

Berkshire Rattlers Youth Hockey

29th Annual Jimmy Welch Memorial Hockey Tournament

February 5-7, 2027

All games will be played under USA HOCKEY rules applying to the age bracket on the ice. Referees have been assigned by the scheduler for the Mass Hockey District 6 referees and have been approved by the District 6 referee in chief. All referees are USA Hockey and Mass Hockey certified. Please note that the tournament committee will not tolerate abuse of officials and the referees on the ice will have the discretion to call bench penalties for any abuse of officials by fans, parents, or team officials. Abuse penalties called at the end of a game will carry over to the start of your next tournament game. All team officials, players, parents, and fans must follow the "ZERO TOLERANCE" rule listed in the current USA Hockey Rule Book.

TEAM AND PLAYER QUALIFICATION

A team is qualified to play a tournament game if (a) the team and all players have been registered before the first game and the team is USA Hockey registered; (b) the tournament registration fee has been paid in full in advance; (c) any suspended coaches or players are not in the locker room, on the bench, or otherwise involved in the game; (d) players on the roster and game sheet are eligible to play. A Player **MUST** play at least two of the first three games to be eligible to play in the Championship Game. A Player **MAY NOT** play for more than one team in the tournament. If he/she does, then that player is ineligible and a suspension for the next game shall result for the player and the TWO coaches allowing the player to play. The score of any game where an ineligible player is utilized shall be reversed if the penalized team has won the game; (e) Age criteria for each bracket will follow USA Hockey brackets.

CONFLICT OF JERSEY COLOR

Teams must bring two jerseys of different colors for each player. In the event two teams have the same color jerseys, the HOME team (appearing first on the schedule) will wear their light-colored jersey and the AWAY team will wear their dark colored jersey.

GAME START TIME

All attempts will be made to start games on time. Due to mercy rules and other factors, each team must be ready to play 20 minutes prior to the scheduled start time. The Squirt level will play 12-minute periods and the Pee Wee and Bantam levels will play 15-minute periods. Ice resurfacing will be done at the start of each game.

TIME OUTS

Time outs will only be allowed during the CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES. Each team will receive a one-minute time out at any time during the game.

MERCY RULE

A mercy rule will apply in any game if there is a difference of 6 or more goals between the teams during the 3rd period. Running time will commence for the remainder of the game. In the event the team from behind comes within 3 goals, stop time will resume for the remainder of the game.

PENALTIES

All minor penalties will be assessed at 1:00 minutes in the Squirt (10U) division and 1:30 minutes in the Pee Wee (12U) and Bantam (14U) divisions.

All major penalties will be assessed at 3:00 minutes in the Squirt division (10U) and 4:00 minutes in the Pee Wee (12U) and Bantam (14U) divisions.

Misconduct penalties will be assessed at 6:00 minutes in the Squirt (10U) division and 8:00 minutes in the Pee Wee (12U) and Bantam (14U) divisions.

Any player that accumulates FOUR penalties in one game will be ejected from the game and will be suspended for the next game.

Any major penalty for fighting will result in the automatic suspension of the player(s) for the remainder of the tournament.

NOTE: Absolutely NO FIGHTING will be tolerated during games in the tournament. Referees are instructed to eject from a game any player who engages in fighting regardless of provocation.

GAME SCORING

- All wins shall count as 2 points
- All ties shall count as 1 point
- A loss shall count as 0 points

The two teams within each division with the highest number of points will play in the Championship Game on Sunday, February 7th.

If two teams are tied for points, the following tie breaker rules will apply:

1. Total points
2. Head-to-head
3. Least goals scored against
4. Most goals scored for
5. Lowest penalty minutes
6. Coin toss

Should there be a 3-way tie, once the 3-way tie is broken, if 2 teams remain tied, go back to top of tie breakers.

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME – TIE BREAKING RULES

Should the conclusion of a championship game end in a tie score, the following steps will be followed to determine the placement of finish:

- Coaches will be required to choose 10 different shooters prior to the start of the championship game. Coaches should determine their first 5 shooters, then their second five shooters.
- First attempt at breaking a tie will be an immediate 5-minute sudden death period (first goal wins).
- If the game remains tied at the end of the 5 minutes, there will be a 5-player shoot-out with the first group of predetermined shooters.
- If the game remains tied at the end of the first 5 player shoot-out, there will be a shoot-out with the second group of 5 shooters.
- Repeat the 5-player shoot-out until one team wins.