

**From:** John Popma <d4chair@maha.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 4, 2025 9:08 AM  
**To:** jason may; Jason May; Matt Rosochacki; Mike Henry; Mike Henry; Lyle Phair; Geoff Bennetts; Josh Schaffer; Brian Clement; Lakeland Hockey CJP; Derek Moore; LCFH President; Tee Kay; 'Joe IceDen'; Brad Larsh; Mark Berke; mberke@noviyouthhockey.org; Matthew Dulimba; DJ Bloomingburg; Petra Knoche; Kaul Lefief; Brian Burke; Brian Rolston; Zack Warson; Justin Maedel; Phil Osaer; Michelle Christ; Lakeland Arena; Larry Winkelman; GM@140iceden.net; Shelly-Ann Dow Dow; Angela Petty; info@noviyouthhockey.org; Zachary Doyen; TC Wingrove; Roman Andrys; Wendy Hollman; Manon Rheaume; info@birminghamhockey.net; Lakeland Arena; info@lcfh.hockey; grhahockey@gmail.com; Coachmelperson@gmail.com  
**Cc:** Kimberly Gearn; gordiehockey99; rdespirt; Maria Pacis-Biederman; Henrik Impola; Tee Kay; John Popma; Hames Greg (gwhames@gmail.com); John Popma; Shelly-Ann Dow Dow; Nick Zajas  
**Subject:** Districts / States / Credentials

Association Leaders,

The message below was sent to all teams that have registered for districts. I used the information from registrations, so you may want to share with your teams to make sure they had the correct information listed.

Please forward the information to your girls teams since they do directly to states and I do not receive a contact list.

Credentialling for District/State entered teams is January 3, 2026.

The date for non-state teams will be sent at a later time and will be later in January.

The process for AAA/Tier 1 credentialling will be sent in a separate email.

The registration deadline for JV/Prep teams, 16U-B, and 18U-BB is **December 15, 2025**. Please pass this along to any affiliate JV/Prep teams that you handle rostering for.

One additional thing to share with your teams is that the 30% rule is required to be eligible. In the past, teams have been in violation of this and claimed to have other games scheduled to correct the number. The State Playoff Committee this year is making this a focal point, so please be sure that your teams are in compliance in terms of playing within their age group and level.

Many other items are on the MAHA D4 website (which has recently been updated). This included the district rules for Locker Room Monitors. Locker Room Monitors will be another point of focus in districts and states as there has been talks of SafeSport beginning audits of these rules.

Thank you for the associations that have shared the dates and costs for Round 2 districts. We are still waiting on two associations to reply and a couple more that we have dates but no costs for. For the two

associations, please check with your assigned representative to schedule the games (search "D4 Districts Round 2" for that email chain).

As always, thank you for all you do and note that I added extra appreciation in the below letter to the associations that help their teams prepare and help the credentialling process run smoothly on this long long day for us.

John

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Hello Coaches and Managers,

I am happy to announce that we have things running smoothly, and I can get the information about districts out much earlier than in the past. There is so much planning that has already gone into districts...we are looking forward to the fun part when games start up.

Below you will find some links and other important information that will help you prepare for credentialling and districts.

Please refer to the MAHA State Playoff webpage at <https://www.maha.org/stateplayoffs> for forms and to view a video with instructions on completing the credential packet. Thank you to the associations that help their teams get their packets together and review the documents for teams ahead of credentialling! Your help is noticed and always appreciated.

Both the District 4 and State Playoff Guidebooks are posted on the D4 website at <https://www.mahad4.org/page/show/9281047-district-and-state-tournament-guidebooks>.

Please be sure to have two representatives from your team attend credentialling! We have 71 teams to credential, as well as girls' teams. Credentialling are some of the busiest days for the District Council and we appreciate your assistance in making things go smoothly for everyone.

We do NOT have access to GameSheets, so teams are expected to bring printed copies of all scoresheets. These scoresheets must include all information including penalties. All scoresheets must be signed by officials; if a handwritten scoresheet was transferred to GameSheets, both must be presented at credentialling.

We will continue to focus on suspensions during credentialling. With over 100 Game Misconduct and Match Penalties this year in District 4 alone, we have a lot to keep track of. The new process of teams submitting incorrect scoresheet within 7 days has worked well with almost 20 errors caught. That's said, we will not make any corrections at credentialling. Any suspension not properly marked on the scoresheet will be deemed to have not been served.

Please note that Head Coaches are responsible for tracking supplemental penalties (either players 4+ in a game, team 12+ in a game, or progressive major penalties). Remember that "2 and 10s" are technically a minor plus a misconduct penalty and count as two penalties. Teams found to have unserved suspensions may lead to additional suspensions for players or coaches, up to being suspended pending a hearing for playing an ineligible player.

Credentialling dates for District/State teams only (other teams will be credentialled at a later date). All credentialling will be done at Farmington Hills Ice Arena at 3550 Eight Mile Road Farmington Hills, MI 48335.

Saturday, January 3, 2026:

|         |                                          |
|---------|------------------------------------------|
| 8:30am  | 18U-BB                                   |
| 8:45am  | 14U-AA/2011                              |
| 9:00am  | 10U-AA/2015                              |
| 9:30am  | 10U-A/2016                               |
| 10:00am | 10U-B                                    |
| 10:30am | 12U-B                                    |
| 11:00am | 12U-AA/2013                              |
| 11:30am | 12U-A/2014                               |
| 12:00pm | CLOSED/LUNCH                             |
| 12:45pm | 14U-A/2012                               |
| 1:15pm  | 14U-B                                    |
| 1:45pm  | girls 16U Tier 2                         |
| 2:15pm  | girls 10U Tier 2 and 3                   |
| 2:45pm  | girls 12U Tier 2 and 3, 19U Tier 2 and 3 |
| 3:15pm  | girls 14U Tier 2 and 3                   |

\*Please arrive on time, at your designated time, and bring your ice schedule.

One important note is that ALL district and playoff games must be completed on GameSheets with updates emailed to Kim Gearn at [kimgearns@comcast.net](mailto:kimgearns@comcast.net) within 24 hours after the game by BOTH teams. This will allow the most accurate information to be posted on the D4 website.

Round 1 games will be scheduled at credentialling, can start as soon as they are entered into Gamesheets (hopefully we will be able to complete this quickly), and must be completed by January 25, 2026. These games will be played on home team ice with home teams responsible for scheduling officials. Please bring the rates you pay for officials to credentialling since each team is responsible for the cost of one official. Tier III/B teams will be placed into divisions by card draw and Tier II teams will be seeded in a snake format based on MyHockeyRankings as of December 26, 2025.

Round 2 games will be played at the rink of the division host association. I have requested cost and dates from each of the host. Those cost (including ice fees, official costs, medical personnel (if required), and timekeeper/scorekeepers) are paid to the host association by teams advancing to round 2. Some smaller divisions may have the top two teams advance directly to District 4 Championships. We heard a lot of positive feedback regarding having round 2 be designed as a semifinal compared to a long and more expensive 8-team tournament format. We will continue to use this style, with the top four teams advancing. Tier II teams will be placed based on the original seeding with the top seeded team playing the lowest seeded team advancing, and the second and third seeded playing each other. Tier III/B teams will play with the winners of each division playing the 2nd place team of the opposite division.

I know it all seems like a lot, but these are necessary steps to assure that all teams are on a level playing field in terms of MAHA and USA Hockey requirements. Your efforts are greatly appreciated and we are always thankful for those teams who arrive with all documentation completed and organized.

If you have any questions regarding your team's roster or history report, please contact your association registrar prior to credentialling. If you have any questions regarding D4 Districts, please contact the D4 Districts Coordinator, Kim Gearn at [kimgearns@comcast.net](mailto:kimgearns@comcast.net).

Thank you for all you do to share the wonderful sport of hockey with your players.

John Popma

MAHA District 4 Chair

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