like bats. The maximum diameter of bats will be reduced from 2 ¾ inches to 2 5/8 inches, and the unit differential, namely the difference between the bat length measured in inches and bat weight measured in ounces, will be reduced from five units to three units.

The new bat rule was adopted by the NFHS to:

- Maintain the balance between the offense and defense.
- Minimize the risk of injury.
- Preserve the tradition of the sport.

The new rule will take effect January 1, 2001. You may use the bats you currently have on inventory through the 2000 season.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously *approved* the adoption of the NFHS bat rule, to become effective January 1, 2001.

Mr. Magarian reported that the Freshman Baseball playoffs will be held at McCarthy Field in West

Warwick on May 30-June 1, 2000. The Championship game will be played on Wednesday, June 7, 2000, also at McCarthy Field.

In other business, Mr. Lynch reported that Chuck Jones, head baseball coach at Cranston High School West, was ejected from a baseball game for unsportsmanlike conduct. When Mr. Jones submitted the Unsportsmanlike Conduct Questionnaire, as required, his responses were sarcastic and disrespectful toward the League and its administration.

On a vote of 11-1, with 1 abstention, the Principals' Committee on Athletics directed Mr. Lynch to contact Mr. Jones and inform him that his response was unacceptable and that, if he did not change the answers on the questionnaire, he would not be allowed to continue coaching.

SOFTBALL

Mr. Richard Magarian

Mr. Magarian reported that playoffs for fastpitch and slowpitch softball will be held at Notte Park in North Providence. However, the schedules have not yet been finalized.

OUTDOOR TRACK

Mr. Robert Littlefield

Mr. Littlefield reported that the Joint Boys' and Girls' Outdoor Track Committee will be meeting on Monday, May 15, 2000 to further discuss realignment. It is anticipated that the 2000-04 alignment will be finalized at this meeting. Mr. Littlefield will submit the proposed alignment to the Principals' Committee on Athletics at its June 19th meeting.

In other business, Mr. Lynch reported that the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) is presently considering adopting a rule which would require the use of helmets for pole vault events. The NFHS will inform all state associations of its actions regarding this matter.

TENNIS

**Mr. John Lyle
Mrs. Denise Boule**

Mr. Lyle reported that the championships for Boys' Tennis are scheduled as follows: Individual Championships will be played on Saturday and Sunday, May 20-21, 2000; and, Team Championships will take place on Saturday and Sunday, May 27-28, 2000. All events will be played at Slater Park in Pawtucket.

In Girls' Tennis, it was noted that the [Fall] 2000 schedule indicates that the finals are scheduled for Saturday, November 4, 2000, which is an S.A.T. day. Mrs. Boule will take the matter under advisement with the Tennis Committee.

Mr. Magarian reported that the [Girls'] Tennis Coaches Association has submitted a recommendation regarding changes in the start dates for the 2000-01 girls' tennis schedule. Kathryn Crowley, former Director of Girls' Tennis, stated that the Tennis Committee, including the coach who made the recommended changes, unanimously agreed to the present schedule.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously voted to allow Mrs. Boule to poll the Tennis Committee by telephone to make changes {if approved} prior to the June 15, 2000 Coaches Interpretation Meeting.

OTHER SPORTS / ISSUES

- **Renaissance Games**

Mr. Magarian reported that the Renaissance Games Championship Round was held at the University of Rhode Island on Sunday, May 7, 2000. Ten (10) schools participated in the overall program that began with preliminary rounds in April. The results are as follows:

State Champion	Cumberland High School
Runner-Up	Barrington High School
3 rd Place	LaSalle Academy

- **Cross Country**

Mr. Lynch reported that Central Falls High School has declared their intent to enter into the boys' and girls' cross country league(s).

- **Boys Soccer**

Victor Mercurio, Director of Boys' Soccer, requested permission to revise the 2000-01 boys' soccer schedule. In the existing schedule, Scituate High School is in the Western Division and Cumberland High School is in the Eastern Division. However, Mr. Mercurio stated that the administration of Scituate High School did not agree to a change in division placement.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously voted to allow Mr. Mercurio to revise the boys' soccer schedule to be distributed at the Boys' Soccer Coaches Interpretation meeting on Wednesday, June 7, 2000.

In other business, Mr. Mercurio distributed a list of all yellow and red cards (by school) that had been issued during the 1999-2000 season. He will send the list to all participating schools.

Mr. Mercurio submitted the following rule change to Article 21, Section 1, of the Rules and Regulations of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League:

Article 21, Section 1 presently reads: "A *player, coach, or bench personnel shall be disqualified (red*

card) and the number of players on the field shall be reduced for: a) taunting; b) a subsequent action."

The proposed change is as follows: "A *player, coach, or bench personnel shall be disqualified (red card) for: a) taunting; b) a subsequent action."*

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the rules change to Article 21, Section 1.

ATHLETIC DIRECTORS' ASSOCIATION REPORT

The Rhode Island Interscholastic Athletic Administrators' Association (RIIAAA) Annual Conference was held on Thursday, May 11, 2000 at the Providence Holiday Inn. Several awards were presented, some of which are outlined earlier in this report.

In other business, the Athletic Directors' Association sent a letter to *The Providence Journal* regarding the content of material published in their column, "Your Two Cents." This is a link on the ProJo website that allows people to comment and express their opinions on high school athletics, specific contests, etc. However, the site has become a venue for people (mostly student-athletes) to threaten rivals, use vulgarities, and insult other student-athletes and/or schools.

When the site first became available, *The Providence Journal* indicated that *Journal* personnel would monitor the site regularly to avoid the type of aggressive statements that are being made. That does not appear to be happening.

Both the Athletic Directors' Association and the Rhode Island Interscholastic League have become very concerned about the nature of the comments and are asking that the ProJo personnel monitor the site more closely and edit where necessary.

To date, a response from *The Journal* has not been received.

GYMNASTICS

Ms. Susan McNamara

Ms. McNamara distributed copies of the proposed 2000-2004 Gymnastics Realignment. The proposed alignment survey will be sent to all participating schools.

WINTER SPORTS SEASON STARTING DATE

A proposal was submitted to the Principals' Committee on Athletics seeking a change in the starting date for winter sports from the current November 20th starting date to the Monday after Thanksgiving. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding how a later starting date would have an impact on the beginning of the League schedule in all winter sports.

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Lynch asked that the Finance Committee consider a date to meet to discuss and prepare the Rhode Island Interscholastic League 2000-01 budget. Mr. Lynch will make a recommendation to Kevin Sheehan, Chairman of the Finance Committee, regarding the date/time for said meeting.

MILEAGE FORMS

Mr. Lynch reminded members of the Principals' Committee on Athletics that all mileage forms (in their folders) are due in the League office no later than June 30th.

FALL SPORTS

Mr. Lynch reminded directors of all Fall sports to secure dates/sites for all Fall sports playoffs.

The May meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 5:25 pm.