

**Michigan Amateur Hockey Association**  
**Winter Board of Director Meeting Minutes**  
***January 23, 2022***

The Winter Meeting was held at the Livonia Marriott, Livonia, Michigan on January 23, 2022. President George Atkinson called the meeting to order at 8:35am.

Board of Directors Absent: Deborah Frescura, Bob Smith, Shane Brown, Julie Pardowski, Jeff Peterson, Brian Csutoras, James McPhee, Mary Olen, Tim Jones, Matt Hawkins, Matt Schuldt, Phil Berger, Steve LaCourt, Richard Frescura, Grant Helms, Kerin Wear, Clem Waldmann, Roger Mauritho

Secretary did roll call through electronic voting device distribution and written sign in sheets, monitored by Jason Reynolds and Steve Stapleton.

Motion and a second was made to allow late arrivals due to weather conditions, to be able to vote for this winter 2022 meeting only. Motion passed

In attendance were 43 members to start out and a late arrival made it 44 voting members. 17 guests were also present.

Kevin Wood-Secretary Reported Credential Changes as follows:

District 2: Christine Marek resigned as District Director on January 10, 2022. No appointment was made.

District 4: Bill Williams resigned as District Director on August 18, 2021. Maria Pacis-Biederman was appointed on August 18, 2021.

Brian Tucker resigned as District Director on January 10, 2022. Henrik Impola was appointed on December 14, 2021.

Treasurer's report For December 2021 had been previously emailed out. The proposed budget is in the winter book, and was presented and a motion was made by Joe Barone and seconded by Dan Pozdol. Motion passed unanimously. The budget and report is in the book and online.

Presidents Report: George Atkinson stated his report is online. Some highlights is some new leadership at the district level. USA hockey is making major changes to the Governance Structure of USA Hockey, which is planning to be implemented in June of 2022. This year, MAHA launched Task Force 2021 to look at what the future of our organization should look like. You have all heard me say many times that our organization today suffers from rules and regulations from the early 2000's that were put in place to control the tremendous growth at the time. Youth sports has changed a lot since then and those rules have had some unintended consequences that have hurt our growth. The group began work in the Fall gathering input from all the associations in each district.

Adults: The Adult report is online.

Audit Committee: Jim Cosgrove Stated the Audit Committee is continuing to meet.

Appeals/Safe sport: Rick Frescura states report is online. Safe Sport Training is a yearly renewal starting with the 2019/2020 Season. This season (2021/22), USA Hockey has updated its website so that navigation is easier. This season starting in January 2022 Safe Sport Training will have a new platform for the Core Training and the following refresher courses. Safe Sport training will now require a rolling 12 month renewal. Starting April 1, 2022, Safe Sport Training will begin its yearly tracking from the date you take the training. So, if you take the training April 5, 2022, it will need to be refreshed or renewed again as of April 5, 2023. This will include all Youth, Girls, Coaches and Referees. The Safe Sport page also has training courses for children of all ages that are free. There is also training for parents.

This season so far, we have had 4 Appeals from hearings across the state. All are completed. The full report is online.

Awards: Kevin Wood Reminded everyone that an information sheet with deadlines for nominations would be emailed out soon.

Coaches: Gordon Bowman reminded everyone to send any nominations for Coach of the Year to him by April 15, 2022. Many thanks to Matt Kakabeeke for a successful first season as Michigan Coach in Chief. The complete report is online.

Disabled Hockey: The complete report is online.

Girls/Women's: Jean Laxton reported that, as of December 1, 2021, Michigan, had a total of 4,332 players compared to last year at the same time there were 3,740 which is an increase of 592 players. The numbers are positive considering the continued pandemic in Michigan. The girls should see an increase in growth through the final months of the season. Adding some new skaters after the March 5, 2022, post-Olympic USA Hockey try hockey for free event and other local association events that are planned should show continued positive growth this year. The IIHF Girls Hockey weekend was October 15-17 this year. Several MAHA associations and teams held events throughout the weekend. USA Hockey national player development camp tryouts will be held in Chelsea this year at the Arctic Coliseum April 29-May 1<sup>st</sup>. The complete girls/women's report is online.

Guidebook: No report

High School report: This fall was the eighth year of the Midget Split Season. The playoffs were held in October. We ended up with 4 teams participating in the 16 U playoff and 8 at the 18 U playoff. There was a lot more split season teams that did not participate in the split season playoff due to the MAHA State tournament falling on the same weekend as the MHSAA final Four. Team Michigan is scheduled to hold tryouts at multiple locations around the state the week of March 14-20<sup>th</sup> 2022. The purpose of this is to help players have more choices so they can make the tryouts. MAHA & the MHSAA continue to work well together. This March the Girl's HS league will hold their finals at USA arena the same weekend as the boy's. The hope is to bring more visibility to girl's hockey. I'd like to thank the MHSAA to working with us and promoting this idea. The complete report is online.

Legal Report: The complete report is online.

Officials: Judy Niemi/Howard Palmentier, Stated the officials report is online. Reminder looking for Nominations for Official of the Year. As you can see, we have 1332 complete skating officials. I am working with District RIC's to put on a few more seminars to get the 168 no seminar officials completed. The complete report is online.

One Goal: Lyle Phair shared in his report that is online, that the district breakdown of associations receiving funding was as follows: D2 – 2 associations D3 – 4 associations D4 – 4 associations D5 – 2 associations D6 – 12 associations D7 – 3 associations D8 – 2 associations. The complete report is online.

Player Development Report: **Important Notes**

- The Player Development Committee has returned the Boys format back to what it has historically been. There are District Camps in Dearborn, Lansing, and Marquette, followed by the Midget Festival in Taylor and Bantam Camp at LSSU
- The committee has made the difficult decision to raise our registration fee. There are several valid reasons for this decision. Among them, we no longer have a jersey sponsorship agreement with CCM, and we are no longer receiving block grant money from USA Hockey. Our fees are now in line with other Districts.
- Ron Brasseur has made the decision to step back from his role on the Player Development Committee. Ron will be greatly missed. He has done exceptional work for many years, especially with the camps in Taylor and LSSU. On behalf of our committee, I want to thank Ron for all he has done for youth hockey in Michigan.
- Our committee is constantly looking for qualified candidates to fill roles in all our camps, especially for coach/evaluators. If you or someone you know is interested in getting involved, please let me or anyone else on the committee know.

The complete report is online.

Registrar's Report: Bob Yohe wanted to thank all the Association registrars and the District Registrars for their many hours of work. We appreciate every minute you volunteer. The complete report is online.

Risk Managers Report: The Mid-Season Risk Manager's report is online.

Youth: The State Playoff Committee has 2 working sub-committees, a state playoff subcommittee, and a split-season subcommittee. Each committee is working to review specific aspects of our current state playoffs with respect to their respective names. Each committee will be presenting some findings at the State Playoff Committee meeting this weekend with goals to have final recommendations ready for the M.A.H.A. summer meeting. Locations for National championships are in the report online.

Rules:

#### **2021-2022 MAHA Rules Submitted**

2021 -2022-00 **Definition of Rink Closest to Residence** – change method of calculating the distance from one rink to another rink. Rules Committee voted 5-2 to support. The MAHA voting members voted to send to the summer meeting, 31 yes – 11 no.

2021 -2022-01 **Rules and Regulations for District and State Playoffs**– change to allow 2 teams from one association to play in the MAHA State Tournament. Rules Committee voted 7-0 not to support. The MAHA voting members voted not to send to the summer meeting, 8 yes – 35 no.

2021 -2022-02 **Revise District and State Tournament Guidebook- Sec 1 Eligibility for District and State Playoffs** – change to allow 2 teams from one association to play in the MAHA State Tournament. Rules Committee voted 6-1 not to support. The MAHA voting members voted not to send to the summer meeting, 11 yes – 33 no.

2021-2022-03 **DUAL ROSTER EXCEPTION FOR HS SPLIT SEASON PLAYERS** – Allow Split season players to dual roster on no more than 2 USA Hockey teams in the Pre-Season (August 1 – November 1). Rules Committee voted 5-2 not to support. The MAHA voting members passed an amendment 40 yes – 2 no; to move the rule to the task force.

2021-2022-04 **Large Association Exemption** - exempt from rules limiting the number of teams at any age classification or division. Rules Committee voted 7-0 not to support. The MAHA voting members voted not to send to the summer meeting, 8 yes – 34 no.

2021-2022-05 **Girl's Age and Division Classifications** – increase the girl's Tier I 19U out of state or import players to 6 from 4. Players must meet the Michigan residency policy. Rules Committee voted 7-0 to support. The MAHA voting members voted to move to the summer meeting 40 yes – 0 no.

2021-2022-06 **Re-classify Girls U19 Hockey as Women's U19 Hockey** - Replace the reference to "Girls" Hockey Players in all of the MAHA rules and text when referring to the U19 female division and classify them as a "U19 Women's Division." – OUT OF ORDER, MAHA is unable to change USAH Classifications.

2021-2022-07 **Girls Tier I Game Scheduling** – Change the pilot program to a rule. Rules Committee voted 7-0 to support. The MAHA voting members passed an amendment 38 yes-1 no to drop the second paragraph and below. The MAHA voting members voted to move to the summer meeting 38 yes – 2 no.

2021-2022-08 **Girls Tier I Player Movement** – cleaned up the language on player movement for age classifications. Rules Committee voted 7-0 to support. The MAHA voting members voted to move to the summer meeting 39 yes – 1 no.

2021-2022-09 **Limiting Coach Movement Among Tier 1 Teams Alternate Proposal** - revises an existing rule to incorporate an expiring MAHA Pilot. Rules Committee voted 7-0 to support. The proposed rule was withdrawn at the winter meeting.

2021-2022-10 **Limiting Coach Movement Among Tier 1 Teams** - revises an existing rule to incorporate an expiring MAHA Pilot. Rules Committee voted 7-0 to support. The MAHA voting members voted to move to the Tier I committee 36 yes – 3 no.

2021-2022-11 **Tier 1 Scheduling Agreement** – revises an existing rule to incorporate an expiring MAHA Pilot. Rules Committee voted 7-0 to support. The MAHA voting members voted to move to the summer meeting 38 yes – 3 no.

2021-2022-12 **Tier 1 16 Only** - revises an existing rule to incorporate an expiring MAHA Pilot. Rules Committee voted 7-0 to support to move to the winter meetings. The MAHA voting members voted to move to the summer meetings. 39 yes – 2 no.

2021-2022 LATE -01 **Tier 1 Out of State Player Requirements** – increase the number of out of state players in all age classifications. Rules Committee voted 7-0 to support. The MAHA voting members voted to bring the proposed rule change to the floor to discuss 33 yes- 6 no. The MAHA voting members voted to move to the summer meetings. 36 yes – 4 no.

2021-2022 LATE-02 **Revise Bylaw 11** – change MAHA bylaw to have rules submitted by May 15, review at the summer meeting and vote to implement a change at the winter meeting for April 1. Rules Committee voted 7-0 to support. The MAHA voting members voted to bring the proposed rule change to the floor to discuss 34 yes- 7 no. The MAHA voting members voted to move to the summer meetings. 36 yes – 4 no.

2021-2022 LATE-03 **Youth Tier I Out of State Requirements** - Put into effect the Pilot Program that has been operating for 3 years that increased the number of Out of State Players for Tier 1 Organizations. Rules Committee voted 7-0 to support. The proposed rule was withdrawn at the winter meeting.

2021-2022 Task Force-00 **Number of Out of District Players in Midget A** – change to unlimited out of district players. Rules Committee voted 7-0 to support. The MAHA voting members approved to move to the task force 38 yes – 2 no.

2021-2022 Task Force-01 **Number of Out of District Players in Midget AA** – change to unlimited out of district players. Rules Committee voted 7-0 to support. The MAHA voting members approved to move to the task force 36 yes – 2 no.

2021-2022 Task Force-02 **Number of Out of District Players in Tier III Midget B/BB** – change to 9 players out of district players. Rules Committee voted 7-0 to support. The MAHA voting members passed an amendment to allow for unlimited out of district players 37 Yes – 3 no. The MAHA voting members voted to move to the task force. 33 yes – 7 no.

2021-2022 Task Force-03 **Eligibility for teams to enter states.** This rule is covered in Rule X.2.a. The MAHA voting members voted to move to the summer meetings. 38 yes – 2 no.

2021-2022 Task Force-04 **Eliminate the sliding scale rule for recreational hockey.** The skill level between a first-year recreational player and second year recreational player may not be that wide of a gap. Associations that have more than a single-entry team must form team with equal ability. The MAHA voting members voted to move to the summer meetings. 34 yes – 4 no.

2021-2022 Task Force-05 **Substitute Goalkeepers** – eliminate the need to only have 19 players rostered at the time a substitute goalie is needed. Rules Committee voted 7-0 to support. Voting members voted to move to the task force for further review to incorporate other proposed rule changes 36 yes – 1 no.

2021-2022 Task Force - 06 **Game Count** – eliminate the player game count. Rules Committee voted 7-0 to support. The MAHA voting members voted to move to the summer meetings. 32 yes – 5 no.

2021-2022 Task Force-07 **Two Games in one day and 12-hour rule** – allow players and teams to play more than two exhibition or league games in a day and under 12 hours. Rules Committee voted 5-2 to support. Voting members approved to move to the task force 35 yes – 2 no.

2021-2022 Task Force-08 **Non-National Bound 14U and above roster classification**. Add a new classification for team that do not want to play in National Tournament and provide 12U players to play on a 14U team. Rules Committee voted 6-1 to support. The MAHA voting members voted to move to the summer meetings. 36 yes – 3 no.

Elections: President election-George Atkinson and Gordon Lietz were nominated. George Atkinson was reelected and will continue as president at the conclusion of the summer meeting for three years. VP of Adults-Nominations were Doug Dloff, Danny Jaroshewich, Gordon Lietz(not allowed to run for two Executive Board positions). Doug Dloff was elected. His term will start at the end of the summer 2022 summer meeting for three years.

USA Director-Nominations for two positions were Kevin Wood, Roger Mauritho and, George Atkinson. Kevin Wood received a majority vote on the first ballot and George Atkinson received a majority on the second ballot. Kevin Wood/George Atkinson were elected as USA Directors for three years at the conclusion of the 2022 summer meeting. VP appeals-Shayne Nelson ran unopposed.

Announcements: 2022 Summer meeting July 7-10, 2022 Hilton Doubletree in Grand Rapids, Electronic registration will be fourth coming, please register accurately for what you will be represented.

Motion to adjourn at 11:30am. Second, motion passed.

The MAHA  
Kevin Wood  
MAHA Secretary