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From: John Popma <d4chair@maha.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 7:33 AM
To: Kimberly Gearn; gordiehockey99; rdespirt; Maria Pacis-Biederman; Henrik Impola; Tee Kay; John Popma; GREGORY HAMES; Shelly-Ann Dow; Nick Zajas; Joe Barone
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Subject: Re: 2025-26 Distircts

Association Leaders,

We are 10 days away from the cutoff for team registering for districts and state playoffs. Please send a reminder to your teams.

So far, the numbers appear lower than previous years. If there are any concerns that you or your teams have with districts, please share them so that we can do our best to find the best mix of competitiveness, inclusivity, and fairness.

The trends that we see are often used in future planning at the MAHA level such as number of permitted travel teams. For example, there have been concerns of a large number of travel teams that are not competitive but only want to be travel teams to bypass tier 3 drafting rules.

State Playoffs should be the highlight of your players' season and the goal for coaches to bring the team together just at the right moment to push toward a championship.

John Popma

MAHA D4 Chair

From: John Popma <d4chair@maha.org>
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 8:03 AM
To: Kimberly Gearn <kimgearn@comcast.net>; gordiehockey99 <gordiehockey99@yahoo.com>; rdespirt <rdespirt@outlook.com>; Maria Pacis-Biederman <pacismar@me.com>; Henrik Impola <hhimpola@mtu.edu>; Tee Kay <tkrzyzak@gmail.com>; John Popma <johnppopma@gmail.com>; GREGORY HAMES <gwames@comcast.net>; John Popma <d4chair@maha.org>; Shelly-Ann Dow <sdow@livoniahockey.org>; Nick Zajas <directordisabledhockey@maha.org>
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Subject: 2025-26 Districts

Association Leaders,

After credentialing the teams for the October playoffs last night, we can turn our sights to districts, and state playoffs for the rest of the teams. We saw some positive changes with teams having incorrectly scored GMs addressed (remember teams have 7 days to request RIC to review and we will not accept/change any errors at credential check), but still had some teams get in trouble for not serving suspensions.

The registration is open on the MAHA website and teams must complete their intent to enter registration by **November 1, 2025**. (please share this date with your teams and encourage them not to wait until something comes up at the last minute). As mentioned at the kickoff meeting, there are no changes to the selection process.

Entry and tournament guidebook can be found online at: <https://www.maha.org/2026statesinfo>

The tournament guidebook included valuable information such as 30% rules (AAA teams or different divisions), games needed for team/player eligibility, and max game counts.

Teams wishing to complete their credential packets as they play (much easier than trying to scramble around the holidays) can find the documents online at: <https://www.maha.org/stateplayoffs>

Important dates:

November 1: District and State Playoff entries due

November 30: Last day players can be released from a team by coach/association/club

December 23: Last day for roster changes (to be eligible for states)

December 26: Round 1 district seeding for all Tier 2 teams

December 31: All coaches must be registered with age modules and continuing education credits completed

January 3: Credential check for all district/state teams)

January 4-25: Round 1 district games

January 25: Credential check for non-district teams

January 30-February 1: Round 2 district games

February 7: District 4 Hockey Day (Plymouth)

Please refer to the MAHA D4 website for additional dates and information.

Updated information such as times and locations will be sent to teams once registration is complete.

John

John Popma

MAHA D4 Chair