

Michigan Amateur Hockey Association, District 8 Council

Meeting Minutes, Fall 2011

October 22, 2011

Wawonowin Golf Course, Ishpeming, Michigan

Submitted by Walt Milligan, MAHA District 8 Secretary, October 23, 2011

Attendance:

MAHA	Perry Wooden, D8 Chair/Director
	Larry Carey, D8 Director
	Dan Giachino, D8 Director
	Cathy Starrett, D8 Treasurer/Director
	Walt Milligan, D8 Secretary
	JoLeen Jenkins, D8 Registrar
	Tim McIntosh, D8 Registrar
	Jeff Cornock, D8 Director of Coaching
	Eric Froberg, D8 Referee Supervisor
	Judy Niemi, MAHA VP of Officials
	Jim Cosgrove, MAHA Executive Vice President
	Bob Yohe, Michigan Registrar
	Bill Peterson, D8 Director at Large
	Sean Jacques, Michigan Referee in Chief
Calumet	Dan Zubiena
Copper Country	Walt Milligan
Dickinson	Tina Martinson
Escanaba	Frank Sliva
Iron Range	Ken Farley, Scott Carter, Kristina Hakkola
Iron River	Michelle Dominici
Ironwood	Bob Heil
Keweenaw Bay	Amy Lake
Manistique	Eric Oas
Marquette	Linda Winslow
Munising	Joe McInnis
Newberry	Bobby Schroeder
Ontonagon	Jeff Rule, Scott Somero, Karen Morris

Chair Perry Wooden called the meeting to order at 10:06 am.

Motion (Starrett/McInnis): Approve minutes from the Spring 2011 meeting. Approved unanimously.

Agenda was updated to include ADM funding and midget goalie discussion.

Wooden presented the Chairperson's report:

- The district revoked the affiliate agreement of the Ojibwa Eagles Midget AAA hockey program.
- Rule changes approved at the Summer meeting included the elimination of full body checking at the 12U Pee Wee level, tag-up offsides for bantams and above, and a match penalty with a recommended 60 day suspension for removing a helmet for fighting. *(See discussion later for further information on USA Hockey's philosophy on body contact and body checking.)*
- Important dates: Need Affiliate Agreements by August 1 (with any by law changes), team declarations for State Playoffs by November 1, and Team/Player exception requests by November 15.
- MAHA approved a girls recreation level State Tournament. Teams must declare by sending e-mail to Patty Madden by November 1.
- MAHA approved mite half-ice (more discussion later). Only 8 year olds can play full ice this year, and starting next year all mites will be half ice with the exception of no more than 10 full ice games during a year.

Starrett presented the Treasurer's Report:

- The Annual Financial Report and P&L Statement were distributed to District Council. Report has been sent to Grant Helms at MAHA.
- **Motion (Carey/Martinson): Accept District Annual Financial Report. Approved unanimously.**
- Starrett asked for suggestions on uses for the \$2,500 in Grant Funding available from MAHA.
- **Motion (Winslow/Zubiena): Spend \$1,000 on scoresheets. Approved unanimously.**
- **Motion (Zubiena/Farley): Spend up to \$1,500 to support a member association Board Education effort, including necessary spending on projection equipment, material preparation, and travel to visit association Boards. Approved unanimously.**
- A discussion occurred of funding for ADM travel budgets to allow the Coaching Program to put on ADM clinics for associations. It was decided that the District Council did not need to provide such funds since it should be covered by MAHA.

Milligan presented the Secretary's Report: A District 8 Directory is being prepared with full contact information for D8 volunteers. A draft was distributed seeking corrections and additions. The complete Directory will be e-mailed to District personnel during the week of October 24.

Yohe presented the Registrar's Report:

- Registration numbers for each association were distributed. The District has 1,736 players registered, compared to 1,666 on a similar date last year.
- There will be no mite teams in Michigan next year.

- Associations hosting a “play hockey for free” or “grow the game” event need to get a waiver of liability from Yohe. Any player may only attend 3 events without registering with USA Hockey.
- Teams going to Canada for exhibition games need to contact Tim McIntosh or JoLeen Jenkins for permission. Teams entering Canadian tournaments need to apply online at MAHA.org to apply. A \$10/event fee is required.
- Rosters now contain a “V” for players and coaches that have been verified. Birth certificates are not required for these players.
- Teams should not print their credential verification forms until January 3, at which time they will be final.
- All coaches need to take the appropriate coaching module online prior to January 1.
- Coaches will no longer be able to take more than one clinic per year. However, a coach at any level will be able to coach if they take the appropriate module. For example, a new coach can take Level 1 along with a midget module online, and they will be able to coach a midget team. They must progress to the next level the following year.
- **Credential forms must be printed via Cybersport. (Starrett).**
- MAHA summer meeting is July 12-14 at Kewadin in the Soo.

Jim Cosgrove, Executive VP of MAHA, presented the MAHA Report:

- Jim presented “basic assumptions for businesses in Michigan”, including hockey associations. A report must be submitted each year to the State of Michigan via the Association’s Registered Agent. If this is not filed for 3 years, the association is not an entity and will lose its 501(c)3 status with the IRS.
- Associations must file a 990 form with the IRS each year.
- Annual financial statements must categorize most expenses. Contact Jim if you need advice on formats of financial statements.
- The District must collect financial statements and year-end bank statements from all associations. This is new this year and is being implemented.
- Boards of Directors must have at least 3 members. More is better.
- By Laws should state how association funds can be spent, including authorizing who can write checks and co-signing.
- Ice contracts should be reviewed by MAHA, especially concerning liability issues. For example, associations should not be liable for accidents in the parking lot.
- Starrett: Perry asked for financial statements and only heard from 5 associations. The rest should submit them for the end of the prior fiscal year as soon as possible, and by October 15 in future years.

Cornock presented the Coaching Report:

- As already discussed, only a coach can take one coaching clinic per year.
- Coaches must take the appropriate online module each year.

- Coaches must take the next level clinic the following year if it is needed.
- Level 3 coaches who have recertified twice must take Level 4. There will be a Level 4 clinic in May or August in the UP. This year only, a temporary Level 4 certification may be obtained from USA Hockey, but the proper online module must also be taken and the Level 4 clinic must be taken prior to next year.
- Modules at each level take 6-8 hours and there is a test that must be passed for completion.
- Levels 1 and 2 do not expire anymore.
- Guest coaches must be registered with USA Hockey including the background check. Regular guest coaches must be on the roster.
- Cornock will be happy to run ADM clinics for associations.
- There will be an ADM Jamboree on Saturday, December 3 in Marquette.

Jacques presented the Officiating Report:

- George Niemi stepped down after many years of service as D8 Referee in Chief, and has been replaced by Eric Froberg.
- New game-reporting software will be used starting this year for game misconducts and match penalties. Officials must log in the night of the game and make a report. The program will track statistics and reveal trends. Fighting majors will automatically be forwarded to District Chairpersons.
- If a match penalty is called, the official must leave the rink in possession of the original scoresheet, and the coach must report the match penalty to the District Chairperson.

Peterson presented the Director at Large Report: He is a liaison between associations and MAHA, but he will not answer any questions or address problems unless they have been brought to District Council first. Judy Niemi asked Peterson how District 7 spent their Grant Funds. He stated that they were used for ADM Jamborees last year and that was quite successful.

In the District Director reports, Starrett reported that she attended the MAHA Executive Board meeting in May, attended the meetings of the Rules Committee, the One Goal Committee, and the STAR Committee at the Summer Meeting, and attended the Chairperson's Meeting in September.

Association Representatives presented their reports to District Council.

Associations declared their preliminary estimates of teams for the state playoffs.

District playoff procedures were discussed, especially the possibility of eliminating regional play-ins and only holding district tournaments with more than 8 teams. It was decided that the issue needed further study, and the regional system will stay in place for this year.

In the Bantam B division, due to a mismatch in teams, it was determined that Iron Range will compete in the West Regional this year.

A discussion of the Midget BB Division ensued. Number of teams could be 8, 9 or 10 depending on associations combining teams and high school cuts. No decision could be made about the Midget BB division, therefore:

Motion (Winslow/Martinson): Midget District Tournament format will be decided via e-mail after the number of teams is finalized. Approved unanimously.

Final District tournament schedule with locations and dates is attached.

McIntosh reported that the Bantam/Midget Festival will be in Marquette March 16-18, 2012. The Michigan Select 16/17 camp will be May 10-12, 2012 at the Taylor Sportsplex, and the Michigan Select 14/15 Camp will be at Lake Superior State University June 17-22, 2012.

McIntosh reported that the NIHL is operating as usual, and Zubiena reported that the CUP League Scheduling meeting will be Sunday October 23, 2011.

Starrett and Winslow reported on the One Goal program. There was a brief meeting in the summer. District 8 received about 6 grants. Up to \$2,500 is available, and all associations should apply. MAHA really values matching funds, either real dollars or in-kind support. MAHA does not like to pay for ice time, food or instructor fees. The main focus is to “grow the game.”

Starrett presented the Rules report:

- Many MAHA rules changes were related to registration procedures.
- The girls divisions have been re-named to clear up confusion. There are now 3 girls divisions: Tier 1, Tier 2, and Recreational.
- The experimental rule used the last few years allowing goalies to play on more than one house/rec team has been permanently extended in both girls and youth recreational divisions only.
- As already mentioned there will be no full ice mite division starting next year.
- All rule changes are publicly posted on the MAHA website.

Wooden reiterated the USA Hockey rules changes:

- 60 day recommended suspension for taking off your own helmet or that of your opponent in a fighting situation.
- No full body checking until bantams, but far more body contact allowed at mite, squirt and pee wee levels (discussed in more detail later.)
- Tag-up offsides at bantam and higher levels.

Starrett presented the STAR Report:

- The parent code of conduct form has added a line that the parents agreed that “they have viewed the STAR video”.
- Since the form has been changed, please do not use old forms.
- Note that it will be impossible for parents to sign the form now on short notice, for example, immediately before a district tournament game.
- Reminder that STAR violation reports are for parents only. Poor conduct by coaches, players, or officials are handled by other means.

Winslow presented the Girls/Womens Report:

- Patty Madden has had health issues and is being assisted by Jean Laxton.
- With the new Girls Rec division, at least four teams will need to declare for the State tournament in a division, or that division tournament will be canceled.

Old Business:

- This is the last year for full ice mite teams.
- 2004 birth years cannot play on a full ice team if they did not play full ice last year.
- The District has put out a call for proposals to supply trophies and medals. (Martinson)
- A discussion of changing the fees for hosting district playoffs occurred.
- **Motion (Starrett): Use the state formula (which is based on variable costs at different facilities) for determining district entry fees. No second, motion failed.**
- District Council agreed to study the issue in more detail.

New Business:

- MAHA requires associations to have at least 3 teams to be recognized, but District Council can override. Several associations in District 8 do not qualify. A discussion of consolidation ensued. It was noted that the associations qualify if ADM mite teams are counted. No action was taken, but the issue will be monitored.
- McIntosh mentioned that he would prefer the Fall meeting to be a week earlier, due to demands from the City to finalize ice rentals.
- Marquette and Negaunee are really short on Midget goalies. Discussion ensued. No action taken.

Presentation by Bob Mancini of USA Hockey:

- ADM does not mean “cross ice mites”. It is a skill development philosophy that transcends all age groups.
- There will be no cross ice for squirts proposal.
- A strong statement was made about taking checking out of pee wees. Mancini made it clear that USA Hockey wants to introduce more body contact at all levels, including mites and squirts, but it needs to be sensible. Angles and taking the puck off the puck carrier will be emphasized. The only body contact that will be illegal at levels below bantam is:
 - Body contact after the puck carrier releases the puck.
 - Body contact to intimidate.
- USA Hockey is promoting sensible body contact at all levels. Full body checking will continue to be legal at bantams and above.

It was proposed and agreed that the District 8 Spring 2012 Meeting would occur at the Wawonowin Golf Course, Ishpeming, Michigan, on Saturday April 14, 2012 at 10:00 am. (Assuming no conflict with the golf course schedule.)

Motion to adjourn (Carey/Sliva). Approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm.

2011-2012 District 8 Tournament Sites and Dates

Regional Play-Ins

Iron Range Bantams will compete in the Region 2 Play-In, due to unbalanced team numbers. (Approved by D8 Council on October 22, 2011.)

<i>Region 1</i>		
Squirt B	Iron Mountain	Jan 13-15, 2012
Pee Wee B	Iron Mountain	Jan 13-15, 2012
Bantam B	Iron Mountain	Jan 13-15, 2012
<i>Region 2</i>		
Squirt B	Iron River	Jan 13-15, 2012
Pee Wee B	Keweenaw Bay	Jan 13-15, 2012
Bantam B	Keweenaw Bay	Jan 13-15, 2012

District Playoffs

Midget BB format will be determined after number of teams is finalized. (Approved by D8 Council on October 22, 2011.)

Squirt B	Munising	Feb 10-12, 2012
Pee Wee B	Iron River	Feb 17-19, 2012
Pee Wee AA	Marquette	Feb 3-5, 2012
Bantam B	Copper Country	Feb 17-19, 2012
Bantam AA	Marquette	Feb 3-5, 2012
Midget BB	Iron Range	Feb 17-19, 2012

State Playoffs

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

Squirt B	Iron Range	March 2-4, 2012
Squirt AA	Calumet	March 2-4, 2012