

Michigan Amateur Hockey Association, District 8 Council

Meeting Minutes, Fall 2012

October 13, 2012

Wawonowin Golf Course, Ishpeming, Michigan

Submitted by Walt Milligan, MAHA District 8 Secretary, October 13, 2012;

Revised November 18, 2012

Attendance:

MAHA	Perry Wooden, D8 Chair/Director Larry Carey, D8 Director Dan Giachino, D8 Director Cathy Starrett, D8 Treasurer/Director, MAHA STAR Chair Walt Milligan, D8 Secretary George Atkinson, MAHA President Mickey Jesue, MAHA Immediate Past President Jim Cosgrove, MAHA Executive Vice President Roger Mauritho, MAHA VP of Youth Programs Judy Niemi, MAHA VP of Officials Grant Helms, MAHA Treasurer and Risk Manager Kerin Wear, MAHA Secretary Bill Peterson, MAHA D7 and D8 Director-at-Large
Calumet	Dan Zubiena
Copper Country	Walt Milligan
Dickinson	Tina Martinson
Escanaba	Frank Sliva
Iron Range	Scott Carter
Iron River	Michelle Dominici
Ironwood	Mark Johnson
Keweenaw Bay	Amy Lake
Manistique	Eric Oas
Marquette	Linda Winslow
Munising	Joe McInnis
Newberry	Ben Rahilly
Ontonagon	Karen Morris, Scott Somero

Chair Perry Wooden called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. Introductions were made.

Motion (Winslow/Martinson): Approve minutes from the Spring 2012 meeting. Approved unanimously.

Wooden presented the Chairperson's report:

- This year is the 50th anniversary of MAHA and the 75th anniversary of USA Hockey.

- USA Hockey passed the ADM proposal. 8U will be cross-ice starting in 2013-2014. Exceptions may be approved at the state level and by USA Hockey.
- Mite coaches can take Level 1 and the mite module and will not need to progress to higher levels unless they wish to coach at a level higher than mites. Parents can help on-ice if they complete the mite module.
- The District has had communication issues. Directors should take information learned at District Council back to their associations. People need to respond to e-mails and make sure they get their required forms and information to the District.

Starrett presented the Treasurer's Report:

- The district spent last year's grant funds to purchase a portable computer projector, travel expenses for association education, and scoresheets.
- District Council must decide what to pursue for grant funds for this year. There was a detailed discussion of options.
- **Motion (Winslow/Zubierna): Use grant funds to purchase Quickbooks licenses for associations, a computer for one district director, and scoresheets. Approved unanimously.**
- District Financial Report was submitted to MAHA and distributed to District Directors via the website.
- **Motion (Martinson/McInnis): Approve Annual Financial Report. Approved unanimously, with Starrett abstaining.**

Milligan presented the Secretary's Report: The District Directory was circulated for updates. It will not be publicly posted due to privacy concerns, but will be circulated to everyone on it via e-mail, and will be placed in the District DropBox.

Milligan presented the Registrar's report on behalf of Yohe. Registration numbers for each association were discussed. Due to the early date of the District Council meeting this year, the numbers appeared to be low, but will probably improve somewhat over the next few weeks. Still, in general, the numbers appear to be slightly down from last year across the District.

Cornock was leading a Level 3 coaching clinic off-site, so there was no coaching report.

Niemi presented the Officiating Report:

- Marquette officiating clinic occurred the first weekend in October and the Calumet clinic will be the weekend of October 20.
- The District is concerned about the availability of qualified officials for District tournaments. Scheduling must be coordinated.

For the MAHA report, the District was very pleased to welcome seven members of the MAHA Executive Committee (see attendance on first page).

MAHA President George Atkinson reported the following:

- Hockey Day in Michigan is February 16. This occurs during USA Hockey's "Hockey Weekend in Michigan" February 15-17. Girl's Hockey Weekend is this weekend.

- The Girl Scouts have a learn to play program called “Put the biscuit in the net.” It is a 3 hour program that requires a certified instructor. Unfortunately at this time there do not appear to be any certified instructors for the program in Michigan. On February 2, an instructor from Ohio will hold a program in Muskegon. Anyone who wants to attend can become a certified instructor by coming to that program. MAHA has travel funds available to support people who want to come.
- There will be ADM Mite Jamborees December 15 in Lapeer, January 12 in Marquette and February 16 in Muskegon. More sites will be added.
- Ron Hayes can offer “try hockey for free” programs to associations at no cost. He brings the instructors and all the gear. It is a one-hour program. To make it affordable in the District, we need to get 4 or so associations to offer one in a given weekend.
- MAHA is doing parent education especially for U8 parents, talking about the benefits of cross-ice programs.
- The Red Wing Premier Program has many benefits for associations that offer cross-ice mite programs.

MAHA Secretary Kerin Wear emphasized that associations must keep contact information current so proper communication can occur between MAHA and associations.

MAHA Executive Vice President Jim Cosgrove noted that an emphasis of MAHA was education about the benefits of having an association instead of only an independent team. He is interested in any feedback on this issue. Scott Carter suggested that independent teams might be given reduced benefits as an incentive for association-based hockey.

MAHA Treasurer and Director of Risk Management Grant Helms summarized MAHA insurance benefits:

- \$50,000 excess medical cost benefit, but there is a \$3,500 deductible if the beneficiary does not have medical insurance.
- \$2 million catastrophic injury benefit.
- \$2 million liability policy excluding gross negligence.
- \$1 million Directors and Officers liability insurance for board members.
- \$50,000 crime insurance policy.
- There is a claim form for excess medical on the computer of each registrar. For all other claims, contact Grant Helms ASAP and be sure to keep all copies of documents that may be necessary.

Director-at-Large Bill Peterson reminded directors that each association must submit an annual financial report to their members. It should include income, expenses, and what the money was spent on (in broad terms). The reports are due October 15 to the District Chairperson.

District Directors presented their reports:

- Wooden felt fortunate to attend the 75th anniversary celebration for USA Hockey that included around 800 attendees.

- Starrett was proud to oversee the very first state championship for girls in the House/Rec classification. She also attended the MAHA Summer Meeting, the Rules Committee Meeting, and a handful of other meetings at the state level.
- Carey was pleased to retire this year and continues to enjoy coaching girls' hockey.
- Giachino attended the MAHA Summer Meeting and is acting as an instructor for District coaching clinics.
- Association Representatives presented their reports to District Council. Several associations are really struggling with decreasing numbers of players and adult volunteers.

A two-hour discussion occurred regarding the format and scheduling of District playoffs. Milligan and Wooden presented options for a "super-tournament" that could be run at one site (with two sheets of ice) or at two closely-spaced associations collaborating with each other. The options would eliminate regional playdowns, but would have some negative consequences. The major points of contention were as follows:

- Several Directors felt strongly that the Regional playdowns are a waste of time and effort, and that it would be more fair and efficient to hold a large District Tournament with all associations represented (up to 13).
- Many Directors felt strongly that the difference in format between the east side and the west side at Regional playdowns needs to be eliminated if Regionals continue.
- Many Directors representing small associations were very concerned that a "super-tournament" for Districts would essentially eliminate smaller associations from hosting District tournaments.
- There was a strong concern that even large associations may not be capable of hosting a "super-tournament" requiring two sheets of ice due to other commitments for the ice. If two small associations combine to share a 'super-tournament', there were concerns about travel time between sites that may be an hour apart during the winter months.
- The super-tournament format for 10-12 teams would require very early starts on Friday morning, leading to issues with school, travel, and officials.

A vigorous conversation occurred, and motions were proposed and withdrawn. In the end, after two hours of discussion, the following motion was proposed and approved:

Motion (Martinson/McInnis): Keep the regional playdown system, but adopt the format from the eastern half of the District for everyone in order to promote equity and minimize costs. Approved unanimously.

- The regional playdown format is essentially "win and you're in." If six teams are in the regional, the winners of the first 3 games qualify for Districts. The losers of the first 3 games play on for the fourth and final spot. No one is eliminated unless they lose at least two games. The format is more efficient, and the tournament can be held at one site for all three divisions (squirt, pee wee and bantam.)

Associations declared teams for state tournament play.

Regional, District and State tournament sites were proposed and voted upon. A discussion occurred in response to Manistique's bid to host a District Tournament. Starrett asked if

Manistique had fixed an alleged safety issue regarding a gap in their glass. Wooden stated that he had heard rumors that players were intentionally taking advantage of an interruption in the glass to push players off the ice. Eric Oas, representing Manistique, stated that this was the first he had heard of the issue, and stated that his rink was safe. After the discussion, Munising was awarded the District tournament in a vote of associations and directors. Votes were necessary at other levels, and the results are attached to the end of this document.

Winslow requested player exceptions for three 13-14 year old girls to play on the Marquette Tier 2 National Bound AA 19U team. Through discussion with MAHA officials present at the meeting, and checks of the rulebook, it was determined that the exception requests should follow the standard procedures, and would be resolved at the State Playoff Committee meeting in December. Therefore, no action was taken.

Chair Wooden presented Tim McIntosh's report on the Bantam and Midget Festival. McIntosh proposed a Festival Weekend of March 15-17 in Marquette. MAHA personnel pointed out that the weekend conflicts with the last weekend of State Tournaments and may need to be delayed. Wooden will contact McIntosh to explore options.

Starrett presented the Rules Report. Rule changes are posted online. One major change that needs to be communicated is that all rosters need to be received by District Registrars at least 72 hours prior to their first game.

Starrett presented the STAR report. She needs to know the association STAR representatives and their contact information.

Old Business:

- **Motion (Winslow/Starrett): All District 8 associations offering 8U (mite) programs must abide by ADM principles and play cross-ice or half-ice games only. Approved by a 9-4 vote.**
- Credentials check day will be January 12. Any Regionals-bound team must have its credential book checked on this day. District Directors will accomplish checks from 10 am to 4 pm in Marquette (Lakeview Arena) or 10 am to 2 pm in Houghton (Houghton County Arena).

New Business:

- **Motion (Winslow/Carey): Accept the sole bid for District trophies from American Nameplate. Approved unanimously.**
- District 8 Spring Meeting will occur on April 13, 2013 at the Wawonowin Golf Course in Ishpeming at 10 am.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm.

District 8 Tournaments for 2012-2013 Season

East Region Playdowns (Squirt, Pee Wee, Bantam B)	Munising	January 18-20, 2013
West Region Playdowns (Squirt, Pee Wee, Bantam B)	Keweenaw Bay	January 18-20, 2013
Squirt B Districts	Iron River	February 15-17, 2013
Squirt AA Districts	Marquette	February 1-2, 2013
Pee Wee B Districts	Munising	February 8-10, 2013
Pee Wee AA Districts	Calumet	February 1-2, 2013
Bantam B Districts	Dickinson (Iron Mountain)	February 15-17, 2013
Bantam AA Districts	Calumet	February 1-2, 2013
Midget BB Districts	Iron Range (Negaunee)	February 15-17, 2013
Midget B States	Marquette	March 8-10, 2013
Midget BB States	Iron Range (Negaunee)	March 1-3, 2013

State tournament dates and sites are subject to approval by MAHA.