

HPHL Tournament Playoff Rules 2025

PLAYING RULES: USA Hockey and CAHA rules shall prevail unless otherwise stated.

- All games will be officiated by either 2 or 4 registered officials in good standing with USA Hockey and CAHA.
- The top seeded team will be the home team.
- **Period lengths:** will be the same as during the regular season
 - **Varsity: 17 minute** stop clock x 3 periods with an ice make between the 2nd and 3rd periods.
 - **JV: 15 minute** stop clock x 3 periods (no ice make)
 - **Girls: 15 minutes** stop clock x 3 periods (no ice make)
 - ****There will be NO ice make before sudden death OT/shootout/or sudden death shootout in any game.**
- **Mercy Rule:** will be the same as during the regular season
 - A **6 goal differential** or higher in the 3rd period will result in a run clock in all games including Championship Games.
 - Revert to stop clock if the lead is reduced to 5 or less at any time
 - Option for run clock prior to 3rd period if both head coaches agree and there is a 6 goal differential.
- **OVERTIME** – Will be played anytime a Playoff or Championship game is tied at the end of the 3rd period.
 - 1 OT Period Format:
 - 3 v 3
 - Length of OT Period:
 - **Playoff Games: one 5-minute period 3 v 3;**
 - **Championship Game: one regulation time 3 v 3 (17 min varsity; 15 min JV and Girls)**
 - **sudden death**
 - **STOP CLOCK**
 - 1 OT period ONLY – If still tied at the end of 1 OT period, then shootout occurs (see details below).
 - **There will be a 2-minute rest between the end of the 3rd period and start of OT**
 - **Teams will switch ends prior to the OT**
 - Penalties and # of Players at the Start of OT:
 - If there is a player in the penalty box at the end of the regulation time, that player's penalty will continue into the overtime, and the penalized team will play short handed
 - **In the case where penalties require the non-offending team to have a man advantage, a skater will be added to achieve a 4 on 3 advantage**
 - The player in the penalty box shall return to play as the penalty expires and then at the next stoppage of play following this scenario, the teams would be required to return to a 3 on 3 situation.
 - Timeouts:

- There will be no additional time-outs given to either team during the sudden death overtime
- If a team did not use their time-out during the regulation game, they may use it during the sudden death OT
- **SHOOTOUTS-** If the game is still tied at the end of the single sudden death overtime, there will be a shootout
 - **Initial Shootout Round (one 5-player round):** Each team will have 5 different players shoot.
 - Any player(s) in the penalty box at the end of the OT period serving a penalty or that are penalized at 00:00 at the end of OT, must stay in the penalty box during the shootout and are not eligible to shoot in the shootout.
 - The goalie(s) may not be one of the shooters during any shootout.
 - Teams will switch ends prior to the shootout
 - At the beginning of a shootout (regular or sudden death), the home team will be given the choice of whether to go first or second. From that point on, the shooters will alternate between teams
 - During a shootout (regular or sudden death), a goalie may be substituted for another goalie who was/is on the bench before or between shots.
 - There is no limit to the number of times the team can change their goalie between shooters.
 - If a team does not use a time-out during regulation play or sudden death overtime, they may use it during the shootout, or sudden death shootout should that occur.
 - **Sudden Death Shootout:** If the game is still tied at the end of the regular 5-player shootout, there will be a sudden death shootout.
 - Teams will not switch ends.
 - Players who shot during the 5-player shootout may not shoot in the sudden death shootout until all the players on the bench with the fewest players have shot.
 - If one team has more players eligible to shoot than the other team, the team with more registered players may begin going through the eligible players a second time when the team with fewer players begins going through their roster a second time. Once this occurs, the team may begin going through the eligible players on the bench again in any order.
 - Each team will have one player shoot.
 - If one team scores and the other team does not, the team that scores will be declared the winner.
 - If both teams score, or neither team scores, both teams will again have one player shoot, and the sudden death shootout will continue until there is a winner.
 - Any player(s) who was in the penalty box at the end of the sudden death overtime serving a penalty or that is/are penalized at 00:00 at the end sudden death overtime must stay in the penalty box during the shootout and are not eligible to shoot in the sudden death shootout.