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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.

- 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 two hundred dollars (\$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 6 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 player's 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. Penalty is a one hundred dollar (\$100.00) fine.
 1. Athletes in any sport, requiring helmets, must be equipped with a warning label regarding the risk of use and injury.
- C. Upon approval from the school, the RIIL permits athletes to participate simultaneously in more than one sport during the same sport season. However, no athlete may participate in the same sport for more than one athletic season in any given academic

school year.

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.

1. Student Athletes enrolled at an RIIL Member School are prohibited from participating in any practice, tryout, or competition for any school that they are not enrolled in.

2. Exceptions

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

i. 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 and/or career pathways program school in all sports for the school year.

Note: Feeder School is defined as the public high school in the community in which the student resides.

ii. If a student-athlete declares that s/he wants to participate in athletics at his/her career and technical and/or career pathways program school, s/he cannot participate at his/her feeder school in all sports for the school year.

Note: To be eligible immediately under this exception, the student must transfer to the career and technical and/or career pathways school at their first opportunity to do so. If the student does not transfer to the career and technical and/or career pathways school at their first opportunity, s/he shall be subject to the Transfer as set forth in Article 3, Section 6, of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League Rules and Regulations.

iii. Once a student establishes athletic eligibility at either his/her feeder school or career and technical and/or career pathways program school and subsequently decides that s/he would prefer to participate for the other school, s/he shall be subject to the Transfer Rule as set forth in Article 3, Section 6, of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League Rules and Regulations.

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

i. Students will adhere to all Rules and Regulations of the RIIL and any other more demanding requirements of their feeder school and/or career-technical or career pathways school.

ii. The Principals of the feeder school, career and technical and/or career pathways program schools will work collaboratively to insure all eligibility requirements are met and that any discipline concerns/problems and school rules are enforced appropriately.

iii. Students must meet the minimum academic requirements of the career and technical and/or career pathways program school and the feeder school.

iv. Students must receive the appropriate number of credits needed to graduate from their feeder school.

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. 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

I. Academic eligibility rules are minimum requirements and member schools and their governing bodies may adopt higher and more demanding eligibility requirements for local use.

J. – Cooperative Teams

A. **BACKGROUND**

1. Various positive factors have motivated schools to create ways of saving existing programs and of establishing new ones, in an effort to increase overall participation in interscholastic sports.

2. Philosophically, the RIIL has traditionally attempted to make reasonable rules for the common good of all student-athletes involved in interscholastic sports.

3. Philosophically, too, the RIIL continues to be concerned about its ability to monitor programs which would allow all student-athletes to have outlets for all of their interests. The RIIL has always operated within the category of school teams. Could the RIIL reasonably expect to operate successfully within the category of cooperative teams, or would this shift in category slowly erode the very nature of the RIIL and eventually evolve into town or regional teams, like those in Europe, which would operate outside of the control, values, and organizations of schools and, therefore, of the RIIL?

4. The number and composition of different possible groupings within the category of cooperative team was and has been of great concern.

5. A shift from school teams to cooperative teams involved corresponding shifts in the way a school handles insurance, supervision, contracts, and legal disputes. We have seen that such a shift has raised money-matter problems with regard to equipment, transportation, game receipts, coaches' salaries, facilities, officials, dues ticket policies, scouting, meetings, and the like.

6. New and complex organizational problems with regard to responsibility and accountability have been faced in such matters as eligibility, communication, educational values and discipline. Self-interest and a "win-at-all-cost" spirit may tempt schools and individual athletes to shop around for "the best deal." Moreover, financial constraints must not motivate schools or school systems to proffer plans that would effectively limit the participation of the student-athletes involved.

7. Recognizing its ongoing commitment and responsibility to both member schools and to their individual student-athletes, the RIIL has strived to accommodate the needs of both in these rapidly changing and difficult times. Despite concerns about altering the nature of the Association and the mission of school activities, the RIIL accepted these potential risks in order to serve a small number of students among the Association's participants. The overwhelming motivation of cooperative teams in this matter has been to provide additional students the opportunity to participate in interscholastic sports.

B. **POLICIES AND REGULATIONS**

The RIIL has delegated the approval or disapproval of cooperative team applications to the Principals' Committee on Athletics (PCOA).

Regulations: Completion of the RIIL Coop Team Application

1. The joint application includes:

a. The application form signed by the principals of all cooperating schools designating the name under which the cooperative team will compete.

b. A report of the potential number of students from each of the cooperative schools expected to participate on the cooperative team.

- c. A report of the number of students, if any, from each of the cooperating schools who have been participating in the sport involved, in programs offered on a non-cooperative basis by their own schools.

 - d. A statement expressing the reasons for the formation of a cooperative team.

 - e. **Written assurance that the cooperative team will not limit or lessen participation opportunities for students in any of the cooperating schools. A no cut policy must be in plac**

 - f. Eligibility lists from the previous season in the sport in question.
2. Application deadlines for cooperative teams during any school year are: (Schools are encouraged to submit their applications well in advance of the deadline.) **Deadlines will be strictly enforced.**
- a. Fall sports -1st Friday of March; Winter sports -1st Friday of July; Spring sports – 1st Friday of October

 - b. The principal of the host school will be designated as responsible for all RIIIL-related correspondence concerning the cooperative team.

 - c. Note: The cooperative team application form must be completed and be accompanied by all necessary addenda.
3. The RIIIL Principals' Committee on Athletics shall have the authority to approve the formation of cooperative athletic teams by two, but no more than three member high schools under the following conditions:
- a. The determination of the proper set of circumstances which will allow two or three (but not more than three) schools to form a cooperative team will depend significantly on the issue of competitor displacement. When the RIIIL believes that a cooperative arrangement will cause an unreasonable displacement of potential competitors from one of the schools, the request to form a cooperative will be denied. Schools having sufficient numbers of competitors are advised not to request the formation of a cooperative team in that sport. It is only when two, but no more than three, schools are experiencing difficulty in obtaining the desired number of competitors to form a team that the request for a cooperative team should be initiated.

 - b. **No consideration will be given to cooperative proposals which result from the elimination of the sport due to financial cutbacks during the two years immediately prior to the request. Cooperative proposals will not be considered if they are driven by desire to "save money" at the risk of decreasing the number of potential student participants. Cooperative teams will not be permitted to add a third team if the total number of players on the existing co-op team exceeds the maximum determined limit in each sport (see the Individual Sport Participant Chart). Co-op programs exist until they have finished the phase out period or if the agreement between the school involved ceased for at least one full season.**

 - c. Three team cooperative programs cannot exceed **1.5 times** the maximum determined limit in each sport (see the Individual Sport Participant Chart).

 - d. The cooperative sponsorship agreement is established for a period of two consecutive school years. However, approval may be granted for a one-year period. **Schools must reapply after 1 or 2 years.**

e. Cooperative team proposals will only be considered if they increase the number of student participants. Cooperative team requests will not be approved unless necessary to sustain a previously existing team or to create a new team, based solely on numbers, and not at all on specialized player positions.

f. Team alignment will be determined by the RIIL sport committee.

g. A school may not send students to two different cooperative programs in a single sport.

h. Written assurance that a no cut policy will govern the cooperative program

i. All liability associated with the formation and conduct of approved cooperative team rests with the host school which exempts the RIIL and its agents from all liability and responsibility.

j. Cooperative proposals must be limited to RIIL member schools.

k. **Cooperative proposals will be granted for no more than two years.**

l. Students who previously participated on a cooperative team that is disbanded will have an opportunity to be grandfathered if the school they attend no longer offers that sport. These students will be allowed to finish their athletic eligibility with another school in the disbanded cooperative team that decides to continue to offer that sport as a stand-alone team.

m. The RIIL reserves the right to investigate a co-op team which has a substantially different number of athletes reported on the co-op application than the number of athletes that actually participate in the co-op. The outcome of that investigation may result in recommendations to the Principals' Committee on Athletics to take immediate action.

n. All cooperative team athletes must meet all eligibility standards of their own school, as well as the RIIL.

C. **GUIDELINES**

The principal of the host school should assure that during preliminary local discussions adequate attention was given to the following:

1. A sufficient reason for sponsoring a cooperative team
2. An appropriate name for the cooperative team
3. Suitable practice arrangements
4. Fair competitive arrangements
5. Safe and adequate transportation arrangements
6. Provisions for physical examinations and medical coverage
7. Insurance provisions
8. The setting and monitoring of academic standards for eligibility
9. The purchase, repair, and cleaning of equipment
10. Source and control of finances
11. Use and maintenance of facilities
12. Selection, supervision, and payment of coaches
13. Selection and supervision of cheerleaders
14. Coordination of class/school schedules
15. Ticket prices and sales, disbursement of gate receipts
16. Student spectator and fan control and supervision
17. Cooperative team identity: mascot, colors, etc.
18. Award policies (school letters and certificate design)
19. Governance for the resolution of disputes

D. DISSOLUTION OF COOPERATIVE TEAMS

- a. When the decision of the PCOA is to dissolve or discontinue a co-op program, the PCOA may grant an extension of the phase-out period, renewable only on a yearly basis and athletes will be eligible from their schools throughout the phase-out period. The PCOA has the authority to reduce or deny an extension of a phase-out period. Eligibility is not restricted to only those athletes who were on the original co-op team roster at the time of discontinuation.
- b. During the phase-out period, all schools must agree to remain in the co-op agreement on a yearly basis. League approval is not required. During the phase-out period, all athletes are to be notified by their school that a limited period of eligibility exists because the program is in a phase-out period.
- c. Dissolving an active PCOA approved co-op lies solely between the schools involved.
- d. **INDIVIDUAL SPORT PARTICIPATION LIMITS – CO-OP TEAMS**

The following limits have been set by each RIIL sport committee. When the number of potential participants in any school exceeds the limits listed below, a cooperative team will not be approved.

Individual Sport Participation Limit

Only Students in Grades 10-12 are counted

Fall Sports	Ind	Comb	Winter Sports	Ind	Comb	Spring Sports	Ind	Comb
Cross Country	4	6	Basketball	8	12	Baseball	12	18
Field Hockey	13	20	Gymnastics	6	10	Golf	4	6
Football	20	30	Ice Hockey	16	24	Lacrosse	14	21
Soccer	13	20	B. Swimming	8	12	Outdoor Track	4	6
G. Volleyball	8	12	G. Swimming	8	12	Softball	12	18
G. Tennis	7	11	Indoor Track	4	6	B. Tennis	7	11
			Wrestling	8	12	B. Volleyball	8	12

F. PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT EXCEPTION

1. The following schools will be linked together to form three athletic co-op programs in all sports:

- Mt. Pleasant High School (Alvarez)
- Hope High School (E-Cubed Academy)
- Central High School (Providence Career and Technical Academy)

Section 2. ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION (CHARTER) SCHOOLS ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

Inasmuch, many charter schools and/or schools with small enrollments cannot 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.

A. Feeder School Program

1. 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.

2. 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 indicating which school would be the student's feeder school.
3. The Principal (CEO) must become a member of the RI Association of School Principals (RIASP)
4. The Principal (CEO) must also become a member of the RIIL and pay all applicable dues and fees.
5. The Principal (CEO) must certify that their school does not offer a team or participate in any interscholastic athletic events and/or leagues
6. To insure the feeder school Principal has jurisdiction of their student-athletes, the following must be adhered to:
 - a. Student-athletes will adhere to all RIIL Rules and Regulations and any/all other more stringent requirement of the feeder schools.
 - b. The alternative school Principal (CEO) will report any and all discipline concerns/problems to the Principal of the feeder school.
 - c. 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.
 - d. A copy of the student-athletes report card must be submitted to the Principal of the feeder school.

B. Program/Enrollment

1. Alternative schools whose enrollment exceeds **350** and have a 12th grade class will be obligated to offer their own athletic program(s).
2. Alternative school Principals (CEO) may seek a waiver to combine smaller enrollment schools to offer an athletic program.
 - a. Combined enrollment – not to exceed 1000 students
 - b. Must share the same building
 - c. Seek waiver to combine every two (2) years
 - d. Principal (Director) must possess a Principal Certificate
 3. The Supervisor/Director/Principal of each alternative school must become a member of the RIASP
 4. The combined alternative school(s) Principal(s) (CEO) must become a member of the RIIL and pay all applicable dues and fees.
 5. Student-athletes will adhere to all RIIL Rules and Regulations and any/all more stringent requirements of the combined schools.

Section 3.

A. 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.

1. 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.
2. 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.

B. GENDER IDENTITY

The RIIL recognizes the value of participation in interscholastic sports for all member school student athletes. The RIIL is committed to providing all student-athletes with equal opportunities to participate in RIIL athletic programs consistent with their gender identity. This policy addresses eligibility determinations for students who have a gender identity that is different from the gender listed on their official birth certificates.

The RIIL has concluded that it would be fundamentally unjust and contrary to applicable state and federal laws, to preclude a student from participation on a gender specific sports team that is consistent with the public gender identity of that student for all other purposes.

Therefore, for purposes of sports participation, the RIIL shall defer to the determination of the student and his or her local school regarding gender identification. In this regard, the RIIL member school shall determine a student's eligibility to participate in a RIIL gender specific sports team based on the gender identification of that student in current school records and daily life activities in the school and community at the time that sports eligibility is determined for a particular season. Accordingly, when a member school submits a roster to the RIIL, it is verifying that it has determined that the students listed on the gender specific sports team are entitled to participate on that team due to their gender identity and the member school has determined that the expression of the student's gender identity is bona fide and not for the purpose of gaining an unfair advantage in competitive athletics.

Students who wish to participate on a RIIL gender specific sports team that is different from the gender identity listed on the student's current school records are advised to address the gender identification issue with the local school and/or district well in advance of the deadline for athletic eligibility determinations for a current sports season. Students should not be permitted to participate in practices or try out for gender specific sports teams that are different from their publicly identified gender identity.

Nothing in this policy shall be read to entitle a student to selection to any particular team or to permit a student to transfer from one gender specific team to a team of a different gender during a sports season. In addition, the RIIL shall expect that, as a general matter, after the issue of gender identity has been addressed by the student and the member school, the determination shall remain consistent for the remainder of the student's high school sports eligibility. The RIIL has concluded that this policy is sufficient to preclude the likelihood that a student will claim a particular gender identity for the purpose of gaining a perceived advantage in athletic competition.

Procedure:

1. The student or the parent(s)/guardian shall notify the Principal (or designee) that the student would like the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics consistent with the gender that the student identifies as.
2. The student's home school will determine the eligibility of a student seeking to participate in interscholastic athletics in a manner consistent with their gender identity where the student's gender identity does not correspond to the student's sex assigned at birth.
3. The Principal (or designee) will confirm the gender identity asserted for purposes of trying out for an interscholastic sports team through documentation from the parent, guardian, guidance counselor, or from a doctor, psychologist or other medical professional.
4. On a seasonal basis the school will provide approval of eligibility to try out for an interscholastic sports team or teams which corresponds to the student's gender identity.

Section 4. 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 in 60% of the student's program (credits). A student who is not passing 60% of his/her program (credits) is ineligible to participate in games (league and non-league) until the end of the quarter or trimesters of the next marking period. This is a minimum standard for academic eligibility. Schools may choose to initiate a higher standard for academic eligibility. In this instance, the higher standard (school policy) will be supported by the RIIL.

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 5. 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.

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. 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.
 5. 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.
 6. 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 6. 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 state certified career and technical and/or state certified career pathways school at the student's first opportunity to begin a program (see Article 3, Section 1 E 1 for rules and guidelines).

Note: The RI Interscholastic League will NOT waive athletic eligibility if:

The change in schools is to nullify and/or circumvent the actions of representatives or rules of the previous school or if the student left the sending school under penalty which would have resulted in the students' athletic ineligibility at the sending school

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 15th 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 RIIIL 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 RIIIL 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 RIIIL 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.

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 s/he participates in on a varsity level.

- J. If a student is 18 years of age and transfers from one secondary school to another **with** a corresponding change of address, and both parents are deceased, or are physically absent from the state of RI, or when both parents have been decreed incompetent or unfit by court order, or when a specific waiver has been obtained pursuant to Article I, Section 16, the use of such student-athlete before such written confirmation of eligibility by the Executive Director shall constitute the use of an ineligible player.

Note: The RI Interscholastic League will NOT waive athletic eligibility if:

The change in schools is to nullify and/or circumvent the actions of representatives or rules of the previous school or if the student left the sending school under penalty which would have resulted in the students' athletic ineligibility at the sending school.

- K. 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 9th 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.
- L. 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 RIIIL 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 RIIIL games of the same sport for the following year.

Section 7. FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS

Foreign Exchange Students (J-1 Visa and F-1 Visa) 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.

- **J-1 Visa and F-1 Visa** students from an approved CSIET Program (www.csiet.org (<http://www.csiet.org>)) are eligible immediately for a duration of up to one year. If they are NOT from an approved CSIET Program they must sit out 50% of the League in each sport in which they participated on a varsity level and are eligible for a duration of up to one year.
- **F-1 Visa** students from a non-public school who are from an approved CSIET Program are eligible for a duration of up to four years. If they are NOT from an approved CSIET Program they must sit out 50% of the League in each sport in which they participated on a varsity level and are eligible for a duration of up to four years.

A. FORM 1 – APPROVED FOREIGN EXCHANGE PROGRAM

J-1 Visa and F-1 Visa Foreign Exchange students involved in an approved program listed in the most current edition of the Advisory List of International Travel and Exchange Programs (CSIET) (www.Csiet.org (<http://www.Csiet.org>)) 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 APPROVED BY CSIET

J-1 Visa and F-1 Visa Foreign Exchange Students entering member schools under a program not listed on the APPROVED 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.

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 8. 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. be placed on the eligibility list on the RIIL website
4. participate in accordance with the requirements of the sport.
5. 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 (except in the sport of Track and Field) of position or points among other competitors in events in which individuals participate.
4. No school entering individuals may win a team championship.

Section 9. BOARDING STUDENTS

- A. Students boarding in 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 10. 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 11, paragraph C2 whether given directly by a school or indirectly through an alumni group or parents' association, are strictly forbidden.
3. All schools must submit an Individual financial report (refer to the Individual Financial Report) to the Executive Director 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. Upon request, schools will 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 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 10, 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.

The school must furnish on this report the following information:

- Student Name
- Year of graduation
- Sport(s)
- Tuition
- Calculated need (provided by a Financial Aid Management Company)
- Assigned Award *
- Prior year awards

*Note: Please list separately the origin, name, type of aid provided.

6. In the event that an athlete receiving financial aid, in accordance with the provisions of Article 3, Section 10, 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 RIIIL.

7. 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 RIIIL. Such decisions require a majority vote of the Committee and the vote of two thirds of the members of the RIIIL.

8. 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 10 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 11. 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 RIIIL 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 ensure that the above prohibitions of the RIIIL 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 RIIIL 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 RIIIL 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:
 - a. 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.

- b. Offer or acceptance of room, board, textbooks or clothing, or financial allotment for textbooks or clothing.
- c. Offer or acceptance of pay for work that is not performed or that is in excess of the amount regularly paid for such services.
- d. Offer or acceptance of free transportation by any person associated with a school.
- e. Offer or acceptance of a residence with any person associated with a school.
- f. 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.

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