



LITTLETON HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Rules and Regulations

55th Annual Mile High Invitational Thanksgiving Day Tournament

November 25 - November 29, 2026

1 - A check of credentials and qualifications will take place before each team competes. Required documents shall include:
USAH 1-T Roster – must be submitted three weeks in advance of the tournament
Travel permits for all teams (as required)
Canadian Teams – Travel permit will be checked two weeks prior to the start of the tournament

2 - Only USA Hockey, Hockey Canada and IIHF registered teams will be allowed to enter. LHA follows all 2025 - 2029 USA Hockey Rules and only USA Hockey certified officials will officiate games.

The USA Hockey Sanctioned Tournament SafeSport Program Protocol will be adhered to.

3 - An entry fee of an amount to be published on the Littleton Hockey Association website shall be collected from each team before play begins. A team will receive a refund of 80% of the fee if they must cancel out of the tournament and notify the director in writing 45 days before the tournament begins. No refunds will be given for team canceling without 45 days written notice. There is no admission fee for spectators.

4 - This will be a USA Hockey sanctioned tournament for Tier II and Recreational Divisions include:

- Tier II and Travel Rec: 18U, 16U, 14U, 12U
- Recreational: 18U, 14U, 12U, 10U (18U and 14U Rec are non checking)
- The tournament is open to teams properly registered with USA Hockey, Hockey Canada and the IIHF
- All USA Hockey rules and CAHA rules will govern.
- Tier I and AAA Rec teams will be allowed to participate in the appropriate age division as determined by CAHA
 - o 11UAAA will play U12AA
 - o 13UAAA will play U14AA
 - o 14UAAA will play U16AA
 - o 15UAAA will play U18AA
 - o USA Hockey High School teams will be permitted to compete at the appropriate level, as determined by the Tournament Director.

5 - There will be a minimum of five teams at each age division competing in a round robin format. Points will be awarded according to the following point system: 3 points for a win in regulation, 2 points for a shootout win, 1 point for shootout loss and 0 points for a loss in regulation.

6 - For age groups or divisions with 12 or more teams, teams will be divided into two competitively balanced pools. The top two seeds from each pool will then advance to the semi-finals.

For the Tier II Portion of The Tournament:

Each team is guaranteed 5 games. There is the chance to play 7 games based on seeding after round-robin play is finished.

For an even # of teams: If a division has a single pool, the top 4 teams will advance to a single elimination tournament after the round robin for the championship. If a division has two pools, the top 2 teams from each pool will advance to a single elimination tournament after the round robin for the championship.

For an odd # of teams: Each team will compete in a 4-game round-robin. The #1 seed will advance to the semi-finals. Seeds 2-7 will play in a quarterfinal playoff, with the winners advancing to the semi-finals. Seeds 8-'x' will play their 5th game in a consolation game.

For the Recreational Portion of The Tournament:

Each team is guaranteed 4 games. There is the chance to play 5 games based on seeding after round-robin play is finished. The top two teams from each division will advance to the championship games.

7 - Home teams shall wear light (white) jerseys and away teams shall wear dark jerseys. The tournament director reserves the right to change color designations if necessary.

8 - Game Length:

Tier II - All games will have 3-stop time periods as well as 5-minute warm-up with period duration as follows:

12UAA- 15 minutes - penalty length will be 1:30

14UAA- 15 minutes - penalty length will be 2 minutes

16UAA - 17 minutes with 1 ice make per game* - penalty length will be 2 minutes

18UAA - 17 minutes with 1 ice make per game* - penalty length will be 2 minutes

*Ice makes will take place at the end of the 2nd period

Recreational - All games will have 3-stop time periods as well as a 3-minute warm-up with period duration as follows:

10U- 12 minutes - penalty length will be 1 minute

12U - 12 minutes - penalty length will be 1 minute

14U - 12 minutes - penalty time will be 2 minutes

16U/18U - 12 minutes - penalty length will be 2 minutes

9 - No game will be played under curfew rules - however if at any time during the third period the score differential is four (4) or more, the game clock will go to running time. Stop time will only resume when the deficit is reduced to less than four goals. When in running time, a penalty will start when play resumes.

Games designated as quarterfinal, semifinal or championship will have a run clock if the goal differential is six (6) or more in the third period. The game clock will return to stop time when the goal differential is five (5) or less.

10 - Tournament officials reserve the right to end any game or move any game to running time if the officials and/or referee deem the game has become unsafe, or to recover time in the tournament schedule.

11 - No time-outs will be allowed in the round robin games. One time out per team will be allowed in quarter-final, semi-final and championship games.

12 - No game will end in a tie, if a pool play game is tied at the end of regulation there will be a 3 person shootout to determine the winner. For quarter-final, semi-final or championship a tie game after regulation play will have a one-minute rest period followed by a 3 on 3 sudden death overtime period of seven minutes. Goalies will change ends. If still tied after the 3 on 3 overtime period, after a one-minute rest period:

- In quarter-final and semi-final games: A 3 person shootout will ensue. Each team will designate 3 shooters and the teams will alternate penalty shots on the opposing goalie, home team decides who goes first. Best of 3 shots wins. If the score remains tied following the first 3 shooters, each team will designate an additional shooter, different from the first 3. Each team will alternate shooters until a winner is determined (all members of each team must be used in the shootout before repeating)

In championship games: the 3 on 3 with goalies, sudden-death format will continue for an additional seven minutes. The goalies must switch ends. If the game remains tied at the end of the second 3 on 3 overtime, a 3-man shootout will ensue. Each team will designate 3 shooters and the teams will alternate penalty shots on the opposing goalie, home team first. Best of 3 shots wins. If the score remains tied following the first 3 shooters, each team will designate an additional shooter, different from the first 3. Each team will alternate shooters until a winner is determined (all members of each team must be used in the shootout before repeating).

13 - In the event there is a tie in game points when determining seed positions for the semi-final round the tiebreakers will be applied as follows:

1. If two teams are tied, head-to-head results between the two teams.

If still tied, or more than two teams tied:

2. Goal differential: Subtracting goals-against from goals-scored, **all games considered**, the team with best +/- rating being ranked highest. The maximum goal differential per game is +/- 4. For example, a team that wins a game 7-2 will only be credited with +4, even though their goal differential is +5. The losing team will be assessed a -4 for the game. Head-to-head results will not factor back in when more than two teams are tied in points. All teams will be ranked and seed based on this tie-breaker.

If still tied:

3. Points From Wins

4. Team allowing the fewest goals against.

If still tied:

5. The team with the fewest penalty minutes.

If still tied:

6. Coin toss.

14 - Teams are required to check in one hour before their scheduled game time for locker room assignments and all teams will be flexible and cooperative in the event that start times or rink assignments need to be changed. The first game of the day will start on schedule.

15 -Volunteers from the participating teams must cover the Penalty Box. Coaching from the penalty box is strictly prohibited. Littleton Hockey will provide scorekeepers and clock operators for every game.

16 - Teams must be ready to take the ice within 2 minutes after the Zamboni doors have closed unless directed otherwise by tournament officials. The warm-up period will start when the Zamboni doors close.

17 - Locker rooms will be assigned prior to each game and keys will be checked out at the tournament table or at the venue's front desk before each game. The Head coach, or one of their assistants if they are not available, is totally responsible for the locker room. This responsibility CANNOT be delegated to a parent volunteer, or any other individual that is not an assistant coach on the team. All meetings being held in a locker room between a player and a coach must be monitored by an additional adult. Teams are required to leave their locker room clean and damage free. Tournament officials will inspect for damage and cleanliness after each game. Teams will be held responsible for following the USAH locker room policy and any damage to the locker rooms will be repaired at the expense of the team/player responsible for the damage. Teams will be refused a locker room for the remainder of the tournament if there are issues. Locking the locker room during the game is the responsibility of the team. LHA and tournament venues are not responsible for lost or stolen items.

18 - The tournament committee, through its director, will handle protests and disputes. The director reserves the right to make final decisions regarding the interpretation of the tournament rules. The director will act in the best interest of the players, coaches, and the game in general. The director's decisions are final and not subject to appeal. Issues relating to officiating are not subject to the jurisdiction of the tournament director. Coaches may make a formal written appeal regarding officiating to the tournament committee no sooner than 12 hours after the game in question has ended. At that time, a meeting of the tournament committee and the director of officiating will convene to consider the appeal. The decision of the tournament committee and the director of officiating will be final. The fee for a written appeal is \$150.00 and is payable when filing the appeal with the tournament director.

19 - Championship and Runner-Up awards will be presented to the first and second place teams of each age division at the conclusion of the championship game.

20 - Any player receiving a major penalty for fisticuffs (fighting) will receive a 1-game suspension from USA Hockey. LHA will impose an additional 2 games, unless reviewed and overturned by the Tournament Director. The player must leave the ice surface and team bench area immediately. Furthermore, all teams registered under CAHA must comply with all additional suspensions. All 601 penalties will result in a 1 game mandatory suspension from USA Hockey. Any team with 12 penalties will see their coach suspended from the next game. Any player receiving 4 penalties in a game will receive a game misconduct.

21 - Any player, coach, team, team official, parent, or spectator who demonstrates rude, vulgar, damaging, or unsportsmanlike conduct during the duration of the tournament at any of the tournament venues and/or on hotel property is subject to discipline by the LHA tournament committee. This may include removal from ice arena/hotel property, suspension from games, or expulsion from the entire tournament/hotel stay.

22 - All players are required to wear mouth guards.

23 - Neck guards are required for all players at all levels.

24 - Only the head coach or the team manager may express concerns to the tournament director and/or other tournament officials.

25 - No noise devices allowed. This includes, but is not limited to, bells and horns.

26 - The following rules are mandated by CAHA:

1. Any team which enters a tournament, which fails to appear on time for a scheduled game or refuses to play, shall (1) forfeit all of its tournament games, (2) shall pay for all expenses, including but not limited to referee's fees and all ice costs for each forfeited game and shall be denied entry in any tournaments for the remainder of the season.

2. All teams, including but not limited to out-of-state teams, must place on file with the tournament director before the first tournament game, a copy of the Team Roster Form which has been approved and signed by their USA Hockey or Hockey Canada Registrar. If any team shall fail to comply with this rule, that team shall forfeit all games until the proper signed and sealed team roster is presented to the tournament director. The team violating this rule shall remain obligated to and shall pay all financial obligations to all opponents for the forfeited game costs and the league or tournament entry fees.

27 - All teams must register in the age-appropriate level/division per the USA Hockey sanctioned levels. Any team found in violation of these rules will forfeit 100% of the tournament registration fee, no exceptions.

28 – Games results will be posted on Game Sheets within 24 hours of the game being completed. Standings will be shown on the Littleton Website.

29 – LHA **WILL NOT** provide warm-up pucks for local teams. If out-of-state teams wish to use warm-up pucks provided by Littleton Hockey, a \$100 deposit will be due at the start of the tournament. A puck bag will be provided to the team. The \$100 will be returned to the team at the end of the tournament, only if the pucks and puck bag are returned.

30 – All teams are required to stay in approved LHA Host Hotels and register through Traveling Teams. If a team is found to have violated this rule, all games will be forfeited, or a \$500 fine will be imposed.

We encourage and appreciate the team and parents' support and promotion of the tournament rules laid forth above. A team's failure to comply with these rules may result in disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from this tournament.