

# Michigan Amateur Hockey Association, District 8 Council

Meeting Minutes, Fall 2023

October 21, 2023

River Rock Lanes and Banquet Center, Ishpeming, Michigan

Submitted by Walt Milligan, D8 Secretary, October 22, 2023. Finalized August 23, 2024

## Attendance:

### MAHA

Al Wakeham, D8 Chair  
Tim Jaska, D8 Director  
Amy Blake, D8 Director  
Scott Cambensey, D8 Director  
Kitti Loukus, D8 Director  
Perry Wooden, D8 Director  
Kevin Yohe, D8 Director

Adam Holloway, D8 Co-Referee in Chief  
Marty Laurila, D8 Co-Referee in Chief  
Walt Milligan, D8 Secretary

Bob Yohe, Michigan Registrar  
Judy Niemi, MAHA VP of Officials  
Jason Reynolds, MAHA Director of Marketing and Operations

Calumet	Kitti Loukus
Copper Country	Ian Repp
Dickinson	Tim Jaska
Escanaba	Bob Martinson
Iron Range	Eric Beckman
Iron River	Tina Brunswick, Kaycee Johnson
Ironwood	Bill Thomason
Keweenaw Bay	Brian Rantanen
Manistique	Dale LaFoille
Marquette	Ryan Higbie
Munising	Deidre Phillipson
Ontonagon	<i>No Representative</i>
Sled Hockey UP	Allen Beauchamp
Tahquamenon	Megan Jankowski

Meeting was called to order by Chair Al Wakeham at 9:06 am.

A moment of silence was held in honor of Joel Tuoroniemi, a long-time Calumet “hockey guy” who passed away in September 2023.

Introductions were made.

**Motion (Wooden/Beauchamp): Approve minutes from the Spring 2023 meeting.  
Approved unanimously.**

Al Wakeham, Chair, had no report.

Jason Reynolds, MAHA Director of Marketing and Operations, gave an update from MAHA:

- SafeSport is moving to a 12-month calendar. We are going to have to start monitoring it and redlining people.
- Volunteers should receive emails from SafeSport 30 days, 15 days and 1 day before their certification expires. Associations will get an email when the certifications expire.
- Background checks are having various amounts of delays.
- SafeSport has been centralized with a District-Level SafeSport Coordinator and a “disciplinary committee.” Jason oversees all investigations.
- Local liaisons can still provide information on SafeSport processes.
- Some people have learned to “weaponize” SafeSport.
- Everyone involved in MAHA is a “mandatory reporter” on physical and sexual abuse.
- MAHA is seeing a lot of racial slur reports.
- November 4 is Try Hockey For Free day, trying to grow the game.
- There is a social media campaign on “Team up against concussions.” Each team should Have a team “concussions captain.”
- MAHA is working with Northwest Designs, Inc., an apparel company, for partnerships with tournament and jamboree host sites. MAHA is actively seeking more marketing partnerships.

A Treasurer’s Report was distributed without discussion.

Bob Yohe presented the Registrar’s Report:

- The MAHA Annual Guide will no longer be produced on paper. It is online-only now.
- MAHA has \$500 scholarships available for short-term financial need.
- USA Hockey has set up a committee to address IT shortcomings.
- Teams are expected to have at least one, and better two locker room monitors on their rosters.
- Locker room monitors must be in the locker rooms at all times.
- No cell phones are allowed in locker rooms.

MAHA VP Judy Niemi had no report, noting that Jason and Bob had covered all the important MAHA issues.

MAHA is starting an 8U -> 10U transition program. Older 8U players can be put on a new roster in January and skate full-ice the second half of the year.

Scott Cambensey presented the coaching report on behalf of Mike Sands: There has been substantially-reduced interest in coaching clinics in-person, but online clinics are extremely popular.

Laurila, Holloway and Neimi presented the Officiating Report:

- Numbers are steady. A few clinics were held. They need to know who the referee schedulers are in association.
- There is now an officials mentoring program, with a small amount of compensation for mentors.

- UP officials need to get experience with the 3-man system, which is required for states at the 14U AA and above levels.
- Level 1 and Level 2 officials must have a on-ice component. At level 3 or higher, all-virtual is possible.

Allen Beauchamp presented the Sled Hockey Report:

- Numbers are down slightly.
- We now have an official sled hockey organization in Houghton/Hancock.
- There will be a “Try sled hockey for free” event on November 11 at the Michigan Tech SDC.

District Directors gave their reports. There was a lot of turnover on association Boards, and a lot of co-ops involving smaller associations.

People were reminded that November 1 is the deadline for submitting the intent to enter the state tournaments.

Tournament schedules were verified:

- States, 14U AA, Marquette March 1-3, 12U AA Marquette, March 8-9.
- Regionals January 12-14 in DAHA and Keweenaw Bay.
- AA Districts, Calumet, February 2-4.
- 10U B, Iron Range, February 2-4.
- 12U B, Ironwood, February 9-11.
- 14U B, Manistique, February 9-11.

Amy Blake presented the Girls/Women’s Report:

- There is increasing interest downstate, but we need to really grow it in the UP.
- Michigan is losing to many girls to out-of-state travel teams.

General topics were discussed:

- MAHA is making the Gamesheets iPad scoring system mandatory for league play.
- Credentials check will be January 7 at Lakeview and The Dee, at 10:00 am.
- USA Hockey “special events” need sanctions and insurance. Grant Helms handles off-ice requests. This comes up “on-ice” when 19U girls play ACHA college teams, for example.
- Goalie clinics require insurance and USA Hockey registration.
- Canadian travel tournaments require a permit that is available online.
- Interstate transfer with Wisconsin is a very challenging issue right now.

The date for the Spring 2024 D8 meeting was tentatively set for April 20, 2024.

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm.