

CHIPOTLE

USA HOCKEY NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

DISTRICT AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

TOURNAMENT GUIDEBOOK

2026-27 & 2027-28 SEASONS

revised 8/26

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SECTION 1

Annual Guide provisions governing eligibility and qualification for the state/ affiliate and/or district and national championship tournaments

STATE/AFFILIATE AND/OR DISTRICT PLAYOFFS AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- **Youth Classifications**
  13 Only (13O), *13 & 14 (14U), 15 Only (15O), 15 & 16 (16U), 17 & 18 (18U)*
- **Girls Classifications**
  13 & 14 (14U), 15 & 16 (16U), 17 to 19 (19U)
- **High School Divisions**
  Division I, Division II, Prep School Division, Girls Division

Each season, USA Hockey shall conduct state/affiliate and/or district playoffs and national championship tournaments and/or playoffs leading thereto in the Youth, Girls and High School Age Classifications. The Rules and Regulations governing eligibility and qualification for the state/affiliate and/or district and national championships are set forth in this Article IX of the USA Hockey Annual Guide, except for Warrior, Adult Sled and Youth Sled, which are set forth in Section XIV. The USA Hockey Youth Council and Girls Council shall approve a USA Hockey State/Affiliate and/or District and National Championship Tournament Guidebook, which shall be published and available on the USA Hockey website on or before September 1 prior to the following year's state/affiliate and/or district and national championship tournaments. Except as set forth herein, to the extent of any contrary information in the USA Hockey Annual Guide, the State/Affiliate and/or District and National Championship Tournament Guidebook shall be the binding authority for the requirements, rules, regulations, operation and procedures of all USA Hockey state/affiliate and/or district and national championship tournaments. For regulations applicable to regional, invitational and national championships for the Junior and Adult classifications, and all Disabled Disciplines, please contact your appropriate registrar, the junior staff liaison, the Disabled Disciplines staff liaison, or the USA Hockey national office.

NOTE: *Each reference to district and national championship tournaments shall refer to state/affiliate and/or district and national championship tournaments and/or playoffs leading thereto.*

A. PLAYER AND TEAM REGISTRATION

All Tier I teams must register with USA Hockey on or before October 15th. All other national tournament-bound teams and players must be registered with USA Hockey and must be a member in good standing of an affiliate association on or before February 15 of the playing season. Teams competing on natural ice have until January 20 to register. Player changes to the official team roster for Youth Tier I and Tier II teams and Girls Tier I and Tier II national tournament-bound teams will not be accepted after February 15. For games to count in meeting the 18/12 rule, that team's official team roster registration form (1-T) must be certified by the appropriate district registrar or his/her designee prior to that game being played.

B. COACHING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All coaches must have current USA Hockey certification and the corresponding online age-specific module to participate in the state/affiliate and/or district and national championships. All coaches are expected and required to follow all USA Hockey rules, including the helmet rule, during all pre-tournament and tournament events. If a coach is found non-compliant with the helmet rule during any pre-tournament or tournament event(s), it will result in a Discipline Committee hearing with a minimum 30-day suspension from all activities involving USA Hockey registered programs. The Discipline Committee will refer the non-compliance back to the appropriate Affiliate to implement the suspension. Pre-tournament refers to any on-ice sessions, practices, or scrimmages that a coach participates in at any tournament venue or in the tournament city up to 2-days prior to the start of the state/affiliate and/or district and national championships.

C. TEAM CLASSIFICATIONS

Youth/Girls

Within each Youth and Girls classification, the state/affiliate and/or district and national championships shall be at the Tier I and Tier II levels with eligibility to participate as follows:

Tier I: Any youth or girls team that is properly registered with USA Hockey as a Tier I national championship bound team.

Tier II: Any youth or girls team that is certified Tier II by an affiliate organization which has jurisdiction over the team. Tier II certification will be based on criteria set up by the affiliate and approved by the appropriate council (Youth Council or Girls Council).

If the affiliate rules permit a certified Tier II team to participate in the affiliate's Tier I district playoffs and a certified Tier II team elects to participate in that affiliate's Tier I district playoffs, then that certified Tier II team shall be ineligible to participate in the Tier II national championships.

High School

Any high school team that is properly registered with USA Hockey as a High School national championship bound team shall be eligible to participate in the High School National Championship. Representation from each state will be determined by the state affiliate participating in the tournament.

For districts only, these rules and regulations may be modified for local and state association competition and districts that are composed of a single state, as conditions may require.

Player eligibility regulations may not be less restrictive than those governing national championships.

Teams seeking to participate in the High School National Championship should play a regular season schedule in a high school league as a team, if available within that team's state, or compete against other high school registered teams during their regular season schedule. They should not be an "all-star" team formed for the purpose of attending the High School National Championship.

A High School player residing in one Affiliate may not play on a National Tournament bound Division II (Combined) High School team in a different Affiliate unless both the Affiliate where the player resides and the Affiliate where the player desires to play have granted permission. In the event that a High School player has been denied such permission to play on a Division II (Combined) High School team other than in the Affiliate where the player resides, the player may appeal such denial to the National Championship Appeal Committee.

D. TOURNAMENT ELIGIBILITY AND REGISTRATION

(1) Players and registered team members properly classified shall be eligible to participate in state/affiliate and/or district and national tournaments see:

(a) Rules & Regulations; Section II: Classifications; Subsections Youth, Girls, High School Divisions

(b) Rules & Regulations; Section III: Team Membership and Registration.

(2) The team shall be certified by its appropriate registrar (form 2-C, team roster registration certification) to have complied with all eligibility requirements.

(a) All players and registered team members shall be listed on the official team roster (1-T) and credential verification sheet (form 1-C).

(b) All Youth and Girls national championship bound teams are required to have a team manager and, at minimum, one locker room monitor listed on the official team roster (1-T).

(c) All national tournament bound teams need to have positions and jersey numbers (home and away) assigned as part of the official team roster (1-T).

(3) A verification and affirmation that a review of each player's birth certificate has been completed by a district registrar or his/her designee. When no verification and affirmation is provided, a copy of government issued birth certificate, verification of birth or copy of a passport identification page for each rostered player, is required. Also, for all High School divisions, evidence of current school enrollment eligibility to participate on the team is required.

(4) The team's certified player roster and credentials must be in the hands of the championship director one week before the start of the championship.

(5) The team and each rostered member must be eligible to participate in the state/affiliate and/or district championships in order to participate in the national championships.

(6) **Number of Games for Eligibility – state/affiliate and/or districts and nationals.**

(a) Each team must have competed as a team unit in at least eighteen (18) games for youth and girls teams, and at least ten (10) games for all High School divisions, and

(b) Each youth and girls player must have played in at least twelve (12) games during the season. Each player in all High School divisions must have played in at least five (5) games during the season.

(c) For games to count in meeting the 18/12 (10/5 all high school divisions) rule, that team's player roster form (1-T) must be certified by the appropriate registrar or his/her designee prior to that game being played. Teams formed and certified prior to the September 1 season start may have games played in August counted toward fulfilling the 18/12 (10/5 all high school divisions) requirement, with approval of the district registrar. Player changes to the official team roster for youth and girls Tier I, Tier II, and High School teams will not be accepted after February 15, player changes to the official team roster will not be accepted after the affiliate, state or district tournament begins. If a player is rostered on a team at the time the team participates in a State/Affiliate and/or District tournament before February 15, the player may not be rostered on a different official team roster after the affiliate, state, or district tournament begins.

(d) A game is a match played against another team which is registered with a member organization of the IIHF of the same competitive level and officiated by registered officials. A game shall consist of at least three (3) periods (or the equivalent, see Time of Periods below), except where the game is interrupted, (by some unforeseen event) after two (2) periods have been completed. High School division games played against school sanctioned teams and USA Hockey high school teams shall count as games toward the 10/5 rule.

(7) ***Ineligible Coach(s)/Player(s):*** Any coach of a team that knowingly plays an ineligible player(s) shall be suspended from coaching in any games that lead to a state/affiliate and/or district or national championship in the current hockey season.

(8) ***Appeal Procedure:*** Should a youth level, girls or high school team, coach or player(s) be declared ineligible to compete by a final decision of the applicable Affiliate, District or Registrar in a state/affiliate and/or district and national championship or playoffs leading to a state/affiliate and/or district or national championship, the team, coach or player may appeal its ineligibility to the National Championships Appeal Committee, which shall be comprised of the Youth Council chair, Girls Council chair, the Registrar Section chair, the national championship chair, or their designees. The

National Championships Appeal Committee will add the High School Section representative in the case of all High School divisions. Upon receipt of the appeal the National Championships Appeal Committee will render a decision as soon as possible. The decision of this National Championships Appeal Committee shall be final.

E. NUMBER AND QUALIFICATION OF TEAMS

(1) State/Affiliate and/or Districts

(a) The qualifying procedure and number of teams, and the entry of a host team, shall be determined by the district. The national championship director shall act as the final authority in all unresolved disputes.

(b) The host shall be allowed an entry at districts, if permitted by the district or affiliate.

(c) It is recommended that the national championship host team not participate in state or district playoffs.

(2) Nationals – Youth Tier I, Tier II, Girls, High School Divisions

(a) The Youth Tier I and Girls Tier I National Championship Tournament shall include up to 24 teams. The Youth Tier II and Girls Tier II National Championship Tournaments shall include up to 48 teams. The High School National Championship shall include up to 48 High School teams and up to 48 Girls High School teams. The High School Section will decide each year the specific number of teams for High School National Championships.

(b) Where a program already designated to act as host for a national championship tournament elects to participate in its state/affiliate and/or district playoffs and wins the state/affiliate and/or district playoffs, the state/affiliate and/or district playoffs runner-up team will be designated to represent the state/affiliate and/or district in the national championship. The host team must participate in the host position in the game format at all national championship tournaments, unless specifically approved otherwise.

(c) No team representing a state/affiliate and/or district shall be ineligible from championship competition for reasons other than those found in this Article IX or in the National Championship Tournament Guidebook.

(d) If, for any reason, there are less than twelve (12) teams qualified, the national championship director may select a team or teams in order to operate the tournament successfully.

(e) For a tournament to qualify as a national championship, at least three (3) districts and a minimum of four (4) teams must be represented.

(f) The appropriate council (Youth Council or Girls Council) and the national tournament director have the discretion to operate a national tournament with any number of teams.

F. ENTRY FEES

(1) State/Affiliate and/or Districts

Fees should be determined by the cost of running the event. The fee shall be submitted and approved by the National Championship chairperson at least thirty (30) days prior to state/affiliate and/or district championship. The tournament may charge an entry fee for each team and may not charge a gate.

(2) Nationals

Each team at all National Tournaments (Youth, Girls and High School) shall pay a tournament entry fee as determined by the National Tournament Guidebook.

G. NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO ENTER TEAM(S)

(1) Affiliate associations shall signify their intentions of entering a team(s) in the district at least sixty (60) days prior to the tournament.

(2) A state/affiliate and/or district shall signify their intention of entering a team or teams in the Girls Tier I, Youth Tier I, and Youth Tier II National Championship Tournament, in writing, to USA Hockey with a copy to the appropriate Youth or Girls Council chairperson by October 15 of the current season. A district shall signify their intention of entering a team or teams in the Girls Tier II National Championship Tournament, in writing, to USA Hockey with a copy to the appropriate Youth or Girls Council chairperson by November 15 of the current season. Affiliates shall signify their intention of entering a team(s) in any High School division national championships starting August 15 and ending November 15 of the current season.

(3) Once declared, the state/affiliate and/or district must compete in the national championships or be subject to a one-year suspension from future championship eligibility by the USA Hockey Board of Directors. The appropriate Youth or Girls Council shall:

(a) Notify the affected parties of the council's suspension recommendation at least thirty (30) days prior to the USA Hockey Annual Meeting.

(b) Give the affected parties an opportunity, in person or writing, to explain the circumstances which caused the non-appearance.

(c) Include its decision in the council's report to the Congress and Board of Directors at its Annual Meeting.

(d) Participation in USA Hockey state/affiliate and/or district and national championship play shall be at the discretion of USA Hockey affiliate associations, subject to rules with regard to notice, etc., as set forth herein. No affiliate shall be forced to participate, nor shall any of its constituent organizations have a vested right to participation, simply because USA Hockey does provide a national championship for which they may be eligible.

(4) No USA Hockey member team or association may participate in any league that prohibits that team or association from entering and fully participating in its state, district or national championship. All teams participating in that league shall not be eligible to participate in any state, district or national championship.

H. COMPLETION DATES

All state/affiliate, and/or district tournaments must be completed not less than fourteen (14) days prior to the first day of the national championships. Dates for national championships will be established by the Youth Council and the Girls Council at the Annual Meeting prior to the tournaments and announced at that time.

I. AGE CLASSIFICATIONS

(1) Youth

To be eligible to compete in state/affiliate and/or district or national championship tournaments during the 2026-27 season, except as set forth in (3) below, a player must have been born during the year indicated below:

13 Only	2012 (Tier I only)
13 & 14 (14U)	2011 and 2012
15 Only (15O)	2010 (Tier I only)
15 & 16 (16U)	2009 and 2010
17 & 18 (18U)	2007 and 2008

NOTE: *The state/affiliate and/or district and national championships for the 13 Only and 15 Only age classifications shall be for the Youth Tier I Youth level only and shall be limited to players in the 2011 birth year (for 13 Only) and the 2009 birth year (for 15 Only) (as defined in the age classification chart for the current season). Players that are not in specified eligible birth year in the current season shall not be permitted to be rostered on a 13 Only or 15 Only Team and are not permitted to play in the State/Affiliate, District or National Championships at the 13 Only or 15 Only age classification under any circumstances.*

To be eligible to compete in state/affiliate and/or district or national championship tournaments during the 2027-28 season, except as set forth in (3) below, a player must have been born during the year indicated below:

13 Only	2013 (Tier I only)
13 & 14 (14U)	2012 and 2013
15 Only (15O)	2011 (Tier I only)
15 & 16 (16U)	2010 and 2011
17 & 18 (18U)	2008 and 2009

NOTE: *The state/affiliate and/or district and national championships for the 13 Only and 15 Only age classifications shall be for the Youth Tier I Youth level only and shall be limited to players in the 2012 birth year (for 13 Only) and the 2010 birth year (for 15 Only) (as defined in the age classification chart for the current season). Players that are not in specified eligible birth year in the current season shall not be permitted to be rostered on a 13 Only or 15 Only Team and are not permitted to play in the State/Affiliate, District or National Championships at the 13 Only or 15 Only age classification under any circumstances.*

(2) Girls

To be eligible to compete in state/affiliate and/or district or national championship tournaments during the 2026-27 season, except as set forth in (3) below, a player must have been born during the year indicated below:

13 & 14 (14U)	2011 and 2012
15 & 16 (16U)	2009 and 2010
17 to 19 (19U)	2006, 2007 and 2008

To be eligible to compete in state/affiliate and/or district or national championship tournaments during the 2027-28 season, except as set forth in (3) below, a player must have been born during the year indicated below:

13 & 14 (14U)	2012 and 2013
15 & 16 (16U)	2010 and 2011
17 to 19 (19U)	2007, 2008 and 2009

(3) Participation in Older Divisions of State/Affiliate and/or District or National Championships

(a) A player 12 years of age or younger (as defined in the age classification chart for the current season) is not eligible to play on a team intending or declared to compete in the state/affiliate and/or district and national championships or playoffs leading thereto except as follows:

NOTE: *A player 12 years of age or younger may not be rostered with a team of players that are also rostered on a National-bound roster (i.e. teams cannot create a 14U recreational roster with the under-age player(s) and create a secondary National-bound roster without the underage player(s)). The underage players must play at the 12U level or on a non-national bound team.*

(b) A player 13 years of age or older may play on a youth or girls team in an older classification at a District or National Championship Tournament only if the applicable Affiliate's rules or decisions, and the applicable local program's rules or decisions, permit that player to do so. A player residing in one Affiliate may not play on a team in an older classification in a different Affiliate unless both the Affiliate where the player resides and the Affiliate where the player desires to play have granted permission to play in an older classification. In the event a youth or girls player has been denied the permission to play in an older classification in the Youth or Girls state/affiliate and/or district and national championships on a team in an Affiliate other than the Affiliate where the player resides, the player may appeal such denial to the National Championship Appeal Committee.

All other requirements, rules, regulations, operation and procedures of all USA Hockey state/affiliate and/or district and national championship tournaments shall be set forth in the State/Affiliate District and National Championship Tournament Guidebook.

SECTION 2

Requirements, rules, regulations, operation and procedures of all USA Hockey State/ Affiliate and/or District and National Championship Tournaments

J. REQUIREMENTS TO HOST A STATE/AFFILIATE AND/OR DISTRICT AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

In order to be eligible to be awarded USA Hockey state/affiliate and/or district and national championship tournaments or coaching/officiating clinics, the host facility must be a United States Ice Rink Association member and register all of its ice hockey programs/leagues with USA Hockey. Exceptions can be granted with the approval of the appropriate council.

(1) Selecting A Host – Nationals

Application to host a National Championship Tournament shall be submitted online using the official application form with the accompanying fee to USA Hockey's Manager of Youth Hockey by the deadline provided by USA Hockey two years prior to the national championship being applied for. The National Championship Tournament host must agree to all of the rules and regulations of the national championships. This fee is nonrefundable to hosts who are awarded National Championship Tournaments. Refer to the Host Handbook for additional information.

(2) Website and Broadcast – Nationals

Statistics and game results will be available on http://nationals.usahockey.com. USA Hockey utilizes USAHockeyTV to broadcast games live. No other video streaming may be used during this event, regardless of any other arrangements.

(a) The use of personal cameras or devices to stream or record video during USA Hockey National Championship Games is strictly prohibited. This includes but not limited to the following:

- No live streaming (i.e. private or public links)
- No video recording to post or share game content at a later time (even to a private group).
- No camera set-ups
- No headsets or audio set-ups
- No GoPros or similar devices
- No tripods or similar devices that hold cameras, tablets, or cellphones
- No video recording devices on the glass
- No filming on cell phones, tablets, or cameras for more than 1-minute

(b) If a person is video streaming during Nationals, the hockey association that person is associated with will be fined $1,000. If the fee is not paid by the association, the association will not be eligible for an Affiliate/State, District or National tournament until the fee is paid. Tools such as LiveBarn, YouTube or other streaming platforms must be disabled during the USA Hockey National Championship Tournament.

(c) Spectators that refuse to follow this policy are also subject to removal from the National Championship Tournament by the host, tournament directors, USA Hockey, or other tournament volunteers.

(d) Spectators may take photographs only from designated spectator areas and strictly for personal, non-commercial use. Spectator photographs may not be sold, licensed, published, distributed, uploaded to shared team galleries, or otherwise made available for use by other participants, families, teams, or third parties. Photographs taken by spectators are intended solely for the personal use of the individual who captured them. Individuals and teams may share a limited number of photographs on personal or team social media accounts for non-commercial purposes. A tournament photographer is on site to provide official event photography for viewing and purchase.

(e) All television, internet and radio rights are the property of USA Hockey. The selling of these rights shall be negotiated through the national office.

(3) State/Affiliate and/or District and National Championship Tournament Requirements

(a) A sufficient amount of ice time shall be provided to comply with the regulations which permit a maximum number of games per day per team. *(See Appendix 1).*

(b) Team room blocks at National Championship Tournaments will be available through the host as outlined in the Host Information Handbook. The room blocks shall remain available for teams to book rooms until 10 days prior to the start date of the tournament, at which point the room blocks may be released.

(c) At National Championship Tournaments, the rules for staying in host hotels are as follows:

1. The host and the host team(s), as designated by the host, shall negotiate the terms of staying in host hotels and any fees they may be required to pay per the host contract.

2. Local teams are defined as teams whose home rink is within a 100-mile radius of the tournament rink(s). This does not apply to host team(s). If local teams choose to commute instead of staying in host hotels, the local teams shall pay a $500 fee to the host. If a local team stays in hotels but does not stay in a host hotel, the penalty for the local team shall be $5,000 for Youth, Girls and High School teams.

3. For all other teams, a minimum of 75% of team members and staff on team roster (1-T) are required to stay in the host hotel(s) for the duration of the participation in the tournament and are required to book rooms through the host. The penalty for the teams that do not stay in the host hotel(s) will be $5,000 for Youth, Girls and High School teams.

4. For all above penalties, the association shall pay the penalty directly to the host seven (7) days prior to the National Tournament beginning or within three (3) days of the host identifying that the team has not stayed in host hotels. If the penalty is not paid, the association's Affiliate will be responsible to collect the monies and distribute to the host. If the fee is not paid by the association, the association will not be eligible for an Affiliate/ State, District or National tournament until the fee is paid.

(d) No transportation will be provided by the host. The host will provide teams with a list of agencies where rental vehicles may be obtained.

(e) The host shall be required to arrange for medical personnel to be in attendance at all state/affiliate and/ or district and national championship tournament games. At minimum, the host shall arrange for one (1) Medical Personnel for every one (1) sheet of ice of tournament play. "Medical Personnel" shall be

defined as: a certified athletic trainer, EMT, paramedic, or physician. The host shall also arrange for one (1) athletic trainer or one (1) physician to be on site at all times to coordinate return to play decisions after an injury (refer to Appendix: Injury/Concussion Return to Play Policy). An Emergency Action Plan is necessary in case there is a need for resuscitation or emergency transport. The host shall be responsible for providing information on additional medical care beyond emergency treatment at the arena, the cost of which is the responsibility of the player's team or parents. The on-site Medical Personnel must also complete: (1) Daily Injury Summary and (2) USA Hockey Injury Form (required for any player held out of play or who is referred to a physician/hospital for follow up care).

(f) Certified Athletic Trainers (ATCs) shall be allowed to work with their teams at State/Affiliate, District and/or National Championships if the ATC is on the team roster no later than seven (7) days prior to the event (no substitutions may be made after this date). The ATC must be a registered volunteer member of USA Hockey, have current SafeSport Certification valid through the tournament, and have passed a USA Hockey NCSI background screen. The program must provide proof of the following to USA Hockey's Manager of Player Safety seven (7) days prior to the State/Affiliate, District and/or National Championship:

1. Current license for ATC to practice in the state the program is located;
2. Current NATABOC certification for ATC;

At the tournament the following guidelines must be followed by the ATC:

1. ATC must check in with on-site medical staff prior to each game played to identify/introduce themselves.
2. ATCs are not allowed on the bench during the games. They can have access to the bench or ice surface if needed to attend to their players for treatment.

3. ATC must work in conjunction with the on-site medical personnel to ensure the best care for the players, should injury occur, including return to play decisions. The on-site medical staff will have final approval if players return to the ice.

4. Any injuries or playing status must be on record with the on-site medical personnel and tournament staff.

   Failure to comply with any of the above will result in the ATC not being allowed to participate in the State/Affiliate, District and/or National Championship.

(g) Each team at the 2027 and 2028 Youth, Girls, and High School National Championship Tournaments shall pay a tournament entry fee not to exceed $2,266 no later than five (5) days prior to the start date of the tournament. If a team does not pay the national championship tournament entry fee, the team is not eligible to participate in the national championship tournament. The host may not charge a gate fee and all spectators and participants may attend the national championship tournament at no charge.

NOTE: *The Youth Tier I 13O team national tournament entry fee for 2027 and 2028 is $2,575.*

(h) All athletes, team personnel, tournament staff, and volunteers must complete background checks and Safe Sport Training as required in the USA Hockey Safe Sport Program Handbook, as well as comply with all other Safe Sport Program policies, such as the One-on-One Interactions Policy, Locker Room Policy, Athletic Training Modalities Policy and the Travel and Lodging Policies. These policies and additional information on the USA Hockey Safe Sport Program can be found in the Safe Sport Program Handbook and on the USA Hockey Safe Sport page at https://www.usahockey.com/safesportprogram.

K. CHAMPIONSHIP CHAIRPERSON AND TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

(1) State/Affiliate and/or Districts

A USA Hockey District Representative or his/her designee from the state/affiliate and/or district holding the tournament shall be named state/affiliate and/or district championship chairperson. The state/affiliate and/or district tournament committee shall be comprised of the applicable state/affiliate and/or district championship chairperson and at least two other USA Hockey or Affiliate personnel from the state/affiliate and/or district involved in the tournament.

(2) Nationals

The National Championship Tournament chairperson will be appointed jointly by the Youth Council and Girls Council chairpersons. The Youth Council chairperson shall select a Tournament Director for each Youth National Championship Tournament location. The Girls Council chairperson shall select a Tournament Director for each Girls National Championship Tournament location. There shall be a National Championship Tournament Committee, comprised of the National Championship Tournament chair, Youth Council chair, Girls Council chair and the chair of the USA Hockey Registrars Section, with responsibility for oversight of all USA Hockey National Championship Tournaments, and an on-site Tournament Committee responsible for oversight of each tournament location. The on-site Tournament Committee at each National Championship Tournament shall be comprised of the on-site Tournament Director and at least two other USA Hockey Directors or other USA Hockey appointed personnel as selected by the National Championship Tournament chairperson.

L. CREDENTIAL REQUIREMENTS OF TEAMS FOR STATE/ AFFILIATE AND/OR DISTRICTS AND NATIONALS

(1) The District Registrar or his/her designee shall verify each team's credentials and eligibility prior to any State/Affiliate and/or District and National Championship Tournaments. The appropriate District Registrar shall determine the deadline for receipt of team credentials for State/Affiliate and/or District Tournaments but shall be submitted no later than three (3) days prior to the start of the State/Affiliate and/or District Tournaments. National Game Count requirements must be met prior to the State/Affiliate and/or District and National Championship Tournament.

(2) Team credentials must be submitted by the appropriate District Registrar to the designated Tournament Registrar for each National Tournament no later than seven (7) days after the conclusion of the District Tournament. If a team does not have a District Tournament, the team credentials must be submitted by the appropriate District Registrar to the designated Tournament Registrar for each National Tournament no later than March 1. Team credentials for at-large or teams participating in the last weekend of district tournaments must be submitted to the designated Tournament Registrar for each National Tournament no later than 24 hours after the completion of the District Tournament or notification of selection as an at-large team.

(3) The District Registrar or his/her designee will address any incomplete credentials at the Opening Coaches/Managers meeting.

(4) The credentials for each team shall include the following items:

(a) For National Championship Tournaments only, a copy of the Team Roster Registration Certification Form (form 2-C) signed by the appropriate registrar or his/her designee.

(b) A completed Credentials Verification sheet (form 1-C) and a USA Hockey Certified Roster Form (form 1-T) created by the USA Hockey Registry.

(c) A verification and affirmation that a review of each player's birth certificate has been completed by a District Registrar or his/her designee. When no verification is indicated on the Certified Roster/Credential Verification sheet, a copy of the government-issued birth certificate or passport identification page for the rostered player, is required. Also, for High School divisions, evidence of current school enrollment eligibility to participate on the team is required.

(d) USA Hockey waiver and release completed for each registered participant and team manager only for those that did not register online at usahockey.com (not required for participants who have registered online at usahockey.com).

(e) Sanctioned game scoresheets to verify compliance with the 18/12 minimum number of games for eligibility rule (10/5 all high school divisions) for each team and rostered player.

(f) USA Hockey Consent to Treat form signed and dated for each rostered participant and manager.

(g) Coaching credentials for each coach at the level mandated by USA Hockey as shown on the official roster (Form 1-T), credentials verification report (Form 1-C), or required registration and coaching credentials generated through registration software, whichever demonstrates most complete and current information.

(h) Non-U.S. citizens must meet proof of resident status eligibility and have a completed transfer from home country ice hockey federation (if required) as stated in Rules & Regulations II: Classifications, paragraph C, of the USA Hockey Annual Guide.

(i) For High School classification only, a verification signed by the Head Coach confirming that:

1. All players are enrolled, as full-time students or participate in a high school educational program;

2. Are able to play varsity sports for the team; and

3. That no player has already graduated from High School.

(j) Other documents pertinent to team activities and player and coach eligibility and identification.

(k) A copy of the Official Roster (1-T) for each team shall be available from the on-site Tournament Committee upon request from any of the participating teams. Should the on-site Tournament Committee become aware of, and subsequently determine a player(s)/coach to be ineligible before, during or after the tournament, said player(s)/coach shall be ruled ineligible to participate in any remaining games in the tournament and any subsequent state/affiliate, district and national tournament. And, the team using the ineligible player(s) shall be required to forfeit any games in which the player(s) participated in the tournament. The coach(es), manager or administrators of the team with an ineligible player(s)/coach shall be subject to suspension by the on-site Tournament Discipline Committee whom may also refer back to the appropriate affiliate or district for additional review and further suspension.

(l) Coaches and approved locker room monitors must be added to the Official Roster (1-T) at least seven (7 days) prior to the National Championship Tournament beginning. Any request to add a coach or locker room monitor after this deadline requires extenuating circumstances and must be submitted to the National Championship Appeal Committee.

M. NUMBER OF PLAYERS

(1) A maximum of twenty (20) players, including goalkeepers, shall be permitted to play in a game. The maximum number of players, excluding goalkeepers, shall not exceed eighteen (18). It is highly recommended that all teams arrive at the State/Affiliate and/or District and National Championship with two (2) goalkeepers qualified under the rules.

NOTE 1: Youth Tier I 15 Only, 16-Under, 18-Under and Girls Tier I 19U *teams may roster and play a maximum of twenty-two (22) players (maximum 20 skaters with 2 goalkeepers).*

NOTE 2: *High school teams may roster up to 30 players and can play a maximum of 20 players.*

(2) For any teams that need an Emergency Back Up goalie (EBUG), the team will need to submit an appeal to the National Championships Appeals Committee. Registrars cannot add EBUGs to the roster that were not on the roster prior to February 15 and/or did not meet the game count requirements. Teams that played all season with one (1) goalie are expected to go to Nationals with one goalie. To request an EBUG, a team must submit the following to the team's district registrar:

(a) Provide proof/explanation of extenuating circumstances to show why a team with two (2) goalies now only has one (1) or a team with one (1) goalie and now have no goalie (i.e. medical note);

(b) Provide the name, team, program, and level of the goalie the team would like as an EBUG. EBUGs must be in the same age classification as the team. EBUGs should be from the same affiliate, at the same or lower level of play, and from a team that is no longer competing at an affiliate, district, or national championship.

(3) The district registrar will review the documentation to confirm the extenuating circumstance and that the EBUG requested by

the team conforms to the above. If it conforms to the above, the registrar will submit it to the National Championship Appeals committee, along with their recommendation for this specific request. If approved, EBUGs will only be allowed to play in affiliate, district, or national championships or games leading thereto when it is shown that the team's other goalie on the roster is unable to play.

(4) If the team only has one (1) goalie and a situation arises during an affiliate, district, and/or national tournament where the goalie becomes unable to continue, the team will be expected to dress a skater as a goalie or finish the game with six (6) skaters. For the remaining games, the onsite tournament registrar can submit the above request for an EBUG. If an EBUG is needed, and it's not logistically feasible for the team to supply one, the team can inquire with the host to see if one is available locally. A local EBUG must be approved by the tournament registrar.

N. UNIFORMS

(1) All teams entered must be properly uniformed. All teams must arrive with two (2) sets of jerseys: a home (light) and a visitor (dark) jersey. No additional jersey will be allowed. The home and visiting teams are as determined in the applicable tournament schedule set forth in Appendix 1. The home team shall wear light jerseys and the visiting team shall wear dark jerseys in all games, unless a jersey change is required by the on-site Tournament Director.

(2) All players participating in a National Championship Tournament must properly adhere his/her nationals patch(es) on his/her jersey(s) on the left or right front chest of his/her jersey(s). The placement of the patch must be consistent for all players on the same team (i.e. all players' dark jerseys have patch on left front chest). The jersey(s) may only have the national championship patch for the current year. The head coach will not be allowed to coach until his/her players have complied with this rule and are properly uniformed.

NOTE: *If two teams have conflicting jersey colors, the Tournament Director will contact the home team, indicate issue, ask what color they would like to wear (i.e. orange or black), they will wear that color and keep home team status. The director will then contact the away team and indicate which color they will wear that does not conflict with home teams color (i.e. red or white). The tournament director will notify the on-ice and off-ice officials.*

O. MANDATORY COACHES/MANAGERS MEETING AND TEAM PICTURES – NATIONALS

(1) Mandatory Opening Meeting

An opening meeting for all teams participating in the national championship tournament **shall be held** prior to the start of play at a time and place to be set by the on-site National Tournament Director. ***All participating teams are required to have the head coach attend. It is recommended that the team manager also attend.*** No one person may represent more than one team at this meeting unless prior approval is granted by the on-site Tournament Director. ***At the discretion of the National Tournament chair, failure to have the head coach present at the Opening Meeting shall result in the suspension of the head coach, as listed on the team's official roster, from that team's first game of the national championship tournament.***

(2) Mandatory Team Pictures

(a) It shall be required that the full team roster attending the National Championship Tournament have a team picture taken at the event by USA Hockey and the host's designated event photographer. The team manager shall be notified of the date, time and location of the team's designated team photo appointment.

(b) No parent, sibling, spectator or fan is allowed on the ice at ANY time to take photos or for any other reason.

(3) Game Statistics

For statistics changes after the game, the Head Coach must submit a request to the Tournament Director on-site within 36 hours. The Tournament Director will have final discretion on any statistic change requests.

P. CREDENTIALS:

(1) Access to locker rooms and/or benches is restricted to credentialed players and credentialed team personnel only.

(2) All players will receive their credentials from the Tournament staff as part of team check-in.

(3) Any team personnel requiring locker room access (coaches, team managers, and locker room monitors) must check in at the Tournament Office at least one (1) hour prior to their team's first game. At check-in, individuals must present a government-issued photo ID to receive their tournament

credential. Tournament Directors will verify each individual's identification and provide verified individual's a credential

(4) Tournament credentials must be worn at all times in locker room areas and be readily available on the bench.

(5) Team personnel who do not check in prior to the team's first game may check in at the Tournament Office at a later time to receive their credential; however, locker room, team area, and/or bench access will not be permitted until credentialing is complete.

(6) Head coaches must check in at the Tournament Office at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to every game to verify their team roster and sign the official game scoresheet.

Q. PENALTY BOX ATTENDANTS

At the National Tournament, the Host will provide penalty box attendants for all games. Teams may not provide their own penalty box attendants at Nationals. At state/affiliate and/or district tournaments the host and tournament directors may require teams to provide penalty box attendants or the host may provide penalty box attendants.

R. SCHEDULES AND FORMATS

(1) State/Affiliates and/or Districts

(a) The tournament format and schedule of games, including home and visiting team designations, must be set by the applicable State/Affiliate and/or District Tournament Committee and approved by the National Championship Tournament chairperson no less than thirty (30) days prior to the first game of the state/affiliate and/or district tournament. Any state/affiliate and/or district tournament schedule with an odd number of teams participating shall be approved by the National Tournament chairperson prior to the tournament.

(b) The schedule of games shall be available on the USA Hockey website no less than ten (10) days in advance of the first game.

(c) Anyone requesting a change in the schedule must notify the applicable State/Affiliate and/or District Championship chairperson within 48 hours of receipt. Unresolved matters shall be referred to the appropriate Council.

(2) Nationals – Youth Tier I, Tier II, Girls, High School Divisions

(a) Schedules will be posted in the national championships section of usahockey.com.

(b) The National Championship Tournament Chairperson has the sole authority to adjust the game schedule during the National Championship Tournament due to extenuating circumstances.

(a) The Youth Tier I 13O National Championship Tournaments shall include a total of 12 teams, comprised of one team from each USA Hockey District.

(b) The Youth Tier I 14U, 15O, 16U, and 18U National Championship Tournaments shall include a total of 16 teams, comprised of one team from each USA Hockey District sending a team and at-large teams selected by a Youth Nationals Selection Committee established by the Youth Council chairperson and National Championship Tournament chairperson. The Youth National Championship Tournament Selection Committee evaluates and selects at-large teams using the following information: national rankings, head-to-head competition among teams and common opponents, affiliate/state/district tournament results, and other information at the discretion of the Youth National Championship Tournament Selection Committee.

Teams at the Youth Tier I National Championship Tournaments are seeded and placed into their respective brackets based on seeding by the Youth National Championship Tournament Selection Committee.

(c) The Girls Tier I National Championship Tournament shall include a total of 16 teams, comprised of one team representing the host, one team from each USA Hockey District sending a team, and at-large teams selected by a Girls National Championship Tournament Selection Committee established by the Girls Council chair and the National Championship Tournament chair.

The Girls National Championship Tournament Selection Committee evaluates and selects at-large teams using the following information: national rankings, head-to-head competition among teams, common opponents, affiliate/state/district tournament results, and other information

at the discretion of the Girls National Championship Tournament Selection Committee. Teams at the Girls Tier I National Championship Tournament are seeded into their respective brackets based on seeding by the Girls National Championship Tournament Selection Committee.

(d) The Youth Tier II National Championship Tournament shall include up to 48 teams, comprised of one team representing the host and teams selected from the states that declared to send a team by the declaration deadline by the Youth National Championship Tournament Selection Committee established by the National Championship Tournament chairperson. if additional teams are necessary, the Youth National Championship Team will review the list of declared teams and select at-large teams taking different states into consideration each year so that there is a rotation of states represented as at-large teams each year. All participating teams will be placed in one of the three different competitive level tournaments (3A, 2A, or 1A) as determined by the Selection Committee, and a national champion will be determined in each tournament. The Youth Tier II National Championship Tournaments are not seeded and teams are placed into their respective brackets. When possible, the Youth National Championship Tournament Selection Committee will attempt to place teams into different brackets than teams from the same state, affiliate, district, and/or league.

(e) For the 2027 National Tournament, the Girls Tier II National Championships (14U, 16U, 19U) will include 28 teams, per age classification divided into two (2) separate tournaments, a 12-team and a 16-team tournament (2A and 1A). The 28 teams will be comprised of a host, two (2) teams from each USA Hockey District, and three at-large teams.

(g) Beginning with the 2028 National Tournament, the Girls Tier II National Championships (14U, 16U and 19U) will include 32 teams per age classification divided into two (2) separate 16-team tournaments (2A and 1A) comprised of:

(i) Three (3) teams each from the 8 largest USA Hockey Districts based on female players registered in the age classification from the previous year's registration data and

(ii) Two (2) teams each from the 4 remaining USA Hockey Districts.

All participating teams at Girls Tier II National Tournaments in 2027 and 2028 will be placed in one of the two different competitive level tournaments (2A or 1A) as determined by the Selection Committee, and a national champion will be determined in each tournament. The two (2) Girls Tier II National Championship Tournaments are not seeded. Teams are placed into their respective brackets by the Selection Committee. When appropriate, the Selection Committee will attempt to place teams into different brackets than teams from the same affiliate, district or league.

(g) The Girls High School National Championships will include up to 48 teams divided into one (1A) or two (2A and 1A) separate tournaments depending on the number of teams. Each tournament may consist of 8, 12, or 16 teams with no more than 16 teams in any one tournament as determined by the High School National Championship Placement Committee. The High School National Championship Tournament Placement Committee will review the list of participating Girls High School teams and place teams into one or two different competitive level tournaments. If there are two tournaments (2A and 1A) a national champion will be determined in each tournament. When appropriate, the Placement Committee will attempt to place teams into different brackets than teams from the same affiliate, district or league.

(h) The High School National Championship Tournaments shall include up to 48 High School teams divided into three tournaments (3A, 2A and 1A). Each tournament may consist of 8, 12, or 16 teams with no more than 16 teams in any one tournaments as determined by the High School National Championship Placement Committee (the "Placement Committee." The Placement Committee will review the list of participating teams and place teams into

one of the three different competitive level tournaments (3A, 2A or 1A), and a national champion will be determined in each tournament.

1. When placing teams into the 3A, 2A and 1A tournaments, the Placement Committee shall seek to achieve balance in the number of teams and parity within each conference. Teams placed in a specific High School National Championship tournament (3A, 2A and 1A) may not be exclusively pure or combined teams. The Placement Committee shall assign teams to each tournament to achieve competitive play within each tournament. The 3A tournament shall be made up of teams that are considered Prep Schools or Academy teams, teams from states that have traditionally demonstrated a high level of competitive play at prior High School National Championships, and/or teams that have demonstrated a high level of competitive play during the current season. Other factors that may be considered by the Placement Committee when placing teams into the 3A, 2A and 1A tournaments, include the following:

   - Representation of teams from different states and geographical areas;
   - Whether the state or affiliate has a play-down to determine the team advancing;
   - General population of registered players the team may draw from;
   - Whether the team boards or billets players;
   - The need to create even-numbered tournament brackets; and
   - Other criteria at the discretion of the High School Section.

When appropriate, the Placement Committee will attempt to place teams into different brackets than teams from the same state, affiliate and/or league.

(3) Tournament Formats

(a) Requirements for All State/Affiliate and/or District and National Championship Tournaments

- The recommended game slot length(s) are set forth in Appendix 2 and include all required ice cuts.

- No team shall be required to play more than two (2) games per day, and no team shall be required to play a second game in one day against a team playing its first game on that day, except with specific written prior approval of the National Championship Tournament chairperson.
- There shall be a minimum of four (4) hours between games on the same day from the conclusion of the first game until the start of the second and twelve (12) hours between games played on consecutive days from the conclusion of the first game until the start of the second.
- No games may be scheduled to begin prior to 8 a.m. and no game may be scheduled to begin after 8 p.m.
- All championship games should be scheduled to end no later than 3 p.m.
- Semifinalist award(s) are presented after the semifinal games.
- See Appendix 1 for tournament formats and sample schedules.
- Team placement/seeding and schedule for National Tournament will be provided by the National Office.

NOTE: *Only the National Championship Tournament chairperson may grant an exception to any of the above items for any State/Affiliate and/or District or National Championship Tournament.*

S. Time of Periods *(ALL STOP TIME IN MINUTES)* and Ice Clean Requirements – ALL State/Affiliate and/or District and National Championships

(1) Time of Periods

		1, 2, 3		PENALTIES		
Class	Warmup	Period	Overtime*	Minor	Major	Miscon.
13 Only/14U	5	16	10/16	1.5	4	8
15 Only	5	17	10/17	2	5	10
16U	5	17	10/17	2	5	10
18U (Youth Tier I)	5	17	10/17	2	5	10
18U (Youth Tier II)	5	17	10/17	2	5	10
19U (Girls)	5	17	10/17	2	5	10
High School	5	17	10/17	2	5	10

(2) Ice Clean Requirements

During State/Affiliate and/or District and National Championship games, the ice shall be cleaned as outlined below.

CLASS	PRELIMINARY-ROUND GAMES	QUARTER, SEMI & CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES
Girls Tier I *(14U)* Girls Tier II *(14U/16U/19U)* High School *(Girls, 1A, 2A)* Youth Tier I *(130/14U)* Youth Tier II *(14U/16U/18U)*	Before every game and between the second and third periods. No ice cut prior to overtime period. At the completion of the third period, the tied teams shall receive a two (2) minute rest period. The teams will remain on the ice.	Before every game and between the second and third periods. No ice cut prior to overtime period. At the completion of the third period, the tied teams shall receive a two (2) minute rest period. The teams will remain on the ice.
Girls Tier I *(16U/19U)* High School (3A) Youth Tier I *(15O/16U/18U)*	Before every game and between each period. No ice cut prior to overtime period. At the completion of the third period, the tied teams shall receive a two (2) minute rest period. The teams will remain on the ice.	Before every game and between each period. There will be an ice cut prior to overtime period.

(2) Each team is permitted one time-out of 60 seconds per game, whether in regulation or overtime, per the USA Hockey Playing Rules.

(3) State/Affiliate and/or District games: All warm-ups, timeouts, and rest periods shall be placed on the game clock. All ice cuts shall be placed on the game clock with 12 minutes between periods and time remaining until next game for between games.

(4) National Championship games: All warm-ups, timeouts, and rest periods shall be placed on the game clock in accordance with the Game Protocol provided by USA Hockey.

(5) When players enter the ice between periods, players must go directly to their respective team bench.

(6) For games without an ice cut between the first and second periods, and/or between the third period and the overtime period, there shall be a two (2) minute rest period put on the clock. Any variation must be approved by the National Championship Tournament chairperson.

(7) The referees shall enter the ice before the teams for every game and after each ice cut. The warmup clock will start as soon as the referees have completed their safety checks, put nets in place and the ice resurfacer gates are closed.

(8) No games will start before the scheduled game time.

(9) No running time in any games at State/Affiliate, District and/or National Championship Tournaments.

NOTE: *If the National Championship Tournament games are televised, the National Championship Tournament Chairperson has the authority to make any adjustments to the schedule and/or game format.*

T. PLAYING RULES

The official USA Hockey playing rules shall be used. No protests shall be permitted on the playing rules.

U. OFFICIALS

All games shall be officiated using the Three-Official or Four-Official system, at the discretion of the National Championship Tournament Chairperson and National Referee-in-Chief. Officiating assignments shall be coordinated by the Referee-in-Chief, or their appointee, of the district hosting the tournament (for State/Affiliate Tournaments, this duty shall be assigned to the appointed State Supervisor of Officials). The District Referee-in-Chief shall appoint an Officiating supervisor staff to observe all games, and no staff may be eligible to officiate any games during the event.

Level 3 and 4 officials, including tenured, must be completely registered (card and crest issued) on or before December 31 to be eligible to officiate in any state, district or regional playoff or national championship. Only level 3 or 4 officials may referee national championships, unless approved by the Officiating Program Director, the national referee-in-chief, and the National Tournament chair prior to the State/Affiliate, District and/or National Championships.

All officials must wear the current National Tournament patch on their sweater.

V. METHOD OF DETERMINING CHAMPION

(1) Overtime for Districts and Nationals (Recommended for States/Affiliates)

(a) Youth, Girls and High School Division Preliminary-Round Games

1. All Games Played to a Winner

If the game is tied following regulation play, one ten (10) minute sudden-death overtime period shall be played. The teams shall change ends. Overtime shall be played 3-on-3 (three skaters plus a goalkeeper). If the score is tied at the end of the ten (10) minute sudden-death overtime period, there shall be a shootout. The winner of the shootout will be credited with one additional goal in the final score.

(b) Youth, Girls and High School Divisions Quarterfinal, Semifinal and Championship Games

1. All Games Played to a Winner

If the game is tied following regulation play, one (1) sudden-death overtime period shall be played. The length of the overtime shall be equal to the length of the third period and shall be sudden death. Teams shall switch ends for the overtime period. Overtime shall be played 3-on-3 (three skaters plus a goalkeeper). If the score is tied at the end of the sudden-death overtime period, there shall be a shootout. The winner of the shootout will be credited with one additional goal in the final score.

(c) Shootout Procedures

The shootout will be conducted as follows:

- A shootout is defined as a player attempting to score a goal and the opposing goalkeeper attempting to stop the shooter from scoring the goal.
- The home team shall have the choice whether his/her team will shoot first or second.
- All players from both teams listed on the official game sheet shall be eligible to participate in the shootout. No goalkeepers may shoot in the shootout.
- The goalkeepers will defend the net they were defending in the 3rd period.

- Any penalized player whose penalty had not been completed when the overtime period ended or who receives a penalty during a shootout procedure is not eligible to participate in any portion of the shootout procedure(s) and must remain in the penalty box.
- The shootout procedure shall begin with three (3) different individual shooters from each team taking alternate shots. The players do not need to be named beforehand.
- The goalkeepers from each team may be changed after each shot.
- The players of both teams will take the shots alternately until a decisive goal is scored. The remaining shots will not be taken.
- If after the shootout, the shootout score is still tied, there will be a sudden death shootout.

(d) Sudden-Death Shootout

The sudden-death shootout will be conducted as follows:

- A sudden-death shootout is defined as each team attempting a shot. Should one team be successful and the other team not, the successful team shall win the shootout.
- The teams will shoot in the same order during the sudden-death shootout as they did during the original previous round shootout.
- Teams will select their shooters to participate in any order in the sudden death shootout, whether or not they shot in the previous round. The last player in the first round of the shootout may be the first player in the sudden death shootout. The same player can be used for each shot by a team in the Sudden-Death Shootout.
- All players from both teams listed on the official game sheet shall be eligible to participate in the shootout. No goalkeepers may shoot in the Sudden-Death Shootout.
- Any penalized player whose penalty had not been completed when the overtime period ended or who receives a penalty during a shootout procedure is not eligible to participate in any portion of the shootout procedure(s) and must remain in the penalty box.
- The goalkeepers from each team may be changed after each shot.
- The official scorekeeper shall record all shots taken indicating the players, goalkeepers and goals scored.

(2) Process to Determine Quarterfinalists, Semifinalists and/or Finalists at State/Affiliate and/or District and National Championships

(a) During the youth, girls and high school preliminary rounds, each team will be awarded three (3) points for a win in regulation, two (2) points for a win in overtime or shootout, one (1) point for a loss in overtime or shootout and zero (0) points for a loss in regulation.

(b) Refer to the formats for tournaments set forth in Appendix 1 for information on home team designations in any quarterfinal and semifinal game.

(c) Youth, Girls and High School Divisions – Tie-Breaking Rules to Determine Standings Position

If two or more teams have an equal number of points, their position in the standings shall be determined by the following tie-breaking rules listed below. If at any point during the application of the tie-breaking rules, any or all of the teams can be seeded higher or lower than the other teams, the seeded teams will be placed in their position in the standings and the tie-breaking process will begin at Step 1 for any teams that remain tied.

NOTE: *If all tied teams have not played each other, the tie-breaking process will begin at Step 2.*

The tie-breaker rules are as follows:

1. **Step 1:** The results of only the head-to-head games played between the tied teams in the following order:

    a. Most points earned.

    b. Most total wins (whether in regulation, overtime and shootout).

    c. Most regulation wins.

    d. Differential — Subtracting goals against from goals for in these games, the positions being determined in order of the greatest surplus. A maximum goal differential of plus or minus eight (8) per game will be used in tie-breaking rules.

e. Quotient — Dividing the goals for by the goals against in these games, the positions being determined in order of the greatest quotient. If a game has a goal differential of more than eight (8) goals, the goals for will be decreased until there is a maximum of eight (8) more than goals against in a given game prior to dividing (i.e. 10-1 game would use 9-1 for purposes of quotient). A quotient involving dividing by zero (0) has higher standing than a quotient from dividing by any number other than zero (0). Where two or more teams have no goals against and the quotient tie-breaker is required, the teams shall be ranked high to low in descending order of "goals for."

f. Most periods won — In the games played by each tied team, points will be awarded for each regulation period won (2 points) and for each regulation period tied (1 point). Positions shall be in the order of highest point total.

2. If all tied teams have not played each other, the tie-breaking process begins at Step 2. For teams that began the tie-breaking process in Step 1, if after applying the formulas of 1 a, b, c, d, e or f the tie still exists, continue to Step 2.

   Step 2: The results of all the games played by the teams tied in the following order.

   a. Most total wins (whether in regulation, overtime and shootout).

   b. Most regulations wins.

   c. Differential — Subtracting goals against from goals for in these games, the positions being determined in order of the greatest surplus. A maximum goal differential of plus or minus eight (8) per game will be used in tie-breaking rules.

   d. Quotient — Dividing the goals for by the goals against in these games, the positions being determined in order of the greatest quotient. If a game has a goal differential of more than eight (8) goals, the goals for will be decreased until

there is a maximum of eight (8) more than goals against in a given game prior to dividing (i.e. 10-1 game would use 9-1 for purposes of quotient). A quotient involving dividing by zero (0) has higher standing than a quotient from dividing by any number other than zero. Where two or more teams have no goals against and the quotient tie-breaker is required, the teams shall be ranked high to low in descending order of "goals for."

e. Most periods won — In the games played by each tied team, points will be awarded for each regulation period won (2 points) and for each regulation period tied (1 point). Positions shall be in the order of highest point total.

f. Lowest number of penalty minutes — Calculate the number of penalty minutes accrued during all preliminary round games. The teams shall be ranked low to high in ascending order of "penalty minutes for."

g. Quickest first goal — The team that scored the quickest goal in their preliminary round games shall be ranked highest.

3. If the above procedure does not break the tie, the teams shall use a shootout procedure as previously described.

NOTE 1: *A team may go into the tie-breaking process having defeated another of the tied teams and still not advance.*

NOTE 2: *If a team forfeits any of its games, and becomes involved in any tie-breaking formula, the team that forfeited will not advance and all games played against the forfeiting team shall be recorded as 1-0 victories for all opposing teams.*

**See Appendix 4 for tie-breaking scenarios.*

W. DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE

(1) State/Affiliate and/or District Tournaments

(a) The Discipline Committee for each State/Affiliate and/or District Tournament shall be composed of at least three (3) people and be appointed prior to the first game by the on-site Tournament Director. Its members shall not come from the same community. Three (3) Discipline Committee members, as appointed by the on-site Tournament Director, shall serve to hear a discipline case. The referee-in-chief, or his/her appointee, shall not be eligible to serve on the Discipline Committee.

(2) National Tournaments:

(a) The National Tournament Discipline Committee shall be composed of up to eight (8) tournament directors from various event sites, and up to three (3) USA Hockey office staff. The directors shall be appointed by the National Tournament Chairperson, and the staff shall be appointed by the Asst. Executive Director of Hockey Development (per the approval by the National Tournament Chairperson). Three directors will be selected to convene any necessary disciplinary hearing (i.e. match penalties, etc.) before the offending team's next game during the tournament. The three directors shall not review any incident occurring at their on-site event, or any incident involving a team from their USA Hockey District. USA Hockey office staff shall not serve on any disciplinary hearing panel. The referee-in-chief, and on-site officiating program staff shall not be eligible to serve on the National Discipline Committee.

X. DISCIPLINE:

(1) The Discipline Committee shall be responsible for deciding any action, suspensions or otherwise, to be taken against a player or team official to be served during the tournament in question.

(2) The Discipline Committee shall have authority to initiate action involving supplementary discipline against a player or team official whether or not it involves the playing rules; provided, however, that no suspension shall occur without first giving notice of the intended action and providing the opportunity for a hearing.

(3) The Discipline Committee shall have full power to waive or increase the one- or two-game suspension imposed in Rule 404(b), Game Misconduct. The Discipline Committee shall review all incidents resulting in a game misconduct with the exception of Rule 401(b). The Discipline Committee may (but is not required to) hold a hearing for a game misconduct if deemed necessary.

(4) The Discipline Committee shall hold a hearing to review and resolve all match penalty incidents occurring during the tournament.

(5) Any disciplinary action arising from the National Tournament that may extend beyond the duration of the tournament shall be referred to the appropriate Affiliate by the Discipline Committee. That Affiliate must adhere to the disciplinary action imposed by the Discipline Committee. The Discipline Committee will submit a formal report outlining the incident, including all relevant details, supporting documentation, the suspension, and any supplemental information (e.g., referee reports, witness statements, video if available). The Affiliate may investigate the matter to determine if any additional discipline is warranted.

(6) In the event a player aging out of USA Hockey incurs a game misconduct or match penalty in the last game of play in a State/Affiliate, District, or National Youth 18U, Girls 19U tournament, or High School Tournament, the association shall pay a penalty as determined by the National Championship Appeal Committee. The penalty is at the discretion of the National Championship Appeal Committee and will be no more than $5,000.00, The penalty shall be paid directly to the team's Affiliate no later than fourteen (14) days after the National Championship Appeal Committee issues the discipline. If the penalty is not paid, the Affiliate will be responsible to collect the monies. If the fee is not paid by the association, the association will not be eligible for an Affiliate/ State, District, or National tournament until fee is paid.

(7) If deemed necessary by any Discipline Committee, the use of video in hearings is allowed but must be solely provided by the USA Hockey contracted vendor for that event.

(8) The use of video exists to serve the components of player safety and team discipline during all USA Hockey Affiliate/ State, District and National Tournaments. Under no circumstances shall the video review process be used to review "goal vs. no goal" incidents, or to change any decision including (but not limited to) offsides, icing, game clock time or illegal substitution.

(9) If a player receives a major penalty during a State/Affiliate and/or District or National Tournament, the Tournament Referee-in-Chief shall communicate with the Discipline Committee/ National Discipline Committee, and the Discipline Committee/ National Discipline Committee shall ensure compliance with the progressive suspension rules (USA Hockey Rules 411 and 615.f) after the game is completed and shall notify the team of any supplemental discipline prior to the team's next game.

(10) All actions taken by the Discipline Committee as a result of incidents occurring at the State/Affiliate and/or District Championship must be reported within five (5) days to:

(a) the appropriate Youth Council or Girls Council chair;

(b) the National Championship Tournament chairperson; and

(c) the respective affiliate(s).

(11) The National Championship Appeal Committee shall have the authority to review and take appropriate action on any incident in a State/Affiliate and/or District Championship. For any incident occurring in the last game of a team's, coach's or player's participation in a State/Affiliate and/or District or High School Tournament, and the team, coach and/or player is scheduled to participate in a National Championship Tournament, then the National Championship Appeal Committee shall have jurisdiction and be responsible for determining the team's, coach's eligibility and any suspension for the National Championship Tournament.

(12) The National Championship Appeal Committee shall be the sole authority in determining the eligibility of the individual(s) for National Championship Tournaments.

(13) All suspensions incurred in the course of the national playdown schedule (i.e., in State/Affiliate and/or district

playoffs) shall be served beginning with the next regularly scheduled game of the championship playoff schedule. In no case, may such suspension(s) be served in a game occurring outside the championship playoff schedule, by scheduling a game not included in the national playdown configuration and having the player sit out that game.

(14) State/Affiliate and/or district and National Discipline Committee authority, and the National Championship Appeal Committee's authority shall be solely to determine eligibility to participate in the applicable tournament, and any discipline that may extend beyond the applicable State/Affiliate and or District or National Championship shall be referred to the applicable Affiliate. All suspensions or discipline will be reported to the applicable affiliate by the Tournament Discipline Committee.

Y. DISPUTES/OPERATION OF TOURNAMENT

(1) Pre-tournament disputes between the on-site Tournament Director, the host committee and/or the district referee-in-chief, shall be resolved by the National Championship Tournament chairperson in consultation with the appropriate Youth and Girls Council chair.

(2) After the commencement of the first game, the tournament referee-in-chief, in consultation with the National Referee-in-Chief, shall act as the final arbiter in all disputes involving the interpretation of the playing rules.

(3) For any other decision, other than playing rules interpretation, with regard to the operation of the tournament (including zero tolerance, tournament play or conduct not in the best interest of hockey), the on-site Tournament Committee shall have the final authority to make the appropriate decision.

(4) The on-site Tournament Committee, in all matters pertaining to tournament play, shall have the authority to adjust matters at any time in the best interests of the tournament and ice hockey in general.

(5) The on-site medical staff will have the over-riding authority to determine if a player's injury warrants removal from the game and/or referral to the local hospital as outlined in Appendix 3.

(6) Only team-appropriate music may be played in locker rooms or pregame areas; vulgar or explicit content is strictly prohibited.

(7) Any artificial noise-making devices are prohibited (i.e. thundersticks, airhorns, handclappers, whistles, cow bells, etc.).

(8) The National Championship Tournament host will provide security personnel at each host facility per the Host requirements.

(9) If team officials, coaches, parents, or players violate USA Hockey rules or the USA Hockey Code of Conduct, the team officials, coaches, players, manager or administrators may be subject to suspension from all or a portion of the tournament by the on-site Tournament Discipline Committee and it will be referred back to the appropriate affiliate for additional review and further suspension. If there is damage done to any property, it is the responsibility of the team to pay. USA Hockey and host shall not be liable for any damages.

(10) Spectators must follow the alcohol policy of the host facility. If alcohol is being sold, the host shall provide a specified area where alcohol can be served and limit alcohol from being in the rink/arena areas. Spectators may not bring any alcohol into the rink/arena areas and may only consume alcohol in the areas specified by the host.

(11) Spectators must follow the no streaming/recording policy of USA Hockey National Tournaments or they will be subject to removal from the National Championship Tournament by the host, tournament directors, USA Hockey, security, or other tournament volunteers.

(12) Spectators must follow the Spectator Code of Conduct in USA Hockey's Annual Guide or they will be subject to removal from the State/Affiliate and/or District or National Championship Tournament by the host, tournament directors, USA Hockey, or other tournament volunteers. The code of conduct requirements include (but are not restricted to):

- Always respect players, coaches and officials;
- Act appropriately;
- Do not taunt or disturb other opposing fans before, during or after the game;
- Cheer good plays of all participants and do not boo opponents;
- Cheer in a positive manner and encourage fair play;
- No profanity, objectionable cheers or gestures that are offensive;

- Provide a safe and fun environment;
- Show respect for host facilities;
- Do not throw any items on the ice surface can cause injury to players and officials;
- Do not lean over or pound on the glass;
- Support the referees and coaches by trusting their judgment and integrity;
- Be responsible for your own and others' safety – be alert to prevent accidents from flying pucks and other avoidable situations;
- Respect locker rooms as private areas for players, coaches and officials;
- Be supportive after the game – win or lose;
- Recognize good effort, teamwork and sportsmanship.

Z. MERCHANDISE AND AWARDS

(1) **State/Affiliate and/or Districts**
The host may supply championship and runner-up awards.

(2) **Nationals**
USA Hockey shall supply championship, runner-up and semfinalist trophies and/or awards. USA Hockey shall supply patches suitable for wearing on a jersey for each team participating in the youth, girls and high school championships.

(3) No all-tournament teams shall be selected at any state/affiliate and/or district or national championship tournaments. USA Hockey may select an all-tournament team at the National Championships.

APPENDICES

Injury/Concussion Return to Play Policy

Schedules

Game Length Requirements

Tie-Breaking Scenarios

APPENDIX 1

MEDICAL PROCEDURES AND INJURY RETURN TO PLAY

The on-site "Medical Personnel" must be stationed rink-side where they can actively observe play on the ice. They should be positioned so that they are accessible to players on the bench and the ice surface for any injury care. Prior to the start of each game, during warm-ups, medical staff at each rink must introduce themselves to the coaches and notify them of their location during the game.

The on-site medical staff shall have full and unrestricted authority to evaluate any player with a suspected injury during and after any game throughout the tournament. The on-site medical staff is permitted to enter the team bench area and playing surface as needed to assess and provide care to any player. Coaches and/or team personnel may not refuse, delay, or interfere with such evaluation or treatment. The on-site medical staff must communicate with the coaching staff on the status of the player evaluated.

The on-site medical staff will have the over-riding authority to determine if a player's injury warrants removal from the game and/or referral to a local medical facility for further evaluation. In the instance where this referral from the on-site medical staff occurs, the player/team must provide the on-site medical staff with a written release stating they are cleared for full participation from the doctor who examined him/her.

No coach, team doctor, team trainer, parent or guardian may take responsibility for the player returning to the ice without the approval of the Tournament host's on-site medical staff. There will be no exceptions, even if a player's parents happen to be a doctor or other medical professional. Only the on-site medical staff can approve the players return to the ice.

In the event that a player is cleared to play by the tournament medical staff during a game played by that team, the player shall be allowed to join the game in-progress unless doing so would conflict with the team roster rules outlined in Rule 201(a) – Composition of Teams.

Any medical treatment shall comply with USA Hockey's SafeSport requirements for one-on-one interactions.

* * *

This is the minimum standard to be followed for return to play following an injury/concussion. If state laws require higher standards of care then those state laws shall be followed.

* * *

APPENDIX 2

The following outline is the timed protocol during pre-game and intermissions for all USA Hockey Nationals games. No team will enter the playing surface before the scheduled game time. No games will begin early. All teams and game officials should be prepared to enter the playing surface at the listed times.

As a reminder, teams may not enter the playing surface prior to the game officials.

PRE-GAME

Fifteen minutes prior to published game time 15:00 minutes will be placed on game clock to begin immediately and start counting down. 15:00 minutes represents the amount of time until teams enter the ice.

GAME CLOCK TIME	EXAMPLE (8:00 AM GAME TIME)
15:00 – Countdown begins 15 minutes before Game Time	7:45am – Game Clock Time begins countdown
1:00 – Game Officials enter the ice	7:59am – Game Officials enter the ice
0:00 – Buzzer sounds. Both teams enter the ice	8:00am – Both teams enter the ice and warm-up begins
The clock is set to 5:00 minutes for Warmups. After the conclusion of warmups, game period time is added to game clock.	8:05am – Warm-up ends (Buzzer sounds)
Game Officials call starting line-ups to the face-off 1-minute after buzzer sounds.	Game period time added to game clock and Game Officials call starting line-ups to the face-off 1-minute after buzzer sounds.

NOTE: Additional time may be placed on the game clock if the previous game ends early. If an ice sheet is running behind, a game may begin late, and the countdown on the Game Clock shall be followed by teams.

First Game of the Day on Each Rink - The only exception to this protocol is the first game on each rink each day when the National Anthem will be played prior to the start of the game. After the buzzer sounds for the end of the warmup, players remove helmets and immediately line up on respective blue lines for playing of National Anthem. After anthem, game period time added to game clock and Game Officials call starting line-ups to the face-off 1-minute after buzzer sounds.

INTERMISSION (without Ice Resurface)

Upon completion of the period, 2:00 shall immediately be placed on game clock to start counting down.

- 0:30 – Game officials call starting line-ups to the face-off.
- 0:00 – Game period time added to game clock and period immediately begins.

INTERMISSION (with Ice Resurface)

Upon completion of period, 12:00 shall be placed on game clock to start counting down while ice is being resurfaced. This should be done as the Zamboni enters the ice.

- 0:00 – Game Officials enter the ice.
- Once signaled by officials, both teams enter the ice surface, players must go directly to their respective team bench. Starting line-ups shall immediately line up for the faceoff. No team cheers between periods.

POST-GAME

Teams must participate in a post-game handshake. All participants must exit the ice within a reasonable amount of time.

APPENDIX 3

TIER II YOUTH, GIRLS & HIGH SCHOOL

16-TEAM SCHEDULE (NON-SEEDED)

Number of rinks used: 2
Length of game slots: 2 hours *(adjust slot length based on age classification)*
Number of game slots: 31

- Two (2) conferences of eight (8) teams each (American & National)
- Four (4) divisions of four (4) teams each
  - American: USA, Olympic
  - National: NHL, Liberty
- Teams play against all teams in their division
- Top two (2) teams in each division will advance to quarterfinals

AMERICAN CONFERENCE		NATIONAL CONFERENCE	
USA	**OLYMPIC**	**NHL**	**LIBERTY**
A	E	I	M
B	F	J	N
C	G	K	O
D	H	L	P

DAY	TIME	RINK	VISITOR	HOME
Day 1	10:00 am	R1	B	A
Day 1	10:00 am	R2	D	C
Day 1	12:00 pm	R1	F	E
Day 1	12:00 pm	R2	H	G
Day 1	2:00 pm	R1	J	I
Day 1	2:00 pm	R2	L	K
Day 1	4:00 pm	R1	N	M
Day 1	4:00 pm	R2	P	O
Day 2	10:00 am	R1	G	F
Day 2	10:00 am	R2	E	H
Day 2	12:00 pm	R1	K	J

DAY	TIME	RINK	VISITOR	HOME
Day 2	12:00 pm	R2	I	L
Day 2	2:00 pm	R1	O	N
Day 2	2:00 pm	R2	M	P
Day 2	4:00 pm	R1	C	B
Day 2	4:00 pm	R2	A	D
Day 3	10:00 am	R1	K	I
Day 3	10:00 am	R2	L	J
Day 3	12:00 pm	R1	O	M
Day 3	12:00 pm	R2	P	N
Day 3	2:00 pm	R1	C	A
Day 3	2:00 pm	R2	D	B
Day 3	4:00 pm	R1	G	E
Day 3	4:00 pm	R2	H	F
Day 4	8:00 am	R1 *(Quarterfinal 1)*	OLY 2	USA 1
Day 4	8:00 am	R2 *(Quarterfinal 2)*	NHL 2	LIB 1
Day 4	10:00 am	R1 *(Quarterfinal 3)*	USA 2	OLY 1
Day 4	10:00 am	R2 *(Quarterfinal 4)*	LIB 2	NHL 1
Home team for each semifinal game shall be the team that was seeded highest in their pool prior to the quarterfinal games (i.e. USA 1 and LIB 1). In the event that two teams are tied, the on-site Tournament Director will determine the home team by the toss of a coin. The team that traveled the furtheast to the tournament will get to call heads or tails in the coin toss.				
Day 4	5:00 pm	R1 *(Semifinal 1)*	Winner QF1	Winner QF2
Day 4	5:00 pm	R2 *(Semifinal 2)*	Winner QF3	Winner QF4
For the championship game, the home team shall be the team that was seeded highest in their pool prior to the quarterfinal games (i.e. USA 1 is higher than NHL 2) In the event that two teams are tied (i.e. USA 1 and LIB 1), the on-site Tournament Director will determine the home team by the toss of a coin. The team that traveled the furthest to the tournament will get to call heads or tails in the coin toss.				
Day 5	10:00 am	R1 *(Championship)*	Winner SF1	Winner SF2

NOTE: The coin toss can be done virtually or over the phone.

TIER I GIRLS & YOUTH

16-TEAM SCHEDULE (SEEDED)

Number of rinks used: 2

Length of game slots: 2 hours *(adjust slot length based on age classification)*

AMERICAN CONFERENCE		NATIONAL CONFERENCE	
USA	**OLYMPIC**	**NHL**	**LIBERTY**
1	2	3	4
8	7	6	5
9	10	11	12
16	15	14	13

DAY	TIME	RINK	VISITOR	HOME
Day 1	10:00 am	R1	12	4
Day 1	10:00 am	R2	13	5
Day 1	12:00 pm	R1	9	1
Day 1	12:00 pm	R2	16	8
Day 1	2:00 pm	R1	10	2
Day 1	2:00 pm	R2	15	7
Day 1	4:00 pm	R1	11	3
Day 1	4:00 pm	R2	14	6
Day 2	10:00 am	R1	16	9
Day 2	10:00 am	R2	8	1
Day 2	12:00 pm	R1	7	2
Day 2	12:00 pm	R2	15	10
Day 2	2:00 pm	R1	6	3
Day 2	2:00 pm	R2	14	11
Day 2	4:00 pm	R1	5	4
Day 2	4:00 pm	R2	13	12
Day 3	10:00 am	R1	15	2
Day 3	10:00 am	R2	10	7
Day 3	12:00 pm	R1	14	3
Day 3	12:00 pm	R2	11	6

DAY	TIME	RINK	VISITOR	HOME
Day 3	2:00 pm	R1	13	4
Day 3	2:00 pm	R2	12	5
Day 3	4:00 pm	R1	16	1
Day 3	4:00 pm	R2	9	8
Day 4	12:00 pm	R1 *(Quarterfinal 1)*	OLY 2	USA 1
Day 4	12:00 pm	R2 *(Quarterfinal 2)*	NHL 2	LIB 1
Day 4	2:00 pm	R1 *(Quarterfinal 3)*	USA 2	OLY 1
Day 4	2:00 pm	R2 *(Quarterfinal 4)*	LIB 2	NHL 1
Home team for each semifinal game shall be the team that was seeded highest prior to the quarterfinal games (i.e. USA-1 vs. NHL-2; USA-1 is the home team). In the event that two teams are tied, the home team shall be the team that was seeded highest at the start of the tournament (USA-1 vs. LIB-1; USA-1 was #1 seed, LIB-1 was #4 seed therefore USA-1 is the home team).				
Day 5	2:00 pm	R1 *(Semifinal 1)*	Winner QF1/QF2	Winner QF1/QF2
Day 5	2:00 pm	R2 *(Semifinal 2)*	Winner QF3/QF4	Winner QF3/QF4
Home team for the championship game shall be the team that was seeded highest prior to the quarterfinal games (i.e USA -1 vs. LIB-2, USA-1 is the home team). In the event that two teams are tied, the home team for the championship game shall be the team that was seeded highest coming into the tournament (USA-1 vs. OLY-1, USA-1 was #1 Seed, OLY-1 was #2 seed, therefore USA-1 is the home team).				
Day 6	10:00 am	R1 *(Championship)*	Winner SF1	Winner SF2

NOTE: The coin toss can be done virtually or over the phone.

TIER II YOUTH, GIRLS & HIGH SCHOOL

12-TEAM SCHEDULE (NON-SEEDED)

Number of rinks used: 2
Length of game slots: 2 hours *(adjust slot length based on age classification)*
Number of game slots: 25

- Two (2) conferences (American & National)
- Four (4) divisions of three (3) teams each
  - American: USA, Olympic
  - National: NHL, Liberty
- Teams play cross-division within their conference
- Top four (4) teams in both conferences will advance to the quarterfinal round

AMERICAN CONFERENCE		NATIONAL CONFERENCE	
USA	**OLYMPIC**	**NHL**	**LIBERTY**
A	D	G	J
B	E	H	K
C	F	I	L

DAY	TIME	RINK	VISITOR	HOME
Day 1	10:00 am	R1	D	A
Day 1	10:00 am	R2	J	G
Day 1	12:00 pm	R1	E	B
Day 1	12:00 pm	R2	K	H
Day 1	2:00 pm	R1	F	C
Day 1	2:00 pm	R2	L	I
Day 2	10:00 am	R1	A	E
Day 2	10:00 am	R2	G	K
Day 2	12:00 pm	R1	B	F
Day 2	12:00 pm	R2	H	L
Day 2	2:00 pm	R1	C	D
Day 2	2:00 pm	R2	I	J
Day 3	10:00 am	R1	F	A
Day 3	10:00 am	R2	L	G

DAY	TIME	RINK	VISITOR	HOME
Day 3	12:00 pm	R1	D	B
Day 3	12:00 pm	R2	J	H
Day 3	2:00 pm	R1	E	C
Day 3	2:00 pm	R2	K	I
Day 4	10:00 am	R1 *(Quarterfinal 1)*	National 4	American 1
Day 4	10:00 am	R2 *(Quarterfinal 2)*	American 3	National 2
Day 4	12:00 pm	R1 *(Quarterfinal 3)*	American 4	National 1
Day 4	12:00 pm	R2 *(Quarterfinal 4)*	National 3	American 2
Home team for each semifinal game shall be the team that was seeded highest in conference after preliminary round games (i.e. American 3 vs. National 4; American 3 is the home team).				
Day 4	5:00 pm	R1 *(Semifinal 1)*	Winner QF1/QF2	Winner QF1/QF2
Day 4	5:00 pm	R2 *(Semifinal 2)*	Winner QF3/QF4	Winner QF3/QF4
For the championship game, the home team shall be the team that was seeded highest in conference after preliminary round games (i.e. American 1 vs. National 3; American 1 is the home team). If the teams have the same seed, the on-site Tournament Director will determine the home team by the toss of a coin. The team that traveled the furthest to the tournament will get to call heads or tails in the coin toss.				
Day 5	10:00 am	R1 *(Championship)*	Winner SF1/SF2	Winner SF1/SF2

NOTE: The coin toss can be done virtually or over the phone.

TIER I 13 ONLY

12-TEAM SCHEDULE (NON-SEEDED)

Number of rinks used: 2
Length of game slots: 2 hours *(adjust slot length based on age classification)*
Number of game slots: 32

- Two (2) conferences (American & National)
- Teams play against all teams in their division
- Top team in each conference advances to Championship game. Second place team in each conference advances to the Bronze Medal Game.

AMERICAN CONFERENCE	NATIONAL CONFERENCE
A	G
B	H
C	I
D	J
E	K
F	L

DAY	TIME	RINK	VISITOR	HOME
Day 1	10:00 am	R1	F	A
Day 1	10:00 am	R2	E	B
Day 1	12:00 pm	R1	D	C
Day 1	12:00 pm	R2	L	G
Day 1	2:00 pm	R1	K	H
Day 1	2:00 pm	R2	J	I
Day 2	10:00 am	R1	G	K
Day 2	10:00 am	R2	H	J
Day 2	12:00 pm	R1	A	E
Day 2	12:00 pm	R2	B	D
Day 2	2:00 pm	R1	C	F
Day 2	2:00 pm	R2	I	L
Day 3	10:00 am	R1	I	H
Day 3	10:00 am	R2	J	G

DAY	TIME	RINK	VISITOR	HOME
Day 3	12:00 pm	R1	L	K
Day 3	12:00 pm	R2	F	E
Day 3	2:00 pm	R1	D	A
Day 3	2:00 pm	R2	C	B
Day 4	10:00 am	R1	G	I
Day 4	10:00 am	R2	H	L
Day 4	12:00 pm	R1	A	C
Day 4	12:00 pm	R2	B	F
Day 4	2:00 pm	R1	E	D
Day 4	2:00 pm	R2	K	J
Day 5	10:00 am	R1	B	A
Day 5	10:00 am	R2	C	E
Day 5	12:00 pm	R1	D	F
Day 5	12:00 pm	R2	H	G
Day 5	2:00 pm	R1	I	K
Day 5	2:00 pm	R2	J	L
For the championship game and bronze medal game, the home team shall be determined by the toss of a coin. The team that traveled the furthest to the tournament will get to call heads or tails in the coin toss.				
Day 6	10:00 am	R1 *(Bronze Medal)*	American 2/ National 2	American 2/ National 2
Day 6	10:00 am	R2 *(Gold Medal)*	American 1/ National 1	American 1/ National 1

NOTE: The coin toss can be done virtually or over the phone.

10-TEAM SCHEDULE (NON-SEEDED)

Number of rinks used: 2
Length of game slots: 2 hours *(adjust slot length based on age classification)*
Number of game slots: 23

- Two (2) conferences (American and National)
- Five (5) teams in each conference
- Teams play against all teams in their conference
- Some teams will play two (2) preliminary round games in a day but always against a team that has also played that day
- Some teams may have an "OFF DAY" during the preliminary round
- Top two (2) teams in each conference will advance to the semifinals

AMERICAN CONFERENCE	NATIONAL CONFERENCE
A	F
B	G
C	H
D	I
E	J

DAY	TIME	RINK	VISITOR	HOME
Day 1	8:00 am	R1	B	A
Day 1	8:00 am	R2	D	C
Day 1	10:00 am	R1	G	F
Day 1	10:00 am	R2	I	H
Day 1	4:00 pm	R1	C	A
Day 1	4:00 pm	R2	H	F
Teams E and J do not play games on Day 1 *Teams A, C, F and H play two games on Day 1*				
Day 2	8:00 am	R1	B	E
Day 2	8:00 am	R2	D	A
Day 2	10:00 am	R1	G	J
Day 2	10:00 am	R2	I	F
Day 2	4:00 pm	R1	A	E

DAY	TIME	RINK	VISITOR	HOME
Day 2	4:00 pm	R2	B	D
Day 2	6:00 pm	R1	F	J
Day 2	6:00 pm	R2	G	I
Teams C and H do not play games on Day 2 *Teams A, B, D, E, F, G, I and J play two games on Day 2*				
Day 3	8:00 am	R1	C	B
Day 3	8:00 am	R2	D	E
Day 3	10:00 am	R1	H	G
Day 3	10:00 am	R2	I	J
Day 3	4:00 pm	R1	E	C
Day 3	4:00 pm	R2	J	H
Teams A and F do not play games on Day 3 *Teams C, E, H and J play two games on Day 3*				
Day 4	10:00 am	R1 *(Semifinal 1)*	National 2	American 1
Day 4	10:00 am	R2 *(Semifinal 2)*	American 2	National 1
For the championship game, the home team shall be the team that was seeded highest prior to the semifinal games. If the teams have the same seed, the on-site Tournament Director will determine the home team by the toss of a coin. The team that traveled the furthest to the tournament will get to call heads or tails in the coin toss.				
Day 5	10:00 am	R1 *(Championship)*	Winner SF1	Winner SF2

NOTE: The coin toss can be done virtually or over the phone.

8-TEAM SCHEDULE (NON-SEEDED)

Number of rinks used: 2
Length of game slots: 2 hours *(adjust slot length based on age classification)*
Number of game slots: 15

- Two (2) conferences (American and National)
- Four (4) teams in each conference
- Teams play against all teams in their conference
- Top two (2) teams in each conference advance to semifinals

AMERICAN CONFERENCE		NATIONAL CONFERENCE	
A	C	E	G
B	D	F	H

DAY	TIME	RINK	VISITOR	HOME
Day 1	10:00 am	R1	B	A
Day 1	10:00 am	R2	F	E
Day 1	12:00 pm	R1	D	C
Day 1	12:00 pm	R2	H	G
Day 2	10:00 am	R1	A	D
Day 2	10:00 am	R2	E	H
Day 2	12:00 pm	R1	C	B
Day 2	12:00 pm	R2	G	F
Day 3	10:00 am	R1	C	A
Day 3	10:00 am	R2	G	E
Day 3	12:00 pm	R1	D	B
Day 3	12:00 pm	R2	H	F
Day 4	10:00 am	R1 *(Semifinal 1)*	National 2	American 1
Day 4	10:00 am	R2 *(Semifinal 2)*	American 2	National 1
For championship game, home team shall be the team that was seeded highest prior to semifinal games. If teams have same seed, on-site Tournament Director will determine home team by the toss of a coin. The team that traveled furthest to the tournament will get to call heads or tails in coin toss.				
Day 5	10:00 am	R1 *(Championship)*	Winner SF1	Winner SF2

NOTE: The coin toss can be done virtually or over the phone.

6-TEAM SCHEDULE (NON-SEEDED)

Number of rinks used: 1
Length of game slots: 2 hours *(adjust slot length based on age classification)*
Number of game slots: 12

- Two (2) conferences (American and National)
- Three (3) teams in each conference
- Teams play cross-conference
- Preliminary round games = 3 on Day 1, 3 on Day 2

AMERICAN CONFERENCE	NATIONAL CONFERENCE
A	D
B	E
C	F

DAY	TIME	RINK	VISITOR	HOME
Day 1	10:00 am	R1	D	A
Day 1	12:00 pm	R1	E	B
Day 1	22:00 pm	R1	F	C
Day 2	10:00 am	R1	B	F
Day 2	12:00 pm	R1	C	D
Day 2	2:00 pm	R1	A	E
Day 3	10:00 am	R1	E	C
Day 3	12:00 pm	R1	F	A
Day 3	2:00 pm	R1	D	B
Day 4	10:00 am	R1 *(Semifinal 1)*	Seed 4	Seed 1
Day 4	12:00 pm	R1 *(Semifinal 2)*	Seed 3	Seed 2
For the championship game, the home team shall be the team that was seeded highest prior to the semifinal games.				
Day 5	10:00 am	R1 *(Championship)*	Winner SF1	Winner SF2

NOTE: The coin toss can be done virtually or over the phone.

4-TEAM SCHEDULE (NON-SEEDED)

Number of rinks used: 1
Length of game slots: 2 hours *(adjust slot length based on age classification)*
Number of game slots: 8

USA HOCKEY CONFERENCE
A
B
C
D

DAY	TIME	RINK	VISITOR	HOME
Day 1	10:00 am	R1	A	B
Day 1	12:00 pm	R1	C	D
Day 2	10:00 am	R1	C	A
Day 2	12:00 pm	R1	B	D
Day 3	10:00 am	R1	D	A
Day 3	12:00 pm	R1	B	C
For the semifinal and championship games, the home team shall be the team that was seeded highest prior to the semifinal games.				
Day 4	8:00 am	R1 *(Consolation)*	USAH 4	USAH 3
Day 4	10:00 am	R1 *(Championship)*	USAH 2	USAH 1

NOTE: The coin toss can be done virtually or over the phone.

APPENDIX 4
GAME LENGTH REQUIREMENTS

GROUP	TIER	CLASS	ROUND ROBIN	QUARTER FINALS	SEMI FINALS	FINALS
Youth	I	13O/14U	110 min.	120 min.	130 min.	130 min.
Youth	I	15 Only	135 min.	135 min.	145 min.	145 min.
Youth	I	16U	135 min.	135 min.	145 min.	145 min.
Youth	I	18U	135 min.	135 min.	145 min.	145 min.
Youth	II	14U	110 min.	120 min.	130 min.	130 min.
Youth	II	16U	120 min.	120 min.	130 min.	130 min.
Youth	II	18U	120 min.	120 min.	130 min.	130 min.
High School	—	Pure & Combined	120 min.	120 min.	130 min.	130 min.
Girls	I & II	14U	110 min.	120 min.	130 min.	130 min.
	I	16U/19U	135 min.	135 min.	145 min.	145 min.
	II	16U/19U	120 min.	120 min.	130 min.	130 min.

1. All ice cuts are included in the total game length.

2. All ice cuts shall be on the clock with a 12-minute count down.

APPENDIX 5
TIE-BREAKING SCENARIOS

SCENARIO #1

In the following scenario, there is a 3-way tie for first place and all three teams have played against each other.

Day 1

A	B
2	4
C	**D**
5	3

Day 2

B	C
4	2
D	**A**
5	1

Day 3

B	D
3	8
A	**C**
0	3

POOL	REG. WIN	OT/SO WIN	REG. LOSS	OT/SO LOSS	POINTS	POSITION
A	0	0	3	0	0	**4**
B	2	0	1	0	6	**1**
C	2	0	1	0	6	**1**
D	2	0	1	0	6	**1**

The tie-breaking rules are as follows:

1. The results of only the head-to-head games played between the tied teams in the following order:

Day 1

C	D
5	3

Day 2

B	C
4	2

Day 3

B	D
3	8

POOL	REG. WIN	OT/SO WIN	REG. LOSS	OT/SO LOSS	POINTS	GOALS FOR	GOALS AGNST	NET +/-	POS.
A									**4**
B	1	0	1	0	3	7	10	-3	**1**
C	1	0	1	0	3	7	7	0	**1**
D	1	0	1	0	3	11	8	+3	**1**

   a. **Most points earned.**
   All three teams (B, C and D) are tied with 3 points each.

b. **Most total wins (whether in regulation, overtime or shootout).**
All three teams are tied with 1 each.

c. **Most regulation wins.**
All three teams are tied with 1 each.

d. **Differential – subtracting goals against from the goals for in these games, the positions being determined in order of the greatest surplus.**
D differential: +3
C differential: 0
B differential: -3

The differential places Team B in third place with a goal differential of -3, Team C in second place with a goal differential of 0 and Team D in first place with a goal differential of +3.

Therefore, final standings for this scenario are:

POOL	REG. WIN	OT/SO WIN	REG. LOSS	OT/SO LOSS	POINTS	POSITION
D	2	0	1	0	6	**1**
C	2	0	1	0	6	**2**
B	2	0	1	0	6	**3**
A	0	0	3	0	0	**4**

SCENARIO #2

In the following scenario, there is a 3-way tie for first place and all three teams have played against each other.

Day 1

A	B
2	4
C	**D**
4	2

Day 2

B	C
4	3
D	**A**
5	1

Day 3

B	D
3	6
A	**C**
0	3

POOL	REG. WIN	OT/SO WIN	REG. LOSS	OT/SO LOSS	POINTS	POSITION
A	0	0	3	0	0	**4**
B	2	0	1	0	6	**1**
C	2	0	1	0	6	**1**
D	2	0	1	0	6	**1**

The tie-breaking rules are as follows:

1. The results of only the head-to-head games played between the tied teams in the following order:

Day 1

C	D
4	2

Day 2

B	C
4	3

Day 3

B	D
3	6

POOL	REG. WIN	OT/SO WIN	REG. LOSS	OT/SO LOSS	POINTS	GOALS FOR	GOALS AGNST	NET +/-	POS.
A									**4**
B	1	0	1	0	3	7	9	-2	**1**
C	1	0	1	0	3	7	6	+1	**1**
D	1	0	1	0	3	8	7	+1	**1**

a. **Most points earned.**
All three teams (B, C and D) are tied with 3 points each.

b. **Most total wins (whether in regulation, overtime or shootout).**
All three teams are tied with 1 each.

c. **Most regulation wins.**
All three teams are tied with 1 each.

d. **Differential – subtracting goals against from the goals for in these games, the positions being determined in order of the greatest surplus.**
C differential: +1
D differential: +1
B differential: -2

The differential places Team B in third place with a goal differential of -2 while Teams C and D remain tied with differentials of +1. We can now determine the position of Team B is third place.

If at any point during the application of the tie-breaking rules, any or all of the teams can be seeded higher or lower than the other teams, the seeded teams will be placed in their position in the standings and the tie-breaking process will begin again at Step 1 for any teams that remain tied.

The standings for this scenario so far are:

POOL	REG. WIN	OT/SO WIN	REG. LOSS	OT/SO LOSS	POINTS	POSITION
A	0	0	3	0	0	**4**
B	2	0	1	0	6	**3**
C	2	0	1	0	6	**1**
D	2	0	1	0	6	**1**

And we begin again at Step 1 to break the remaining tie between Teams C and D.

1. The results of only the head-to-head games played between the tied teams in the following order:

Day 1

C	D
4	2

POOL	REG. WIN	OT/SO WIN	REG. LOSS	OT/SO LOSS	POINTS	GOALS FOR	GOALS AGNST	NET +/-	POS.
A									4
B									3
C	1	0	0	0	3	4	0	+4	1
D	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	+2	1

a. **Most points earned.**
Team C earned 3 points and Team D earned 0 points in their head-to-head game. We can now determine that Team C is first place and Team D is second place.

Therefore, the final standings for this scenario are:

POOL	REG. WIN	OT/SO WIN	REG. LOSS	OT/SO LOSS	POINTS	POSITION
C	2	0	1	0	6	1
D	2	0	1	0	6	2
B	2	0	1	0	6	3
A	0	0	3	0	0	4

SCENARIO #3

In the following scenario, there is a 3-way tie for first place and all three teams have played against each other.

Day 1

A	B
2	4
C	**D**
4	3

Day 2

B	C
4	2
D	**A**
5	1

Day 3

B	D
3	6
A	**C**
0	3

POOL	REG. WIN	OT/SO WIN	REG. LOSS	OT/SO LOSS	POINTS	POSITION
A	0	0	3	0	0	**4**
B	2	0	1	0	6	**1**
C	2	0	1	0	6	**1**
D	2	0	1	0	6	**1**

The tie-breaking rules are as follows:

1. The results of only the head-to-head games played between the tied teams in the following order:

Day 1

C	D
4	3

Day 2

B	C
4	2

Day 3

B	D
3	6

POOL	REG. WIN	OT/SO WIN	REG. LOSS	OT/SO LOSS	POINTS	GOALS FOR	GOALS AGNST	NET +/-	POS.
A									**4**
B	1	0	1	0	3	7	8	-1	**1**
C	1	0	1	0	3	6	7	-1	**1**
D	1	0	1	0	3	9	7	+2	**1**

a. **Most points earned.**
All three teams (B, C and D) are tied with 3 points each.

b. **Most total wins (whether in regulation, overtime or shootout).**
All three teams are tied with 1 each.

c. **Most regulation wins.**
All three teams are tied with 1 each.

d. **Differential – subtracting goals against from the goals for in these games, the positions being determined in order of the greatest surplus.**
D differential: +2
B differential: -1
C differential: -1

The differential places Team D in first place with a goal differential of +2 while Teams B and C remain tied with differentials of -1. We can now determine the position of Team D is first place.

If at any point during the application of the tie-breaking rules, any or all of the teams can be seeded higher or lower than the other teams, the seeded teams will be placed in their position in the standings and the tie-breaking process will begin again at Step 1 for any teams that remain tied.

The standings for this scenario so far are:

POOL	REG. WIN	OT/SO WIN	REG. LOSS	OT/SO LOSS	POINTS	POSITION
A	0	0	3	0	0	**4**
B	2	0	1	0	6	**2**
C	2	0	1	0	6	**2**
D	2	0	1	0	6	**1**

And we begin again at Step 1 to break the remaining tie between Teams B and C.

1. The results of only the head-to-head games played between the tied teams in the following order:

Day 2

B	C
4	2

POOL	REG. WIN	OT/SO WIN	REG. LOSS	OT/SO LOSS	POINTS	GOALS FOR	GOALS AGNST	NET +/-	POS.
A									4
B	1	0	0	0	3	4	2	+2	**2**
C	0	0	1	0	0	2	4	-2	**2**
D									1

a. **Most points earned.**
Team B earned 3 points and Team C earned 0 points in their head-to-head game. We can now determine that Team B is second place and Team C is third place.

Therefore, the final standings for this scenario are:

POOL	REG. WIN	OT/SO WIN	REG. LOSS	OT/SO LOSS	POINTS	POSITION
D	2	0	1	0	6	1
B	2	0	1	0	6	2
C	2	0	1	0	6	3
A	0	0	3	0	0	4

SCENARIO #4

In the following scenario, there is a 2-way tie for first place and a 3-way tie for third place. Four teams need to be placed into the quarterfinal bracket.

A	D
7	0
B	**E**
0	3
C	**F**
9	0

E	A
2	4
D	**C**
0	5
F	**B**
0	6

A	F
8	4
C	**E**
4	1
B	**D**
2	3

POOL	REG. WIN	OT/SO WIN	REG. LOSS	OT/SO LOSS	POINTS	GOALS FOR	GOALS AGNST	NET +/-	POS.
A	3	0	0	0	9	19	6	+13	**1**
B	1	0	2	0	3	8	6	+2	**3**
C	3	0	0	0	9	17	1	+16	**1**
D	1	0	2	0	3	3	14	-11	**3**
E	1	0	2	0	3	6	8	-2	**3**
F	0	0	3	0	0	4	22	-18	**6**

First, we need to break the tie for first place between Teams A and C. Because the two teams did not play each other head-to-head, the tie-breaking process will begin with Step 2.

2. If after applying the formulas of 1 a, b, c, d, e and f the tie still exists, the results of all the games played by the teams tied in the following order.

   a. **Most total wins (whether in regulation, overtime or shootout).**
   Both teams are tied at 3 wins.

   b. **Most regulation wins.**
   Both teams have 3 regulation wins.

   c. **Differential – subtracting goals against from the goals for in these games, the positions being determined in order of the greatest surplus.**

C differential: +17
A differential: +13

The differential places Team C in first place with a goal differential of +17 and Team A in second place with a goal differential of +13.

POOL	REG. WIN	OT/SO WIN	REG. LOSS	OT/SO LOSS	POINTS	GOALS FOR	GOALS AGNST	NET +/-	POS.
A	3	0	0	0	9	19	6	+13	**2**
B	1	0	2	0	3	8	6	+2	**3**
C	3	0	0	0	9	18	1	+17	**1**
D	1	0	2	0	3	3	14	-11	**3**
E	1	0	2	0	3	6	8	-2	**3**
F	0	0	3	0	0	4	23	-19	**6**

Next, we need to break the tie for third place between Teams B, D and E. Because the three teams did not all play each other, the tie-breaking process will again begin with Step 2.

2. If after applying the formulas of 1 a, b, c, d, e and f the tie still exists, the results of all the games played by the teams tied in the following order.

   a. **Most total wins (whether in regulation, overtime or shootout).**
   All three teams are tied with 1 win.

   b. **Most regulation wins.**
   All three teams are tied with 1 regulation win.

   c. **Differential – subtracting goals against from the goals for in these games, the positions being determined in order of the greatest surplus.**
   B differential: +2
   D differential: -11
   E differential: -2

   The differential places Team B in third place with a goal differential of +2, Team E in fourth place with a goal differential of -2 and Team D in fifth place with a goal differential of -11.

POOL	REG. WIN	OT/SO WIN	REG. LOSS	OT/SO LOSS	POINTS	GOALS FOR	GOALS AGNST	NET +/-	POS.
C	3	0	0	0	9	18	1	+17	**1**
A	3	0	0	0	9	19	6	+13	**2**
B	1	0	2	0	3	8	6	+2	**3**
E	1	0	2	0	3	6	8	-2	**4**
D	1	0	2	0	3	3	14	-11	**5**
F	0	0	3	0	0	4	23	-19	**6**


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