

**ARTICLE 3**  
**ELIGIBILITY**

**The following Rules apply to Varsity and Junior Varsity Competition**

**Section 1. DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY**

All questions of eligibility are to be submitted in writing to the Executive Director seventy-two (72) hours prior to a regularly scheduled meeting for consideration by the Committee. Schools will be notified of the decisions by letter. The decisions will also be published in the RIIL's monthly Bulletin.

- A. Each school must file Eligibility Lists on line with the RIIL Office for **varsity** athletes twenty-four hours (24) prior to the first RIIL contest of each sport including Injury Fund and non-league contests. The grade and year in school since grade 9 (if different from grade) of each participant should be noted on the eligibility form. **Any school(s) failing to file the Eligibility Lists on or before the designated date will be assessed a two hundred dollar (\$200.00) fine per missing eligibility list as defined in Article 6, Section 4.**
1. Athletes listed on the eligibility list may play on an outside team under the terms and conditions as outlined in Article 7, Section 6.
  2. A student not on a varsity list who participates in a Varsity contest will not be penalized if the error of omission was caused by a school official/coach. However, penalties listed in Article 6, Section 5 will be imposed.
  3. Once the original list is filed, it is the school's responsibility to send in additional names of eligible students upon a similar form.  
NOTE: Failure to submit an Eligibility List and/or the omission of a players name will be subject to penalties as listed in Article 6.
- B. Any athlete who does not have on file in the RIIL Office a valid Assumption of Risk form will be ineligible for competition in the RIIL. If a student transfers from one school to another, s/he must file a new Assumption of Risk form with the RIIL office.
1. Athletes in any sport, requiring helmets, that compete with helmets not equipped with the RIIL's warning label will be ejected from the game, will have the appropriate penalties assessed, and will be ineligible for the next RIIL game.
- C. Once the RIIL season begins, a student-athlete whose name appears on the official Eligibility List shall not practice or play on any other schools athletic team until one calendar week after the name has been removed from the official Eligibility list. After one calendar week, the students-athletes name may be added to another athletic Eligibility list. However, any change in a sport by a student-athlete can not be made after fifty percent (50%) of the official RIIL schedule has been completed in the sport the student is leaving. With the exception of the field events of Winter and Spring Track, no student-athlete can compete simultaneously on two different athletic teams during the same sport season.
1. No athlete may participate in more than one sport, with the exception of the Field Events in Winter and Spring Track. Refer to Article 28 and Article 29 Section 6.A Boys and Girls Track.
- D. When members of a team are charged with being ineligible by an opposing team, the game shall be played as scheduled and the protest filed with the RIIL Office in accord with the provisions of Article 5.
- E. Student-athletes must be enrolled in the school for which they participate.

Students who attend a state certified career and technical facility, except for Davies Career and Technical High School are eligible for athletic participation under the following guidelines.

**Exception note: Davies Career and Technical High School is a stand-alone high school offering its own sports program. Students in grades 11 and 12 athletic eligibility for their home school will end 2010.**

1. Feeder School Athletic Participation:  
If a student-athlete declares that s/he wants to participate in athletics at his/her feeder school, s/he cannot participate at his/her career and technical school in all sports for the school year.

The following are guidelines to ensure the home school Principal will have jurisdiction of their student-athletes:

- a. Student-athletes will adhere to all Rules and Regulations of the RIIL and any other more demanding requirements of their home school **and/or career-technical school.**
  - b. the career and technical faculty will report any and all discipline concerns/problems to the home school
  - c. the career technical center will submit an absentee/tardy/early dismissal list of any students to the home school
  - d. a copy of the student-athletes career and technical center report card must be sent to the home school
  - e. student-athletes must meet the minimum academic requirement of both the career technical facility and the home school.
  - f. students must receive the appropriate number of credits needed to graduate from their home school
2. Career and Technical School Athletic Participation:  
If a student-athlete wishes to participate in athletics at the career and technical school s/he is not eligible to participate at his/her feeder school in all sports for the school year and must adhere to all rules and regulations of the RIIL.
3. Once a student participates in athletics for either his/her feeder school or career and technical center and subsequently decides that s/he would prefer to participate for the other school, s/he shall be subject to the Transfer Rule, regardless if s/he played or did not play the same sport, as set forth in Article 3, Section 5, of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League Rules and Regulations.
- F. Any representation of a school by an athlete, whether legal or illegal, must be counted as participation and be so reported on the returns to the RIIL Office.
- G. No student below the 9th grade shall be eligible.
- H. In a program sanctioned as part of an Olympic Development Program, the Executive Committee of the Sport involved may exempt these Rules. No retroactive exemptions or waivers of the age rule may be granted. If the outside participation rule of Article 7, is being exempted, that athlete must cease to compete on his/her RIIL team while competing in the Olympic Development Program. (See Article 7, Section 5, paragraph G).
- I. Home School Eligibility - For students in home schooling to be eligible for competition in the RIIL, the following requirements must be met:
1. The student must be listed on the rolls of the school and certified to the Rhode Island Department of Education as a student.
  2. The home school must furnish to the school and certify the academic grades and the school must record them on the official school records on a quarterly basis.
  3. If a student is ineligible for academic and/or disciplinary reasons and subsequently becomes home schooled; s/he may not participate in interscholastic athletics during the period of ineligibility.
  4. The school must approve the request of the home school student to compete on its teams.
  5. All other requirements of the Rules and Regulations must be followed with the regular school certifying the eligibility of the home school student.
- J. Academic eligibility rules are minimum requirements and member schools and their governing bodies may adopt higher and more demanding eligibility requirements for local use.

K. – Cooperative Teams

A Cooperative Team is consistent with the Rhode Island Interscholastic League dedication to fairness and competition by providing opportunities for many students to participate in a wide variety of sports.

- a. A Cooperative Team shall be defined as an interscholastic athletic team which includes students from two (2) but no more than three (3) schools to form a team.

The Principals' Committee on Athletics has the authority to approve cooperative athletic teams based on the information provided.

- b. Purpose of the Cooperative Team is

1. to allow student-athletes the opportunity to compete in sanctioned athletic teams they would otherwise not be able to compete on

2. to make athletic opportunities available for student-athletes
- c. Schools may apply for the establishment of a Cooperative Team under the following guidelines:
1. The principals of the participating schools must approve the establishment of a cooperative team and apply to the Rhode Island Interscholastic League Executive Director for permission to form a cooperative team.
  2. The joint request must be in writing and made six (6) months prior to the start of the competitive season for the sport involved.
 

The request/application must include:

    - i. a rationale for the formation of a Cooperative Team
    - ii. must have written confirmation from all the School Committees (Governing Body) of all schools involved approving the request
    - iii. the following:
      1. funding for the sport
      2. coaches who are certified
      3. where the teams will practice (facilities)
      4. administration of the program
      5. transportation arrangements to practices and contests
      6. written assurance that the Cooperative Team will not limit or lessen participation opportunities for students in any of the cooperating schools.
      7. designate the name under which the Cooperative Team will compete
      8. provisions for dissolution of the agreement by a school
    - iv. the application must be signed by the principals of the Cooperative Team
- d. Other:
1. No more than three (3) schools will be able to form a Cooperative Team
  2. The combined 9-12 enrollment of all the schools involved will not exceed the 9-12 enrollment of the largest high school in the Rhode Island Interscholastic League
  3. The combined enrollments in grades 9-12 of the schools involved in the Cooperative Team will be used for alignment placement.
  4. All Schools of the Cooperative Agreement must be members of the RIIL and their principals are members of the RI Association of School Principals.
  5. No more than one (1) of the schools may have offered the sport the previous year.
  6. The Cooperative Team shall be approved for no more than a two (2) year period.
  7. Schools shall share equally in the RIIL sport participation fee(s).
  8. Only one School Administration (Principal and Athletic Director) shall be designated as the contact person for the Cooperative Team.
  9. If the application is approved, upon completion of the two-year period, the schools may reapply for the continuation of the cooperative team. There shall be no limit to the number of two-year periods for which schools can apply for approval of a cooperative team.
  10. The Principals' Committee on Athletics shall render a written decision within six (6) weeks from the date that a complete application is received by the Rhode Island Interscholastic League in its office.

#### L. Alternative Education (Charter) Schools Athletic Participation

Inasmuch, many charter schools and/or schools with small enrollments can not offer an athletic program, students who attend do not have the opportunity to participate in athletics, the Rhode Island Interscholastic League believes that students make the decision to attend or not attend alternative school based on the academic program but also wants to offer the opportunity to participate in athletics.

1. Feeder School Program
  - a. Principals (CEO) (see Article 1, Section 3) of alternative schools may seek a waiver requesting eligibility for students to participate at his/her feeder school in the community where they reside.
  - b. If there are multiple high schools within the city/town, the school department administrator must provide to the RIIL a map of the city/town indicting which school would be the student's feeder school.
  - c. The Principal (CEO) must become a member of the RI Association of School Principals (RIASP)
  - d. The Principal (CEO) must also become a member of the RIIL and pay all applicable dues and fees
  - e. To insure the feeder school Principal has jurisdiction of their student-athletes, the following must be adhered to:

1. Student-athletes will adhere to all RIIL Rules and Regulations and any/all other more stringent requirement of the feeder schools.
  2. The alternative school Principal (CEO) will report any and all discipline concerns/problems to the Principal of the feeder school.
  3. The alternative school Principal (CEO) will submit an absentee/tardy/early dismissal list of any and all students to the Principal of the feeder school
  4. A copy of the student-athletes report card must be submitted to the Principal of the feeder school.
2. Program/Enrollment
- a. Alternative schools whose enrollment exceeds 400 and have a 12<sup>th</sup> grade class will be obligated to offer their own athletic program(s).
  - b. Alternative school Principals (CEO) may seek a waiver to combine smaller enrollment schools to offer an athletic program.
    1. Combined enrollment – not to exceed 1000 students
    2. Must share the same building
    3. Seek waiver to combine every two (2) years
    4. Principal (Director) must possess a Principal Certificate
  - c. The Supervisor/Director/Principal of each alternative school must become a member of the RIASP.
  - d. The combined alternative school(s) Principal(s) (CEO) must become a member of the RIIL and pay all applicable dues and fees.
  - e. Student-athletes will adhere to all RIIL Rules and Regulations and any/all more stringent requirements of the combined schools.

## **Section 2. FEMALE COMPETITION**

Competition in the RIIL for Girls is limited to female competitors in Basketball, Cheerleading, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Gymnastics, Hockey, Lacrosse, Soccer, Fast Pitch Softball, Tennis, Winter and Spring Track and Volleyball.

- A. A female athlete who drops out of school because of pregnancy shall not be subject to the 50 percent rule provided she returns to the same school.
- B. All female athletes are subject to the provisions of Article 3, except for any special rules listed in the RIIL Rules and Regulations book or subsequent RIIL Bulletins from the RIIL Office.

## **Section 3. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY**

The athlete must be taking at least four subjects, each involving at least four periods of work or an aggregate of fifteen periods of work per week.

- A. At all times the athlete should have secured for the period from the beginning of the quarter or trimester up to the end of the regular marking period which shall not exceed a maximum of 12 weeks and a passing grade of 60% in the students program (credits).
  1. At the end of a course which meets for multiple marking periods, a school may utilize the grade earned during the last marking period or the final mark earned in determining academic eligibility. However, the school must be consistent in its application of this provision for all athletes in all sports.
- B. To be eligible at the beginning of a school year, the student must have done passing work at the end of the previous school year in June of 60% of the student's program (**credits**).
  1. In the case of a student who devotes a considerable part of the summer to make up subjects failed during the school year and receives credit toward graduation for this make-up work, that student shall be entitled to count such credit toward eligibility provided this credit is made an official part of his school record during the first week of the fall term. In case a student fails to complete the minimum scholastic requirements for athletic eligibility at the end of a quarter due to unavoidable absence, the student shall be ineligible for the next quarter until these requirements of the preceding quarter are made-up.
  2. Failures or incomplete work caused by unavoidable absence may be made up at the beginning of the quarter provided it is made a matter of final record within three weeks of the first day of that quarter.

- C. The athlete shall receive no special privilege such as extra examinations, delayed marks, make-up opportunities, or other favors which are not granted on equal terms to every student in the school; with the further provision that grades for failures or incomplete work in which a make-up opportunity is granted at the end of a quarterly marking period must be made a matter of final record within two calendar weeks of the first day of the succeeding marking period.
- D. If the athlete repeats work for which credit has once been received, the athlete cannot count that subject a second time for eligibility.
- E. The athlete cannot count for eligibility points obtained in a subject taken during the summer vacation that had not previously been regularly pursued in the classroom.
- F. Admission to or exclusion from participation in a sport because of these eligibility rules, shall take place at the close of the school day on which report cards are issued for the end of the regular marking period.
- G. If a game is postponed or results in a tie; the eligibility of the participants does not hold over until the game is played off.
- H. Academic eligibility requirement for students who are enrolled in Accelerated Programs:
  1. An accelerated program is one in which a student earns more than the minimum credits necessary for promotion to the senior year. This may be achieved by independent study, taking more than the required number of courses in a given semester or year, taking additional courses at an approved college, or a concurrent enrollment program at an approved college.
  2. Conditions for academic eligibility of seniors in an Accelerated Program:
    - a. The student must be enrolled in a minimum equivalent of three full courses per semester in his/her school or an approved off-campus program for a total of three credits for the year, excluding physical education.
    - b. If off campus courses are involved, the high school must approve the courses and the grades must be recorded at the high school on the student's permanent record card and are included in the computation for the student's graduation credits.

**Section 4. LENGTH OF ELIGIBILITY**

- A. Age - An athlete will be ineligible for athletic competition if his 19th birthday occurs prior to September 1st.
  1. It is recommended that Principals exercise great care in determining the age of contestants and in all doubtful cases secure birth certificates from the city or town clerk of the athlete's place of birth.
  2. In case of doubt about the age of any contestant in an athletic contest, a birth certificate or some other legal evidence satisfactory to the Committee must be presented to the Chair or Executive Director on demand. If no satisfactory evidence can be presented, the athlete must be barred from competition.
  3. Competitors in interscholastic sports, who are born outside the state, shall file with their Principal the following: birth certificates or other legal evidence of birth dates (i.e. alien registration cards) and their complete school records in secondary schools attended outside of the state. This data must be made available to the Committee upon request.
- B. Ninth-grade students of four-year high schools are eligible for varsity and junior varsity athletic competition.
- C. An athlete shall not represent secondary schools in any one sport for more than three seasons and such an athlete shall automatically become ineligible after s/he has been six consecutive semesters in attendance in the 10th, 11th or 12th grade. However, athletes entering the ninth grade may compete for one additional season and two additional semesters provided that competition is in the ninth grade of a four-year high school.
  1. Once a student enters the 9th grade, whether in a junior high school or a four-year high school, that student is limited to eight (8) consecutive semesters of eligibility and automatically becomes ineligible for athletic competition four years from the date of entry into the ninth grade. (See Article 1, Section 3, paragraph Q.)
  2. Six weeks shall be considered sufficient to establish a pupil's residence for a semester, which is one-half the established academic school year for that respective school.
  3. An athlete who has competed according to the rules of the RIIL in the 9th grade of a four-year high school may compete for three additional years in any school to which s/he transfers, subject to the other provisions of these Rules and Regulations.
  4. No athlete may participate in a particular sport for more than one athletic season in any given academic school year.

5. If a student who is enrolled in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) and is eligible for athletics but chooses not to participate in athletics for one or more semesters, or does not participate because no sports are offered, or a particular sport is not available, those semesters count as semesters of enrollment and competition.
  6. If a student who is enrolled in grades nine (9) through (12) is ruled ineligible for any reason for one or more semesters, those semesters count as semesters of competition.
  7. If a student is suspended or expelled from school for one or more semesters, those semesters count as semesters of enrollment and competition.
- D. Unless a student is entering the 10th grade of a three-year senior high school for the first time, or unless the student enters the 10th grade from a school terminating with the 9th grade, the athlete shall be subject to the 50% Transfer Rule. See Section 5 (an exception would be a transfer by change of address). This period may be lengthened and extended in individual cases at the discretion of the Committee.
- E. Students entering or returning to a secondary school from any court ordered out-of-home disciplinary placement must have their eligibility considered by the Committee on an individual basis. In addition, the receiving school must provide the Committee evidence that the student meets all eligibility requirements as defined in the Rules and Regulations of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League.
- F. An athlete who VOLUNTARILY withdraws from school to enter the armed services shall be subject to all rules governing eligibility as listed in Article 3, Section 5 upon his/her return to the same school from which the athlete withdrew. However, if an athlete is DRAFTED into active service by any branch of the armed services, said athlete shall suffer no loss of eligibility providing all other eligibility requirements are met.
- G. No student below Grade 9 will be allowed to practice or play with any school freshman, junior varsity or varsity team.

#### **Section 5. TRANSFER RULE**

If a student transfers from one secondary school to another without a corresponding change of address, the student shall be ineligible for 50% of the *total League schedule* in each sport that s/he participated in at the varsity level during the previous school year. In all transfers without a corresponding change of address, a Transfer Rule Affidavit must be completed and submitted to the Executive Director of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League prior to the student-athlete's participation in the sport.

**"Varsity level participation" is defined as any appearance, as a competitor, in a varsity inter-school contest other than a scrimmage.**

If the student transfers into a new school with less than 50% of the sport season remaining, the number of games for which s/he is ineligible will carry over to the next school year (per sport/per season) until 50% of the total *League* schedule requirements has been satisfied. If the total number of the *League* games is an odd number, it will be rounded up to the next higher number; i.e., if the League schedule is 9 games, the student is ineligible for 5 *League* games. Playoffs, non-league games, junior varsity games, exhibition games, and/or tournaments do not count toward the required number of league games in which the student is ineligible to participate. In addition, s/he *may not* participate in non-league games, junior varsity games, and/or tournaments during the period of ineligibility.

- A. A student who transfers enrollment without a corresponding change of residence may be declared immediately eligible provided:
1. The student has not participated on a varsity level (see **varsity level participation**), has met all other eligibility requirements, and the Transfer Rule Affidavit has been completed and submitted to the RIIL Executive Director.
- B. A student shall be declared immediately eligible provided:
1. There is a corresponding move into a new district by his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) and all other eligibility requirements are met. [Student-athletes who attend a parochial or private school and who move into a new public school district may also transfer to another parochial or private school or into the public school in the district of the new residence **at the time of the corresponding move** and be immediately eligible to participate in athletics. If the student-athlete remains enrolled in the (previous) parochial or private school after a change of residence and later decides to transfer to another parochial or private school or to the public school in the district of his/her new residence, s/he will be subject to the Transfer Rule].
  2. The transfer is the direct or necessary results of a family court custody decree.

3. The transfer is a direct and necessary result of a residence by a guardian whose position is elsewhere herein recognized and the Executive Director has so confirmed in writing.
  4. The transfer is a direct result of emancipation and said emancipation was recognized and approved by the Committee, pursuant to the waiver provisions of Article 1, Section 16, and both principals agree; in which case the student shall be eligible at once, provided the student's record conforms with the other eligibility requirements of the RIIL. The Committee at its discretion may extend the 50% rule and the decision in such cases shall be final. If more than one transfer occurs (in the absence of a Family Court custody order) and results in a student establishing occupancy at a former residence, such student shall be ineligible until s/he has been living continuously for one year at said residence.
  5. The transfer is to a vocational school at the student's first opportunity to begin a program.
- C. If a student transfers to another school without a corresponding change of residence, s/he may return to her/his original school and may immediately become eligible provided:
1. The student returns prior to the 15<sup>th</sup> day of said date of transfer.
  2. The student has not participated in any interscholastic varsity contest (see **varsity level participation**) as a representative of that school.
  3. The Transfer Rule Affidavit has been completed and submitted to the RIIL Executive Director.
- D. Unless there is a Family Court decision awarding custody to another, the residence of the mother shall be judged to be the residence of the student. The student, however, must actually reside at the mother's home. If the student neither resides at the mother's home nor in the home of the person awarded custody by the Family Court, the student shall be subject to a waiting period of 50% of the *League* schedule before becoming eligible for RIIL competition. Students who are wards of the state shall become immediately eligible upon being assigned by the proper state authorities to a foster home or equivalent facility.  
*Note: In cases where the Family Court decision awards custody to both parents, the student is permitted to change residence and not be subject to the 50% of the RIIL League schedule rule. However, the student will only be eligible to play sports at that school for the academic year. If the student moves back with the other parent and transfers to another school, s/he will be subject to the RIIL transfer penalty and must sit out 50% of the league season and any games in between.*
- E. An athlete who is in good standing scholastically at the time of the transfer and who is changing from a school operating on a semi-annual promotion plan to one operating an annual plan, is placed, through no fault of his/her own, in a position where the work for the first half year is a repetition of the work that the athlete has already passed, is to be considered as a special case and the facts of the case must be presented to the Committee for a decision.
- F. A student transferring because of an order from the office of the School Superintendent effecting administrative adjustment of school population shall become immediately eligible to play in the receiving school, if the student is eligible in all other particulars.
- G. A student in any school system operating more than one high school, who is transferred by the administrative office for disciplinary or attendance reasons shall be subject to the waiting period of 50% of the *League* schedule before becoming eligible to play for RIIL competition in the receiving school in each sport of which s/he shall have participated on a 9th grade, junior varsity, or varsity level in any secondary school not terminating with the 9th grade.
- H. A student not eligible for athletics under Article 3, Section 3 cannot become eligible until nine calendar weeks have elapsed. During this time the student shall have done passing work in at least three subjects, each involving at least four periods of work per week or an aggregate of fifteen periods of work per week. In all cases, students must be passing 60% of their program .
- I. Probate Court guardianship, while either parent is living within the State of Rhode Island, is not recognized for eligibility purposes unless such guardianship was petitioned by a state agency for the welfare of the student. Guardianship is recognized for eligibility purposes when both parents are deceased, or when both parents are physically absent from the State of Rhode Island, or when both parents or the surviving parent has been decreed incompetent or unfit by court order, or when a specific waiver has been obtained pursuant to Article 1, Section 16. No student under guardianship is eligible without a written eligibility finding confirming compliance with the above and issued by the Executive Director. The use of a student-athlete under guardianship before such written confirmation shall constitute the use of an ineligible player. Such eligibility finding will be given after the student under Probate Court guardianship has been subject to the waiting period of 50% of the *League* schedule in each sport of which s/he participated on a varsity level in any secondary school not terminating with the 9th grade.
- J. If the athlete severs connection with any school for a period of two weeks or more, the athlete cannot become eligible for varsity athletics until the athlete has completed the waiting period of 50% of the *League* schedule in each sport of which s/he

participated on a 9<sup>th</sup> grade, junior varsity or varsity level from the date of the athlete's return to school and then only if the other eligibility requirements are met. This section shall not be interpreted to apply to students absent from school because of illness.

- K. No school shall allow the participation of any student who is ineligible in any regard. This participation applies to junior varsity and so-called "B" games and school-sponsored club teams just as strictly as it applies to varsity contests, both league and non-league. During the time a student-athlete is ineligible because of the Transfer Rule, s/he is permitted to practice with the team.

**Penalty for an Eligibility Violation:** Loss of eligibility in the sport involved for a number of RIIL games equal to the number of games in which the athlete ineligible participated. Such loss of eligibility shall commence with the date of the last infraction and, if necessary, shall extend into the RIIL games of the same sport for the following year.

## **Section 6. FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS**

Foreign Exchange Students entering any secondary member school must have their eligibility status reviewed by the Executive Director of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League. Principals who have Foreign Exchange Students that desire to participate in interscholastic athletics are required to communicate with the Executive Director to seek eligibility for such students, and they must provide the following information on a form provided by the Rhode Island Interscholastic League which can be found on the Rhode Island Interscholastic League website.

A. **FORM 1 – APPROVED FOREIGN EXCHANGE PROGRAM**

Foreign Exchange students involved in programs listed in the most current edition of the Advisory List of International Travel and Exchange Programs (CSIET) published by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel are eligible for participation when approved by the Executive Director. **To seek eligibility for such students, schools must provide information on the Foreign Exchange Student Data Form I, and Form III provided by the RIIL.**

B. **FORM 2 – FOREIGN EXCHANGE PROGRAM**

**FOREIGN EXCHANGE PROGRAM NOT SPONSORED BY CSIET**

Foreign Exchange Students entering member schools under a program not listed on the recognized list of the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) or entering member schools under no program who desire to participate in interscholastic athletics are held to all the requirements of Article 3, Sections 5 & 6 as well as all the other requirements of the Rules and Regulations, and are required to communicate with the Executive Director to seek eligibility for such students. After completing the Foreign Exchange Student Data Form II and Form III, an eligibility ruling must be obtained from the Committee through the Executive Director. The earliest date these students can become eligible for competition is after they have obtained a favorable eligibility ruling from the Committee, and after they have served the fifty percent (50%) of the League schedule waiting period in each sport in which they participated on a varsity level.

C. **FORM 3 – FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT DATA (AFFIDAVIT)**

Principals must complete Form III and submit along with Form I or Form II to the Executive Director of the RIIL.

D. It is understood that eligibility shall be for one (1) year only from the date of enrollment.

In order to participate in a post-season tournament event, the foreign exchange student must have been a member of that team for at least fifty percent (50%) of that team's regularly scheduled season contests.

***NOTE: The Foreign Exchange Student will be ineligible to participate in any Rhode Island Interscholastic League or League-sanctioned games, matches, meets, etc. until an eligibility ruling is rendered by the League.***

## **Section 7. INDIVIDUAL ATHLETIC COMPETITION IN THE ABSENCE OF A TEAM**

The RIIL will provide the opportunity for male and/or female athletes to compete as individuals on behalf of their respective schools in specified sports and under specified conditions provided the school does not sponsor a team in that sport in the RIIL or an outside league not affiliated with the RIIL. However, the RIIL encourages member schools to sponsor team participation when possible. Individual competition shall be limited to cross country, golf, gymnastics, swimming, winter and spring track and wrestling.

To be eligible for athletic competition, an individual(s) shall be in compliance with all of the provisions listed in this section.

A. The athlete(s) shall:

1. have a valid Assumption of Risk form on file in the RIIL Office.

2. have their athletic eligibility certified by the Principal in accordance with RIIL Rule and Regulations.
3. participate in accordance with the requirements of the sport.
4. be accompanied to all contests by a coach and/or have an authorized representative of the school with them as designated by the Principal.
  - a. Individual gymnastic athletes are required to have a designated coach/spotter on the floor.
5. comply with all other rules and filings as may be required.

**B. The school(s):**

1. Principal must be a member in good standing of the RIASP.
2. Must pay the full dues and fees as established by the RIIL for each sport. Participation of the individual athlete(s) may result in additional costs for the sport involved. An additional fee will be charged for other sports as deemed necessary.
3. Principal(s) or their official designee shall declare the intent of the athlete to compete with the Director of the Sport or the RIIL Office.
  - a. The declaration for an athlete to compete must be made prior to the starting date of the season for the individual sport.

**C. The Director of the Sport will have the final authority and will establish the format and placement for the inclusion of individual athletes in competition. The Director will also have the authority to establish a method for athletic competition as individual(s) in state tournaments/meets.**

1. Swimming - Individual athletes must compete in three (3) of four (4) qualifying meets though a minimum of two (2) of three (3) may at times suffice at the discretion of the Director of Swimming.
2. Gymnastics - Individual athletes must compete in three (3) meets and have qualifying scores to be eligible to compete in the Individual Championship. Student-athletes are encouraged to compete in five (5) meets for all-state consideration.
3. Track – Individual athletes are scheduled to compete in four (4) meets. Individual times/distances as outlined in Articles 26 and 27 will be used to determine eligibility in State Tournament competition.

**D. Additional requirements:**

1. No school may enter more than three (3) individuals in a particular sport. No alternates or substitutions may be made or allowed for these individuals.
2. Individual athletes must qualify for championships on the same basis as members of school teams.
3. In any athletic event where an individual qualifies for a medal; the medal shall be awarded to him/her and the points scored will be attributed to the individual. There will be no displacement of position or points among other competitors in events in which individuals participate.
4. No school entering individuals may win a team championship.

**Section 8. BOARDING STUDENTS**

- A. Students boarding in member schools or in homes arranged by member schools whose parental residence is outside the State of Rhode Island must have their athletic eligibility determined on an individual basis. Until such students are ruled eligible by the Committee, they may not participate in any contest of a member school.
- B. Principals seeking eligibility rulings on the above students must supply to the Committee the following information.
  1. Place of parental residence.
  2. Previous school attended and dates of attendance.
  3. The amount of financial aid, if any, provided by the school or friends of the school.
- C. If the students are ruled eligible by the Committee, the 50% of the League's season rule for each sport they participated in on the varsity level will prevail in the case of transfers from other secondary schools. This waiting period may be extended for a maximum of one year at the discretion of the Committee after having considered all the information provided by the school seeking the eligibility ruling.

**Section 9. TUITION STUDENTS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

**A. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

Evaluation of student needs for financial assistance must be completed by the person(s) in the school designated as responsible for the financial assistance policies and procedures.

Funds which have been donated to the schools by organizations and individuals must be given as financial assistance to students through the normal financial program of the school for all students, and without regard to athletic potential.

## B. TUITION STUDENTS

1. Schools receiving tuition must maintain records of the source of the tuition payments and other financial charges, the identification of the person or corporation making the payment of tuition and other charges, and the person or corporation to whom the receipt is issued.
2. Special Inducements as listed in Section 10, paragraph C2 whether given directly by a school or indirectly through an alumni group or parents' association, are strictly forbidden.
3. All schools must keep on file an individual scholarship report on any student receiving financial aid from the school or any related entity in excess of 50% of the combined tuition and expenses and receive an eligibility ruling for the person receiving such aid prior to using said student in an RIIL sanctioned game. The only exception is financial aid provided by an independent corporation, parish or governmental agency/division. The school must furnish on this report the circumstances of any other aid whatsoever.
4. Schools may be required to submit an individual scholarship report on any student receiving financial aid from the school or any related entity in excess of 50% of the combined tuition and expenses. The Executive Director and the Chair will determine the eligibility of any student receiving financial aid. The Executive Director and the Chair will consider the circumstances and determine whether the aid is scholarship aid or an athletic scholarship. In making this decision, these individuals will give the particular street of the residence of the athlete involved and the normal area that the school in question generally draws from. In order to deny eligibility to any student because of an athletic scholarship, both individuals must agree. An appeal can be entered to the Committee in the event that an athlete is declared ineligible but, pending appeal, the athlete may not participate in any contest of the school involved.
5. In the event that an athlete receiving financial aid, in accordance with the provisions of Article 3, Section 9, is not reported to the Committee upon request, all games in which the athlete participated from the time the aid was given shall be forfeited and, if championships are involved, they shall be rescinded and plaques and trophies returned to the RIIL.
6. Schools violating any of these regulations or the provisions of Article 3, Section 10 will be placed on probation for one year and may be subject to penalties as listed in Article 6.
  - a. Schools, who continue to violate these regulations after having been placed on probation may be dropped from membership in the RIIL. Such decisions require a majority vote of the Committee and the vote of two thirds of the members of the RIIL.
7. The Committee pledges it will seek to investigate any signed, written complaint of schools violating these regulations even though the complaint might not come officially from a member school and will use outside assistance, if necessary, to carry out the investigation.
  - a. NOTE: The schools should note that while many of the above regulations pertain only to tuition-charging schools and financial assistance programs, Article 3, Section 1 pertains to all schools. Each Principal should make certain that these regulations are known and understood by all their athletic directors and coaching staff. Penalties for violations of the Rules and Regulations will be strictly enforced by the Principals' Committee on Athletics.

## **Section 10. RECRUITMENT OF STUDENT-ATHLETES BY PRIVATE, PAROCHIAL AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

To maintain the educational standards and dignity of our academic and athletic program, all members of the RIIL must refrain from any practices such as recruitment, enticements, and inducements or other pressure which would encourage students substantially for athletic purposes to leave, enter, or not to enter schools within their normal district, as defined by the Rhode Island Department of Education, or schools in which they have enrolled or have indicated in writing the intent to enroll. In order to insure that the above prohibitions of the RIIL are carried out, the Committee has adopted the following regulations: (Note: This also applies to students below grade 9 who are contemplating enrolling in a RIIL member school, public, private or parochial).

## **POLICY ON RECRUITING**

### A. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1. Recruiting is the use of undue influence and/or special inducement by anyone associated with a school in an attempt to encourage a prospective student to attend or remain at that school for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics.
2. Recruitment of students or attempted recruitment of students for athletic purposes, regardless of their residence, is a gross violation of the by-laws of the RIIL and is expressly forbidden.
3. Member schools are responsible for any violation committed by any person who is under the direct or indirect supervision and control of the principal. Member schools are also responsible for any violation committed by a person acting at the direction of any person under the direct supervision or control of the principal.

## **B. UNDUE INFLUENCE**

1. Undue Influence is the use of direct or indirect communication by anyone associated with a school with a prospective student in an attempt to solicit or encourage the enrollment of a prospective student in that school for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics.
2. Undue influence includes, but is not limited to:
  - a. Initiating or arranging telephone, telegram or other written contact such as questionnaires, cards or letters, with a prospective student-athlete or member of his/her family for the purpose of soliciting or encouraging the enrollment of the student in a school.
  - b. Visiting or entertaining a prospective student-athlete or member of his/her family for the purpose and intent of soliciting or encouraging the enrollment of the student in a school.
  - c. Providing transportation to a prospective student-athlete or member of his/her family for the purpose and intent of soliciting or encouraging the enrollment of the student in that school.
  - d. Attending school or non-school athletic contests with the expressed intent of recruiting specific students for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics.
  - e. Requesting booster club members, students, parents or alumni from a school to discuss the merits of the school's athletic program with a prospective student-athlete or member of his/her family by phone, in person, or through letters or other written communications.
  - f. Any other contact with a prospective student-athlete or member of his/her family for the purpose and intent of soliciting or encouraging the enrollment of the student in a school for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics
3. No member school and no one acting on behalf of any member school may give a speech or give any slide, film or tape presentation or distribute any written material, including advertisements in newspapers, magazines or other publications, which states or implies that a member school's athletic program is better than the athletic program of any other member school or that it would be more advantageous for any prospective student-athlete to participate in athletics at that member school as opposed to any other school.
4. When a student at a junior high, middle school or other high school, or the parent(s) or guardian(s) of that student contacts a coach about attending the coach's school, the coach must immediately refer the student, parent(s) or guardian(s) to the principal or other associate school personnel, who have the responsibility of seeking and processing prospective students.

## **C. SPECIAL INDUCEMENT**

- a. of any privilege not afforded to non-athletes.
- b. Offer or acceptance of free or reduced rent for parent(s) or guardian(s).
- c. Offer or acceptance of payment of moving expenses of parent(s) or guardian(s) or assistance with the moving of parent(s) or guardian(s).
- d. Offer or acceptance of employment of parent(s) or guardian(s) in order to entice the family to move to a certain community if any person associated with the school makes an offer.

## **D. ACADEMIC RECRUITMENT PROGRAMS**

1. This policy is not intended to prevent a member school from conducting academic recruitment programs or recruitment programs designed to attract students based upon the school's overall educational and extracurricular programs. However, such recruitment programs must be designed to present the overall educational and extracurricular programs of the school and not be used as a subterfuge for recruiting students for athletic purposes. Such general recruitment programs permissible under this article must be carried out under the following guidelines:
  - a. With the permission of the principal, member schools may present speeches, films, tapes or other similar programs to students in elementary, junior high or middle schools with grades below the ninth grade from which the member school can normally expect enrollment.
  - b. Member schools may present speeches, slides, film, tape or other similar programs to students at elementary, junior high or middle schools with grades below the ninth grade from which the member school can normally expect enrollment so long as said speeches, slides, films, tapes or other presentations are designed to attract students to attend the member school and are based upon the overall educational programs and not presented solely for the purpose of recruiting prospective athletes.

- c. Coaches or any member of a school's athletic staff cannot conduct recruiting programs of any kind for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics.
- 2. Schools may site accomplishments, both academic to athletic, as long as it does not imply that the school's athletic program is better than any other school's athletic program or that it would be more advantageous for a prospective student-athlete if s/he participated at that member school. A student-athlete may not receive or be offered any remuneration of any kind or receive or be offered any special inducement of any kind, which is not made available to all students who enroll in or apply to a school.
- 3. Special inducements include, but are not limited to:
  - e. Offer or acceptance of money or other valuable consideration such as free or reduced tuition during the regular school year or summer school by any person associated with a school.
  - f. Offer or acceptance of room, board, textbooks or clothing, or financial allotment for textbooks or clothing.
  - g. Offer or acceptance of pay for work that is not performed or that is in excess of the amount regularly paid for such services.
  - h. Offer or acceptance of free transportation by any person associated with a school.
  - i. Offer or acceptance of a residence with any person associated with a school.
  - d. Offer or acceptance as opposed to any other member school.

**E. PENALTIES**

- 1. A member school found to be in violation of any provision of this policy:
  - a. May be required to forfeit all contests won in which a recruited student(s) participates.
  - b. May be placed on probation and denied participation in the RIIL state championship series for a period of not less than one (1) year in the sport(s) in which the violation(s) occurred.
  - c. May be placed on suspension and denied any participation with any member school for a period of not less than one (1) year in the sport(s) in which the violation(s) occurred.
  - d. May be suspended from membership in the RIIL for a period of not less than one (1) year.
- 2. A student who is found to be in violation of this policy:
  - a. May be declared permanently ineligible for interscholastic competition at the school to which s/he was recruited.
  - b. May be declared ineligible for interscholastic competition for a period not to exceed one (1) year at any RIIL member school.