

Michigan Amateur Hockey Association, District 8 Council

Meeting Minutes, Fall 2024

October 19, 2024

Jerzi's 41 Sports Bar, Champion, Michigan

Submitted by Walt Milligan, D8 Secretary, October 19, 2024

Attendance:

MAHA
Al Wakeham, D8 Chair
Amy Blake, D8 Director
Scott Cambensy, D8 Director
Tim Jaska, D8 Director
Kitti Loukus, D8 Director
Perry Wooden, D8 Director
Mike Sands, D8 Coaching Director
Amanda Gobert, D8 Registrar
Walt Milligan, D8 Secretary

Jason Reynolds, MAHA Director of Operations and Marketing
Judy Niemi, MAHA VP of Officials
Bob Yohe, USA Hockey Michigan Registrar

Calumet	<i>No Representative</i>
Copper Country	Ian Repp
Dickinson	Tim Jaska
Escanaba	Trevor Sholten
Iron Range	Eric Beckman
Iron River	Tina Brunswick, Kaycee Johnson
Ironwood	Bill Thomason
Keweenaw Bay	Brian Rantanen
Manistique	Dale LaFoille
Marquette	Scott Cambensy
Munising	Deidre Phillipson
Ontonagon	<i>No Representative</i>
Sled Hockey UP	<i>No Representative</i>
Tahquamenon	John Dewitt

Meeting called to order by Chair Al Wakeham at 9:25 am.

Introductions were made.

Motion (Wooden/Jaska): Approve minutes from the Spring 2024 meeting. Approved unanimously.

In his Chair's Report, Wakeham noted that it has been a very busy start to the season.

The Treasurer's Report will be emailed. Most of the financial affairs of the District are now handled by MAHA. Most of the expenses are related to District personnel travel, which are submitted directly to MAHA.

There was no Secretary's Report.

Jason Reynolds, MAHA Director of Operations and Marketing, discussed several issues.

- SafeSport renewals are on a 12-month schedule. Since the 12 months starts whenever someone completes the training, their certification can expire in the middle of the season. People need to stay on top of this. They will be automatically redlined on rosters if they expire.
- Michigan had 105 SafeSport reports last year, the second-highest of any USA Hockey region. Not all of them are actual SafeSport violation allegations. People are using SafeSport to lodge all kinds of complaints. Jason suggested promoting an environment that does not discourage reports.
- The Locker Room Monitor policy is critical. USA Hockey requires one SafeSport-trained monitor at all times, and recommends two. Individual associations can require more than one if they would like.
- All Coaching Education Program (CEP) clinics are virtual now. They are easy to find, cheap (\$60), and are offered on multiple days of the week and times of the day. Coaches can take a clinic from anywhere in the USA, not only Michigan. Based on all of this, MAHA is not going to issue temporary coaching cards to individuals who are not certified by December 31.
- Certified neck protection is now required.
- Players who have suffered concussions must fill out the "return to play" form that is signed and approved. These forms should be kept with the team credentials. USA Hockey is promoting a "Concussion Captain" for each team, who can video-record a speech about concussions for their team and submit it to USA Hockey.
- Growth is a focus, including Try Hockey for Free. MAHA is encouraging associations to hold more of these than just the national USA Hockey days. MAHA does have some jerseys and equipment available for these events. CCJHA and DAHA noted that they have equipment bags that they have lent to other associations for these events.
- MAHA strongly suggests having a goalie station at these events. There is a statewide shortage of goaltenders. MAHA has "goalie grants" available to help purchase equipment for young goalies.
- MAHA holds an "Association of the Year" contest that is focused on growth, particularly 8U participation and retention. The top three associations win \$7,500, \$5,000 and \$2,500 respectively.
- On Saturday, November 9, DAHA will host an "Earn your Stripes" event for young officials. They will have mentor officials and play 10U "games" so the young officials can get on-ice practice in a learning environment. These "games" are really scrimmages for the teams that play, and they will not count in any standings or against their game counts.
- MAHA has gotten permission from USA Hockey to start an 8U+ program. From January through the end of the season, 8U players who are transitioning to 10U the following year can participate in some full-ice games. These 8U+ teams need to be registered by December 1.

- The Player Development Camp will be in Marquette April 18-19. Players at all levels are invited to attend.

Bob Yohe presented the Registrar/MAHA report.

- Numbers are down slightly in the UP.
- MAHA is trying to reduce minimum game counts to 18 for a team and 12 for a player. This is driven by pre-season Tier 1 teams, but people seem to think it would be a good idea for everyone. A rules change proposal is anticipated.
- The Student Coach program registration online is still not completely functional.
- Players who want to play on a team out-of-state need to have a form submitted and approved by the District Chair.

Sands presented the Coaching Report

- Reynolds and Yohe covered many of his issues already.
- His contact information, which he wants to have known is:
 - 906-420-1118
 - Mikesands1217@gmail.com
- There will be a Level 5 coaching clinic in Columbus, Ohio August 14-17.
- There are tons of virtual coaching clinics available. There should be zero expectations of getting an exception or waiver for a temporary coaching card after December 31.
- It is possible to hold an in-person Student Coach clinic if there is enough interest. Much of the materials is available online.
- Level 4 and Level 5 coaching certification procedures changed, and are only good for 3 years now. In the past, they were lifetime credentials. After the 3 years are up, these coaches must complete “CE” (continuing education) activities to remain certified. Level 4 coaches need 5 hours of CE every 3 years, and Level 5 coaches need 5 hours every 4 years.
- There will be no waivers given for not completing CE.
- Coaches cannot re-take the same level clinic to substitute for CE. Level 4 coaches can take the Level 5 clinic.

Jaska presented the Officiating Report

- All seminars are virtual now.
- The previously discussed “Earn your Stripes” event is a great chance for young officials to get on-ice experience in a low-stress environment. The event will be November 9 at Mountain View Arena in Iron Mountain. There will be 2 mentors for each student official.
- Officials must be certified by December 31, and they are now required to wear their patches with the year of certification on their uniforms.
- Officials under the age of 18 must wear neck protection. All officials must wear a half-shield.

Association representatives gave their reports.

Dates and locations for Regional and District Tournaments were confirmed and approved by unanimous vote (Jaska/Wooden):

- Regionals, January 17 weekend, Ironwood and Escanaba
- All AA teams, January 31 weekend, Marquette
- 10U B, January 31 weekend, Manistique
- 12U B, February 7 weekend, Escanaba

- 14U B, January 31 weekend, Calumet

Gobert presented the Player Development Program report.

- The Player Development Camp will be April 18 and 19 in Marquette.
- 2008 – 2011 birth years are welcome.
- They are trying to communicate more clearly, especially about the “wait list.”
- Players from all levels are welcome.
- We may lose this camp if attendance drops; encourage players to register.

Blake presented the Girls/Women report.

- The Girls’ Development Camp is April 25-27 in Grand Rapids. Girls who have attended this camp, even if they don’t expect to be selected to move on, have had very positive experiences.

Milligan gave the CUP League report. Gamesheets worked very well last year and will be mandatory again this year. A good number of teams are registered for the League. Scheduling meeting will be in Marquette at 10:00 am on Sunday, October 20.

Wooden reported that this is a non-voting year for new rules, so there was nothing important to discuss in the Rules Report.

Kevin Yohe reported that if a team is going to play a team from out-of-state, as long as he gets one week’s notice, he can get them into the Gamesheets system.

Motion (Cambensy/Jaska): Accept the trophy bid. Approved unanimously.

Motion (Jaska/Wooden): Ban air horns, whistles, and any powered device at D8 Regional and District Tournaments. Approved unanimously.

Motion (Wooden/Cambensy): Mandate the use of Gamesheets for all games played in District 8. Approved unanimously.

District Tournament credentials checks will be held on January 5, 2025 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at Lakeview Arena in Marquette and Dee Stadium in Houghton.

Bob Yohe reminded people that teams must have a Canadian Travel Permit approved by MAHA if they intend to compete in Canada. There are two permits possible: Tournament, and Exhibition. These forms are available on the MAHA website.

Tentative date was selected for the MAHA District 8 Spring Meeting: April 12, 2025.

Motion (Wooden/Cambensy): Adjourn. Approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm.

Blind Draw for 2024-2025 Regional and District Seeding

Held at MAHA District 8 Spring Meeting, April 20, 2024

Ironwood Polar Bear Youth Hockey

Escanaba Area Junior Hockey

Manistique Hockey Assn

Tahquamenon Area Hockey

Calumet Hockey Association

Ontonagon Amateur Hockey Association

Copper Country Junior Hockey Association

Iron Range Hockey Association

Dickinson Amateur Hockey Association

Iron Amateur Hockey Association

Munising Hockey Association

Marquette Junior Hockey Corp

Keweenaw Bay Hockey Association

Bidding for State Tournaments, April 20, 2024

The District does not host any State Tournaments this year.

Priority List for next time.

Association	Tournament
Keweenaw Bay	
Ontonagon	
Manistique	
Tahquamenon	
Munising	
Escanaba	
Iron River	
Calumet	
Iron Range	
Ironwood	
Copper Country	
Marquette	
DAHA	

Bidding for District Tournaments, April 20, 2024

Association	Tournament
Ontonagon	
Calumet	14U, January 31 weekend
Tahquamenon	
Copper Country	
Marquette	
Manistique	10U, January 31 weekend
Escanaba	12U, February 7 weekend
Munising	
Keweenaw Bay	
DAHA	
Iron Range	
Ironwood	
Iron River	

Priority list for next time

Association	Tournament
Ontonagon	
Tahquamenon	
Copper Country	
Marquette	
Munising	
Keweenaw Bay	
DAHA	
Iron Range	
Ironwood	
Iron River	
Escanaba	
Manistique	
Calumet	

Rotation for AA District Tournaments, April 20, 2024

Association	Result
Marquette	All AA tourneys, January 31 weekend
Copper Country	
Calumet	

Priority list for next time

Association	Result
Copper Country	
Calumet	
Marquette	

Bidding for Regional Tournaments, April 20, 2024

Association	Tournament
Iron Range	
Copper Country	
Calumet	
Marquette	
Ontonagon	
Tahquamenon	
Ironwood	West, January 17 weekend
Manistique	
Escanaba	East, January 17-19 weekend
Iron River	
Munising	
Keweenaw Bay	
DAHA	

Swing teams:

- 10U – Iron Range
- 12U – Dickinson
- 14U – Dickinson

Priority list for next time

Association	Tournament
Iron Range	
Copper Country	
Calumet	
Marquette	
Ontonagon	
Tahquamenon	
Manistique	
Iron River	
Munising	
Keweenaw Bay	
DAHA	
Escanaba	
Ironwood	