

## **USA Hockey High School Tournament Rules for Pilot Program**

### **XII. DISTRICT PLAYOFFS AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

*Youth Classifications (12 & Under, 14 & Under, 16 & Under, 18 & Under)*

*Girls'/Women's Classifications (12 & Under, 14 & Under, 16 & Under,*

*19 & Under, Women's Senior A, B & C)* **HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY DIVISION AND/ OR PREP**

**SCHOOL DIVISION** For regulations applicable to regional, invitational and national championships for the Junior and Adult Men classifications, please contact your appropriate registrar, the junior registrar or the USA Hockey national office. For regulations applicable to regional, national and other championships in Inline

Hockey, refer to the USA Hockey InLine Rules and Regulations or the USA Hockey InLine national office.

### **TEAM REQUIREMENTS**

The following items are **mandatory** for all teams participating in USA Hockey national championships. (These mandatory items are covered further within this section).

#### ***A. Hotel***

All team members and staff that require hotel accommodations are required to stay in the HOST hotel(s). There will be financial penalties for teams that do not stay in the host hotel(s). See Section N, 2b.

#### ***B. Easton Skills Challenge***

All teams are required to participate in and attend the Easton Skills Challenge (if applicable as determined by the national championship director). Failure to participate in the Youth Council approved event will result in the forfeiture of all games for the non-compliant team during the national championships.

#### ***C. Outside Web Facilitators***

All hosts are required to provide the necessary on-site web support to upload game results/statistics immediately following the conclusion of each game. USA Hockey owns and uses the "Official National Championship Tournament Tool" scoring system, which all host locations are required to use exclusively to post live scores, statistics, game information and standings from each game of the tournament. No other scoring system or data publication system may be used during this event, regardless of any other rink arrangements. Host will not permit any such information to be displayed on any websites other than usahockey.com without the expressed prior written consent of the national championship director and USA Hockey.

#### ***D. Coaching Education Requirements***

All coaches must have the USA Hockey required minimum level of coaching certification to participate in the 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. Noncompliance will result in a Discipline Committee hearing with a minimum one game suspension. Please refer to the Coaching Education requirements, USA Hockey Annual Guide.

**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 Youth 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 VARSITY DIVISION AND/ OR PREP SCHOOL DIVISION**

**“Varsity Division (Male and Female teams)”**--Pure teams (See High School Division II requirements) that are community based public high schools, private schools drawing their students exclusively from a local metropolitan area (excluding any school that boards players) **OR** a combined team from a State that has **NO** pure teams. Representation from each state will be determined by the State Affiliate participating in the tournament. Billed players competing on Tier I, Tier II or Junior teams are not eligible to compete in the High School Varsity National Tournament Participation is restricted to amateurs who are full time students (grades 9-12), and 19 years old or under as of December 31st of the Playing Season. Eligibility is not to exceed eight (8) consecutive semesters starting with a player’s freshman year. (Clarification: Those High School students graduating midyear, are no longer full time students and therefore, are not eligible to play on a Varsity High School hockey team, effective on their last day of attending classes full time).

**“Prep Division (Male and Female teams)”**-- Boarding schools, non-community based high schools and others. All teams, players and coaches must register with USA Hockey prior to application for participation.

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.

## **TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES**

### ***A. Eligibility/Registration***

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

(a) RULES AND REGULATIONS; SECTION III. CLASSIFICATIONS;  
Subsections Youth, Girls/Women, **High School Varsity Division and/or Prep School Division**

(b) RULES AND REGULATIONS; SECTION IV. 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.

(3) Copies of government issued birth certificate or, if birth certificate is not available, copy of a passport ID page for each rostered player.

**(3a) High School Varsity Division and/or Prep School Division; Evidence of current school enrollment eligibility to participate on the team.**

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

(5) A player(s) and registered team member must be eligible to participate in district playoffs in order to participate in the national championships.

(6) Number of Games for Eligibility – districts and nationals

(a) Each team must have competed as a team unit in at least twenty (20) games for youth teams and at least fourteen (14) for girls'/women's teams except Women's Senior A, and at least ten (10) games for High School Varsity Division and/or Prep School Division and

(b) Each player must have played in at least ten (10) games during the Season or at least five (5) games for High School Varsity Division and/or Prep School Division. Women's Senior A players must have played in the ten (10) games prior to the third Monday in March. Women's Senior A district all-star teams are allowed and may be composed of players having played in ten (10) games for a district team prior to the third Monday in March. This team will not be required to have played as a team prior to the nationals.

(c) For scoresheets to count in meeting the 20/10 (14/10 girls'/women's, 10/5 for High School Varsity Division and/or Prep School Division ) 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. Player changes to the official team roster for youth Tier I and Tier II teams and girls'/women's national championship bound teams will not be accepted after December 31 (February 15 for High School Varsity Division and/or Prep School Division). Any

question regarding eligibility of game count in the girls'/women's program would be resolved by a committee composed of the appropriate registrar, the appropriate district Girls'/Women's Section Representative and the Girls'/Women's Section Director. If the issue cannot be resolved, the team may appeal to a committee composed of the Youth Council Chair, the Registrar Section Director and the national championship director or their designees.

(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 XII. Q. Time of Periods), except where the game is interrupted, (by some unforeseen event) after two (2) periods have been completed. High School Varsity/Prep School games played against school sanctioned teams and USA Hockey High School teams shall count as games towards 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 district or national championship in the current hockey season.

Appeal Procedure – Should a youth level or girls'/women's team or High School Varsity Division and/or Prep School Division player(s) be declared ineligible to compete in district and/or national championship playoffs, by reason of improper registration certification, the team may appeal its ineligibility to a committee composed of the Youth Council Chair, the Registrar Section Director and the national championship director or their designees. The Committee will add the High School Section Director in the case of High School Varsity Division and/or Prep School Division.

Upon receipt of the appeal and a \$500 bond, the committee will render a decision as soon as possible. The decision of this committee shall be final. Should the team's appeal be denied, the team will forfeit the \$500 bond.

**Note:** Teams for this purpose shall mean the President and/or Board of Directors of the program or organization to which the team belongs.

## **B. Championship Director**

### **(1) Districts**

A USA Hockey District Director or his/her designee from the district holding the tournament shall be named championship director.

### **(2) Nationals**

The championship director will be appointed by the Youth Council Chair.

## **C. Number and Qualification of Teams (including Host Association)**

### **(1) 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**

(a) One representative from each district, plus a host team, shall be qualified to participate in the national championships. For High School Varsity Division and/or Prep School Division, each affiliate shall have the ability to send a representative for each state represented by the affiliate. At the discretion of the tournament Director and the High School Section Chair, additional qualified teams may be invited to fill out the tournament.

(b) The host shall be allowed no more than two (2) entries and may be permitted to have more than one entry (the host team and one other) who are eligible to win the championship.

(c) Where a program already designated to act as host for a national championship tournament elects to participate in its district playoffs and wins the district playoffs, the district playoffs runnerup team will be designated to represent the 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.

(d) No team representing a district shall be ineligible from championship competition for reasons other than those found in P. Credential Requirements of teams for districts and nationals.

(e) 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.

(f) For a tournament to qualify as a national championship, at least three (3) districts and a host must be represented.

### **(3) Nationals – Specifically for Girls’/Women’s Teams**

(a) A Women's Senior B or C team must move up from its present classification if it has won a women's senior national championship in any of the last three (3) years and placed first or second in either of the two (2) other years. This includes teams of different program registration when a majority of the same players are composed of the same entity.

(b) When a women's senior team has qualified to move to the next highest classification in the next national championship and participated, the Girls'/Women's Section will review their ability to be competitive with the higher classification teams and make a recommendation to either remain or move down a classification.

#### ***D. Entry Fees***

##### **(1) Districts**

Not in excess of \$600 per team. Any fee in excess of this amount must be approved by the chairperson of the appropriate Council.

**(2) Nationals Youth:** None.

**(3) Nationals Girls:** None.

**Women's Senior:** \$500 maximum.

**(4) High School Varsity Division and/or Prep School Division : None**

#### ***E. Number of Players***

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 district and national championship with two (2) goalkeepers qualified under the rules. Teams that are unable to arrive with a backup goalkeeper shall be permitted, with the approval of the national championship director or his/her appointee, and appropriate registrar, to use a substitute goalkeeper from a lower level (Tier I, II, then house/rec.) team within the same association, affiliate or district. Selection order should start with the same age classification (lower level team) first and if not available, then move to the next younger age classification (any tier, house/rec.). The backup goalkeeper shall only be permitted to participate in a game with the approval of the tournament director if the original goalkeeper is injured, ill or unable to participate. **(Note: While High School teams may roster up to 30 players during the regular season, they must comply with this rule for the National Tournament and submit a final roster of 20 players four (4) weeks prior to the Tournament.**

#### ***F. Playing Rules***

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

#### ***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 district shall signify their intention of entering a team or teams in the national championship, in writing, to USA Hockey with a copy to the Youth Council Chair by October 15 of the current season. **Affiliates shall signify their intention of entering a team(s) in the High School Varsity Division and/or Prep School Division National Tournament by November 15 of the current season.**

(3) Once declared, the district/affiliate 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 Youth Council shall:

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

(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 Board of Directors at its Annual Meeting.

(d) Participation in USA Hockey 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. Merchandise and Awards***

### **(1) Districts**

The host shall supply championship and runner-up awards.

### **(2) Nationals**

USA Hockey shall supply championship and runner-up trophies and awards. USA Hockey shall supply patches suitable for wearing on a jersey for each team participating in the youth and girls'/women's championships. The Marketing Council will present a merchandise proposal to the appropriate national championship director thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Congress, for presentation to the appropriate council. The appropriate council will then determine its national championships merchandise program.

### **(3) No all-tournament teams shall be selected.**

## ***I. Uniforms***

All teams entered must be properly uniformed. Unless otherwise agreed by the teams and the tournament director, the home team shall wear light/white jerseys and the visiting team shall wear dark/colored jerseys in all games. If the home team in each game has not been established by the Tournament Committee, it shall be determined by the national championship director or his/her designee. All players participating in the national championships must properly sew his/her national patch(es) on his/her jersey(s) in the designated area. The head coach will not be allowed to coach until his/her players have complied with this rule and are considered properly uniformed.

## ***J. Completion Dates***

All 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 at the Annual Congress prior to the tournaments and announced at that time.

## ***K. Time Between Games***

### **(1) Districts**

It is recommended that 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 prior written approval of the national championship director. It is recommended that there shall be a minimum of four (4) hours between games played on the same day and twelve (12) hours on games played on consecutive days.

### **(2) Nationals**

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 Youth Council. It is recommended that there be a minimum of four (4) hours between games on the same day and twelve (12) hours between games played on consecutive days. The Youth Council will provide the approved game schedule and times of games to the national championship director. The game schedule format may be played Wednesday through Sunday.

## ***L. Age Classifications***

### **(1) YOUTH**

To be eligible to compete during the 2008-09 season, a player must have been born during the year indicated below:

- 12 & Under 1996 or thereafter
- 14 & Under 1994 or thereafter
- 16 & Under 1992 or thereafter
- 18 & Under 1990 or thereafter

### **(2) GIRLS/WOMEN**

To be eligible to compete during the 2008-09 season, a player must have been born during the year indicated below:

- 12 & Under 1996 or thereafter
- 14 & Under 1994 or thereafter
- 16 & Under 1992 or thereafter
- 19 & Under 1989 or thereafter
- Women's Senior 1990 or prior

## ***M. Pairings – Districts/Nationals***

### **(1) Districts**

(a) The tournament format and schedule of games, including home and visiting team designations, shall be set by the District Tournament Committee and approved by the national championship director no less than thirty (30) days prior to the first game of the district tournament.

(b) The schedule of games shall be sent to all qualified teams by registered mail, courier mail, e-mail or telefax no less than ten (10) days in advance of the first game.

(c) Anyone requesting a change in the schedule must notify the USA Hockey national championship director within 48 hours of receipt. Unresolved matters shall be referred to the appropriate Council.

(d) The schedule of games to be played during the national championships, including home and visiting team designations, shall be forwarded to the national championship director, in writing, on

or before December 1 preceding the tournament by the host. The tournament director will return the approved game schedule and times of games to the host by February 1 preceding the tournament. The game schedule format may be played Wednesday through Sunday. Any deviation from these requirements must be approved by the appropriate Council.

**(2) Nationals – Youth Tier I, Tier II, Girls’/Women’s, High School Varsity Division and/or Prep School Division**

**(a) 8-Team Format, 10-Team Format**

Divisions and format to be determined by the national championship director and approved by the Youth Council. The High School Varsity Division and/or Prep School Division Tournament to use the national championship format as established by the Youth Council.

**(b) 12-Team Format**

<b>AMERICAN NATIONAL</b>				
<b>CONFERENCE CONFERENCE</b>				
<b>Year:</b>	<b>USA:</b>	<b>Olympic:</b>	<b>NHL:</b>	<b>Liberty</b>
2008:	1,5,9:	6,8,10:	2,3,11:	4,7,12
2009:	2,4,8:	3,5,12:	1,7,10:	6,9,11
2010:	9,10,12:	6,7,8:	2,5,11:	1,3,4

**Districts for a 12-Team Format-Youth Tier I, Tier II, Girls/Women**

- |                  |                               |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. New England   | 7. Pacific                    |
| 2. New York      | 8. Rocky Mountain             |
| 3. Mid-American  | 9. Atlantic                   |
| 4. Michigan      | 10. Southeastern              |
| 5. Massachusetts | 11. Minnesota/Northern Plains |
| 6. Central       | 12. Host                      |

***N. Requirements to Host a Nationals and District/Nationals***

In order to be eligible to be awarded USA Hockey sanctioned events beginning in the 2009-10 playing season, it is strongly recommended that a facility shall be a S.T.A.R. member and register all of its ice hockey programs/leagues with USA Hockey (i.e., district/affiliate tournaments, national tournaments, coaching/officiating clinics, etc.).

**(1) Selecting A Host – Nationals**

Application to host a national championship shall be submitted on the official application form with the accompanying fee to the appropriate registrar, who in turn shall forward it to the USA Hockey Youth Council staff liaison, by May 15. The host must agree to all of the rules and regulations of the national championships. This fee is nonrefundable to hosts who are awarded championships.

**(2) District/National 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.

(b) Accommodations for each team shall be arranged for at a first-class facility at the best possible rate. Unless otherwise requested by the teams, these accommodations shall be enough to house twenty-five (25) people per team with two to a room. They shall make certain that there are adequate food facilities open during the hours that will be needed by the teams. The expense is the responsibility of each team. At the national championship, all team members and staff that require

hotel reservations are required to stay in the host hotel(s). There will be financial penalties for teams that do not stay in the host hotel(s). The penalty will be the full price of the rooms for the entire tournament. The involved district will be responsible to collect the monies and forward them to the Youth Council Chair.

(c) 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) There shall be in attendance at all games a certified athletic trainer, emergency medical technician (EMT), paramedic, registered nurse or medical or osteopathic physician and any additional persons who have successfully completed and maintained certification for programs conducted by the American Red Cross or the American Heart Association, specifically AFA (advanced first aid), CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and BLS (basic life support). The host shall be responsible for making any additional arrangements for medical care beyond emergency treatment at the arena, the cost of which shall be the responsibility of the player's team or parents.

(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.

(f) The host, pursuant to USA Hockey guidelines, shall provide one room (where appropriate) for the lodging of the USA Hockey tournament director.

(g) For twelve team national championships, the host will pay USA Hockey a flat fee of \$3,000. This assumes there will be a hospitality room at the rink site(s) which game officials would be eligible to use at no cost. If there is no hospitality room or the host does not want game officials to use their hospitality room, the flat fee would increase by \$500 to a total of \$3,500. This fee is per division. Thus a host with three national tournaments would pay three fees. For national tournaments with less than twelve teams, the flat fee would be \$120 per game. The hospitality room (lack of) surcharge would be \$20 per game. Upon paying the flat fee, the host has no further responsibility with respect to officiating. The officiating program will take control of game fees, hotel accommodations, transportation to the event site(s), shuttle service between hotel and rink site(s) and per diem expenses. This applies to all youth and girls'/women's national championships.

## ***O. Method of Determining Champion***

### **(1) Tournament Format**

No exceptions to the following formats will be permitted, except as may be specifically approved by the Youth Council.

#### **(a) Districts**

All district tournament formats and schedules must be approved by the national championship director no less than fourteen (14) days prior to the tournament.

#### **(b) Nationals**

(1) National championship schedule and format will be determined annually based on the number of teams participating. The format will be submitted by the national championship director for approval by the Youth Council at their annual fall meeting.

(2) If there are twelve teams in an age division, two six team conferences, divided into two divisions of three teams will be established. Each team will play a game against each team of the other division within its conference. After the preliminary round games have been played, the teams in each

conference will be ranked based on points accumulated in the first round. The top four teams, in both conferences, will advance to the quarter-final round.

(3) Girls'/Women's – If there are twelve teams in a division, each team will play a game against each team of the other division within its conference. After the first round games have been played, the teams in each conference will be ranked based on points accumulated in the first round. The top four teams, in both conferences, will advance to the quarter-final round.

## **(2) Overtime for Nationals (Recommended for Districts)**

### **(a) Youth and Girls'/Women's and High School Varsity Division and/or Prep School Division Preliminary-Round Games**

#### **1. All Games Played to a Winner:**

If the game is tied following regulation play, one five-minute sudden death overtime period shall be played. At the completion of the third period, the tied teams shall receive a three-minute rest period. The teams will remain on the ice. The teams will not change ends. If the score is tied at the end of the five-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. **If no goal is scored in the overtime period, there will be a shootout.**

#### **a. Shootout**

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 referee shall call the two captains to the referee's crease to flip a coin to determine which team takes the first shot. The winner of the coin toss will have the choice whether his/her team will shoot first or second.
- All goalkeepers and all players from both teams listed on the official game sheet shall be eligible to participate in the shootout.
- Any 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 be one of the players selected to participate in any portion of the shootout procedure(s).
- The shootout procedure shall begin with five 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.

#### **b. 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.
- Teams will select their shooters to participate in sudden death shootout, whether or not they shot in the previous round.
- All goalkeepers and all players from both teams listed on the official game sheet shall be eligible to participate in the shootout.
- Any 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 be one of the players selected to participate in any portion of the shootout procedure(s).

- Players in a sudden death shootout shall not be allowed to take another shot until four additional shooters have completed their attempts.
- 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.

**(b) Quarter-Final, Semi-Final and Final Games**

1. The game shall be continued to determine a winner.
2. At the completion of the third period, there shall be a five (5) minute rest period before the start of the first overtime session.
3. All overtimes shall be ten (10) minutes in length and sudden death. Teams shall not switch ends throughout overtime periods, therefore teams will play in the same end from which they played during the third period until a winner is determined.
4. At the completion of the first overtime, if the teams are still tied, the teams shall leave the ice and the ice shall be resurfaced. A second overtime period shall begin immediately following the ice resurfacing.
5. Following the second overtime, there shall be a five (5) minute rest period prior to the start of the third overtime session.
6. If the teams remain tied at the completion of the third overtime period, the teams shall leave the ice and the ice shall be resurfaced.
7. Thereafter, the foregoing process in items 1-6 shall be repeated until such time as a winner is determined by the competition.

**(3) Process to Determine Quarter-Finalists, Semi-Finalists and/or Finalists**

The following applies for a twelve team format. For information on six, eight or ten team tournament formats and tie-breaking procedures, contact the national championship director.

**Twelve Team Format**

Each team will play a game against each member of the other division within its conference (M(2)(b)). The top four teams, in both conferences, accumulating the most game points will advance to the second round.

- (a) During the youth and girls'/women's preliminary rounds, each team will be awarded three points for a win in regulation, two points for a win in overtime or shootout, one point for a loss in overtime or shootout and zero points for a loss in regulation.

**Youth and Girls'/Women's and High School Varsity Division and/or Prep School Division**

- Win Regulation 3 Points
- Win Following Tie 2 Points
- Loss Following Tie 1 Points
- Loss Regulation 0 Points

- (b) After the preliminary round games have been played, the teams in each conference will be ranked based on points accumulated in the first round. The top four teams, in both conferences,

will advance to the quarter-final round with the following pairings:

American 1 vs National 4  
National 1 vs American 4  
American 2 vs National 3  
National 2 vs American 3

The first- and second-place teams in the American and National conferences will be the home team for all quarter-final games.

(c) The semi-final round will consist of the following pairings:

Winner A1/N4 vs Winner N2/A3  
Winner N1/A4 vs Winner A2/N3

The home team for each semi-final game shall be the team that was seeded the highest prior to the quarter-final games (i.e., A3 would be the home team if A3 vs. N4).

(f) The winners will play for the national championship. The tournament director will determine the home team by the toss of a coin.

**(e) YOUTH and High School Varsity Division and/or Prep School Division – 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 tiebreaking format. If one tie-breaker establishes a position for one or more teams, each team is placed in the applicable position. Once a team is placed, the remaining tied teams shall start the tiebreaking process over again at step 1. *(If all tied teams have not played each other, then proceed to step 2. Note: a team may go into the tiebreaking process having defeated another of the tied teams and still not advance).*

The tie-breaking formulas are as follows:

1. The results of the head-to-head games played between the tied teams in the following order:
  - a. Standings — Most points.
  - b. Most wins.
  - c. Differential — Subtracting goals scored against from goals scored in these games, the positions being determined in order of the greatest surplus.
  - d. Quotient — Dividing the goals scored in these games by the goals scored against, the positions being determined in order of the greatest 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 tiebreaker 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. Quickest first goal — The team that scored the quickest goal in their applicable preliminary round games shall be ranked highest.

2. If after applying the formulas of 1 a, b, c, d, e or f the tie still exists, the results of all the games played by the teams tied in the following order.
  - a. Most wins.
  - b. Differential — Subtracting goals scored against from goals scored in these games, the positions being determined in order of the greatest surplus.
  - c. Quotient — Dividing the goals scored in these games by the goals scored against, the positions being determined in order of the greatest 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 tiebreaker is required, the teams shall be ranked high to low in descending order of “goals for.”
  - d. 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.
  - e. 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:** *Forfeits - If a team forfeits any of its games, and becomes involved in any tie-breaking formula to determine its eligibility to advance to the next level of play, the team forfeits all games in the round robin play and the games are recorded as 1-0 victories for the non-offending team.*

(f) **GIRLS'/WOMEN'S** – If two or more teams have an equal number of points, their positions in the standing shall be determined by the following tie-breaking formulas. In order to break the tie, the following formula will be followed until one rule determines the position of all teams that are tied.

1. The results of the game played between the teams tied in the following order:

- a. The points acquired in these games.
- b. Subtracting goals scored against from goals scored in these games, the positions being determined in order of the greatest surplus, with a maximum surplus of eight goals per game for calculation purposes.
- c. Dividing the goals scored in these games by the goals scored against, with a maximum surplus of eight goals per game for calculation purposes, the positions being determined in order of the greatest 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.”

2. If after applying the formulas of 1 a, b or c, the tie still exists, the following formula will be followed until one rule determines the position of all teams that are tied using all of the games played by the teams tied:

- a. The points acquired in all games.

- b. Subtracting goals scored against from goals scored in all games, the positions being determined in order of the greatest surplus, with a maximum surplus of eight goals per game for calculation purposes.
- c. Dividing the goals scored in all games by the goals scored against, with a maximum surplus of eight goals per game for calculation purposes, the positions being determined in order of the greatest 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 tiebreaker is required, the teams shall be ranked high to low in descending order of "goals for."
- d. The lowest number of goals against using all of the games played by the teams tied.
- e. The fewest overall penalty minutes using all of the games played by the teams tied.

**Note 1:** *Forfeits - If a team forfeits any of its games, and becomes involved in any tie-breaking formula to determine its eligibility to advance to the next level of play, the team forfeits all games in the round robin play and the games are recorded as 1-0 victories for the non-offending team.*

**Note 2:** *The formulas shall be applied in order 1 a, b, c, then 2 a, b, c, d, e.*

3. If the above procedures do not break the tie, the teams shall use a shootout procedure. This will involve each team selecting five (5) players who will alternate taking penalty shots. A toss of the coin will determine which team will take the first shot. If after five (5) players from both teams have completed the procedure the tie still has not been broken, it shall be repeated with five (5) different players until the standings are determined.

#### **P. Credential Requirements of Teams for Districts and Nationals**

- (1) A Credentials Committee shall be appointed by the tournament director to verify each team's eligibility. The committee shall be chaired by the appropriate registrar or his/her designee at district tournaments and by the host registrar or his/her designee at national championships.
- (2) Team credentials must be submitted at least ten (10) days prior to the start of national championships. The appropriate registrar shall determine the deadline for receipt of team credentials for district tournaments.
- (3) Unless otherwise approved by the appropriate council, the Credentials Committee shall announce the time and place for the credentials meeting at least thirty (30) days prior to the start of the tournament.
- (4) Failure to have a representative present at the credentials meeting will result in disciplinary action and/or forfeiture of games for that team.
- (5) Each team is required to furnish the Credentials Committee the following items:
  - (a) Copy of government-issued birth certificate, Verification of Birth or copy of a passport identification page for each rostered player. Where necessary, a verification and affirmation that a review of the player's birth certificate was completed by an Affiliate Registrar will be adequate. **Also, for High School Varsity Division and/or Prep**

School Division; Evidence of current school enrollment eligibility to participate on the team.

- (b) USA Hockey certified player roster form (1-T).
- (c) USA Hockey waiver and release completed for each registered participant and team manager. (Not required for participants who have registered online at usahockey.com).
- (d) Sanctioned game score sheets to verify compliance with 20/10 (14/10 girls'/women's, High School Varsity Division and/or Prep School Division 10/5) minimum number of games for eligibility rule for each team and rostered player.
- (e) USA Hockey consent to treat form for each rostered participant and manager.
- (f) USA Hockey individual membership registration (IMR) form or participant member card for each rostered participant. These forms are not required when the team's certified player roster form (1-T) has been printed through the USA Hockey registration software.
- (g) A coaching credential for each coach at the level mandated by USA Hockey.
- (h) Completed code of conduct for each rostered participant and team manager.
- (i) Non-U.S. citizens must meet proof of legal residency requirements and transfer from home country ice hockey federation (if required) as stated in Rules & Regulations III.C.
- (j) Credentials Verification Report (Form 1-C).
- (k) For national tournaments only, a copy of the team roster registration certification (form 2-C) signed by the appropriate registrar or his/her designee.
- (l) Other documents pertinent to team activities and player eligibility.

A copy of the team player roster registration form (1-T) for each team shall be available from the Tournament Committee upon request from any of the participating teams. Should the Tournament Committee become aware of, and subsequently determine a player(s) to be ineligible before, during or after the tournament, said player(s) shall be ruled ineligible to participate in any remaining games and the team using the ineligible player(s) shall be required to forfeit any games in which the player(s) participated by the Tournament Disciplinary Committee. Also, if it is proven that the coach or manager was aware of the situation, they shall be subject to suspension.

**Q. Time of Periods (all stop time in minutes) and Ice Clean Requirements**

**(1) Youth Tier I, Youth Tier II, Girls' and Women's, High School Varsity Division and/or Prep School Division**

Class	1, 2, 3		PENALTIES		
	Period	Overtime*	Minor	Major	Miscndt.
12 & Under	15	5/10	2	5	10
14 & Under	16	5/10	2	5	10
16 & Under	17	5/10	2	5	10
18 & Under	17	5/10	2	5	10

19 & Under	17	5/10	2	5	10
Women's	15	5/10	2	5	10
<b>High School Varsity /Prep School</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5/10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>

*\*Round robin games will utilize one (1) 5-minute overtime period, then proceed to a shootout if a winner has not been determined. Quarterfinal, Semi-final and Final games will utilize 10-minute overtime periods until a winner is determined.*

**(2)** If, due to extenuating circumstances, running time must be used, the minutes shall be increased by fifty percent (50%).

**(3) Districts**

(a) Ice shall be cleaned at least every two periods and before each game unless approved by tournament director.

(b) If, due to extenuating circumstances, running time must be used, the minutes shall be increased by fifty percent (50%).

**(4) Nationals – Youth **High School Varsity Division and/or Prep School Division****

**(a) 12 & Under, 14 & Under,**

Ice shall be cleaned before each game and between the second and third periods. Any variation must be pre-approved by the national championship director.

**(b) 16 & Under, 18 & Under **High School Varsity Division and/or Prep School Division****

Ice shall be cleaned before each game and between each period. Any variation must be pre-approved by the national championship director.

**(c) Overtime**

For ice cleaning requirements during overtimes, see O(2)(c) 4 and 6.

**(5) Nationals – Girls/Women**

**(a) 12 & Under, 14 & Under**

Ice shall be cleaned before each game, including semi-final and final games. Any variation must be pre-approved by the national championship director.

**(b) 16 & Under, 19 & Under, Senior A, Senior B, Senior C**

Ice shall be cleaned before each game and between the second and third periods, including semi-final and final games. Any variation must be pre-approved by the national championship director.

(c) For ice cleaning requirements during overtimes, see O(2)(c) 4 and 6.

**R. Referees**

The three-person system shall be used. All referees and linesmen shall be assigned by the referee-in-chief, or his/her appointee, of the district holding the tournaments. Neither shall be eligible to officiate in any games. All referees and linesmen must hold at least a Level 3 classification. The district referee-in-chief, or his/her appointee, shall be in attendance at all games to supervise officials. All referees and linesmen are required to wear only the USA Hockey crest on their referee sweaters.

**S. Discipline Committee**

(1) The Discipline Committee shall be composed of three (3) people and be appointed prior to the first game by the tournament director. Its members shall not come from the same community. The referee-in-chief, or his/her appointee, shall not be eligible to serve on this committee.

(2) The committee shall be responsible for deciding any action, suspensions or otherwise, to be taken against a player or team official receiving a game misconduct or match penalty. The committee shall have full power to waive or increase the one-or two-game suspension imposed in Rule 404 (c), Game Misconduct.

(3) The 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.

(4) No player or team official shall be suspended from participating in the remaining games unless he/she has been provided the opportunity to appear before the committee to relate his/her version of the incident.

**Note 1:** *No hearing for game misconduct will be permitted for any player who incurs five penalties in the same game. Players shall be assessed a game misconduct penalty.*

**Note 2:** *No hearing for game misconduct will be permitted for any head coach whose team incurs fifteen or more penalties during one game. The head coach shall be suspended for the next one game of that team.*

(5) All actions taken by the Discipline Committee as a result of incidents occurring at the district championship must be reported within five (5) days to:

(a) the Youth Council;

b) the respective affiliate(s); and

(c) the Discipline Committee of the national championship accompanied by its recommendation, if it involves the district champion.

(6) The Youth Council shall have the authority to review and take appropriate action on any incident in the district championship which is detrimental to the best interest of amateur hockey.

(7) The National Championship Discipline Committee shall be the sole authority in determining the eligibility of the individual(s) for the national championships.

(8) All suspensions incurred in the course of the national playdown schedule (i.e., in state or district playoffs) shall be served during regularly scheduled games 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.

#### **T. Disputes/Operation of Tournament**

(1) Pre-tournament disputes between the tournament director, the host committee and/or the district referee-in-chief, shall be resolved by the national championship director in consultation with the Youth Council Chair.

(2) After the commencement of the first game, the district referee-in-chief or his/her appointee shall act as the final arbitrator 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 tournament director shall have the final authority to make the appropriate decision.

(4) The USA Hockey officers, 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.

#### ***U. Opening Coaches/Managers Meeting***

An opening meeting for all teams participating in the tournament shall be held prior to the start of play at a time and place to be set by the tournament director. All participating teams shall have a representative (coach and/or manager) present at such meeting. No one person may represent more than one team at this meeting unless prior approval is granted by the tournament director. Failure of a team to have its team representative present shall result in the suspension of the head coach from that team's first game of the tournament.

## **From Page 132 of the 2009-10 Annual Guide**

#### ***C. National Tournament-Bound Teams***

A player may not register on more than one team that participates in games leading towards a national championship **except for High School Varsity Division and/or Prep School Division**. Player changes to the official team roster form (1-T) for youth Tier I and Tier II teams and girls'/women's (except Women's A) national tournament-bound teams will not be accepted after December 31. Refer to Rules and Regulations XII, for additional requirements for national tournament-bound teams.

**July 22, 2009 modified August 25, 2009**