



Annual Report 2014-15



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Unified Volleyball



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GREETINGS FROM THE RIIL

DEAR FRIENDS,

As we begin our 83rd year, it is important that we as teachers, coaches, administrators, and parents all make a difference in the lives of our children, athletes, students, and all other people. The impact—whether negative or positive — many times is greater than we realize. We need to do our best to make that impact a positive one. As we know, the important thing in life is not about who we are or what we accomplish, but about the positive impact we have on others.

Educational based athletic programs in our schools give all of us the opportunity to have that positive impact on others. The challenge I present to you...as you get ready to start a new year, a new season, a new project, is to show all what you're made of as you do your best to have a positive impact on all that you come in contact with.

*“Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.”
~Helen Keller*

Thomas A. Mezzanotte

Executive Director

Rhode Island Interscholastic League

As Chairman of the Principals' Committee on Athletics (PCOA), I am proud to serve along with Vice-Chair Dr. Michael Sollitto and the other members of the committee representing the member schools and affiliated groups of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League (RIIL). The PCOA is the governing body of the RIIL and its members are committed to providing the students of Rhode Island with high quality interscholastic athletic competition, sportsmanship development activities as well as health and wellness programs.

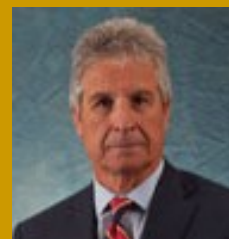
Student-athletes reap the benefits of education based athletics each day. Whether developing leadership skills, learning how to overcome adversity or developing lifelong healthy habits, the benefits of education based athletics are clear.

Under the guidance of the PCOA, the RIIL has grown into a vibrant and dynamic organization that keeps the interest of the student-athlete at the heart of its decision making process. RIIL Executive Director Mr. Thomas Mezzanotte, Assistant Executive Director Mr. Michael Lunney and the talented office staff work diligently every day to ensure the success of the League. Along with Dr. Sollitto, Mr. Mezzanotte and Mr. Lunney, I welcome your feedback and input.

Kevin J. McNamara

Chairman, Principals' Committee on Athletics

Principal, Lincoln High School



Thomas A. Mezzanotte
Executive Director, RIIL



Kevin J. McNamara
Chairman, Principals'
Committee on Athletics

YEAR IN REVIEW

COACHES EDUCATION

In cooperation with the Rhode Island Department of Education, we have supported a comprehensive certification process for all athletic coaches hired after January 1, 2012. This certification process which incorporates elements of the NFHS Coaches Ed program will help athletic coaches meet the significant challenges they face each day. This process, which must be renewed every five years, will include a combination of in-house and NFHS online courses approved by the RIIL. To assist, we are organizing an annual conference for new and grandfathered coaches to fulfill their certification obligations. In addition, the conference will offer other coaches and athletic directors the opportunity to address numerous sport-related issues.

During the 2015-2016 school year, we are planning to implement consolidated pre-season coaches rules interpretation meetings. In addition, these meetings will provide opportunities for new coaches to fulfill certification obligations.

UNIFIED SPORTS

We have continued to build our relationship with Special Olympics of RI (SORI) and promote the development of the RIIL/SORI Unified Sports Program. To date there are 34 schools participating in Unified basketball and 17 schools participating in Unified Volleyball.

The RIIL along with SORI hosted a conference for District Special Education Directors and Adaptive PE Teachers to discuss athletic opportunities for students with intellectual and physical disabilities.

A committee was formed to investigate athletic opportunities for physically disabled students.

STUDENT/TEAM RECOGNITION

We continue with the recognition programs of the RIIL “Student Athlete of the Month” and “Team of the Week.” Outstanding Students and Amazing Team Accomplishments are recognized and publicized through the media. In addition, “Student-athletes of the Month,” “Coach of the Year,” “Athletic Director of the Year,” “RI Spirit of Sport,” “RI Heart of the Arts,” “Team of the Year” and “NFHS Coaches Association 2014 Sectional Coaches of the Year in RI” recipients were honored at our annual luncheon. The overall 2015 Male and Female Student-athletes of the Year were selected and each received a \$1,000 scholarship.

- **Student-athletes of the Month:** *September:* Adamaris Villar, Central Falls and Sean Laverty, Cumberland; *October:* Kate McCormack, Prout and Curtis Cory, Portsmouth; *November:* Karla Argueta, Shea and Marquise Scott, Rogers; *December:* Holly Gerber-George, Toll Gate and Jacob Decelles, North Smithfield; *January:* Catherine Keable, Burrillville and Mark Benway, Lincoln; *February:* Candis Kowalik, Warwick Vets and Jamie Villaneuva, Mt. St. Charles; *March:* Alva Hicks, Classical and Alexander Millen, Narragansett.
- **2015 Male and Female Student-athletes of the Year Winners:** Alexander Millen, *Narragansett High School* and Karla Argueta, *Shea High School*.
- **Coach of the Year:** Paul Rizzo, *North Providence High School, Boys’ Basketball*
- **Athletic Director of the Year:** Thomas Marcello, *Ponaganset High School*
- **RI Spirit of Sport:** Juanita Sanchez Boys’ Basketball Team
- **RI Heart of the Arts:** Stephen Pena, *Mount Pleasant High School*
- **Team of the Year:** Portsmouth High School Girls’ Soccer Team
- **NFHS Coaches Association 2014 Sectional Coaches of the Year in RI:** Josh Bednarczyk, Girls’ Volleyball, *Exeter/West Greenwich High School*; Thomas Kenwood, Boys’ Cross Country, *Cumberland High School*; Debora Valente, Girls’ Spirit, *Portsmouth High School*.

NEW ENGLAND STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (NESLC) AND NFHS STUDENT LEADERSHIP SUMMIT (NSLS)

Twenty-eight student-athletes from RIIL members schools across the state attended the 5th Annual New England Student Leadership Conference on July 14-17 held at Stonehill College, Easton, MA. On July 20-22, two RIIL student-athletes headed to Indianapolis, IN to represent RI at the NFHS newest student leadership initiative —the National Student Leadership Summit. (Read more about the conferences on page 15....)

STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD

Christopher Bassett (JR.) - Bishop Hendricken High School, Chairperson

The RIIL Student Advisory Board met throughout the year to discuss many interscholastic issues (rules, activities, alignment, post-season play, etc.). In December, the RIIL Student Advisory Board hosted a Leadership Conference that brought over 300 students Leadership and implementation of a statewide community service program— Peanut Butter Express. Through the efforts of the Student Advisory Board, this project was a great success and collected over 7,881 lbs of peanut butter for the RI Food Bank. The Central Falls High School was recognized as the school contributing the most peanut butter.

Again this summer, RI students attended the New England Student Leadership Conference at Stonehill College, MA. Members of the RIIL Student Advisory Board will be selected from those who attended this conference. In addition, the RIIL sent two RI students to the NFHS National Student Leadership Summit Conference in Indianapolis, IN.

SPORTS MEDICINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SMAC)

- Promoted ways of minimizing risk in all sports (Concussion Management, Heat Acclimatization, Overuse Injuries, Limiting “contact” in collision sports, the use of appropriate pre-participation physicals for all athletes, and urging all school athletic teams to have access to certified athletic trainers).
- Worked with the football sport committee to implement a limited contact program throughout the entire season.
- SMAC will be working with the RIIL Hockey Sport Committee to present a plan to improve safety in Boys/Girls Ice Hockey.
- SMAC members will be working with various RIIL Sport Committees.

RIIL Executive Director and George Finn, Chair of the RIIL SMAC, attended the inaugural Collaborative Solutions for Safety in Sport national meeting sponsored by the National Athletic Trainers’ Association.

Worked with the RI School Superintendents Association to implement and distribute AED’s to all schools that were donated by CVS. In addition, schools will receive from the NFHS the *Anyone Can Save A Life Program*, which will provide schools with a comprehensive emergency action plan for after school practices and events.

RIIL SPORTS MEDIA

The RIIL partnered with the NFHS to stream tournament events and promote a school broadcast program. Presently, there are five schools who are participating. In addition, the RIIL agreement with PlayOn (NFHS Network) has been extended another five years to 2020.

We are continuing to upgrade and improve the RIIL.org website. New homepage, online statistics in the sports of football, hockey, baseball, soccer, and basketball have been added. In addition, we have brought Carolyn Thornton, an experienced journalist, to the RIIL as Director of Multimedia Content to coordinate and oversee the RIIL Facebook Page, Twitter and Blog. Carolyn plans to work with high school students as junior journalists, teaching them about a career as a professional journalist, and covering more RIIL events from around the state throughout the year.

RI PRINCIPALS’ COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS/RI INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION (RIIAAA)

1. Approved the Arbiter Pay Program which will allow the RIIL to register, assign and pay all officials at all sport levels. Utilizing the capabilities of the Arbiter Software, this system will streamline, improve, and assist School and District Business Offices as well as School Athletic Administrators in the payment of all officials.
2. Approved new regulations for the formation of Cooperative School/Team Programs which will give all schools the opportunity to expand/extend and create co-op teams.
3. Approved new regulations allowing athletes the opportunity to play more than one sport during a season.
4. Approved and implemented a statewide Girls’ Basketball Tournament.
5. RIIL/RIIAAA continue to meet regularly to discuss sport related issues to improve the overall program.
6. Approved renewal of new and existing corporate sponsors.
7. Approved and implemented NFHS Football Guidelines to Minimize Head Impact and Concussion Risk in Football.

SPORTSMANSHIP:

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League is to provide its member schools governance, leadership and support for interscholastic athletics which gives student-athletes opportunities to compete in an environment that stresses education, sportsmanship, integrity and safety.

PUT IT IN YOUR GAMEPLAN

Core Values

We believe:

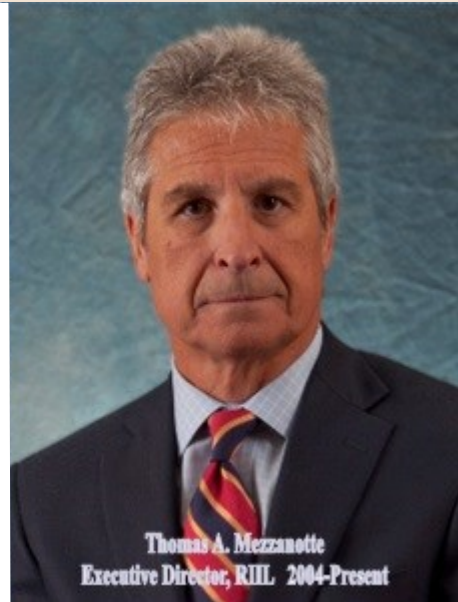
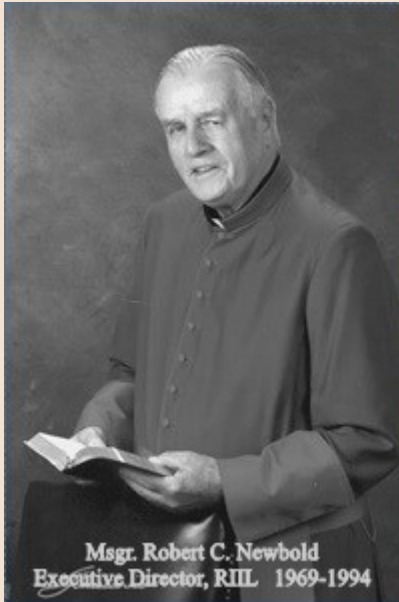
- Athletics is an integral part of education in our schools;
- Interscholastic athletics is a privilege that enhances the education of students;
- Leadership, responsibility, sportsmanship and scholarship are essential parts of athletics;
- Athletics is an enjoyable experience which fosters valuable life lessons;
- All member schools have the opportunity to be represented and are accountable to the standards of the RIIL;
- Fostering a professional relationship among its colleagues is a responsibility of the RIIL.

Vision Statement

The RIIL is an organization with high standards for its member schools, student-athletes, and constituencies. Through professional collegiality the League advocates and promotes the value of interscholastic athletics. The League provides athletic experiences that enable student-athletes to reach their highest level of academic and athletic potential and prepares them to become responsible citizens.



HISTORY

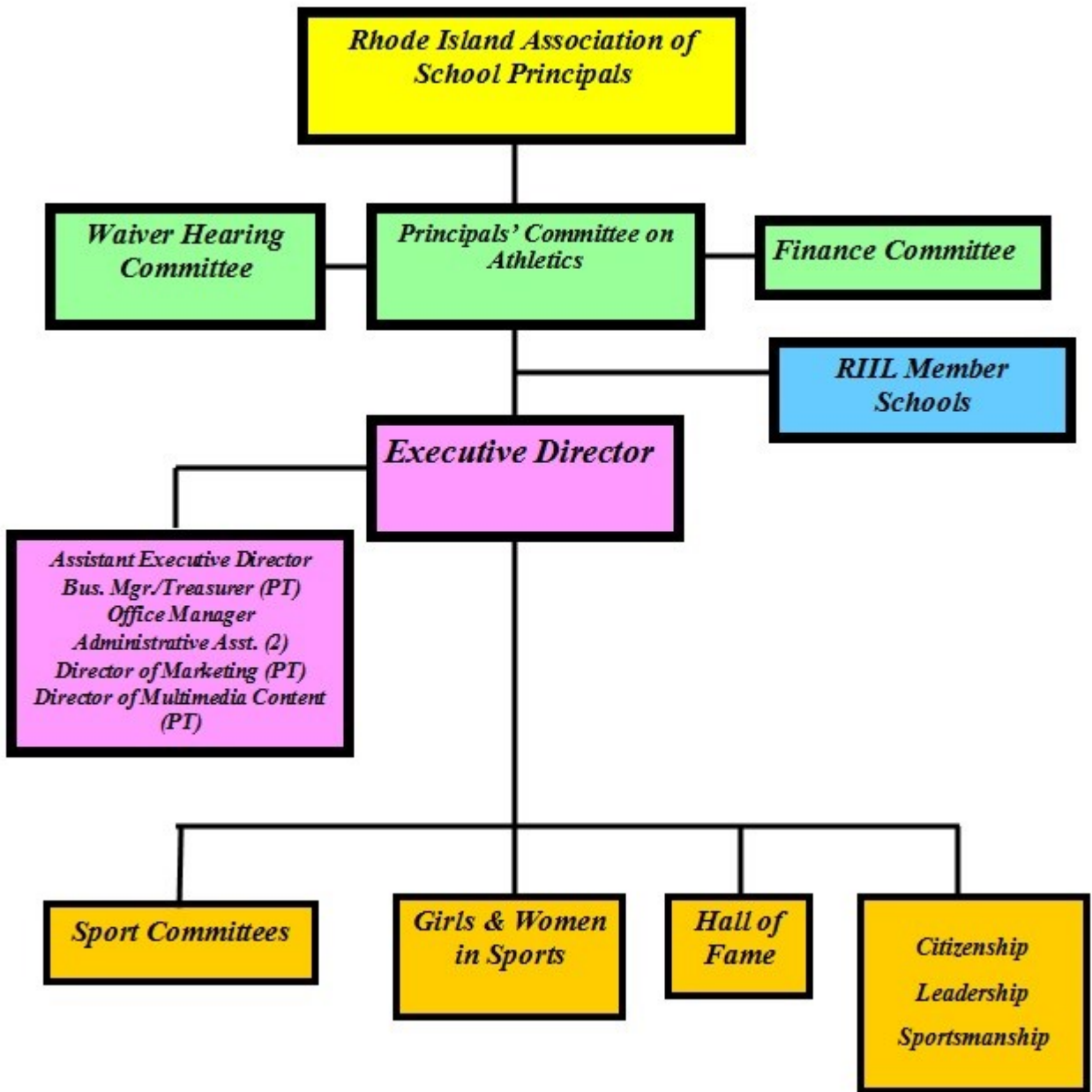


The Rhode Island Interscholastic League was established in 1932. It is a voluntary, private, incorporated, non-profit organization of principals who pledge their high schools and participants to follow the Rules and Regulations of the League.

There are sixty (60) public, private, and parochial high schools that make up the membership. These schools sponsor athletic activities in twenty-eight (28) sports. Over twenty thousand (20,000) young men and women compete annually in thousands of competitions.

The purpose of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League is to supervise and administer the athletic programs, contests, schedules and matters related to participating schools in the state of Rhode Island.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



GOVERNING PROCESS OF THE RIIL

The legislative body of the League is the *Principals' Committee on Athletics*, which consists of principals/assistant principals of the sixty (60) member high schools. The Committee meets regularly. All meetings are open to the public and anyone who wishes may attend.

Standing Committees are appointed by the Chairperson of the Principals' Committee on Athletics with the approval of the Principals' Committee on Athletics. Standing Committees are established for each sport. Others are established to address issues of general concern to the RIIL membership and to plan programs/activities for the members.

Membership on standing committees is open to superintendents, school administrators, athletic directors, coaches, game officials, and physicians. Recommendations are made by these committees to help the Principals' Committee on Athletics set rules and regulations and to provide programs for its schools.

The following administrators served on the Principals' Committee on Athletics during the 2014-2015 school year:

Kevin J. McNamara, *Chairperson*
Principal, Lincoln High School
Michael Sollitto, Ed.D., *Assistant Chairperson*
Principal, Scituate High School

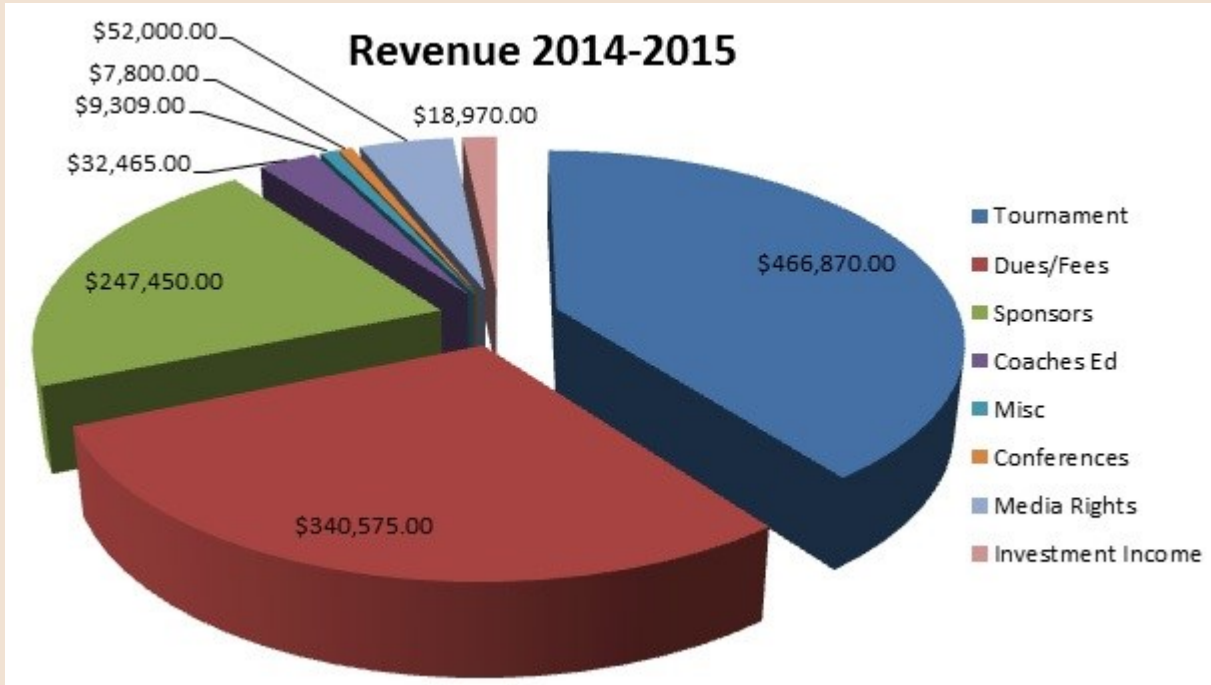
Gail Abromitis, Principal, <i>Middletown High School</i>	Donald J. Kavanagh, Principal, <i>La Salle Academy</i>
Scott D. Barr, Principal, <i>Classical High School</i>	Michaela Keegan, Ed.D., Principal, <i>Juanita Sanchez Complex</i>
Kathryn Crowley, RISSA / Superintendent, <i>Little Compton</i>	Sean T. Kelly, Principal, <i>Cranston High School East</i>
Joseph T. Brennan, Jr., <i>Bishop Hendricken High School</i>	Robert Littlefield, Principal, <i>Portsmouth High School</i>
Robert DiMuccio, Asst. Principal, <i>Johnston High School</i>	James Vetelino, RIIAAA/Athletic Director, <i>Westerly School</i>
Joseph Goho, Principal, <i>No. Providence High School</i>	Daniel F. Warner, Principal, <i>Narragansett High School</i>
Colleen Gribbin, Principal, <i>St. Mary Academy-Bay View</i>	Michael Whaley, Ed.D., Principal, <i>Burrillville High School</i>

I wish to express my sincere thanks to the members of the PCOA for their dedication, compassion and loyalty to student-athletes and the Mission of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League. In addition, I would like to acknowledge our Committee Chair, Mr. Kevin McNamara, Principal of Lincoln High School, and Assistant Chair Dr. Michael Sollitto, Principal of Scituate High School for their leadership and counsel. Throughout the past year they have served with distinction on numerous committees and dedicated countless hours to many important League matters.

The RIIL and the Principals' Committee on Athletics are deeply grateful to the RI Association of School Principals, the RI Athletic Administrators Association, and the RI School Superintendents Association for their continued support of its membership. Without the strong support of the principals and athletic administrators of our member schools, the Rhode Island Interscholastic League would not enjoy the level of success that presently exists.

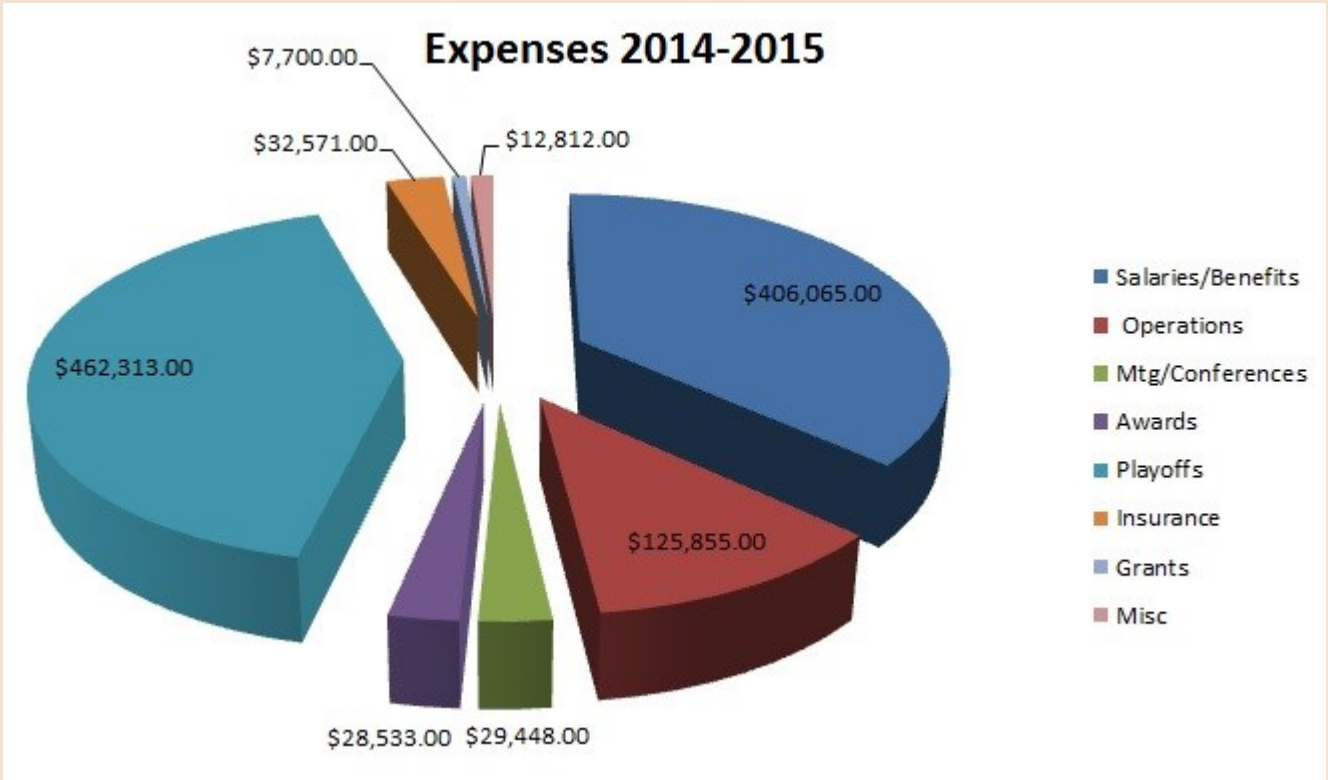
As Executive Director, I would like to acknowledge and express my appreciation to Michael Lunney, Assistant Executive Director, for his cooperation, support and efforts on behalf of the League and its student-athletes. I would also like to thank Donna Kane, Business Manager/Treasurer; Gail Lepore, Office Manager; Susana Costa and Julie Mancini, Administrative Assistants; and Tracy Quarella, Director of Marketing for the important role they play in the success of the League.

RIIL FINANCIAL REPORT



2014-2015 REVENUE

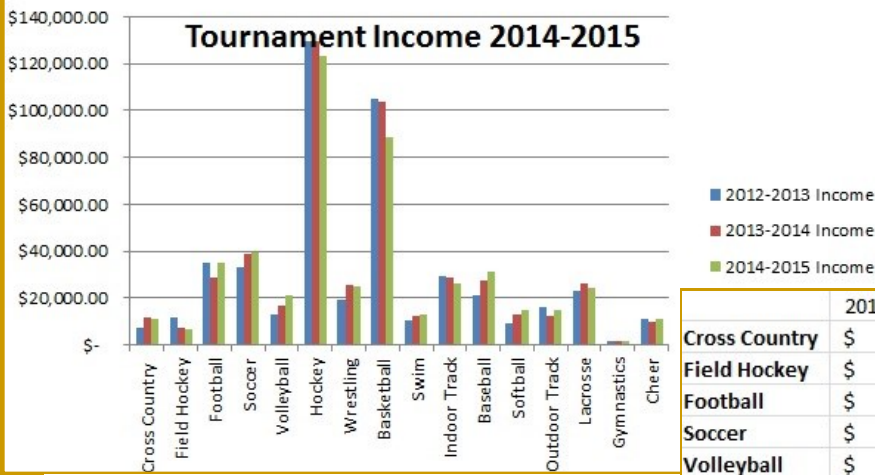
Tournament	\$466,870.00
Dues/Fees	\$340,575.00
Sponsors	\$247,450.00
Coaches Ed	\$32,465.00
Miscellaneous	\$9,309.00
Conferences	\$7,800.00
Media Rights	\$52,000.00
Investment Income	\$18,970.00
Total Revenue	\$1,175,439.00



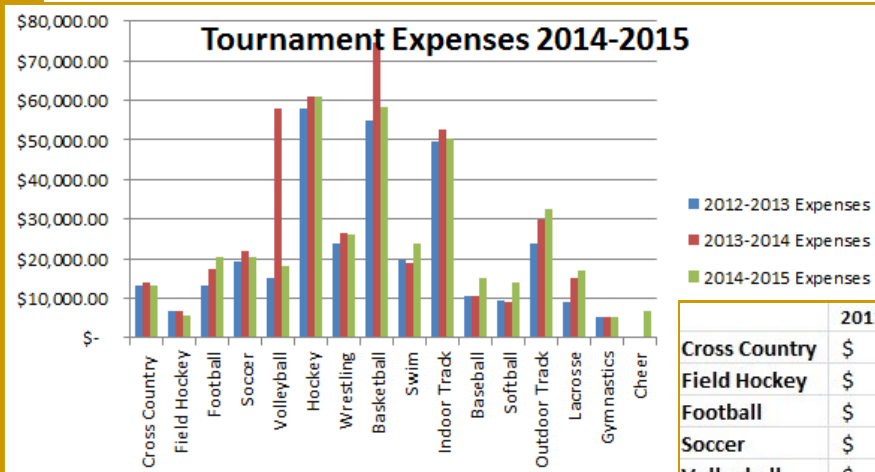
2014-2015 EXPENSES

Salaries/Benefits	\$406,065.00
Operations	\$125,855.00
Meetings/Conferences	\$29,448.00
Awards	\$28,533.00
Playoffs	\$462,313.00
Insurance	\$32,571.00
Grants to Schools	\$7,700.00
Miscellaneous	\$12,812.00
Total Expenses	\$1,105,297.00

TOURNAMENT FINANCES



	2012-2013 Income	2013-2014 Income	2014-2015 Income
Cross Country	\$ 7,231.00	\$ 11,358.00	\$ 11,162.00
Field Hockey	\$ 11,827.00	\$ 7,221.00	\$ 6,640.00
Football	\$ 34,829.00	\$ 28,788.00	\$ 35,095.00
Soccer	\$ 33,287.00	\$ 38,560.00	\$ 39,403.00
Volleyball	\$ 12,987.00	\$ 16,546.00	\$ 21,179.00
Hockey	\$ 129,507.00	\$ 129,507.00	\$ 123,360.00
Wrestling	\$ 19,112.00	\$ 25,634.00	\$ 24,942.00
Basketball	\$ 104,890.00	\$ 103,434.00	\$ 88,341.00
Swim	\$ 10,715.00	\$ 12,203.00	\$ 13,115.00
Indoor Track	\$ 29,201.00	\$ 28,406.00	\$ 26,100.00
Baseball	\$ 21,287.00	\$ 27,197.00	\$ 31,105.00
Softball	\$ 9,084.00	\$ 13,045.00	\$ 15,013.00
Outdoor Track	\$ 15,817.00	\$ 12,375.00	\$ 14,987.00
Lacrosse	\$ 23,327.00	\$ 25,865.00	\$ 24,578.00
Gymnastics	\$ 1,662.00	\$ 1,476.00	\$ 1,797.00
Cheer	\$ 11,040.00	\$ 9,836.00	\$ 11,241.00



	2012-2013 Expenses	2013-2014 Expenses	2014-2015 Expenses
Cross Country	\$ 13,243.00	\$ 14,147.00	\$ 13,115.00
Field Hockey	\$ 6,762.00	\$ 6,623.00	\$ 5,523.00
Football	\$ 13,359.00	\$ 17,530.00	\$ 20,339.00
Soccer	\$ 19,191.00	\$ 21,882.00	\$ 20,350.00
Volleyball	\$ 15,098.00	\$ 57,964.00	\$ 18,025.00
Hockey	\$ 57,964.00	\$ 61,076.00	\$ 61,076.00
Wrestling	\$ 23,860.00	\$ 26,567.00	\$ 26,030.00
Basketball	\$ 54,960.00	\$ 74,729.00	\$ 58,461.00
Swim	\$ 19,707.00	\$ 18,986.00	\$ 23,947.00
Indoor Track	\$ 49,743.00	\$ 52,495.00	\$ 50,437.00
Baseball	\$ 10,624.00	\$ 10,378.00	\$ 15,159.00
Softball	\$ 9,333.00	\$ 9,101.00	\$ 13,810.00
Outdoor Track	\$ 23,858.00	\$ 30,017.00	\$ 32,592.00
Lacrosse	\$ 8,992.00	\$ 15,102.00	\$ 16,961.00
Gymnastics	\$ 5,341.00	\$ 5,138.00	\$ 5,128.00
Cheer			\$ 6,915.00

SERVICES TO MEMBER SCHOOLS

The Rhode Island Interscholastic League is a service organization providing its member schools with publications, training opportunities, recognition programs, tournaments, rules interpretation meetings, and other services that assist in the administration of interscholastic sports.

Athletic Rules and Regulations

Includes the by-laws and regulations for the RIIL.

Communications

The League posts on its website.

Recognition

The League sponsors the RIIL Hall of Fame for the most distinguished individuals involved in high school athletics.

Arbiter Pay Program

Implementing the Arbiter Program Software, will streamline, improve and assist school Athletic Director and Business Offices in the assignment and payment of game officials.

Revenue Share Plan

The RIIL will share yearly profits it has accumulated and distribute these funds to schools.

RIIL Foundation

The RIIL Foundation was created to serve the interests of student-athletes by awarding grants in the areas of character, education, sportsmanship and leadership.

RIIL/NFHS Network

The heart of the RIIL/NFHS Network primarily consists of the season-ending RIIL Sport Tournaments. The RIIL/NFHS Network has produced internet broadcasts for most sports during this past two years of operation.

While high school state associations like the RIIL provide an immense potential for content, there are nearly 20,000 member high schools coast-to-coast who now have the opportunity to broadcast their own school specific content. It is this local content through the School Broadcasting Program that gives the network its legs.

School sports are first, last and always about local teams and it's not just about high-profile sports and varsity teams; it's just as much about lower-profile programs and events.

The success of the NFHS Network will not be "made for TV," national tournaments or matchups between teams with the most highly regarded players. Our success will come from the aggregation of hundreds of typical local rivalries that are played all school year long in every nook of our State.

The NFHS Network School Broadcasting Program gives all of our schools and communities the opportunity to highlight our programs, our fans and our athletes. It is for all these reasons that I encourage every Rhode Island high school to become part of this great opportunity.

Tournament Programs

Provide tournament fans with information about the teams participating in each League-sponsored tournament/meet.

Tournaments

- The League supervises and administers state tournaments in 28 athletic events for its member schools.
- Assists the media outlets statewide in their coverage of high school sports.
- Provides accident insurance for every student, coach, and official that participates in a league-sponsored activity.

Student Leadership Conferences

The League sponsors numerous opportunities for student-athletes to take part in an assortment of leadership and sportsmanship activities.

Student-Athlete Wellness Program

The Performance Edge: Wellness for Winners is a program designed to provide our student-athletes and coaches with a comprehensive wellness program that will support our high schools by embracing the health and wellness of all participants.

Web Site www.riil.org keeps member schools and fans up to date on League activities, rules and events.

SPORTS PARTICIPATION 2014-2015

Participation in Rhode Island high school sports has once again increased. According to the 2014-2015 High School Athletics Participation Survey conducted by the RIIL, the total number of teams and participants has increased from previous years. While girls participation figures dipped slightly, boys participation and Unified Sports participation has increased. Overall, there was an increase of 534 participants for 2014-2015.

TRENDS:

1. The fastest growing sports for both boys and girls continues to be Lacrosse.
2. Unified Sports continues to significantly grow in both the sports of basketball and volleyball. These are both co-ed sports.
3. The number of participants in high school sports in Rhode Island closely reflect the National participant trends.

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION SURVEY TOTALS

Year	Boys	Teams	Girls	Teams	Unified	Teams	Total
2007-2008	16,642	524	11,516	460	N/A	N/A	28,158
2008-2009	16,621	531	13,105	484	N/A	N/A	29,726
2009-2010	16,557	523	11,915	463	150	10	28,622
2010-2011	16,221	523	11,849	468	326	26	28,396
2011-2012	16,570	529	12,001	474	472	38	29,043
2012-2013	16,597	533	12,271	490	580	44	29,448
2013-2014	16,565	536	12,305	496	752	48	29,622
2014-2015	17,399	589	11,921	536	836	52	30,156

RIIL Student-Athlete of the Year Winners

Presented by: **SHOWCASE**



Karla Argueta is a four year All-Division performer on the **Shea High School** Varsity Girls' Soccer team and was named captain of the team this past fall. She also plays varsity basketball and golf for the Raiders. In the school, Karla plays an active role as a freshman mentor and a member of several school activities including the Key Club, Photo Club, China Club, Student Council, S.M.I.L.E. Club, Art Club, Sewing Club and the Math League. She also serves her community by volunteering at the local soup kitchen, her church nursery, the football concession stand and annually helps to make Thanksgiving baskets for those that need it. As a student, Karla has a 4.29 GPA and is currently ranked #6 in her class and challenges herself by taking Advanced Standing and AP courses. She is also a National Honor Society member and an Honor Roll Student each quarter in her high school career.



Alexander Millen is a senior honors student at **Narragansett High School** and a three sport athlete in football, wrestling and outdoor track. He is also a past participant in lacrosse. An all-league performer in football, Alexander is a captain of the wrestling and outdoor track teams. As an All-State wrestler in the heavyweight division, he has qualified and competed in the New England Championships throughout his high school career. Alexander has also achieved the honor of becoming an Eagle Scout with the Boys Scouts of America and is a member of the Narragansett High School Band and Jazz Band. Although undecided at this time, Alexander is considering several colleges and will pursue a degree in chemistry or biology.

NEW ENGLAND STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

“It was beyond moving; it was inspirational and eye opening,” said Mount St. Charles senior Kayla Kanakry, one of more than two dozen Rhode Island high school students who took part in the fifth annual New England Student Leadership Conference, July 14-17 at Stonehill College, Easton, Mass.

The student-athletes participated in both large and small group discussions that focused on “respect, positive values, perspective, sportsmanship, teamwork, healthy lifestyles, community service and self-evaluation.” The teens, who also assisted with a community service project, described the conference as an empowering experience, and many expressed an interest in returning next year.

“The week I spent at the New England Leadership Conference was easily one of the best weeks of my life,” said junior Sara Barker, a three-sport athlete and one of four North Kingstown participants. “Not only did I take home new ideas and approaches towards leading, but also new friendships and experiences that will last a lifetime. Two things that made the biggest impression on me was volunteering at Food for Friends Food Pantry and listening to the presentation by [guest speaker] James Orrigo. As an athlete myself, it was inspiring to see how he was able to find a different life for himself after being forced to terminate his lacrosse career [because of a concussion] and moving past the loss of his mother during his senior year of college. I would strongly recommend attending this conference and I can’t wait to go back next summer!”

“I had the best time at NESLC,” said Bay View soccer player Hannah Terry. “While I learned important values and points of how to be a good leader, I had fun and met amazing people. One thing that stood out to me while I was there was how genuinely nice everyone was. It was so refreshing being in a supportive, friendly environment where I was continuously being told I’m capable of so much. Leaving, I had much more confidence in myself and I’m not afraid to talk to new people and ask questions. I’m so thankful for the time I had at NESLC.”

“I had a blast at the leadership conference,” said Mount St. Charles hockey and lacrosse player Chris Hogan. “I met so many awesome people and made lots of friends and connections all around New England. My favorite part was definitely the guest speakers and the presentation six of us made for all the people attending. Our presentation was about how we could raise awareness about the RI Interscholastic League and its fundraisers and events to student-athletes. All in all, it was a great experience I hope to remember for a long time.” ~Article by Carolyn Thornton, RIIL Director of Multimedia Content



NFHS STUDENT LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Joey D’Antonio, a junior at Bishop Hendricken, and Gabrielle Grieco, a senior at Bay View Academy, represented Rhode Island at the NFHS National Student Leadership Summit, July 20-22 in Indianapolis.

Held for the first time in five years, the three-day summit focused “on relevant and contemporary issues affecting today’s students in education-based athletics and performing arts,” giving the approximately 100 students who participated an opportunity to “sharpen their leadership skills and realize the privilege and power of their influence in their school, community and state.”

D’Antonio and Grieco, who are both members of the RIIL’s Student Advisory Board, took part in team-building breakout sessions. They also listened to keynote speakers and worked with athletes from Special Olympics Indiana.

They were accompanied by La Salle boys volleyball coach Marcus Jannitto, a Brigadier General with the RI Air National Guard.

“The NFHS National Student Leadership Summit is one of the greatest experiences I’ve ever been a part of. The information and knowledge of leadership that the speakers conveyed to us in the breakout sessions are lessons that can help us change the lives of not only ourselves, but our peers as well. Having the opportunity to work alongside with the Special Olympics of Indiana was a life-changing experience. To be able to listen to each athlete’s story and participate in the various games with them is something I hope everyone has the opportunity to do. It is truly worth it.” Joey D’Antonio

“A few weeks ago, I was given the privilege of being chosen as one of the two delegates from Rhode Island to represent our state at the National Leadership Summit. Quite honestly, before this experience I was really nervous as to what it would entail, but I am now extremely happy that I was able to take part in an experience that not only grew my leadership skills, but helped to change the way I look at things. At the Summit we learned many things that I can now share with the Rhode Island Interscholastic League to help better things like our leadership workshops, but it also helped to make me an all-around better person.” Gabby Grieco ~Article by Carolyn Thornton, RIIL Director of Multimedia Content



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 practice, provide solutions thereto; and,
- Promote the educational values of interscholastic activities to the nation's public.



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