



South Stars High School Hockey 101

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Reference: Hoosier League By-Laws and Indiana State High School Hockey Association (ISHSHA) Guide

About the South Stars

The **South Stars** compete in the **Hoosier League Conference**, which includes:

- Bloomington
- Brebeuf
- Central Indiana Knights (2 teams)
- Carmel (2 teams)
- Columbus (2 teams)
- Evansville (2 teams)
- Hamilton Southeastern (3 teams)
- Westfield (2 teams)
- Zionsville

Other Indiana High School Hockey Conferences

- **Michiana Conference** (South Bend and Southwest Michigan)
 - **Illiana Conference** (The Region/Northwest Indiana)
 - **Fort Wayne Conference**
 - **Independent Teams** (including Culver)
-

Player Eligibility & Districting

High school hockey players are assigned to teams based on the high school they attend and where they reside.

The **South Stars district** includes players from:

Southern Marion County

- Perry Township
- Franklin Township
- Roncalli
- Decatur Township

Hendricks County

- Plainfield
- Avon
- Brownsburg
- Tri-West
- Other surrounding schools

Johnson County

- Center Grove
- Greenwood
- Whiteland
- Franklin Community

Players residing within the South Stars district must try out for the South Stars. Players may not try out for another Indiana high school hockey team unless they receive an official release from the organization. Releases are considered on a case-by-case basis and are not granted without cause.

Academic Requirements

Per Indiana High School Hockey League regulations:

- All players must remain in **good academic standing** to participate.
- Beginning in **December 2026**, players must maintain a **minimum 2.0 GPA**.
- Families are encouraged to communicate with the Board if a player's GPA may fall below the required standard.

- The Board may request progress reports or report cards for players whose GPA is near the 2.0 threshold to verify eligibility.
-

Physical Requirements

All players must submit a current, valid sports physical before participating in practices or games.

Disciplinary Standards

Individual Player Standards

ISHSHA rostered players are ineligible to participate if they accumulate:

- **Four (4) or more combined Game Misconducts and/or Match Penalties** during the season.
- This includes penalties received while playing for non-member teams.

Team Standards

ISHSHA member teams may not accumulate:

- **Ten (10) or more combined Game Misconducts and/or Match Penalties** during a season.

Definition of a Season

For disciplinary purposes, a season runs from the beginning of one State Tournament through the completion of the following season.

Current Season Example: February 2026 through February 2027

The 15-1 Rule (Varsity & JV)

By **September 30**, the South Stars submit a list of:

- **15 Varsity skaters**
- **1 Varsity goaltender**

These players become ineligible to participate in JV competition.

By **November 15**, JV teams submit their final locked roster.

The purpose of this rule is to maintain competitive balance and prevent Varsity players from moving down to strengthen a JV team during league or state tournament competition.

(Historical example may be added here.)

State Tournament Eligibility Requirements

To qualify for State Tournament participation:

Team Requirements

Varsity Teams

- Must play at least **8 crossover games** against teams from other conferences.

JV Teams

- Must play every other JV team twice:
 - One home game
 - One away game

Crossover Games

A crossover game is a contest against a team from another Indiana high school hockey conference. These games help determine state rankings and tournament eligibility.

Player Requirements

Players must participate in:

- At least **75% of league games**, and
- At least **75% of crossover games**

to be eligible for State Tournament play.

Conduct Requirements

Both teams and players must remain in good standing regarding misconduct and match penalties.

Hoosier League Play & Tournament

Regular Season Requirements

Each Hoosier League Varsity team must play every other Hoosier League Varsity team at least once during the season.

Hoosier League Tournament

- Typically held the weekend before State Playdowns.
- Teams are divided into two tournament divisions:

Upper Division

- Championship Division

Lower Division

- Commissioner's Division
-

Indiana State Tournament – Varsity

State Playdowns

- **Dates:** February 19-21, 2027
- **Locations:** Typically hosted at two sites (historically Fort Wayne and South Bend)

State Championship

- **Date:** February 27, 2027
- **Location:** Evansville

Divisions

Varsity teams compete in:

- 1A
- 2A
- 3A
- 4A

Brackets are generally determined by state rankings.

Tournament Format

Varsity Playdowns are typically conducted using a **double-elimination format**.

Indiana State Tournament – JV

JV State Tournament

- **Dates:** February 19-21, 2027
- **Location:** South Bend

Tournament Structure

- Top-performing JV teams may be advanced into the Varsity 1A bracket.
- The remaining top eight JV teams qualify for the JV State Tournament.

Format

- **Single Elimination**
-

Key Reminders for Families

- ☒ Maintain academic eligibility (2.0 GPA minimum)
- ☒ Submit a current sports physical
- ☒ Attend required games to meet participation thresholds
- ☒ Display good sportsmanship and avoid misconduct penalties
- ☒ Understand roster lock dates and tournament eligibility requirements
- ☒ Stay informed by reviewing Hoosier League and ISHSHA bylaws throughout the season

Questions? Contact the South Stars Board for clarification on eligibility, districting, roster status, academic concerns, or tournament requirements.