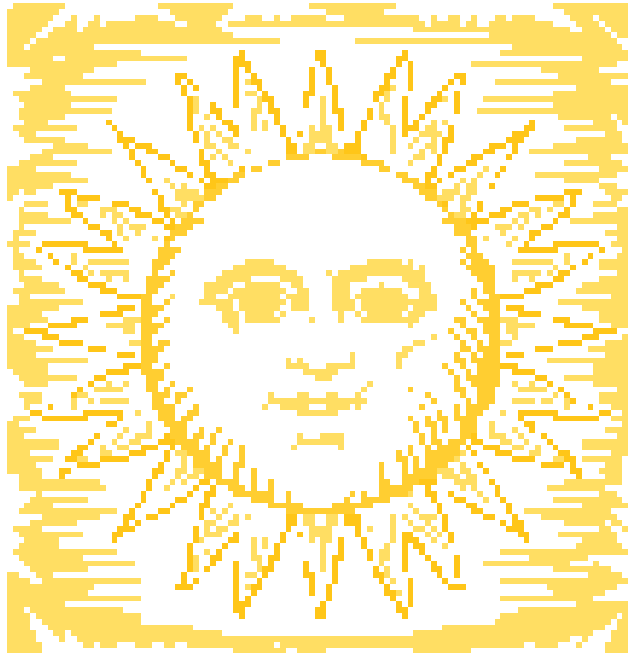




June 2003



Summer



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



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The High School Internet Network**

Rhode Island Interscholastic League

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Executive Director

Richard R. Magarian

Assistant Executive Director

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

As the end of June draws near, it is only natural that we reflect back on the school year that we are about to close the door on. Of course, the first thing that comes to mind is the weather, and the impact it has had on high school athletics. Starting with the fall season, it became necessary to continually postpone the fall sports playoffs. Mother Nature frowned upon us again during the winter playoff season, and the Superbowls were played almost during the Holiday recess. That brings us to Spring ... the season that will go down in history as one of the wettest ever. There were 26 rainy/overcast days in May ... causing the postponements to be postponed – over and over again!!! At this writing, we are still trying to complete the fastpitch softball season.

The continual need for rescheduling contests required the efforts of so many people. I want to extend a special thanks to the many individuals – Principals, Sport Directors, Athletic Directors, Assignors, and Officials - who combined their energies and talents to assist the RIIL in executing its athletic programs. I would also like to thank the student-athletes for their continued cooperation and understanding during what proved to be a very difficult playoff season.

On behalf of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League Principals' Committee on Athletics, and the RIIL staff, I truly appreciate your dedication and the work you do throughout the year. Please accept our best wishes for a safe and enjoyable summer vacation.

* * * * *

RIIL SUMMER HOURS

OFFICE CLOSED MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2003
OFFICE REOPENS – MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 2003

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS RESUME ON
MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 2003

8:00 AM – 3:30 PM



* * * * *

ANNUAL PRINCIPALS/ATHLETIC DIRECTORS MEETING

The 7th Annual Principals/Athletic Directors Workshop will be held on Wednesday, September 24, 2003 at 8:00 am. The Principals' Committee on Athletics has declared this a mandatory meeting for the all Principals or his/her designee and for all Athletic Directors. Please note that Assistant Principals, Administrators, and Secretaries/Clerks are also invited to attend this meeting. The workshop will be held at the Radisson Hotel, Post Road, Warwick. Please mark this date on your calendar. More information will follow in August.

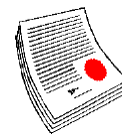
USE OF SCHOOL EQUIPMENT DURING THE SUMMER

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 while using the equipment. Violations are not only subject to the penalties listed in Article 6 of the RIIL Rules and Regulations but are also subject to potential suits. The fact that the equipment was borrowed in violation of the League policy might be the very reason a court may 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 statues that restrict use of publicly-owned equipment for private use. For all these reasons, administrators should make certain that no school equipment is loaned out for summer use.

FOR SCHOOL EQUIPMENT USED AT (SUMMER) FOOTBALL CAMPS ... Please be advised that schools need to obtain a Certificate of Liability Insurance from their insurance carrier. You must:

- ✓ State the name of the camp the student-athlete will attend;
- ✓ Indicate they will use school equipment; and,
- ✓ Name the Rhode Island Interscholastic League as Additional Insured.
- ✓ All Certificates of Insurance must be submitted to the RIIL Office.

PLEASE NOTE: If students participate without a Certificate of Insurance having been submitted to the League office, the school shall be in violation of Article 6, Section 13 of the Rules and Regulations of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League (Use of School Equipment During the Summer).



* * * * *

“When you lose, don’t lose the lesson.”

TV EVENT MISSES THE POINT OF SCHOOL SPORTS

ESPN2 is televising nationwide a high school basketball game between an Ohio school with a player who is presumed to be jumping from high school to the NBA and a Virginia school which follows no rules and regulations but its own. And the promoters say this is the wave of the future. God help us!



For a century, high school sports have been an American tradition unlike any place in the world: a time for schools and communities to come together to cheer their friends and neighbors in cross-town and cross-country rivalries.

Covered by local newspapers and radio, the focus has been on education more than winning, on teams more than stars, and on local rivalries and league titles more than state championships and beyond.

It is a program that has as many participants and contests at the subvarsity level as varsity level. It has been a pure, wholesome, amateur, unsophisticated, even sometimes corny setting.

And if it tries to compete for the glitz and glamour of major college and professional sports, it not only cannot win, it will become spoiled, damaged goods – giving up its gentle spirit for guile and greed.

The ESPN2 telecast is being described as a defining moment for high school sports, using phrases such as “the quintessential act of the way things will be in high school basketball ... a microcosm of the way basketball is moving into the future.”

In fact, this event is an aberration in school sports, a wart on the face of high school basketball.

There are promoters who consider this view out of date, who believe this is “an avalanche that’s moving down the mountain,” a revealing choice of metaphor given that avalanches destroy everything in their path.

High school athletics is indeed changing, but not nearly at the pace of an avalanche and not necessarily for the good. Those who care about a school sports program that serves all kinds of students, male and female, tall and short, in many different sports, in schools of all sizes, types and locales have other, better plans for interscholastic athletics.

A generation or two of students from now, those who care about broad and deep school sports programs, may not win the struggle for the soul of school sports; but they are not going to be buried anytime soon.

*By John E. Roberts, Executive Director
Michigan High School Athletic Assoc.
December 11, 2002*

* * * * *

“Never laugh at anyone’s dreams. People who don’t have dreams don’t have much.”

RESPECT

RESPECT ... Aretha Franklin reminded us how it’s spelled, but a lot of us need coaching on how to show it.

In both personal and political relationships, the failure to treat each other with respect is generating incivility, contempt and violence.

There’s an important distinction between respecting a person in the sense that we admire and hold that person in especially high esteem and treating others with respect. While respecting others is desirable, respectfulness is morally mandatory. Thus, people of character treat everyone with respect, even those who not personally respectable.

The way we behave toward others is an expression of our values and character. Thus, we should treat others with respect not because they have a right but because we have a moral duty to do unto others the way we want them to do unto us. Again, it’s not because they deserve it, but because doing less would diminish our own character.

That’s the message in an old story about a politician who caught himself being drawn into mudslinging and name-calling. Once he realized he was lowering himself to his opponent’s level, he stopped and said, “Sir, I will treat *you* as a gentleman, not because you are one but because *I* am one.”

It can take a lot of self-control to be respectful to people who are nasty, dishonorable or disrespectful to us. Still, our inner sense of integrity should help us resist temptations to “fight fire with fire.” As Lily Tomlin said, “The problem with the rat race is that even if you win, you’re still a rat.”

*From “Character Counts”
By Michael Josephson*

* * * * *

REMEMBER THE THREE R’S:

Respect for self;
Respect for others;
Responsibility for *all* your actions.

* * * * *

AGE PLAYS ROLE IN RECOVERY FROM SPORTS-RELATED CONCUSSIONS

Does age play a role in how long it takes for an athlete to recover from concussion? In the first published study to examine age as a factor, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) sports concussion researchers found that high school athletes demonstrated prolonged memory dysfunction requiring longer recovery compared to college athletes. The study’s results, published in the May 19 issue of the Journal of Pediatrics, support more conservative management and comprehensive assessment of the concussed high school athlete and may have serious implications for return-to-play guidelines and decisions involving high school athletes.

In the study, post-concussion neuropsychological recovery of high school athletes was compared to that of college athletes at 24 hours, 3 days, 5 days, and 7 days post-injury. In tests of neurocognitive function and self-reported symptoms, high school athletes performed significantly worse than age-matched control subjects at 7 days post-injury. Concussed college athletes, despite sustaining more severe injuries, displayed commensurate performance with age-matched control subjects by day 3 post-injury. Specifically, following mild concussion, high school athletes showed significant memory impairment at day 7; conversely, college athletes revealed significant memory deficits only within the first 24 hours post-injury.

“Our finding that high school athletes did not recover from concussion as quickly as college athletes is a cause for concern because the largest majority of at-risk athletes are at the high school level or below,” said principal investigator Melvin Field, M.D., chief resident in the department of neurological surgery at UPMC. “Furthermore, existing return-to-play guidelines assume a standard use for all age groups and levels of play, from school-age to professional. Our study is the first to suggest that there may be differing vulnerabilities to concussion at different ages and that current guidelines may not be appropriate for all age groups,” said Dr. Field.

At least 1.5 million high school and college athletes compete in contact sports. Recent studies show that more than 62,000 concussions occur each year in high school sports, with football accounting for about 63 percent of them. At the college level, 34 percent of football players have had at least one concussion and 20 percent have had more than one.

Concussion is a trauma-induced alteration of mental status, which may or may not result in unconsciousness. Other symptoms may include dizziness, disorientation, headache, nausea, amnesia, and poor hand-to-eye coordination. Concussion occurs when the brain is violently rocked back-and-forth inside the skull due to a blow to the head, neck, or upper body.

“The problem with concussion in sports is that symptoms are not always straightforward, not always reported by the athlete, and usually difficult to objectively measure,” said study co-investigator Joseph Maroon, M.D., professor and vice chairman, department of neurological surgery at UPMC. “Meanwhile, the typically competitive high school athlete is usually quite anxious to return to the game despite any minor symptoms. The concern is that previous studies have proven that before an athlete is fully recovered from an initial concussion, s/he is more susceptible to a second concussion and is at higher risk for further, more serious damage. Thus, keeping an athlete out of contact play until s/he is fully recovered from initial concussion is absolutely crucial to preventing further injury,” said Dr. Maroon. “No concussed

athlete should ever return to contact sports before it is determined that their recovery is complete.”

Dr. Field added, “Unfortunately, too many high schools lack qualified full-time sports medicine staff, which increases the risk of concussions going unidentified and inadequately evaluated through the recovery period, thus predisposing the athlete to more serious injury and poor outcome.

“Meanwhile, the typically competitive high school athlete is usually quite anxious to return to the game despite any minor symptoms. The concern is that previous studies have proven that before an athlete is fully recovered from an initial concussion, s/he is more susceptible to a second concussion and is at higher risk for further, more serious damage. Thus, keeping an athlete out of contact play until s/he is fully recovered from initial concussion is absolutely crucial to preventing further injury.”

“This study suggests that further studies are needed in children of all ages before current adult-based return-to-play management guidelines are maintained or implemented in high schools and other adolescent-related sports,” said Mark Lovell, Ph.D., study co-investigator and director of the UPMC Sports Medicine Concussion Program. Michael Collins, Ph.D., assistant director of the program, was also a study co-investigator.

The study, conducted by sports concussion researchers in the department of neurological surgery and Sports Medicine Concussion Program, evaluated 39 high school athletes (19 concussed athletes compared to 20 control subjects) and 53 college athletes (35 concussed athletes

compared to 18 control subjects) during the 2000-2001 scholastic sports season.

Of the 39 high school athletes, 35 were male varsity football players and four were female soccer players. The average age of the high school athletes was 15.9 years. Of the 53 college athletes, 51 were male football players and two were female soccer players. The average age of the college athletes was 19.9 years. The athletes were from Michigan State University, University of Utah, University of California at Berkeley, Arizona State University, and five high schools in Shiawassee County, Michigan. All of the athletes had undergone pre-injury baseline testing methods identical to post-injury methods.

For more information on previously published sports concussion research studies at UPMC, please access www.upmc.com.

*Report prepared by University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
Provided to State High School Associations by the
National Federation of State High School Associations*

***Never give up on what you really want to do.
The person with big dreams is more powerful than one with all the facts.***



SUMMARY OF MEETING

The following is a summary of the May 19, 2003 meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics:

The May meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was called to order at 1:37 pm.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS' REPORT

The Executive Director's Report was approved.

Mr. Lynch reported that the RIIL High School Athletic Hall of Fame banquet and induction ceremony for the [inaugural] Class of 2003 was a successful evening, with approximately 300 in attendance. Eleven (11) individuals were inducted in a ceremony on Wednesday, April 30, 2003 at the Quidnesset Country Club. In addition to the awards presented to the inductees, a plaque for each inductee, bearing his/her picture, will be permanently displayed in the RIIL office.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report was approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

FOOTBALL

Mr. James Murano

Mr. Murano reported on the results of a survey that was sent to all schools participating in football regarding a proposed adjustment to the alignment. Inasmuch as next year is a realignment year for all sports, the proposed alignment was for one year only – the 2003-2004 school year. Of the forty-one [41] schools that participate in football, there was a total of twenty-nine [29] responses. Of those responses, 16 were in favor of the proposal; 11 were opposed; one school did not vote either way; and one school had a split response; i.e., Principal and Athletic Director were opposed and Head Coach was in favor.

It was further noted that the proposal more directly had an impact on Divisions I and II. Of the nineteen [19] schools in those divisions, 10 were in favor of the proposal; 8 were opposed, and, again, one school had a split decision.

The Principals' Committee on Athletics reviewed the comments that accompanied several of the responses and entered into a lengthy discussion. Consideration was given to the fact that there was not an overwhelming difference between those who opposed and agreed.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics voted 8-2, with 1 abstention, to deny the proposed alignment adjustment in football.

SUMMARY OF SPORTS MEDICINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- ***Student-athlete (from other Fall sport) participating as Place Kicker in Football***

Recommendations:

- Pre-participation exam – cleared for contact
- No competition in other sport on same day [fatigue leads to injury]
- Pre-season training in football

It was noted that if student-athletes from other Fall sports are allowed to participate as a place-kicker in football and a conflict arises between football and their Fall sport, their loyalty must be to the Fall sport. It was also noted that student-athletes should learn to tackle, block and run in addition to kicking.

The Principals' Committee on Athletics expressed concern that allowing this proposal could extend to other sports, i.e.; track sprinters being asked to serve as pinch runners in baseball or softball. The Committee was also concerned that this policy would denigrate the football team by bringing in an 'outsider' to replace a bona fide member of the football team.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics voted 11-1 to deny the proposal.

- ***Proposed change to Number of Days for [Football] Practice/Conditioning Days***

Existing Rule states 'Days 1 & 2 – Helmets only; Days 3-5 Helmets & Shoulder Pads'

Proposal: Day 1 – Helmets; and Days 2-5 – Helmets & Shoulder Pads.

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

- ***Wrestling – Skin Fold Test***

The Skin Fold Test determines the weight class in which a student-athlete can participate. The use of a Tanita Scale measures weight and body fat accompanied by a hydration test. It is believed that this process alleviates fears of parents and eliminates the practice of coaches placing students into specific classes where, perhaps, they should not be participating. It was noted that the National Wrestling Coaches' Association and the Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association, which is comparable in size to the RIIL, uses the Tanita Scale Test. However, the Tanita Scale Test can be appealed.

This matter was tabled to the October meeting of the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee for further review. The findings of that meeting will be reported to the October meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics.

that [hockey] schools sell advance tickets at \$1.00 less than the gate admission of \$4.00. As a result, the schools share in a portion of the total distribution at the end of the season.

- ***Use of Defibrillators by All Schools***

A presentation was made to the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee by a [Massachusetts] high school football official who collapsed on the football field during a game and who was legally 'dead' for 3-4 minutes. Following rescue measures using a defibrillator, he was revived. As the result of his experience, he is an advocate for the use of defibrillators and recommends that all schools have one available at athletic contests. It was noted that effective January 1, 2004, state law will mandate that defibrillators be available at all health clubs and senior centers.

This matter was tabled to the October meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics.

- ***Athletic Trainers in Each School***

This matter was tabled to the October meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics.

HOCKEY

Daniel Sheehan

Mr. Sheehan reported that the Hockey Committee met on May 14, 2003. At that time, they reviewed and discussed several requests from participating schools to move up/down in divisions; two (2) teams have requested to move from Met A to Met B; one (1) school would like to move from Met B to Met C; and one (1) new school has been added to the list of participating schools.

With the addition of Rogers High School to the RIIL hockey league, there are now thirty-two (32) schools participating in boys' ice hockey.

Mr. Sheehan also stated that the Hockey Committee discussed, and is proposing, an adjustment to the present alignment for one year only. With the present alignment, schools cannot enjoy fair and safe competition. Discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of an adjustment to the present alignment.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously voted to send a survey to all participating [hockey] schools for their agreement/disagreement/comments regarding the proposed adjustment to the alignment.

Mr. Lynch reported that the rinks that provide ice time to the RIIL hockey league are requesting an increase in the guarantee they receive for each night a card is played at the rink. Presently, the guarantee is \$700/night for a double –or– triple header and \$350/night for a single game. They are requesting an increase to \$900/night, which is negotiable. In addition, Mr. Lynch also stated that expenses to the League are escalating due to an increase in officials' fees, cost of fire marshals, etc.

Mr. Lynch stated that the League needs to review the hockey ticket policy that has been in place for a long time which is

Mr. Lynch stated that a meeting of the RIIL Finance Committee has been scheduled for August 13, 2003 at which time the restructuring of the hockey program will be discussed. Mr. Lynch will ask the Finance Committee to discontinue that policy and to institute one ticket price of \$4.00, to be sold only at the arena(s). Mr. Lynch will report the findings back to the Principals' Committee on Athletics at its meeting in August.

In addition, Mr. Lynch proposed that hockey assessment fee paid by the schools not be included in the distribution to the schools at the end of the season. This is for the 2002-2003 season that has just ended.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved Mr. Lynch's proposal.

In other business, Mr. Lynch reported that he received a letter from Woonsocket High School stating that tickets were sold at a local variety store and, although it appears the tickets were sold, the variety store was \$95.00 short in revenue.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously voted that Woonsocket High School is accountable for the \$95.00.

BISHOP HENDRICKEN HIGH SCHOOL INELIGIBLE STUDENT-ATHLETES

Mr. Lynch reported that Daniel Sheehan, Principal, Bishop Hendricken High School, informed the RIIL that a student-athlete participated in four (4) lacrosse games as an ineligible student-athlete and that another student-athlete participated in tennis as an ineligible student-athlete.

It was reported that the student-athlete in tennis was rendered ineligible due to a mistake by a faculty member who neglected to post the student's grade. Mr. Sheehan was confident that it was an error on the part of the faculty member. As such, there were no penalties imposed and the student was returned to eligible status.

The young man who participated in lacrosse as an ineligible student-athlete was rendered ineligible in accordance with the RIIL Academic Eligibility Rule.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics voted 10-1 to impose the following penalties against Bishop Hendricken High School as a result of the infraction in lacrosse: that the four (4) games in which the young man participated and which were won by Bishop Hendricken High School be forfeited to the opponents; and that a fine of \$100.00 per game for each game in which the student participated as an ineligible student-athlete.

SPRING SPORTS

- ***Renaissance Games***

Mr. Magarian reported on the following 2002-2003 Renaissance Games Championships that were held on Sunday, May 4, 2003 at the University of Rhode Island:

State Champion South Kingstown High School
Runner Up Cumberland High School
3rd Place LaSalle Academy

- **Golf**

John Gray, Director of Golf, reported that the final standings are in and that the playoff matches will begin on Monday, May 19, 2003. The State Team Championships are scheduled for Tuesday, May 27th and the State Individual Championship will be played on Wednesday, May 28th. Both rounds will be held at Cranston Country Club. Mr. Gray stated that the representatives from the Rhode Island Golf Association will be present at the championships to act as official rules interpreters and that coaches will serve as spotters.

FALL SPORTS

- **Girls Soccer**

Cumberland H.S. had requested to move up to Division I. There are presently eleven (11) teams in Division I. Calls will be made to the lowest seeded teams based on last year's final standings to determine if a school wants to move down in order to accommodate Cumberland H.S.'s request to move up.

- **Boys' Volleyball**

Mr. Lynch reported on a letter submitted by the R.I. Boys' Volleyball Coaches' Association in which they are requesting permission to conduct a mid-season varsity tournament on October 13, 2003. In addition, they are seeking permission to conduct two (2) All-Star Games – one for Division I and one for Division II.

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

In other business, Mr. Lynch reported on the issue of rally scoring, which is outlined in the NFHS Volleyball Rule Book for the 2004-2005 season. Donald Kavanagh, Director of Boys' Volleyball, stated that the Volleyball Committee will be meeting prior to the Coaches Interpretation Meeting on June 16th, and will review and discuss this issue. Mr. Kavanagh will report back to the Principals' Committee on Athletics at its June meeting.

WINTER SPORTS

- **Girls Basketball**

Cindy Neal, Director of Girls' Basketball, reported that several requests have been submitted to move up/down in the alignment. She will review and discuss the requests at the next meeting of the Basketball Committee.

ARTICLE 7, SECTION 3 – LIMITATION OF SEASONS

Article 7, Section 3 of the RIIL Rules and Regulations mandate the number of days in which high school athletic teams must practice/condition before being allowed to

participate in scrimmages and/or games. The question arose regarding the application of this rule to student-athletes who participate as individuals. It was emphasized that individuals can be coached at any time; i.e., weekends and/or evenings or at facilities other than their school.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously voted that the number of practice/condition days must be adhered to as it applies to team practice(s).

MILEAGE FORMS

Mr. Lynch referred to the Mileage Forms for the 2002-2003 school year that were in each Committee member's packet and asked that they please be completed and returned to the League office no later than June 27, 2003.

REVIEW OF TRANSFER RULE

Discussion ensued regarding the Transfer Rule as it applies to student-athletes who transfer from a parochial/private school to a public school *with* a change of address.

This matter was tabled to the June meeting to allow Mr. Lynch the opportunity to discuss the rule with James McAleer, legal counsel for the RIIL.

MEETING DATES

Mr. Lynch submitted meeting dates for the Principals' Committee on Athletics and the Waiver Hearing Committee for the 2003-2004 school year. It was proposed that the date for the August meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics be changed from August 18 to August 25th.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the meeting dates as submitted.

Mr. Lynch also reported to the Committee that the 7th Annual Principals'/Athletic Directors' Workshop will be held on Wednesday, September 24, 2003 at the Radisson Hotel in Warwick from 8:00 am – 11:30 am. He reminded the Committee that this meeting has been designated as mandatory for all Principals and/or his/her designee and for all Athletic Directors and stated that Robert Kanaby, Executive Director of the National Federation of State High School Associations, will be the guest speaker.

RIIL WEBSITE

Discussion ensued regarding ways in which the website may be better utilized by Sport Directors, Athletic Directors, Officials, etc. A meeting will be scheduled with Craig Blanchard, RIIL webmaster, to discuss and review changes to the RIIL website and online procedures.

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 May meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics

was adjourned at 4:00 pm

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United States Marine Corps

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.



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