

Michigan Amateur Hockey Association, District 8 Council

Meeting Minutes, Fall 2016

October 22, 2016

Wawonowin Golf Course, Ishpeming, Michigan

Submitted by Walt Milligan, MAHA District 8 Secretary, October 24, 2016.

Attendance:

MAHA	Cathy Starrett, D8 Chair/Director and Treasurer Brian Anderson, D8 Director Al Wakeham, D8 Director Perry Wooden, D8 Director Walt Milligan, D8 Secretary Bob Yohe, MAHA Registrar Mike Sands, D8 Coaching Director Eric Froberg, D8 Referee Supervisor Tim McIntosh, D8 Registrar Michele LaCourt, D8 Registrar Bob Yohe, MAHA Registrar Judy Niemi, MAHA VP of Officials
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Calumet	Dan Zubiena
Copper Country	Steve LaCourt
Dickinson	Mark Pomroy
Escanaba	Kim Milligan
Iron Range	Mark Menhennick
Iron River	Amy Donati
Ironwood	Brian Anderson
Keweenaw Bay	Rich Wickstrom
Manistique	Michael Evink, Chris Frazier
Marquette	George Belkowski, Amanda Beerman
Munising	Michelle Shelly
Ontonagon	Stacey Somero
Tahquamenon	Ben Rahilly

Chair Cathy Starrett called the meeting to order at 10:04 am. Introductions were made.

Motion (Rahilly/Wakeham): Approve minutes from the Spring 2016 meeting. Approved unanimously with one correction to the attendance list.

Starrett presented the Chairperson's report.

- Scott Carter resigned as Chairperson in Mid-June. Starrett assumed the Chairperson's role, and Brian Anderson from Ironwood was appointed as a District Director to take Carter's position.
- Jeff Cornock resigned as Coaching Director due to new travel responsibilities. Mike Sands from Escanaba was appointed as the new Coaching Director. He held a coaching

meeting with Tom Kerr from MAHA, but only 6 associations of 13 were represented at the meeting.

- Darren Elliot has assumed a new role as Director of Goaltender Development for MAHA. Efforts are underway to invite him to the District.
- There are important new rules about game limits, and these will be discussed during the Rules Report later.

Starrett presented the Treasurer's Report:

- We need a new Treasurer since Starrett is now the Chairperson.
 - **Motion (Milligan/Zubierna): Appoint Judy Niemi as Treasurer. Approved unanimously and accepted by Judy Niemi.**
- A Profit and Loss statement through April 30 was circulated for discussion.
 - **Motion (Wooden/Zubierna): Approve the Profit and Loss Statement. Approved unanimously.**
- A discussion of the MAHA grant funding occurred. The District had proposed to spend the \$2,500 grant funds to pursue marketing of hockey. A committee had been formed, but no action was taken and no funds were expended. We are not sure how MAHA will react to this, but we will find out in November. A new committee was formed for the purpose of marketing, consisting of Rich Wickstrom, Kim Milligan and Mark Pomroy. The District Directors will request of MAHA that we spend last year's and some of this year's grant funding for the purpose of marketing hockey.

Milligan had no Secretary's Report. A District Directory and attendance sheet was circulated for corrections.

Yohe presented the MAHA Registrar's Report.

- 3 Associations are still not registered, which is a problem.
- Currently 1,287 players are registered in the District, down around 500 from last year at this time.
- USA Hockey just completed an audit of MAHA, both for financial issues and procedures. The audit revealed that MAHA is not doing a good job keeping track of Background checks and SafeSport training completion for members of Boards and Executive Committees. This must be improved. All District 8 Council members must complete a background check and SafeSport training every two years.
- Associations should be getting e-mails from Kevin Erlenbach of USA Hockey about ADM and Try Hockey for Free, among other things. Contact Yohe if you are not on the mailing list.
- Rosters are not official until they are approved by District Registrars. Just because they are submitted, games cannot be played. The approval must be received by e-mail before games can be played.
- Starrett stated that MAHA and USA Hockey are working towards a fully electronic credentials "book" system with a vendor called Privit. The District will monitor the progress of the system.

Niemi and Yohe presented the MAHA Report. The biggest issue is the Locker Room Policy. USA Hockey requires at least 1 (and recommended 2) responsible adults in the locker rooms at all times. MAHA strongly recommends 2. These adults can be volunteers (they do not need to be coaches or managers) but they must successfully complete the MAHA background check and SafeSport training. Associations should keep records of which volunteers are approved and have completed the necessary checks and training. These volunteers **should not** be added to rosters.

Sands presented the Coaching Report.

- There was an ACE Meeting on October 1 with Tom Kerr from MAHA but it was poorly attended. One topic that was discussed was the strong suggestion that Association Coaching Directors should always be voting members of Association Boards. Their positions are important and their voices must be heard.
- 6 coaching clinics are scheduled in the UP for the Fall. See the USA Hockey site for schedules and registration. There is one more Level 4 clinic in Michigan this year, in East Lansing on December 17-18.
- MAHA has produced USB thumb drives containing 8 GB of useful coaching information. These will be distributed, contact Sands if you need one and did not receive one.
- Match penalties must be reported to Chairperson Starrett within 24 hours by the coach. The official must report match penalties to Referee Supervisor Froberg. The player is suspended immediately and may not play again pending the outcome of a disciplinary hearing. Association Boards should also be informed so they may be ready for any protests.
- Coaches are responsible for ensuring that player equipment is up to standards.
- Sands and MAHA need feedback, good or bad, about coaching issues. Please contact him with any feedback you may have.
- Judy Niemi thanked Mike Sands for stepping up into the new role.

Froberg presented the Officials Report.

- Five seminars were held in the UP this year with decent turnout, especially among young officials. We must focus on getting them games and retaining them.
- All officials must be fully registered to be on the ice. They need the new crest and their registration card.
- It would be nice to use some MAHA grant funds to help defray the costs to first time officials (registration, equipment, etc.)
 - **Motion (Rahilly/Zubiena): Use some of the MAHA grant funding to help start and outfit first-time officials. Approved unanimously.**
- Reminder: A game cannot be played (and it will not count as an official USA Hockey game) unless there are at least 2 registered officials on the ice. The only exception is 8U cross-ice games.

Director-at-Large Peterson was unable to attend and had no report.

District Directors gave their reports.

- Wakeham attended the MAHA Summer Meeting. He participated on the 1 Goal Committee and stated that every association should apply for 1 Goal funding. He also attended a session on Association Discipline. USA Hockey is starting an initiative called “Club Excellence” for associations, and interested people should look into it in the Member Services area of the USA Hockey website.
- Anderson just began his tenure as Director and had no report.
- Wooden attended his last meetings as District Chairperson, and is now on the Rules Committee. There is an initiative called Task Force 2018 that is introducing many rules that will affect the District. More information will be presented in the Rules Report later.
- Starrett reported that MAHA is undertaking a “Strategic Planning” initiative. The task force has discussed changes in governance, including the possibility of a paid CEO of MAHA.

Association Representatives gave brief updates. With few exceptions, there is a struggle with declining participation numbers.

Associations reported preliminary declarations to enter the State Tournament.

Regional and District Tournament sites were reviewed, revised and approved. An updated table is included at the end of this document. The following changes were made:

- No Regional Tournament is need for 14U since there are only 7 associations who declared intent to enter the State Tournament.
- DAHA will host the West Regional Tournament for 10U and 12U, January 13-15, 2017. For 10U, they will participate in the West Regional as the “swing team” due to an imbalance between East and West. Since DAHA is hosting the 12U State Tournament, their 12U team will not need to participate, but they will still host. In the 12U Regional Tournament, Iron Range will participate in the West Regional Tournament as the “swing team”, again due to an imbalance in teams between the East and the West.
- Munising will host the East Regional Tournament for 10U and 12U, January 13-15, 2017.
- Since MAHA changed the latest date to complete District Tournaments after the District 8 Spring Meeting, both the 10U and 18U District Tournaments were moved to the weekend of February 10-12, 2017. 10U is in Keweenaw Bay amd 18U is in Iron River.
- Marquette declared intent to enter the State Tournament with a 12U A team. Since the District is hosting 12U State Tournaments, the District had to decide whether to host the 12U A State Tournament or hand it back to MAHA.
 - **Motion (Milligan/Zubierna): Marquette hosts the 12U A State Tournament, tentatively March 3-5, 2017. Approved unanimously.**

McIntosh presented the Bantam/Midget Festival report. He thanked Bob Yohe and Micah Stipech for stepping in when he was on medical leave. This year’s festival is April 14-16, 2017 at the Berry Events Center.

Wakeham presented the Girls/Womens Report. MAHA has established a Girls Task Force to market and grow the game. The Girls’ National Tournament is in Michigan this year.

Milligan presented the CUP League report. The Fall/Scheduling meeting is on Sunday October 23 at 10:00 am at Lakeview Arena.

Wooden presented the Rules Report.

- The main changes that might affect the District concern game limits. MAHA has abandoned the “you can play X games by February 1” philosophy and adopted strict limits for games played in a season. The following limits will be strictly enforced. The only games that do not count are District, State, or National tournament games. (Regional playdowns and Association Play-in games count.) Additionally, teams that enter an invitational tournament will only be required to count a maximum of 4 games for the tournament, even if they play more due to successful play.)
 - 10U: 40 games
 - 12U: 40 games
 - 14U: 45 games
 - 16U: 50 games
 - 18U: 55 games
 - 19U: 55 games
 - Additionally, changes were made to girls who play mainly on a mixed team but who wish to also play some games on a girls-only team. They are now allowed 10 games on a girls-only team (in addition to their main team), but the maximum game limits for the player are still as listed above, and all games played count against her limit.
- MAHA Task Force 2018 has had 2 rule changes adopted that affect the District.
 - 30% of association members must be at the 10U or under level. This is meant to ensure growth of the game. It is unclear what penalties will be enforced if this is not met.
 - Out-of-District players who live close to a District border will have better options. If the association that is out of district is physically closer to the player than the in-district association, the player can join the out-of-district association and he or she will not count as an “out of district” player.

Starrett presented the STAR/SafeSport Report. MAHA has not appointed a new STAR Chairperson since Starrett resigned. Starrett will continue to represent the District as the STAR/SafeSport representative. It is assumed that MAHA will eventually combine the STAR and SafeSport committees eventually.

In Old Business, no new proposals were entertained for trophy and medal contracts.

- **Motion (Rahilly/Wooden): Continue to contract with American Nameplate for trophies and medals. Approved unanimously.**

In further Old Business, the credentials check day was set as January 8, 2017 at Lakeview Arena in Marquette and the Dee Stadium in Houghton.

Playoff policies and procedures were discussed at length.

- The District needs to publish additional information to aid Regional and District Playoff hosts, so they can plan and execute a successful tournament. Perry Wooden agreed to chair a committee whose goal is to develop this information.
- Starrett pointed out that the current District Tournament Handbook referenced USA Hockey procedures, when we should really be following MAHA procedures.

Milligan agreed to study the Handbook and bring proposed changes to a future meeting.

- Zubiena reminded the District Council of a long discussion at the Spring 2016 meeting, regarding a desire to eliminate tie games in round robin Regional and District Tournament games. The tie-breaker regulations incentivize bad behavior about running up the scores, and often end up in results that some consider to be unfair. The basic idea is that the games should be decided “on the ice”, not by a spreadsheet. Arguments against this include:
 - Long overtime games can wreak havoc on rink schedules during Regional and District Tournaments.
 - If a shootout is used to “decide the game on the ice”, the risk is to turn a “team game” into an individual “skills contest”.
 - Another long discussion occurred.
 - **Motion (Evink/Zubiena): All round-robin Regional and District Tournament games, as well as all Regional “win and you’re in” Regional Tournament games, shall be played until there is a winner. The procedure shall be as follows.**
 - **(1) If the game is tied after regulation, there shall be a 2 minute rest. The teams shall not change ends from this point on. Teams shall attack and defend the same goals as they did for the 3rd period.**
 - **(2) Following the 2 minute rest, there shall be a 10 minute sudden death overtime period, played 5 on 5.**
 - **(3) If the game is still tied, the ice shall be resurfaced.**
 - **(4) After resurfacing, a 10 minute sudden death overtime shall be played, 4 on 4.**
 - **(5) If still tied, there shall be a 2 minute rest, followed by another 10 minute sudden death overtime period, played 4 on 4.**
 - **(6) If the game is still tied, repeat steps (3) through (5) until a winner is determined.**
 - **Approved unanimously.**

District Director terms all expire in July 2017. Secretary Milligan shall request nominations and volunteers for District Director positions prior to February 1, 2017, in time for MAHA District Director elections to be conducted by MAHA.

The Spring District 8 meeting will be held on April 22, 2017 at Wawonowin Golf Club in Ishpeming, at 10:00 AM.

Motion (Wickstrom/Wooden): Adjourn. Approved Unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 PM.

MAHA 2017 District 8 tournament sites and dates.

No regional tournament is required for 14U B or 18U, since no more than 8 associations will participate.

East Region Playdowns (10U, 12U)	Munising	January 13-15, 2017
West Region Playdowns (10U, 12U)	DAHA (DAHA 10U and Iron Range 12U shall participate in west Regional)	January 13-15, 2017
10U Districts	Keweenaw Bay	February 10-12, 2017
10U AA Districts	Marquette	February 3-5, 2017
12U B Districts	Ironwood	February 10-12, 2017
12U AA Districts	Calumet	February 3-5, 2017
14U B Districts	Escanaba	February 3-5, 2017
14U AA Districts	Calumet	February 3-5, 2017
18U B and BB Districts	Iron River	February 10-12, 2017

Tentative State Tournaments:

12U B: DAHA, dates to be determined by MAHA

12U A and 12U AA: Marquette, dates to be determined by MAHA