

**rdespirt@outlook.com**

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**From:** John Popma <d4chair@maha.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 26, 2025 11:09 AM  
**To:** Kimberly Gearns; gordiehockey99; rdespirt; Maria Pacis-Biederman; Henrik Impola; Tee Kay; John Popma; GREGORY HAMES; Shelly-Ann Dow; Nick Zajas; Joe Barone  
**Cc:** Jason May; matt rosochacki; Henry Mike (compuwaredirector@gmail.com); Jeff Lerg; Lyle Phair; Geoff Bennetts; Jim Sokol; Brian Clement; Lakeland Hockey CJP; LCFH President; 'Julia Pross'; Brad Larsh; Mark Berke; mberke@noviyouthhockey.org; Steve Kuphal; DJ Bloomingburg; Petra Knoche; Deanna Kowalski; Kaul Lefief; Brian Burke; Brian Rolston; Zack Warson; Michelle Christ; Larry Winkelman; gm@140iceden.net; Angela Petty; info@noviyouthhockey.org; Zachary Doyen; TC Wingrove; Roman Andrys; Wendy Hollman; mrheaume33@aol.com; info@birminghambhockey.net; Lakeland Arena; info@lcfh.hockey; grhahockey@gmail.com; Coachmelpearson@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Re: 2025-26 Distircts

Association Leaders,

We are less than a week away from the registration deadline for districts and state.playoffs. Please send a final notice for your teams.

In addition to my emails, I have seen several emails that have been sent to coaches ditectly from the State Playoff Committee.

With all the efforts to let teams knows of the intent to enter date, I doubt the committee will be open to exceptions from teams that try to register late. As in the past, the cut-off day is what we go by regardless of any glitches that may not properly close the links.

I'm excited to have a large number of teams participating in districts as it is one our our council's best opportunities to interact with the players (not offensive, but they are more fun than these emails). Our goal for districts is to have a smooth and fair process in place for all teams. That includes holding teams to the same standard for registration. And eligibility.

If there are any suggestions for next year credentialling, or districts please let me know.

John

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**From:** John Popma <d4chair@maha.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 21, 2025 7:32 AM  
**To:** Kimberly Gearns <kimgearns@comcast.net>; gordiehockey99 <gordiehockey99@yahoo.com>; rdespirt <rdespirt@outlook.com>; Maria Pacis-Biederman <pacismar@me.com>; Henrik Impola <hhimpola@mtu.edu>; Tee Kay <tkrzyzak@gmail.com>; John Popma <johnppopma@gmail.com>; GREGORY HAMES <gwhames@comcast.net>; Shelly-Ann Dow <sdow@livoniahockey.org>; Nick Zajas <directordisabledhockey@maha.org>; Joe Barone <vpyouth@maha.org>  
**Cc:** Jason May <jrm0225@yahoo.com>; matt rosochacki <rosochackimatt@yahoo.com>; Henry Mike (compuwaredirector@gmail.com) <compuwaredirector@gmail.com>; Jeff Lerg <jlerg@suburbanice.com>; Lyle Phair <lphair@suburbanice.com>; Geoff Bennetts <gbennetts@suburbanice.com>; Jim Sokol <jim@hartlandicehouse.com>; Brian Clement <president@kvhockey.org>; Lakeland Hockey CJP <lakelandarena.hockey@gmail.com>; LCFH President <president@lcfh.hockey>; 'Julia Pross' <jpross89@yahoo.com>; Brad Larsh <blarsh@livoniahockey.org>; Mark Berke

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**Subject:** Re: 2025-26 Distircts

Association Leaders,

We are 10 days away from the cutoff for team registering for districts and state playoffs. Please send a reminder to your teams.

So far, the numbers appear lower than previous years. If there are any concerns that you or your teams have with districts, please share them so that we can do our best to find the best mix of competitiveness, inclusivity, and fairness.

The trends that we see are often used in future planning at the MAHA level such as number of permitted travel teams. For example, there have been concerns of a large number of travel teams that are not competitive but only want to be travel teams to bypass tier 3 drafting rules.

State Playoffs should be the highlight of your players' season and the goal for coaches to bring the team together just at the right moment to push toward a championship.

John Popma

MAHA D4 Chair

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**From:** John Popma <d4chair@maha.org>

**Sent:** Friday, October 3, 2025 8:03 AM

**To:** Kimberly Gearnis <kimgearnis@comcast.net>; gordiehockey99 <gordiehockey99@yahoo.com>; rdespirt <rdespirt@outlook.com>; Maria Pacis-Biederman <pacismar@me.com>; Henrik Impola <hhimpola@mtu.edu>; Tee Kay <tkrzyzak@gmail.com>; John Popma <johnppopma@gmail.com>; GREGORY HAMES <gwhames@comcast.net>; John Popma <d4chair@maha.org>; Shelly-Ann Dow <sdow@livoniahockey.org>; Nick Zajas <directordisabledhockey@maha.org>

**Cc:** Jason May <jrm0225@yahoo.com>; matt rosochacki <rosochackimatt@yahoo.com>; Henry Mike (compuwaredirector@gmail.com) <compuwaredirector@gmail.com>; Jeff Lerg <jlerg@suburbanice.com>; Lyle Phair <lphair@suburbanice.com>; Geoff Bennetts <gbennetts@suburbanice.com>; Jim Sokol <jim@hartlandicehouse.com>; Brian Clement <president@kvhockey.org>; Lakeland Hockey CJP <lakelandarena.hockey@gmail.com>; LCFH President <president@lcfh.hockey>; Tee Kay <tkrzyzak@gmail.com>; 'Julia Pross' <jpross89@yahoo.com>; Brad Larsh <blarsh@livoniahockey.org>; Mark Berke <mberkelaw@gmail.com>; mberke@noviyouthhockey.org <mberke@noviyouthhockey.org>; Steve Kuphal <s.kuphal@sbcglobal.net>; DJ Bloomingburg <djbloom333@gmail.com>; Petra Knoche <ppankova@oakland.edu>; Deanna Kowalski <toofitu@hotmail.com>; Kaul

Lefief <klefief6@yahoo.com>; Brian Burke <bburke14@gmail.com>; Brian Rolston <Brian.Rolston@hockeytown.com>; Zack Warson <zack.warson@gmail.com>; Michelle Christ <office@kvhockey.org>; Larry Winkelman <larry@lcfh.hockey>; gm@140iceden.net <gm@140iceden.net>; Shelly-Ann Dow <sdow@livoniahockey.org>; Angela Petty <iceservices98@gmail.com>; info@noviyouthhockey.org <info@noviyouthhockey.org>; Zachary Doyen <zdoyen1987@gmail.com>; TC Wingrove <tcwingrove@comcast.net>; Roman Andrys <romanandrys67@gmail.com>; Wendy Hollman <wendy.hollman@victoryhondahockey.com>; mrheaume33@aol.com <mrheaume33@aol.com>; info@birminghamhockey.net <info@birminghamhockey.net>; Lakeland Arena <lakelandarena.office@gmail.com>; info@lcfh.hockey <info@lcfh.hockey>; grhahockey@gmail.com <grhahockey@gmail.com>; Coachmelpearson@gmail.com <coachmelpearson@gmail.com>

**Subject:** 2025-26 Distircts

Association Leaders,

After credentialing the teams for the October playoffs last night, we can turn our sights to districts, and state playoffs for the rest of the teams. We saw some positive changes with teams having incorrectly scored GMs addressed (remember teams have 7 days to request RIC to review and we will not accept/change any errors at credential check), but still had some teams get in trouble for not serving suspensions.

The registration is open on the MAHA website and teams must complete their intent to enter registration by **November 1, 2025**. (please share this date with your teams and encourage them not to wait until something comes up at the last minute). As mentioned at the kickoff meeting, there are no changes to the selection process.

Entry and tournament guidebook can be found online at: <https://www.maha.org/2026statesinfo>

The tournament guidebook included valuable information such as 30% rules (AAA teams or different divisions), games needed for team/player eligibility, and max game counts.

Teams wishing to complete their credential packets as they play (much easier than trying to scramble around the holidays) can find the documents online at: <https://www.maha.org/stateplayoffs>

### **Important dates:**

November 1: District and State Playoff entries due

November 30: Last day players can be released from a team by coach/association/club

December 23: Last day for roster changes (to be eligible for states)

December 26: Round 1 district seeding for all Tier 2 teams

December 31: All coaches must be registered with age modules and continuing education credits completed

**January 3: Credential check for all district/state teams)**

January 4-25: Round 1 district games

January 25: Credential check for non-district teams

January 30-February 1: Round 2 district games

February 7: District 4 Hockey Day (Plymouth)

Please refer to the MAHA D4 website for additional dates and information.

Updated information such as times and locations will be sent to teams once registration is complete.

John

John Popma

MAHA D4 Chair