

Michigan Amateur Hockey Association, District 8 Council

Meeting Minutes, Fall 2013

October 19, 2013

Wawonowin Golf Course, Ishpeming, Michigan

Submitted by Walt Milligan, MAHA District 8 Secretary, October 19, 2013;

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 George Atkinson, MAHA President Bob Yohe, MAHA Registrar Eric Froberg, D8 Referee Supervisor Jeff Cornock, D8 Coaching Director Tim McIntosh, D8 Registrar Michele LaCourt, D8 Registrar
Calumet	Dan Zubiena
Copper Country	Al Wakeham
Dickinson	Tina Martinson
Escanaba	Mike Borman
Iron Range	Scott Carter
Iron River	Amy Donati
Ironwood	Mickelle Trier
Keweenaw Bay	Amy Lake
Manistique	Eric Oas, Don Bowers
Marquette	Scott Ely
Munising	Nichole Welters
Newberry	Ben Rahilly
Ontonagon	<i>No Representative</i>

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

Motion (Starrett/Martinson): Approve minutes from the Spring 2013 meeting. Approved unanimously.

Wooden presented the Chairperson's report:

- The State of Michigan passed a concussion law for all sports. Perry passed out the public health code, background information, and a copy of the form that must be kept on file by each association for each player until they turn 19, whether or not they keep playing in the association.

- If a concussion is diagnosed, the player may not return to the ice until he or she has the permission of a doctor.
- Each association SafeSport representative must send their certificate verifying that they have completed the SafeSport online course.
- Hockey Day in Michigan will be March 1, 2014.
- November 2-3 will be “Try Hockey for Free”. Ironwood, DAHA, Copper Country, Escanaba and Munising are participating. Marquette held an event in September and got 4 new girls to register for hockey.
 - USA Hockey is offering free USA registration for the year to players who participate.

Starrett presented the Treasurer’s Report:

- The Annual Report and statement of expenses were sent to MAHA on time. The report covers the year from September 1 to August 30. On the statement of expenses, the following items were explained:
 - Miscellaneous income of \$50 was the sale of Larry Carey’s laptop.
 - Miscellaneous expense of \$700 was scoresheets
 - Miscellaneous expense of \$150 was training costs to help Jeff Holloway attend the national referee camp.

Motion (Sliva/Zubiena): Approve the Annual Financial Report. Approved unanimously.

- Grant money was used to buy MAHA apparel for directors and training aids for associations, including cones, ringettes, stick-handling aids, “Fast Hands” training aids, etc. Enough were bought to cover 3 associations. Names were drawn out of a hat and the aids went to Calumet, Copper Country, and DAHA. It was agreed that the aids were awesome and we should buy them for the rest of the associations out of this year’s grant money. Therefore:

Motion (Starrett/Zubiena): Use this year’s grant money to buy similar training aids for the other 10 associations. Approved unanimously.

Milligan presented the Secretary’s Report:

- The District Directory was circulated for updates.
- The new CUP League and District 8 website, hosted by Sport NGIN, was briefly presented and discussed.
- A goal is to get all the important information about District and Regional tournaments onto the website, for complete transparency. This will include tournament rules, regulations, and draws/brackets.

Yohe presented the Registrar’s Report.

- Numbers are down, but we could expect and increase in numbers due to the Olympics and due to CBS Sports broadcasting college games now.

- MAHA is in the final stage of awarding a contract to replace CyberSport registration software. The new system must be web-based. Two vendors have been selected for the final evaluation, and it is hoped that the new system will be in place in time for next year.

MAHA President George Atkinson presented the MAHA Report.

- Rule change proposals are due to Jim Cosgrove by December 15.
- MAHA has established “MAHA 2018”, which is a strategic planning taskforce intended to modernize the organization. In particular, rules and procedures need to be changed to promote growth and flexibility in the new era, and to support ADM. The taskforce has about 10 members. District 8 is being represented jointly by someone from District 7. See MAHA website for more information.

Cornock presented the Coaching Report:

- Level 3 coaching clinic was completed already in Marquette. Level 2 is occurring in Marquette today, with a Level 1 tomorrow. Level 3 will be in Hancock on November 30, with Levels 1 and 2 on December 21 and 22. All clinic dates are posted on the USA Hockey website, along with registration instructions.
- The desire for a Level 4 clinic in the UP was raised by Scott Carter. The last one was in Marquette in May 2012. Cornock stated that we tried to do one in the Soo but only 4 people signed up. He is hoping to hold one in Marquette or Houghton in Spring 2014. People need to sign up early to guarantee that the clinic won’t be canceled, and to reserve their spot. The last one in Marquette had to turn away coaches who tried to register the day of the event.
- USA Hockey is taking a hard line on temporary coaching cards. If coaches do not complete their clinics and online modules by December 31, they can expect that requests for temporary coaching cards will be denied.
- There is a coach practice plan app available on the Apple Apps Store and Google Play. It is free, but coaches will need to input their “bar code” number from their annual registration to activate the app.

Froberg presented the Referee Report:

- The usual referee clinics were held in Calumet and Marquette. Overall, attendance was about normal.
- He thanked the hosts of District tournaments for their typical hospitality.
- Froberg requested clarity and transparency for referee reimbursement rates regarding travel. Therefore:

Motion (Zubiena/Starrett): Reimburse referees at the IRS rate for mileage, \$35 per diem, and actual hotel costs. Approved unanimously.

- Compensation rates for doing games and travel will be publicly posted on the website.
- HECC stickers on helmets are now mandatory, and they expire 6 years after initial manufacture. If a helmet appears to be old or in poor shape, the referees have been

instructed to inspect for the sticker. If there is no obvious issue with the appearance of the helmet, the referees will not actively police every helmet sticker.

District Directors presented their reports:

- Sliva attended the Summer MAHA Meeting.
- Starrett attended the Summer MAHA Meeting and the Chairperson's Meeting. She reminded District Representatives that the financial reports were due to her 3 days ago and she had only received 2 of 13 reports to date, 3 days after the deadline.
- Giachino attended the MAHA Summer Meeting and associated coaches meetings, and is acting as an instructor for District coaching clinics.
- Association Representatives presented their reports to District Council. Several associations reported serious issues with ice cooling systems.

Associations reported tentative declarations to enter the state tournament.

- Due to imbalanced regions, DAHA Squirt B will compete in the West Regional.
- No Regional will be required for Bantam B on the west side. On the east side, 4 teams will compete for 3 spots.
- Midget B will have 2 or 3 teams. A round-robin District Tournament will be organized once the number of teams is finalized.

Milligan stated that the regional and district tournament sites are now selected by the new system at the Spring Meeting. In order to fill out brackets and pairings, it was moved and approved at the Spring 2013 meeting that a blind draw should occur at the Fall Meeting. Milligan stated that it would make more sense to do it all at once in the Spring; then, everything about the playoffs would be known 10 months in advance. Therefore:

Motion (Martinson/Carter): Move the blind draw for tournament pairings to the Spring Meeting. Approved unanimously.

For this year, the blind draw needed to happen at this meeting. The draw occurred, and the order is attached at the end of this report.

- This is how it will work. For Regional and District tournaments, brackets and draws are posted in advance with team numbers. For example, in the MAHA state system which we use for District Tournaments, teams 1 through 8 are put into National and American Divisions, and the order of the team numbers varies from year to year, and is posted in the MAHA Annual Guide. Regional pairings will be posted on the D8 website, also by team number. The trick is to figure out which team is number 1, 2, 3, 4, etc. In the new system, a blind draw will rank all associations from 1-13, and the draw will be random every year. If there are 8 associations in a District Tournament or 5 associations in a regional tournament (or any other combination), check the list. The first team in the tournament at the top of the list will be number 1. The second team in the tournament after number 1 will be number 2.

For example, at the draw at this meeting, the order drawn was Manistique, Escanaba, Keweenaw Bay, Ironwood

If there is a District Tournament or Regional Tournament that includes Escanaba and Ironwood but not Manistique or Keweenaw Bay, then Escanaba becomes Team Number 1 and Ironwood becomes Team Number 2, and so on.

Tentative sites and dates for Regional and District Tournaments were confirmed. List is attached at the end.

Motion (Starrett/Oas): Approve Regional and District Tournament sites and dates. Midget B District Tournament will be arranged after the number of teams is known. Approved unanimously.

McIntosh presented the Bantam/Midget Festival Report. The District 7/8 Festival will occur March 21-23, 2014, at Northern Michigan University in Marquette. The Michigan Select 16/17 Festival will be held May 8-10, 2014 at the Taylor Sportsplex.

Sliva presented the Girls/Women Report:

- MAHA is starting a pilot program with limited dual-rostering for girls on both a girls and boys team. The goal is to expose girls who have always played on boys teams to the benefits of girls hockey.
- The controversial rule proposal that prohibits girls from playing up more than one division was passed at the summer meeting. So, the youngest girl that could play on a 19U team would be 15, one division down.
 - This has a large negative impact on District 8 programs with limited numbers of female players.
 - On the bright side, MAHA states that the rule will be waived if an association needs younger girls to roster a team, and if the association has only one girls team, and it is a house/rec level. Exceptions must be requested by the normal process, and the exception request will be acted upon by the State Playoff Committee at the December MAHA Meeting.

Milligan presented the CUP League Report on behalf of McInnis. The website has already been discussed above. The scheduling meeting is on Sunday October 20 in Marquette.

Starrett presented the Rules Report. The major rule that impacts the District which was changed is that Bantam B State (and presumably District) playoffs will not have an in-game flood. Everyone agreed that this was a mistake. District 8 uses State Playoff rules to set up District Playoffs, but this rule could be changed with no consequence if desired.

Starrett presented the STAR Report:

- Not much has changed, except the STAR Program is now receiving a number of anonymous complaints through the SafeSport program. This was never the intention of SafeSport, and STAR will not act on anonymous complaints. If a complaint comes in that is related to a player (instead of a parent or spectator), STAR will forward that to the appropriate group for review.

Old Business:

- Bids for the trophy contract were discussed. Starrett reported on a bid from American Nameplate, which is our current vendor. There were no other bidders. Therefore:

Motion (Martinson/Carter): Award our trophy contract to American Nameplate. Approved unanimously.

- District and Regional Tournament Entry and Gate fees were discussed. Different rinks charge different hourly rates for ice. There are higher and lower travel costs for referees. A major point is that if associations cannot at least break even on costs, no one will ever agree to host a tournament. On the other hand, parents are averse to high tournament costs. It seems fair for associations to charge the same ice rental charge that they charge their own team. This will result in different fees for different locations. After much discussion:

Motion (Martinson/Rahilly): Allow hosts of Regional and District Tournaments to set entry fees based on the following real costs:

- **Actual billed ice fees from the rink based on anticipated usage hours and the cost per hour that the rink charges customers normally.**
- **Actual anticipated costs of referees, including travel and per diem.**
- **Actual anticipated costs for scorekeepers.**
- **Actual anticipated costs for trophies.**

The actual costs will be divided by the number of teams to establish the entry fee. A maximum \$150/team gate fee will be allowed for District Tournaments, but NOT for Regional Tournaments.

Approved unanimously.

New Business:

- District Director terms (3 year terms) are up at the end of this year. All four Directors (Wooden, Giachino, Sliva, Starrett) are inclined to apply for re-election. Secretary Milligan will solicit nominations from associations prior to January 15. Elections are handled by MAHA. If more than four candidates apply, a vote of all coaches in the District will select the four Directors. The four Directors have voting privileges at MAHA meetings, representing the District. The District Chair must be selected from one of the four Directors. In addition, the four Directors handle all discipline hearings in the District and manage all Regional and District Tournaments.
- Wooden expressed frustration that required paperwork from associations is often late or missing. Proposed remedies, including fines or removal of tournament hosting privileges, were discussed and found wanting.
 - One solution that has some hope is to post deadlines and forms on the D8 website and calendar, and this will be pursued.
 - Exemption requests are due November 15 and a number of other deadlines have been missed.
- The Credentials Weekend, wherein the team binder from every team in the District is required to be checked, was set.
 - Sunday, January 12, 2014, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, Dee Stadium, Houghton
 - Sunday, January 12, 2014, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, Lakeview Arena, Marquette

- Not every team needs to show up; people can bring multiple binders from their association. If people cannot make the date at all, arrangements can be made to ship their binders to District personnel. Contact Perry Wooden, unclewoody40@yahoo.com.

The Spring District 8 Meeting time and location was agreed upon:

- Saturday, April 12, 2014
- 10:00 am
- Wawanowin Country Club, Ishpeming, MI

Motion (Giachino/Trier): Adjourn. Approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 1:58 pm.

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

Association	Decision
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

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

Blind Draw for Regional and District Seeding

Held at MAHA District 8 Fall Meeting, October 19, 2013

For 2014 Regional and District Tournament Pairings. See Meeting Minutes of Fall 2013 for explanation.

Manistique

Escanaba

Keweenaw Bay

Ironwood

Marquette

Iron Range

Iron River

Calumet

Copper Country

Newberry

Munising

DAHA

Ontonagon