

Western Colorado Hockey League 2026 PLAYOFF RULES



CREDENTIALS

All teams and players must be members of the WCHL in good standing, and registered with CAHA and USA Hockey. The WCHL executive committee will review credentials prior to the first tournament game, and anytime thereafter.

All teams must present the following documentation: USA Hockey Player Roster (Official Roster) Team contact form (available at check in table)

NO DOUBLE ROSTERING - There is no double rostering in the WCHL Playoffs. All players must be verified on one team by the WCHL Hockey directors prior to playoffs. The players can only play on one designated A or B team.

- 10U Double Roster eligibility - Players at the 10U level who are currently on a team in the WCHL are eligible to play on a second team in the WCHL. The player must be verified on both teams by the WCHL Hockey directors prior to playoffs. The player can only play on one designated A or B team.
- 10U Double Roster eligibility - Players at the 10U level who are currently on a team in the WCHL are eligible to play on a second team in the WCHL. The player must be verified on both teams by the WCHL Hockey directors prior to playoffs. The player can only play on one designated A or B team.
- The double roster allowance applies only to the 10U age level.

UNIFORM COLORS -The designated "home teams" shall be responsible to wear uniforms that are primarily light in color scheme. The designated "visiting teams" shall be responsible to wear uniforms primarily dark in color.

REPORTING TIMES TO ARENAS/LOCKER ROOMS/ICE

All teams must arrive at the designated arena 30 minutes prior to game time.

Teams are required to leave the locker rooms/dressing areas in excellent condition after games are completed and return the key to registration/front desk. Teams should be prepared to take the ice up to 15 minutes prior to the published game time. Managers must verify their rosters at the scoring area prior to each game.

GAME SCORING

HOME teams (not the HOST) are responsible for the Gamesheets online scoring and the game clock, unless the host team is the AWAY team, which then they will perform these duties. The Host programs must provide iPads for scoring purposes.

RUN CLOCK In the third period, if there is a 5 goal differential there will be a run clock until the goal differential is 4 or less. Run clock will continue during all penalties when run clock rules are in effect.

TOURNAMENT/PLAYOFF - GAME TIMES

- **14U Bantam** A and B games will consist of three (3) 14-minute stop time periods. Each team will be allowed a one minute timeout per game. Penalties will be 2:00 minutes in length.
- **12U Pee Wee** A and B games will consist of three (3) 14-minute stop-time periods. Each team will be allowed a one minute timeout per game. Penalties will be 1:30 minutes in length.
- **10U Squirt** A and B games will consist of three (3) 12-minute stop-time periods. Each team will be allowed a one minute timeout per game. Penalties will be 1:00 minute in length.
- **19U Girls** games will consist of three (3) 15-minute stop time periods. Each team will be allowed one 60 second timeout per game. Penalties will be 2:00 minutes in length.
- **15U Girls** games will consist of three (3) 14-minute stop time periods. Each team will be allowed 1 minute timeout per game. Penalties will be 2:00 minutes in length.
- **12U Girls** games will consist of three (3) 14-minute stop time periods. Each team will be allowed one minute timeout per game. Penalties will be 1:30 minutes in length.
- **10U Girls** games will consist of three (3) 12-minute stop time periods. Each team will be allowed one minute timeout per game. Penalties will be 1:00 minute in length.

Seedings for the 2026 WCHL Playoffs were set by league game win percentages, with the following tie-breakers; Head-to-Head, Regulation wins, Goals against differential and the least amount of penalty minutes.

Game play will follow the Double Elimination tournament brackets (no reseeding)

All WCHL Playoff games should be officiated by USA Hockey Officials only.

Refusal to play any scheduled games will result in a 1-0 forfeit.

Any player assessed a gross, match, or fighting major penalty will not be allowed to continue in the tournament; a player may request reinstatement upon discretion of the WCHL.

Any player that receives 4 penalties in one game, or a Coach that receives a bench total of 12 or more penalties in one game, will receive a Game Misconduct penalty per USA Hockey rules.

Game results will be posted immediately upon completion of games by the Gamesheet scoring system.

OVERTIME PROCEDURES

If the teams are tied after the end of regulation play (except championship games, see below) teams will change ends and play a 3 on 3 ten-minute sudden death overtime period.

- If teams are still tied after overtime, a 5-person shootout* will decide a winner.
- The higher seeded team will determine which team will shoot first.
- Coaches will submit 5 different players for the shootout.
- Any player serving a penalty will not be allowed to participate in the shootout.
- If teams are tied after the original five players, the shootout will continue until a winner is determined.
- Players that have already participated in the shootout may not shoot again until a team's entire roster has been used (excluding goalies and any players in the penalty-box).

OVERTIME IN CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES - *Championship games will not utilize a shootout; these games will play until a team scores a goal/completion, teams switch sides each OT period.*

- 5 v 5, 5 Minute - Sudden Death
- 4 v 4, 5 Minute - Sudden Death
- 3 v 3, 5 Minute - Sudden Death, Continue 3 v 3 until someone scores.

NO PROTESTS WILL BE ALLOWED

AWARDS - Championship & Runner-Up teams will receive banners.

USA HOCKEY'S ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY WILL BE ENFORCED FOR ALL PLAYERS, COACHES AND SPECTATORS!!