

## **Michigan Amateur Hockey Association, District 8 Council**

Meeting Minutes, Fall 2014

October 18, 2014

Wawonowin Golf Course, Ishpeming, Michigan

Submitted by Walt Milligan, MAHA District 8 Secretary, October 18, 2014. Revised October 28, 2014 to correct Squirt AA District Tournament dates.

### ***Attendance:***

MAHA	Perry Wooden, D8 Chair/Director Dan Giachino, D8 Director Frank Sliva, D8 Director Cathy Starrett, D8 Treasurer/Director, MAHA STAR Chair Walt Milligan, D8 Secretary Bob Yohe, MAHA Registrar Eric Froberg, D8 Referee Supervisor Jeff Cornock, D8 Coaching Director Judy Niemi, MAHA VP of Officiating
Calumet	Dan Zubiena
Copper Country	Al Wakeham
Dickinson	Ken Wood, Lee Hauswirth
Escanaba	Mike Borman
Iron Range	Travis Reamer
Iron River	Amy Donati
Ironwood	Brian Anderson
Keweenaw Bay	Polly Schaefer
Manistique	Phil Berger
Marquette	Scott Smith
Munising	Kristina Hakkola
Ontonagon	Jason Clinesmith, Stacy Somero
Tahquamenon	Bill Jordan

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

**Motion (Zubiena/Anderson): Approve minutes from the Spring 2014 meeting. Approved unanimously.**

Wooden presented the Chairperson's report:

- AAU is expanding in the Detroit area with around 70 mite teams. AAU offers full-ice mite competition, while USA Hockey is sticking with its ADM model and mainly cross-ice mite games. There are conflicting reports of how badly this is hurting USA Hockey membership numbers.
- A rule was passed at the Summer Meeting limiting the number of AAA Associations in the State. Marquette and Sault Ste. Marie were grandfathered in, but if they ever lapse, it will be very difficult to regain AAA status.

- Perry visited a few associations over the summer, and in particular, was impressed with the rebuilding efforts in Ontonagon.

Starrett presented the Treasurer's Report:

- The financial report that was submitted to MAHA was distributed and discussed.

**Motion (Zubiena/Sliva): Approve financial report. Approved unanimously, with Starrett abstaining.**

- Grant money requests were submitted for shooter tutors and team binders for associations. We do not know if the proposals have been approved yet.
- It is a requirement that all associations submit an annual financial report to the District. So far, Cathy has only received reports from 5 of the 13 associations. Reports were due on October 15.

Milligan presented the Secretary's Report:

- The District Directory was circulated for updates.

Yohe presented the Registrar's Report.

- Numbers are down from last year across the state, with the biggest losses at the Pee Wee level.
- About 130 association registrars attended the Summer Meeting in Traverse City, July 11-13, and MAHA and USA Hockey paid their expenses. This was an excellent event, and the new online registration product was demonstrated and discussed.
- The new online registration software looks very promising. Firefox browser works best. The goal is to have completely electronic rosters and team credential books for the 2015-2016 season. Rosters will be live and up to date with a web link on a computer or tablet. At this time, background checks and STAR forms are not included, but the goal is to include everything eventually.
- Associations should apply for MAHA "Try Hockey for Free" funding.
- Concussion training and record keeping are based on Michigan state law. Associations must develop policies and procedures. Neither MAHA nor the District check compliance with this for credential purposes at this time.

Cornock presented the Coaching Report:

- Only 4 associations of 13 had a representative at the "**mandatory**" ACE meeting. There is no penalty for not showing up. A long discussion followed of how to communicate better and get better attendance at these meetings.

Froberg presented the Referee Report:

- Officials must now complete an online seminar as part of their training. The link is on the MAHA site under the "Officials" tab, but it is difficult to find. This is a new requirement.
- Officials who are over 18 years of age must complete background checks and complete the SafeSport online module.
- It was pointed out that all three officiating clinics in the Upper Peninsula were on the same date. It was agreed that this was not an ideal situation, and should not happen again.

District Directors presented their reports:

- Sliva attended the Summer MAHA Meeting and the associated Girls' hockey meeting and the 1 Goal meeting. "Girls Hockey Weekend" was last weekend.
- Starrett attended the Summer MAHA Meeting, and associated training for the new STAR website. She mentioned that the new STAR system requires anyone submitting a STAR violation report to register with the Sport NGIN website, and perhaps because of this, the number of reports are down. She also attended a meeting in Detroit on behalf of Chairperson Wooden to discuss AAU and mite issues with staff from USA Hockey and MAHA. USA Hockey strongly affirmed its commitment to the ADM model and cross-ice programs for mites. USA Hockey is not overly concerned about losing mite players to AAU, and is looking into better marketing and branding opportunities to highlight its advantages.
- Giachino attended the MAHA Summer Meeting and Coaches Meeting.

**Giachino announced that he must resign his position as D8 Director, effective immediately, since he has been named Head Coach of the Calumet High School hockey team, and does not have time to do both.**

- Association Representatives presented their reports to District Council.

Milligan presented the CUP League report. Joe McInnis has resigned as CUP League Commissioner. The Scheduling Meeting is tomorrow October 19, 2014 at the Lakeview Arena in Marquette. The new website worked very well. Teams entered their own game results. About 2/3 of the teams participated, and in the end, there were only 13% of the games that did not have scores reported, and no one pressed very hard to get people to do it. It should get better every year.

Starrett presented the STAR Report:

- The "Safety" heading on the MAHA website now has content related to the STAR program, SafeSport, and concussions. As mentioned already, one must have a Sport NGIN userid to submit a STAR violation report.
- A new locker room policy, based on that of USA Hockey, has been developed. Two adults must be in the locker room at all times, and there are consequences for violating this rule.
- Any adult who enters a locker room must have completed the SafeSport online training module.
- Every association must have a SafeSport coordinator, who must forward their credentials (completed website training) to Chairperson Wooden.

Starrett presented the Rules Report. Among the rules passed at the Summer Meeting that will affect the District are the following:

- For state playoff purposes, a team must register at the same classification as the league that it plays in.
- For state playoff purposes, a team that is not in a league must compete in the State Tournament at the same level that it played the majority of its games.

- For Girls House/Rec, the rule that girls 2 or more age divisions down may not play on a team is no longer on the books. Therefore, for example, a 14-year-old girl (or even a 10-year old girl) can play on a 19U House/Rec girls team. This will benefit UP girls hockey.
- Girls can now dual-roster on teams in two different associations. If they are rostered on a youth team, they can play up to 20 games on a girls team in their association or another association. However, they are not eligible to play for the girls team in state playoffs.
- Teams that do not compete in a district tournament have up until the first week of the state tournament to satisfy minimum game requirements for their players.

Associations reported their preliminary “Intent to Enter” the state tournaments. Official Intent to Enter must be submitted to Chairperson Wooden by November 1, and a form will be made available on the District website shortly.

- Based on preliminary Intents to Enter”:
  - Iron Range Squirts will “swing” to the West Regional. This results in 5 teams competing for 3 slots in the West, and 6 teams competing for 4 slots in the East.
  - No “swings” are required at the Pee Wee level, where 5 teams will compete for 3 slots in the East, and 6 teams will compete for 4 slots in the West
  - For Bantam B, no regional tournament is required in the West, where 4 teams entered for 4 slots. In the East, 5 teams will compete for 4 slots. This includes the Marquette bantam team, which has a guaranteed slot in the State Tournament as the host, but which may desire to compete in the District Tournament.

**Motion (Zubiena/Wood): Teams hosting the State Tournament shall be allowed to participate in the District Tournament. Approved unanimously.**

In the event that Marquette wins the District Tournament and has a guaranteed place in the State Tournament, the D8 Representative in the State Tournament shall be the District Runner-Up.

Tournament sites and dates for Regionals, Districts and States were discussed and updated. A table is included at the end of this report that includes the sites and dates as of October 18, 2014. Any changes will be announced on the District website and communicated to associations.

A proposal for standard brackets and formats for Regional and District tournaments will be circulated to District directors for an e-mail vote shortly. Results of this vote will be attached as an appendix to these minutes.

Starret reported on trophies. American Nameplate was awarded the contract for this year, and District Representatives are welcome to solicit new bids for future years. The trophy and medal cost for a district tournament this year is \$407, including 20 champion medals, 20 runner-up medals, and 2 trophies. This cost should be included in District Tournament entry fees.

Chairperson Wooden reminded District Council that MAHA Association Status requires us to continue to grow the game. He commended Ontonagon again for their efforts.

“Credentials Day”, whereby team credential books are checked by District personnel prior to Regional Tournaments, is scheduled for Sunday, January 11, from 10 am to 2 pm at the Dee Stadium in Houghton and the Lakeview Arena in Marquette. Teams are encouraged to get their books checked in advance of these meetings if possible.

Important dates:

- November 1: Intent to Enter State Tournament is due to Chairperson Perry Wooden.
- November 15: Requests for player exceptions (single team entries, missing minimum number of games) are due to Chairperson Perry Wooden.

Since Dan Giachino has resigned as District Director, we need to appoint a replacement. Volunteers, or anyone who would like to nominate a candidate, should contact Chairperson Perry Wooden.

District 8 Spring Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 18 at 10:00 am at the Wawonowin Country Club, Ishpeming, MI.

**Motion (Starrett/Zubiena): Adjourn. Approved unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 1:55 pm.

**Tentative MAHA District 8 tournament sites and dates.**

East Region Playdowns (Squirt, Pee Wee, Bantam B)	Iron Mountain	January 16-18, 2015
West Region Playdowns (Squirt, Pee Wee B)	Ironwood	January 16-18, 2015
Squirt B Districts	Calumet	February 13-15, 2015 ???
Squirt AA Districts	Marquette	February 6-8, 2015
Pee Wee B Districts	Escanaba	February 13-15, 2015
Pee Wee AA Districts	Calumet	January 30 – February 1, 2015
Bantam B Districts	Iron River	February 13-15, 2015
Bantam AA Districts	Calumet	January 30 – February 1, 2015
Midget B Districts	Marquette	February 6-8, 2015
Midget BB Districts	Marquette	February 6-8, 2015
Bantam B States	Marquette	March 6-8, 2015
Bantam AA States	Copper Country	March 6-8, 2015

Dates and sites were further discussed at the District 8 Fall 2014 Meeting on October 18, 2014. State Playoff dates and sites are subject to final approval by MAHA. Squirt B District tournament is tentative, due to MTU Winter Carnival, hotel availability, and ice availability in the Calumet and Houghton/Hancock areas. Updates will be posted to D8 website as they are received.

## ***Blind Draw for 2014-2015 Regional and District Seeding***

Held at MAHA District 8 Spring Meeting, April 12, 2014

In any Regional or District Tournament, Team Numbers for brackets are assigned based on this blind draw that occurs annually. Team #1 is the first team in the pool that is participating and that is listed here, while Team #2 is the second, and so on. For example, if a Regional Tournament does not include Keweenaw Bay or Calumet, Team #1 would be Manistique, Team #2 would be Escanaba, etc.

Keweenaw Bay

Manistique

Calumet

Escanaba

Ironwood

Tahquamenon

Munising

DAHA

Iron River

Ontonagon

Copper Country

Iron Range

Marquette