

Michigan Amateur Hockey Association, District 8 Council

Meeting Minutes, Fall 2022

October 22, 2022

River Rock Lanes and Banquet Center, Ishpeming, Michigan

Submitted by Walt Milligan, D8 Secretary, October 22, 2022

Attendance:

MAHA

Al Wakeham, D8 Chair
Phil Berger, D8 Director
Scott Cambensey, D8 Director
Steve LaCourt, D8 Director
Kitti Loukus, D8 Director
Perry Wooden, D8 Director
Kevin Yohe, D8 Director

Amanda Gobert, D8 Registrar
Adam Holloway, D8 Referee in Chief
Walt Milligan, D8 Secretary

Bob Yohe, Michigan Registrar
Gordie Bowman, MAHA VP of Coaching (via Zoom)
Jason Reynolds, MAHA Director of Marketing and Operations (via Zoom)

Calumet	Jesse Patrick
Copper Country	Kitti Loukus
Dickinson	Tim Jaska
Escanaba	Bob Martinson
Iron Range	Matt Heinzl
Iron River	Tina Brunswick, Kaycee Johnson
Ironwood	Jason White
Keweenaw Bay	Dustin Lindemann
Manistique	Dale LaFoille
Marquette	Ryan Higbie
Munising	Amy Westcomb
Ontonagon	Stacey Somero
Sled Hockey UP	Allen Beauchamp
Tahquamenon	Megan Jankowski

Meeting was called to order by Chair Al Wakeham at 10:07 am.

Introductions were made.

Motion (Wooden/Cambensey): Approve minutes from the Spring 2022 meeting. Approved unanimously.

Jason Reynolds, MAHA Director of Marketing and Operations, gave a presentation on SafeSport and match penalties.

- MAHA has a new structure for SafeSport to make it more efficient and timely. Jason is the new statewide coordinator.
- District-level investigations are being eliminated.
- Goal is to resolve all cases within 30 days at the most.
- There will be an 8-person disciplinary committee. At least 3 of those people will be needed to hold a hearing. Conflicts of interest will be avoided by excusing committee members who may have conflicts on the case in question.
- A new VP of Appeals will be appointed.
- There are two categories of SafeSport violations that require exceptional attention: **Sexual Misconduct**, and **Child Abuse**.
 - Allegations of these types must be reported to the US Center for SafeSport **and local law enforcement** immediately.
 - At that point, USA Hockey and MAHA are out of the process. SafeSport conducts the investigation.
 - Allegations can be reported at the MAHA site or the US Center for SafeSport site.
 - MAHA will communicate with local associations throughout the process to keep them informed.
 - Associations must not conduct their own local investigations.
- MAHA is going to establish a statewide coordinator for match penalties.
- There have been issues with racial harassment and slurs. MAHA has a zero tolerance policy on this. Education is often the result of an allegation.
 - MAHA has a Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion that is studying this issue in detail.

Wakeham presented the Chairperson's Report.

- Kevin Yohe is the new D8 Director, replacing Steve LaCourt
- Andy Johnson of Escanaba won MAHA's "Coach of the Year" award.
- Iron Amateur Hockey Association (Iron River) won the MAHA "Association of the Year" award.

There was no Secretary's Report

There was no Treasurer's Report.

Bob Yohe discussed Registrar and MAHA issues.

- He apologized for peoples' difficulty in getting into the SafeSport website.
- Player numbers are up in the District, 6.6% for females and 1% for males.
- The 8U numbers are really good.
- Associations are reminded to "claim" all their players, even those in "learn to skate" and 6U programs. Associations can have "rosters" of up to 50 players in these programs, and can have multiple rosters if there are more than 50 skaters.
- The 18U split season championship is the weekend of October 28. The winner of that tournament will represent Michigan in the 18U AA National Tournament. Next year, 16U will follow the same model.
- USA Hockey is no longer printing the Annual Guide. It is downloaded from the website now. The same seems to be true for the MAHA State Tournament Guidebook.
- Try Hockey for Free day is November 5. Only 2 District 8 associations are signed up.

- MAHA has \$500 “scholarships” available to help offset the costs of playing hockey for families in need.
- Mouthguards and helmet ear covers are **mandatory** for all players at 12U and up.
- MAHA is looking for candidates to fill the new “Events Coordinator” position.
- MAHA entered a partnership with GameSheets. Their product runs on an iPad and replaces paper scoresheets.

Gordie Bowman, MAHA VP of Coaching, presented via Zoom, taking questions first.

- Answering a question about 6U coaching requirements, he stated that there must be a Level 1 coach on the ice at all times. “Helpers” are allowed on the ice, and they must have SafeSport training, a background check, and one coaching module.
- Answering a question about the “Continuing Education Credits” for coaches, there have been some delays. Modules are being developed currently, with no release date available yet.
- MAHA has a partnership with the “Positive Coaching Alliance” for training and workshops. There is a 90 minute module called “Double Goal” that focusses on hockey skills and life skills and it has been well-received. Associations can get points in their bid for “Association of the Year” for having their coaches complete these.
- Coaches that take a year or two off need to be certified at the next highest level when they come back.
- There will be a Level 5 clinic in the Boston Area, May 4-7, 2023.
- If a player gets a game misconduct in the final game of the District Tournament, they must serve that during the first game of the State Tournament. Games played in between are not eligible to serve the suspension.
- If a player receives a match penalty, the coach must contact the District Chair within 24 hours.
- Coaches can never “pull their team off the ice” for any reason. This will result in a mandatory suspension.

Scott Cambensey presented the District coaching report for Mike Sands.

- Virtual coaching clinics are available on the USA Hockey website.
- In-person clinics are scheduled:
 - Level 2, November 5 in Marquette
 - Level 1, December 17, Hancock
- Mike Sands is the only coach developer in the District after a couple of resignations. We need volunteers!

Adam Holloway presented the Referee Report.

- The District now has a two-person “Referee in Chief Team” consisting of Adam Holloway and Marty Laurila. Their shared email address is mahad8ric@gmail.com
- Numbers of officials remain low.
- They may try a mid-season seminar.
- Next year, seminars will be moved to earlier in September.
- There are virtual seminars available, but you need an on-ice finisher.
- They are hoping that each association appoints a Referee in Chief.

Allen Beauchamp discussed Sled Hockey

- The team in Marquette has 15 players and the season starts this week.
- Sled Hockey UP is trying to expand across the UP, with serious interest in the Houghton/Hancock area. They had an event in the Spring at the Michigan Tech ice arena that attracted 100 people, including 15 disabled.
- They will have another event at Michigan Tech on November 5 from 12 noon to 5 pm, with a social afterwards, including the members of the Marquette team.
- There is also a “Warriors” team in the UP that consists of disabled veterans. Mike Palmer is the contact.

District Directors and Association Representatives discussed their current situations. A common theme was that 6U and 8U numbers are very good in most associations.

Associations were reminded to do their team declarations online by November 1 for the District and State Tournaments.

The dates and locations of Regional and District Tournaments were finalized.

- Regionals, January 13-15, 2023, Munising and Iron River
- AA, February 3-5, 2023 Copper Country
- 10U B, February 3-5, 2023, Keweenaw Bay
- 12U B, February 3-5, 2023, Munising
- 14U B, February 10-12, 2023, Iron Mountain

There was a discussion of the USA Hockey Player Development Program. Marquette is not able to host it this year because they will not have ice during the last weekend in April. It would be very useful if another facility in the UP could bid on hosting this event.

Kevin Yohe discussed the Girls/Women’s program. The numbers are very low for Tier 3 across the state and in the District. At present, there will be only one girls team in the entire District (Copper Country 19U Tier 3). Everyone wants to see these numbers increase.

Wooden discussed the rules changes. The only important one for the District is that it is now official that teams who want to enter the District and State tournament must have played the majority of their games against teams in the same exact classification, and games against Wisconsin teams do not count.

Cambensey discussed the “MAHA Task Force” that he is on which has the goal of improving MAHA. The current state is that a survey was sent to all MAHA members and they are sifting through the responses.

Bob Yohe pointed out that Spring and Fall and Summer teams must still have a roster. They are rostered as independent teams, not with associations.

Credentials review will be January 8, 10 am – 2 pm, Lakeview (Marquette) and Dee (Houghton).

The tie-breaker for the District Tournament Handbook needed to be clarified.

Motion (Cambensey/Berger): Modify the District Tournament Handbook to state that the tiebreaker for Regional and District Tournaments shall be the one published in the current MAHA District and State Tournament Guide Book for non-national bound teams.

Approved unanimously.

It was pointed out that there will be 5 10U AA teams this year, so it may not be possible to abide by the motion that was approved at the Spring 2022 meeting saying that AA district tournament

games from the same association shall not overlap. This will be unworkable, and the tournament will probably require two rinks.

Motion (Wooden/Cambensey): Ensure that AA games involving the same association, when feasible, do not overlap at District Tournaments. Approved unanimously.

Spring Meeting location is tentatively set for Saturday, April 22, 2023 at River Rock Lanes.

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.