

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

Meeting Minutes, Spring 2013

April 13, 2013

Wawonowin Golf Course, Ishpeming, Michigan

Submitted by Walt Milligan, MAHA District 8 Secretary, April 14, 2013;

Revised October 12, 2013

### ***Attendance:***

MAHA	Perry Wooden, D8 Chair/Director Frank Sliva, D8 Director Dan Giachino, D8 Director Cathy Starrett, D8 Treasurer/Director, MAHA STAR Chair Walt Milligan, D8 Secretary Judy Niemi, MAHA VP of Officials Bob Yohe, Michigan Registrar Eric Froberg, D8 Referee Supervisor Jeff Cornock, D8 Coaching Director Tim McIntosh, D8 Registrar
Calumet	Dan Giachino
Copper Country	Al Wakeham
Dickinson	Tina Martinson
Escanaba	Mike Borman
Iron Range	Scott Carter
Iron River	Michelle Dominici
Ironwood	Mark Johnson, Joe Vairus
Keweenaw Bay	Amy Lake, Polly Schaefer
Manistique	Eric Oas, Don Bowers
Marquette	Linda Winslow, Rod Riesland
Munising	Joe McInnis
Newberry	Bill Jordan
Ontonagon	Karen Morris, Lisa Huotari

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

**Motion: Approve minutes from the Fall 2012 meeting. Approved unanimously.**

Wooden presented the Chairperson's report:

- Several issues came up that will be discussed over the course of this meeting.
- Associations need to meet deadlines for paperwork:
  - Affiliate Agreements due August 1
  - Draft rules due August 15

- Certification forms for single-entry teams due August 15
- Financial Report due October 15
- Intent to enter State Tournament, due November 1
- Requests for exceptions/exemptions due November 15
- Rosters finalized December 31
- By all reports, mite half-ice programs are going well and are being received well by players and parents alike.
- Mite coaches only need to take the Level 1 module, and it never expires.

Starrett presented the Treasurer's Report:

- Financial reports were circulated for review. The District has not received payment for District tournament fees yet from 3 associations, so the balance will improve when those payments are received.
- She is waiting on a quote from MAHA to provide the most recent version of Quickbooks to all associations from this year's Grant Funds. The disks will be mailed to associations when they are received.
- The District is investigating purchasing on-ice aids (cones, etc.), as well as investigating purchasing apparel for District Council representatives from Grant Funds. (MAHA declined our request to purchase a computer for a Director out of the Grant Funds.)
- The budget to be submitted to MAHA is identical to the last three years, with the exception that \$500 will be transferred from the travel account to the education and training account.
- **Motion (Martinson/Winslow): Approve budget proposal. Approved unanimously.**

Milligan presented the Secretary's Report:

- The District website hosting may be moved to Sport NGIN if the CUP League approves the increased expenditures at their meeting later in the day.

Yohe presented the Registrar's Report:

- Numbers of players were down this year across-the-board: 163 in D8, 2,500 in the State, and 300 referees. However, the number of coaches increased by around 300.
- There is a proposal that is likely to pass regarding helmets. All helmets must have an HECC sticker on them and not be expired. Expired helmets will not be allowed on the ice.
- In 2014-2015, it is likely that MAHA will have new registration software that will move to a fully online system. Approvals will be all online, and all records will be available at all times online for verification of rosters and players. Player signatures will no longer be required for rosters, beginning this year.
- Yohe stated that 18 year old players will be allowed to play on summer midget teams

through August 31. The current rule is that players **must** play up a division. Since there is no higher division, Midgets can play on. Yohe will be presenting a rule change proposal to MAHA stating that players **may** play up a division in summer hockey, but may also choose to play in their current division through August 31.

Cornock had no Coaching Report, other than the plan to avoid scheduling referee clinics and coaching clinics and District Council meetings on the same day.

Froberg presented the Officiating Report:

- Two D8 referees worked the National Championships in the 16U Girls Division and did very well.
- There are no policies for paying officials for mileage and per diem expenses when working District Tournaments. It was suggested and accepted that Eric should bring a proposal to the Fall meeting for a vote.

Bill Peterson was not able to attend, so there was no report for Director-at-Large.

District Directors presented their reports:

- Wooden worked the Midget BB District and State tournaments.
- Sliva was appointed in December to replace Larry Carey. He attended the Winter MAHA Meeting
- Starrett participated in all the MAHA Executive Board meetings and State Playoff Committee meetings in her capacity as State STAR Chair, and also worked the Squirt AA and Pee Wee B District Tournaments, and the 16U Midget B State Tournament. She noted that our associations are doing a great job running the District Tournaments.
- Giachino attended the MAHA Winter Meeting and participated in many coaching and concussion sessions. He also participated in coaching clinics and worked the District Tournaments in Calumet and Iron River.
  - He reported that there was much discussion at the Winter Meeting regarding the Coaching Program at the Association level. "Is it broken?" was a major topic of discussion. Jeff Cornock replied that he thought it is broken. There is too much emphasis on accreditation and paperwork, and not enough on actual coaching education and communication. is acting as an instructor for District coaching clinics.
- Association Representatives presented their reports to District Council.

McIntosh reported on the Bantam/Midget Festival. This year had record attendance. Since the 14U and 15U players were separated into different teams this year for the first time, we were able to send more players on to the next level.

Winslow presented the Girls/Women/s report: She attended the Winter Meeting. Rules moved forward that will be voted on at the Summer Meeting, and they have significant negative implications for girls' hockey in the District. Most importantly, it will be proposed that no girl can play up more than one division in either house/rec or travel hockey. For example, a 19U team cannot have any players younger than 15 (since a 14 year old would be playing up two

divisions.) They state that there will be exceptions granted in single-division house/rec associations, but this will not be in writing, and she feels strongly that it should be. Other Council representative spoke and also said it was not fair to have this rule for girls but not youth. Some 14 year old girls can play Tier 2 19U travel hockey extremely competitively. Associations were urged to attend the Summer meeting and make their feelings known.

McInnis presented the CUP League report. As mentioned, there is a possibility of a new website hosting service. Also, Marinette-Menominee will be petitioning to re-join the CUP League as full members. This year, their Midgets and Girls participated on a trial basis. They were a founding member of the League in 1989, and participated through around 2000.

Starrett presented the Rules report. Several controversial rules moved forward in proposal form in the Winter Meeting and will be voted upon in the Summer:

- A rule concerning procedures for replacing Directors.
- A rule allowing girls to be dual-rostered on a youth team and a girls house/rec team, allowing up to 20 games played on the girls team.
- Several rules concerning JV hockey.
- The aforementioned rule proposal forbidding girls from playing up more than one division.
  - Cornock asked the D8 Directors how they voted on the playing-up rule, and he expressed disappointment that any of our Directors voted to allow it to move forward to the MAHA Summer Meeting.
- Potential new state tournament rules proposing no in-game flood for bantam house and lower have been tried this year. There was broad agreement among Council members that this rule would be fine for Pee Wees, but bantams need a flood in-game, even at the house/rec level.
- A rule allowing Skills and Development level assistant coaches to participate with only a background check, and not requiring any coaching modules.

Starrett had no STAR report. She was asked if there should be written guidelines from the State STAR program regarding suitable punishments for parents who behave badly. She stated that there was no appetite for this at the State level, and that associations are encouraged to develop their own guidelines that are appropriate for their unique circumstances.

In Old Business:

- Wooden explained that USA Hockey is mandating a new “SafeSport” program aimed at combatting sexual/physical/emotional abuse, bullying, locker room issues, social media issues, etc. Each association will be required to have a SafeSport representative registered with USA Hockey by November 30.
- Yohe and Wooden discussed a new law passed by the State of Michigan regarding concussions. If a coach, referee or official suspects that a player may have sustained a concussion, they must be removed from play, and will not be allowed to return to play until they have been cleared by a licensed medical professional.

- Wooden discussed the association status and the danger of losing it if an association cannot field at least 3 teams. Ontonagon may be in danger this year.
- A discussion ensued about the Regional and District playoffs this year. Michelle Domenici passed along concerns from her association that a 9 team District Tournament was held in the Bantam Division which was unfair, and which should not have happened. There should have been a regional on the East Side to reduce their teams from 5 to 4. There was further discussion about whether the “win and you’re in” regional that the East Side has always used and which the West Side tried this year should be retained. Amy Lake stated that she was told to vote to return to the old regional format, which was preferred by many parents and associations on the West side. It was also discussed that the seeding procedures for regionals are not always fair. After much discussion, the following motions were proposed and voted upon:

**Motion (Martinson/Starrett): All District tournaments (including Midgets) shall have 8 teams or less. In the case of more than 8 teams, regional playdowns shall be held using the “win and you’re in” format. Approved by a 9-3 vote.**

- [See Minutes of Fall 2012 meeting for further details about the format.]

**Motion (McInnis/Martinson): Seeding for regional playdown tournaments will be done by a blind draw at the Fall District 8 Council Meeting. Approved unanimously.**

- Eric Oas from Manistique stated his dissatisfaction with the vote for District Tournaments at the last meeting. He believes that Cathy Starrett overstated a potential safety issue at the Manistique rink that tainted the vote and prevented Manistique from being awarded a District Tournament. Starrett stated that it was her personal opinion that the rink does pose a safety threat to players due to a lack of glass in certain areas of the rink. Oas requested that the District award Manistique a District Tournament this year in compensation for the tainted vote. Further discussion occurred but no action was taken.

#### In New Business:

- Wooden stated that 2 girls teams and one JV team from the District submitted their Intent to Enter the State Tournament prior to November 1, then withdrew late in the year. This is against the rules, and by the rules, all the coaches and players on those teams could have been suspended for up to a year. Teams who file Intent to Enter the State Tournament must not withdraw later. If teams are not sure, they shouldn't declare.
- A proposal to set District Tournament Entry fees based on actual costs was discussed. No action was taken.
- A long discussion of procedures for determining Regional and District Tournament sites occurred. In the end, it was agreed that a “rotation” system would be fairer than the current voting system, which many see as a popularity contest. In the end, the following motion was presented and voted upon:

**Motion (Carter/Oas): Hosting of District Tournaments will be determined by a list established by an initial blind draw. When an association is awarded a District Tournament, they will be moved to the bottom of the list for future years. If an eligible association declines to host a District Tournament in that year, they will**

**maintain their position in line for future years. Approved unanimously.**

- Based on this, a list was drawn up by a blind draw and District Tournament sites for next year were chosen. A full description of this system is presented below. The list for next year, along with the sites awarded and the list for next year, are attached at the end of these minutes.

#### System for Awarding District 8 Tournament Sites

A numbered list of all 13 associations was drawn out of a hat on April 13, 2013. The initial list is presented on a separate page.

The association at the top of the list is asked if they would like to host a District Tournament. If they wish to host, they are given their choice of level. If they do not wish to host, they maintain their spot in line for next year, and the next association on the list is given their choice.

After the first level site is selected, the next association on the list is asked if they wish to host. For example, assume the first association chooses to host Bantam Districts. The next association can choose if they want to host any of the remaining levels, and they can choose the level (except Bantams).

After all levels have been awarded, the list is re-ordered for the following year. Out of fairness, the first team to choose is moved to the end of the list, since they had the most freedom and flexibility to host the level they wanted to. The team that chose second is moved to second last, and so on.

Note that this new system eliminates the rotation of the levels between the East and West sides of the District each year. East and West regions are maintained only for Regional Playdowns.

The list is reordered and posted every year. Lists for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 are attached at the end of this document.

**Motion (Winslow/Carter): Regional Playdown tournaments sites will be rotated among interested associations. Format for both regions is “win and you’re in”, but all previously approved procedures (“swing associations” in the case of unbalanced regions, etc.) will be maintained. Approved unanimously.**

- Bids for the District Tournament trophy and medal contract will be accepted. District Council strongly prefers a local vendor. The contract is for 14 trophies (first and second place in each Division) and 20 medals per team for first and second place teams in each division.
- District 8 Fall Meeting will occur on Saturday, October 19, 2013 at the Wawonowin Golf Course in Ishpeming at 10 am.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm.

### **Tentative District 8 Tournaments for 2013-2014 Season**

East Region Playdowns (Squirt, Pee Wee, Bantam B)	Munising	January 17-19, 2014
West Region Playdowns (Squirt, Pee Wee, Bantam B)	Iron River	January 17-19, 2014
Squirt B Districts	Ironwood	February 7-9, 2014
Squirt AA Districts	Calumet	January 31-February 2, 2014
Pee Wee B Districts	Dickinson (Iron Mountain)	February 14-16, 2014
Pee Wee AA Districts	Marquette	January 31-February 2, 2014
Bantam B Districts	Manistique	February 7-9, 2014
Bantam AA Districts	Marquette	January 31-February 2, 2014
Midget BB Districts	Iron Range (Negaunee)	February 14-16, 2014

Sites and dates are subject to final approval at the Fall District 8 meeting on October 19, 2013.

**Priority List for Hosting MAHA District 8 Tournaments, 2013-2014**

<b>Association</b>	<b>Decision</b>
Calumet	pass
Manistique	Bantam B
DAHA	Pee Wee B
Copper Country	pass
Ironwood	Squirt B
Iron River	pass
Escanaba	pass
Newberry	pass
Munising	pass
Iron Range	Midget BB
Ontonagon	
Keweenaw Bay	
Marquette	

**Priority List for Hosting MAHA District 8 Tournaments, 2014-2015**

<b>Association</b>	<b>Decision</b>
Calumet	
Copper Country	
Iron River	
Escanaba	
Newberry	
Munising	
Ontonagon	
Keweenaw Bay	
Marquette	
Iron Range	
Ironwood	
DAHA	
Manistique	