

Michigan Amateur Hockey Association, District 8 Council

Meeting Minutes, Spring 2025

April 12, 2025

Jerzi's 41 Sports Bar, Champion, Michigan

Submitted by Walt Milligan, D8 Secretary, October 16, 2025

Attendance:

MAHA Scott Cambensy, D8 Director
 Tim Jaska, D8 Director
 Kitti Loukus, D8 Director
 Kevin Yohe, D8 Director

 Walt Milligan, D8 Secretary

 Bob Yohe, USA Hockey Michigan Registrar

Calumet	Roy Loukus
Copper Country	<i>No Representative</i>
Dickinson	Tim Jaska
Escanaba	Andy Wilson, Nick Blankenheim
Iron Range	Kevin Yohe
Iron River	<i>No Representative</i>
Ironwood	Luke Bucknell, Bill Thomason
Keweenaw Bay	<i>No Representative</i>
Manistique	Dale LaFoilie
Marquette	Jon Nebel, Paul O'Davero
Munising	Deidre Phillipson
Ontonagon	Drew Morris
Sled Hockey UP	<i>No Representative</i>
Tahquamenon	<i>No Representative</i>

District 8 Chair Al Wakeham was unable to attend the meeting.

Meeting called to order by District 8 Director Scott Cambensy at 9:05 am.

Introductions were made.

Motion (K. Yohe/Jaska): Approve minutes from the Fall 2024 meeting. Approved unanimously.

There was no Chair's report.

Treasurer's report: Cambensy reported that Treasurer Nick Fornetti had resigned, and Scott Cambensy had recently accepted the position. Now that most of the Treasurer's functions for districts have been taken over by MAHA, the duties are limited.

There was no Secretary's Report.

Bob Yohe presented the Registrar's Report and MAHA Report.

- Michigan numbers are up slightly, while numbers in the District were up by 52 players.
- Cambensy reminded everyone to be sure that all Gamesheets are complete, including making sure that players who serve game misconducts are recorded.
- Jaska stated that he will be preparing a video tutorial for posting on the MAHA site and Facebook page that instructs coaches on what is needed to prepare their team game log book.

Mike Sands was absent so there was no coaching report.

There was no Officials Report as Marty Laurila and Adam Holloway have resigned, and MAHA VP for Officials Judy Niemi was unable to attend. Jaska stated that the District was going to try to conduct two "Earn Your Stripes" on-ice clinics for inexperienced official this year, and that discussions were ongoing with potential candidates for D8 Referee in Chief.

Association representatives gave their reports. Consensus was that the numbers and trends in the District were relatively stable. Several associations reported encouraging numbers for the younger age groups.

Cambensy gave the Player Development report. The UP camp will be held on April 18. He stressed the need to recruit more candidates from all levels, not just AA. The number of players that can be selected to advance downstate depends on the number of participants.

There was no Girls/Women's report as Amy Blake was unable to attend. It was noted that the Copper Country Tier 3 girls won the state championship.

Kevin Yohe presented the Youth report.

- MAHA is seriously considering eliminating District boundaries for rosters.
- GameSheets had a few unexplained issues with "ghost" player showing up randomly on rosters, with the "ghost" players seemingly not even registered with USA Hockey. They are looking into the causes of this.
- GameSheets will hopefully include a "chat" feature so coaches or managers can contact each other directly to resolve scoresheet issues.
- Moving forward, it is hoped that all rosters will be uploaded to GameSheets via a csv file upload, which would make things a lot easier and reduce mistakes.

Milligan gave the CUP League report. Standings were distributed and discussed. The issue of trophies was discussed. Most people seemed to agree that banners would be preferable, but the CUP League will need to decide on that.

Loukus gave the STAR/SafeSport report. There were very few issues in the District this year.

Cambensy presented an emailed report from Beauchamp who was unable to attend for the Sled Hockey report. There are two teams in the District now, one in Marquette and one in Houghton. Numbers are a bit down but the program continues to serve a real need in the area for disabled players. The teams have participated in several events in and out of the state.

MAHA has formed a new "Congress" and they require one representative from the District.

Motion (K. Yohe/Cambensy): Name D8 Chair Al Wakeham as the District 8 Representative to the MAHA Congress. Approved unanimously.

There was a discussion concerning bidding on Regional, District and State tournament hosting related to attendance at the District Council meetings.

Motion (Cambensy/K. Loukus): A representative from an association must be present at the District Council meeting to be considered for hosting Regional, District or State Tournaments. Approved unanimously.

Associations were reminded that if a draft is needed at the B level, it must be monitored by a District Director, and draft rules must be submitted to the District in advance.

Associations were reminded that all players must be officially on rosters, including Spring/Summer teams.

For District Tournaments, it was noted that there should be a coin flip to determine the home team in American/National games.

It was strongly suggested that Association Boards should discuss their preferences for medals or trophies or banners, including runners-up, for further discussion at District Council. The goal is to reward teams but not waste resources on physical awards that are not valued.

A spirited discussion occurred about hosting AA District tournaments. This was necessitated by the fact that there are more AA teams in the District recently, and the traditional AA District tournament hosting rotation between Calumet, Copper Country and Marquette is no longer working. With the anticipate number of AA teams for the foreseeable future, it is not possible to hold one AA tournament at one site unless they have two sheets of ice. Further, the associations who have had AA teams added recently (Escanaba, Iron Range, DAHA) should be able to be included in the AA District Tournament hosting schedule.

Related to this, the following actions were taken.

Motion (Cambensy/LaFoilie): An association who wishes to bid on hosting an AA State Tournament must have had at least 3 consecutive completed years with a team at that level. Approved unanimously.

Motion (K. Yohe/Cambensy): Form a committee consisting of the associations with AA programs to investigate a new system for hosting AA District Tournaments. Approved unanimously.

This is a complex issue that deserves an in-depth study.

Tentative sites and dates for State, Regional and District tournaments were determined, and are attached. All sites were approved by a District Council vote.

“Swing teams” for regional tournaments were drawn out of a hat, and are as follows:

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

The District 8 Fall Meeting was scheduled for October 18, 2025, at 9:00 am tentatively at Jerzi’s 41 Sports Bar in Champion.

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

Blind Draw for 2025-2026 Regional and District Seeding

Held at MAHA District 8 Spring Meeting, April 12, 2025

Ironwood Polar Bear Youth Hockey

Escanaba Area Junior Hockey

Tahquamenon Area Hockey

Manistique Hockey Assn

Iron Amateur Hockey Association

Copper Country Junior Hockey Association

Munising Hockey Association

Marquette Junior Hockey Corp

Dickinson Amateur Hockey Association

Calumet Hockey Association

Iron Range Hockey Association

Ontonagon Amateur Hockey Association

Keweenaw Bay Hockey Association

Bidding for State Tournaments, April 12, 2025

The District is hosting 10U State Tournaments this year.

Association	Tournament
Keweenaw Bay	
Ontonagon	
Manistique	10UB
Tahquamenon	
Munising	
Escanaba	
Iron River	
Calumet	10U AA
Iron Range	
Ironwood	
Copper Country	
Marquette	
DAHA	

Priority List for next time.

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

Bidding for District Tournaments, April 12, 2025

Association	Tournament
Ontonagon	
Tahquamenon	
Copper Country	
Marquette	10U B, Tentatively Feb 6-8, 2025
Munising	14U B, Tentatively Feb 6-8, 2025
Keweenaw Bay	
DAHA	
Iron Range	
Ironwood	12UB, Tentatively Feb 6-8, 2025
Iron River	
Escanaba	
Manistique	
Calumet	

Priority list for next time

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

AA District Tournaments, April 12, 2025

There are too many AA teams in the District now to hold all ages at the same site, and associations with AA teams not in Marquette, Calumet or Copper Country want to be able to host these tournaments sometimes.

A committee is being formed to come up with a new system. For this year:

Association	Result
Marquette	10U AA and 14U AA, Jan 30 – Feb 1
Calumet	12U AA, Jan 30 – Feb 1

Bidding for Regional Tournaments, April 12, 2025

Association	Tournament
Iron Range	
Copper Country	
Calumet	
Marquette	
Ontonagon	
Tahquamenon	
Manistique	
Iron River	
Munising	East Regionals, Jan 16-18
Keweenaw Bay	
DAHA	
Escanaba	
Ironwood	West Regionals, Jan 16-18

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	
Keweenaw Bay	
DAHA	
Escanaba	
Ironwood	
Munising	