

Michigan Amateur Hockey Association, District 8 Council

Meeting Minutes, Spring 2026

April 18, 2026

Jerzi's 41 Sports Bar, Champion, Michigan

Submitted by Walt Milligan, D8 Secretary, April 18, 2026

Attendance:

MAHA

Erik Berglund, D8 Referee-in-Chief

Amy Blake, D8 Director

Tim Jaska, D8 Director

Kitti Loukus, D8 Director

Walt Milligan, D8 Secretary

Al Wakeham, D8 Chair

Perry Wooden, D8 Director

Kevin Yohe, D8 Director

Judy Niemi, MAHA VP Emeritus

JP Parmentier, MAHA Referee-in-Chief

Bob Yohe, USA Hockey Michigan Registrar

Calumet

No Representative

Copper Country

Ryan Galerneau

Dickinson

Tim Jaska

Escanaba

Nick Blankenheim

Iron Range

Samantha Toth

Iron River

No Representative

Ironwood

Rebecca Samson

Keweenaw Bay

Renee Hahn, Paul Smith

Manistique

Tim Noble

Marquette

Courtney Beecher, Kim Pond

Munising

Andrew Grabowski, Aaron Voogd

Ontonagon

No Representative

Sled Hockey UP

No Representative

Tahquamenon

No Representative

Meeting called to order by District 8 Chair Al Wakeham at 9:15 am.

Introductions were made.

Motion (K. Yohe/Jaska): Approve minutes from the Fall 2025 meeting. Approved unanimously.

Chair's Report: District 8 did very well in the state tournaments this year:

District 8 Girls teams competing in State Tournaments

Munising 12u Girls Made it to Semi's
CC Jr Huskies 12U Mineshaft Sportsplex
Superior Ice Breakers 14u
CC Jr Huskies 19U Harter Auto Supply State Champions
Superior Ice Breakers 19u

8U Marquette Junior Wildcats Girls Made it to Semi's
8u Marquette Jr Wildcats Red Div 1 Made it to Semi's
8u Marquette Jr Wildcats White 1 Div 8 Made it to Semi's
8u Marquette Jr Wildcats White 2 Div 8
8u Marquette Jr Wildcats White 3 Div 7
8u Marquette Jr Wildcats Blue 1 Div 1
8u Marquette Jr Wildcats Blue 2 Div 4 Made it to Semi's

District 8 18UBB and JV teams competing in State Tournaments

Calumet Jim's Pizza 18UBB State Runners-Up
Ontonagon Fighting Miners 18UBB
Marquette Main Street Pizza JV

2026 District 8 Champions & Runners-Up

10UB
Champions: Dickinson Iron Kings State Champions
Runners-Up: Calumet Ice Kings Copper Island Printing
Host Manistique Made it to the Semi's in the State Tournament

12UB
Champions: Tahquamenon Bandits State Champions
Runners-Up: CC Jr Huskies M&M Powersports

14UB
Champions: Iron Range Miners Marquette GMC State Runners-Up
Runners-Up: Dickinson Iron Kings

10UAA
Champions: CC Jr Huskies J. Peltier Construction Made it to the Semi's
Runners-Up: Calumet Ice Kings State Champions

12UA
Champions: CC Jr Huskies Sarazin Dental
Runners-Up: Escanaba Enbridge

12UAA
Champions: Iron Range Miners Range Bank State Champions
Runners-Up: Calumet Ice Kings

14UAA
Champions: CC Jr Huskies G&J Site Solutions
Runners-Up: Marquette American Legion

There was no Treasurer's Report. Most of this is done by MAHA now.

There was no Secretary's Report.

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

- Numbers are up slightly, and up more than slightly for girls.
- There are 1,200 "unclaimed" skaters across the state who participated in "Try Hockey for Free." Associations should follow up on these potential players.
- Minimum game counts for national-bound teams were moved up to 18/team and 12/player. This is likely to be extended to all levels in Michigan.
- USA Hockey has moved the roster freeze date to February 15. MAHA can make their own date. It is likely to be moved into January to avoid all the work over the holidays from the current December 31 date. Coach certification will still need to be done by December 31.
- USA Hockey is going to start requiring Level 1 coaching certification for developmental program volunteers.

There was no coaching report.

Erik Berglund and JP Parmentier presented the Officiating Report.

- The referee shortage seems to be getting more severe.
- One strategy to cover for emergencies is to have coaches certified as officials, especially at the younger levels.
- It is best practice not to have 2 very young officials doing the same game.
- JP has received several grants for mentoring. Associations are asked to email him with the number of games that were officiated with a mentor official present for reporting purposes.
- Green arm bands are being placed in all rinks to identify young, inexperienced officials, and this has been very effective in reducing abuse of the young referees.

District Directors and Association representatives gave their reports and discussed current issues.

There was no Girls/Women report and no Development Camp report, which was going on this weekend in Marquette.

Kevin Yohe stated in the Youth report that MAHA is really trying to focus on growing the game.

Milligan gave the CUP League report. There were a few issues with Gamesheets, and there seemed to be an increase in the number of league games that were not played this year. In most cases, these were games that were unable to be rescheduled.

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

There was no Sled Hockey report.

Wooden presented the Rules report. Among those of interest to the District:

- Maximum game counts have been eliminated.
- 18U BB games against MAHA JV teams now count for games. Note that games against MHSAA JV teams still do not count.
- Players serving suspensions must have it documented properly on the Gamesheet. Coach must select "suspended" or the player is going to end up serving another suspension at a District Tournament. Coaches should also select "injured" for players who are unable to play due to injury.

Motion (K. Yohe/Jaska): Modify the motion from Spring 2025 concerning the eligibility to host AA tournaments to include Districts as well as States. The proper rule will now be:

An association who wishes to bid on hosting an AA District Tournament or State Tournament must have had at least 3 consecutive completed years with a team at that level.

Approved unanimously.

A committee of associations with AA programs met and decided that the AA District Tournaments should occur at 3 different sites, with the constraint in the motion passed above. Based on this, there was an initial blind draw for this year's AA tournaments, which resulted in the following initial priority rank:

- Marquette
- Iron Range
- Escanaba
- Calumet
- Copper Country

Based on this priority list, bidding for the tournaments occurred and the results are at the end of this report with the other tournament bidding results. This will be updated yearly with the same procedures as the B tournaments, and the District Tournament Handbook will be updated appropriately.

Blind Draws, swing teams and tournament sites were selected for all levels and are at the end of this report.

After further discussion of tournaments, the following motions were approved:

Motion (K. Yohe/Wooden): For the 14U AA Division only, change the overtime rules to be consistent with USA Hockey National Bound rules for consistency. Approved unanimously.

Motion (Jaska/Galerieau): To minimize the problems with coin flips in District Tournaments with championship games, instead of a coin flip to determine the home team in the championship game, the home team in the championship game shall be the one that is the nearest to the top (smallest draw number) of the Blind Draw. Approved unanimously.

Again, the District Tournament Handbook will be updated appropriately.

Fall 2026 District 8 meeting will tentatively be held on Saturday, October 17 at 9:00 am with the location to be determined.

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm.

Blind Draw for 2026-2027 Regional and District Seeding

Held at MAHA District 8 Spring Meeting, April 18, 2026

Dickinson Amateur Hockey Association

Keweenaw Bay Hockey Association

Copper Country Junior Hockey Association

Manistique Hockey Assn

Marquette Junior Hockey

Munising Hockey Association

Calumet Hockey Association

Tahquamenon Area Hockey

Iron Range Hockey Association

Iron Amateur Hockey Association

Ironwood Polar Bear Youth Hockey

Escanaba Area Junior Hockey

Ontonagon Amateur Hockey Association

Draft

Bidding for State Tournaments, April 18, 2026

There are no State Tournaments scheduled in the District this year.

Priority List for next time.

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

Draft

Bidding for District Tournaments, April 18, 2026

Association	Tournament
Ontonagon	No representative present
Tahquamenon	No representative present
Copper Country	10U B – date TBA
Keweenaw Bay	14U B – date TBA
DAHA	12U B – date TBA
Iron Range	
Iron River	
Escanaba	
Manistique	
Calumet	
Ironwood	
Munising	
Marquette	

Priority list for next time

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

AA District Tournaments, April 18, 2026

As described in the Minutes of the April 18, 2026 meeting, there is a new system similar to the B District tournaments. Initial priority list was determined by blind draw at the April 18, 2026 meeting.

Association	Tournament
Marquette	14U AA – date TBA
Iron Range	12U AA – date TBA
Escanaba	Not eligible for 10U AA
Calumet	No representative present
Copper Country	10U AA – date TBA

Priority list for next time

Association	Tournament
Escanaba	
Calumet	
Copper Country	
Iron Range	
Marquette	

Bidding for Regional Tournaments, April 18, 2026

Association	Tournament
Iron Range	Pass
Copper Country	West Regional – Jan 15-17, 2027
Calumet	No representative present
Marquette	East Regional – Jan 15-17, 2027
Ontonagon	
Tahquamenon	
Manistique	
Iron River	
Keweenaw Bay	
DAHA	
Escanaba	
Ironwood	
Munising	

Swing teams determined by Magic Online Coin Flip®:

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

Priority List for next time

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