

Michigan Amateur Hockey Association, District 8 Council

Meeting Minutes, Fall 2019

October 19, 2019

River Rock Lanes and Banquet Center, Ishpeming, Michigan

Submitted by Walt Milligan, MAHA District 8 Secretary, October 19, 2019. Revised October 26, 2020.

Attendance:

MAHA	Cathy Starrett, D8 Chair Al Wakeham, D8 Director Perry Wooden, D8 Director Walt Milligan, D8 Secretary Judy Niemi, MAHA VP of Officials Michele LaCourt, D8 Registrar Eric Froberg, D8 Referee in Chief Mike Sands, D8 Coaching Director Bob Yohe, MAHA/USA Hockey Registrar
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Calumet	<i>No Representative</i>
Copper Country	Steve LaCourt
Dickinson	Nick Fornetti
Escanaba	Kim Milligan, Bob Martinson
Iron Range	Matt Heinzl
Iron River	Tina Brunswick, Kaycee Johnson
Ironwood	Jason White
Keweenaw Bay	<i>No Representative</i>
Manistique	Nick Bosanic, Phil Berger
Marquette	Jeff Trudeau
Munising	John Maki
Ontonagon	Stacey Somero
Sled Hockey UP	Allen Beauchamp
Tahquamenon	Erin McNamara

Chair Cathy Starrett called the meeting to order at 10:07 am. Introductions were made.

Sands presented the coaching report since he had to leave to lead a coaching clinic:

- Every association needs a coaching director and the director needs to know how to contact Sands.
- Sands is a CEP instructor now, helping Micah Stipech.
- A new MAHA coaching director will be in place soon. Tom Kerr has a new responsibility with MAHA.
- USA Hockey has a new emphasis on player safety and new regulations on body checking. They posted a “Declaration of Player Safety” on their website. There has been some resistance.

- MAHA has started a new coaching program exclusively for goalie coaches.

Motion (Johnson/Wooden): Approve minutes from the Spring 2019 meeting. Approved unanimously.

Starrett presented the Chairperson's Report:

- State playoff dates and locations were decided on a Zoom conference call, Special District Meeting. The minutes from that meeting are appended at the end of this document. District is hosting 18U State Tournaments. Tentative dates and locations are:
 - March 13-15, 2020, 18U B, Calumet
 - March 13-15, 2020, 18U BB, Marquette
 - March 20-22, 2020, 18U Tier 2, Marquette
 - March 20-22, 2020, 16U Tier 2, Marquette
- There is a huge emphasis on SafeSport. When a report goes to SafeSport, it is out of MAHA and USA Hockey's hands and will be dealt with by the SafeSport organization. This is the result of a law passed by Congress.
- Kraft Hockeyville in Calumet was a huge success.
- Grant money: Shooter-Tutor Nets are available at Lakeview Arena.

Starrett presented the Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Zubiena had an excused absence due to an emergency at work. New processes are still being worked out for QuickBooks. No Treasurer's Report is available.

Yohe and Niemi presented the MAHA and USA Hockey reports:

- USA Hockey outsourced their IT systems for registration and it is causing huge problems this year.
- MAHA no longer uses the designation "House/Rec" for B or BB teams. They are now called Tier 3 teams.
- The background check system may be moved to a more rigorous screening process that is done every year at a cost of \$30/person.
- Registration numbers are stable in Michigan but the adult numbers continue to grow while the youth numbers are declining. Adult members are now 47% of the Michigan total. We have around 30,000 youth players, while it once was around 45,000.
- MAHA substantially revised the Annual Guide book and it should be available online soon. It should be much easier to find information.
- The new MAHA District and State Tournament handbooks should be online soon.
- NIHL teams only need 1 permit for travel to Canada, covering the whole season. Teams traveling to Canada will need separate permits for tournaments and exhibition games.
- Every association needs to make a "team" that lists their Board members on the roster, for the purposes of tracking compliance with SafeSport training and background checks.
- Niemi pointed out that MAHA is using more Zoom conferences in lieu of face to face meetings, and they are not very effective.

W. Milligan presented the Secretary's report. No report; attendance sheet was circulated.

Niemi and Froberg presented the Officiating Report:

- Niemi has received several complaints that coaches are punishing players who try to become officials, including instructions to “not do it” and even benching them. This behavior is completely unacceptable. The games cannot be played without officials.
- 5 officiating seminars were held in the District this year, with about 125 officials attending.
- Scoresheets must be done correctly and legibly. **Players can be suspended for state and national tournament games if the scoresheets are not correct for regular season games that they were required to miss.**
- The District is struggling with a shortage of officials for District Tournaments, and regular season games in small associations.

Beauchamp presented the Sled Hockey report.

- Last season was excellent.
- Allen and Scott Carter attended a USA Hockey coaching clinic for sled hockey in Las Vegas
- They held 3 “try sled hockey for free” events, in Iron Mountain, Escanaba, and Hancock. Turnout was good at two of the three. They are willing to travel to offer other events.

Director-at-Large Peterson was not present so he had no report. This position is being eliminated by MAHA in July.

Rules changes are being explored to increase the number of directors. D8 may try to increase to 7. Other Districts are thinking of asking for up to 10.

District Directors and District Council Representatives presented their reports. Of interest:

- Player numbers for most associations are flat or up slightly.
- MAHA has some very interesting videos on their website, including player safety, nutrition, sleep, and a really interesting video on “what kids in hockey say is fun.”

Intent to Enter the State Tournament is due online November 1. Starrett will send the link to association presidents.

It was decided to delay the selection of 18U District Tournament sites and dates until the 18U teams are formed. The draft sites and dates that were determined at the Spring 2019 meeting were reviewed and agreed upon.

Motion (Wakeham/Wooden): Approve draft Regional and District tournament dates and sites. Approved unanimously.

Concerning the Player Development Program, Tim McIntosh has resigned as the Director. MAHA is considering eliminating the Player Development Camps in Districts 7 and 8. The camp in District 8 will probably not happen this year due to ice availability issues in Marquette in April, related to MHSAA playoffs and 18U MAHA State Tournaments.

- Yohe is extremely unhappy with this development, and suggests that D7 and D8 should send a very strong letter to MAHA to protest the permanent elimination of the development camps.

Wakeham presented the Girls/Women Report:

- People need to be aware of game count requirements for girls who are dual-rostered on a girls' team and a youth team.
- Starrett stated that the girls teams have really struggled with numbers recently. It was only a few years ago when there were quite a few girls' teams in the UP, and now there are very few.

W. Milligan presented the CUP League report. Scheduling meeting is Sunday October 20 at Lakeview. Last year, tried a new scheduling system. Instead of divisions with 4 games against each opponent, all teams played all other teams twice. Some opponents were home, some away. This seemed to go well.

Wooden presented the Rules report.

- This was not a "rules" year.
- MAHA is reformatting the guidebook.
- MAHA is eliminating the Director at Large position
- Election procedures for district directors have changed. Voting is now online, and all constituents (not just coaches) are now allowed to vote. More detail is available later in this document.

There was more discussion of SafeSport.

- The program is administered by the Center for SafeSport, which is an independent organization under the direction of the USOC. Any sport that has an Olympic team is covered.
- All volunteers, including District Council members and members of association boards, must complete the following:
 - Register with USA Hockey as a volunteer (no cost).
 - Complete background check.
 - Complete SafeSport training. You will receive 4 certificates (3 modules, and certificate of completion.)
- Any volunteer adult is a mandatory reporter of any potential SafeSport violation that they become aware of.
- 17-year-old players must complete SafeSport training in order to play on a team. (2002 birth years for this year.)
- MAHA is hiring a paid SafeSport coordinator in the very near future.
- District 8 will need to roster a "team" of council members to monitor training compliance.
- STAR is still a program, but it is better for associations and the District to handle matters of fan misbehavior "in house".

No trophy bids were received except from our long-time vendor American Nameplate. Bid was only slightly higher than last year.

Motion (Wakeham/K. Milligan): Accept American Nameplate bid. Approved unanimously.

Important dates were reviewed:

- November 1: Intent to Enter State Tournament. (online)
 - Girls' teams must register online in different process at MAHA website.
- November 15: Player and Team exception requests due. (online)
 - Be aware of regulations on number of 2nd year players (by birth year) on Tier 3 teams.
- December 23: Last day to make roster changes for players.
- January 5: Credentials check day, 10 am to 2 pm, Dee Stadium and Lakeview Arena.

Starrett pointed out that MAHA has a 4-hour rule between games in place, even if they are exhibition games or league games. This is obviously unworkable for CUP League games with long travel distances. The rule can be waived by the District Council Chairperson.

Motion (Wakeham/Maki): Waive 4-hour rule for all CUP League games. Approved unanimously.

Starrett led a discussion of co-ops. The goal is always to maximize the opportunities for kids to play hockey. In a "partial" co-op, if a bunch of kids change associations and the remaining kids don't have enough players for a team, no one wins. It appears that the communication on this issue has been good this year and the hope is that it is successful.

MAHA has a new check-list of what should be covered in association by-laws. The list is extensive. Starrett will send the checklist to association presidents. Hard copies were given to association representatives who were present at the meeting.

As discussed earlier, MAHA has changed the director election procedures.

- Terms are now staggered so the entire Board does not have terms ending on the same day. In this first election of the new system, in a District that has 4 directors such as D8, there will be 3 different terms:
 - 2 terms of 3 years
 - 1 term of 2 years
 - 1 term of 1 year.
 - Candidates receiving the most votes will get the 3-year term, and so on.
 - After the initial two elections, terms will be 3 years.
- Directors are no longer elected by coaches via a mail ballot. Each player will have a vote through the e-mail address of their adult custodian. The e-mail address of the adult on file with USA Hockey will receive a ballot via e-mail.
- Each candidate for a director position must submit a statement of 250 words or less explaining why they are qualified and why they want to be a director.

- Candidates must be identified by February 1. District Secretary W. Milligan will coordinate the publicity and recruitment of candidates, and forward the candidates to the MAHA Secretary by February 1.
- These new procedures are documented in the MAHA by-laws that were revised in January 2019.
- Candidates must be made aware of the commitments: Attend MAHA Winter and Summer meetings; attend District 8 meetings in Fall and Spring; participate in disciplinary hearings; attend and manage regional, district and state tournaments.

District 8 Spring Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 18, 2020 at the River Rock Lanes and Banquet Center, Ishpeming, at 10:00 am.

Motion (K. Milligan/Wooden): Adjourn. Approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 1:58 pm.

Michigan Amateur Hockey Association, District 8 Council

Meeting Minutes, Special Meeting, Fall 2019

September 19, 2019

Online Meeting via Zoom Conference Call

Submitted by Walt Milligan, MAHA District 8 Secretary, October 19, 2019. Revised October 26, 2020

Attendance:

MAHA	Cathy Starrett, D8 Chair Al Wakeham, D8 Director Walt Milligan, D8 Secretary Mike Sands, D8 Coaching Director Tim McIntosh, D8 Registrar
Calumet	Dan Zubiena
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Munising	John Maki
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Sled Hockey UP	<i>No Representative</i>
Tahquamenon	<i>No Representative</i>

Chair Cathy Starrett called the meeting to order at 9:00 pm. Introductions were made.

D8 is able to host the 18U tournaments in 2020. A long discussion occurred about who wanted to host and when. Priority lists were consulted.

Motion: Calumet hosts 16U B tournament, date to be determined. Marquette hosts 18U BB, 18U Tier 2, and 16U Tier 2 tournaments, dates to be determined. Approved unanimously.

A long discussion occurred about co-op programs, including whether they were *de facto* travel programs, and what happens to the players that are left behind. No action was taken.

Shooter Tutor nets will be available in Marquette around the time of the District Council meeting on October.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 pm.