

AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION ILLINOIS, Inc.

"Dedicated to the development of today's youth through Athletic and Academic excellence."



2026 TIER II GIRLS ILLINOIS STATE HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIPS TOURNAMENT Play-Down Rules and Regulations

This Tournament will be played according to AHAI and USA Hockey By-Laws, Rules & Regulations and the USAH Playing Rules except

where these Tournament Rules conflict; then the Rules of this Tournament will prevail. The following rules will apply to ALL Play-down/Elimination games:

- Home Team:** In the brackets that will be sent to each participating team upon completion of the rankings, the team with the highest ranking will be the "Home Team". All play-down games must be completed by February 12, 2026. Teams participating in play-down games are required to split the cost of the ice & the officials. It is the responsibility of the home team to secure the Officials & notify the AHAI Girls Director, Anita Licherman, of the date, time, & location. Upon conclusion of the game, the home team, win or lose, will submit via email (girls@ahai.org or anita.lichterman@ahai.org) the final score within two (2) hours after the conclusion of the game. There will be play-down games in all Tier II Girls divisions where there are more than four (4) teams.
- Girls Divisions:** All Divisions will play a round robin tournament to determine the final two (2) teams. The Girls Tier II Round Robin games will take place at the Glenview Community Ice Center in Glenview, Illinois between Thursday, February 19, 2026 & Sunday, February 22, 2026.

Officials Scheduling: The Tournament Director will arrange for officials at all games played at the Glenview Community Ice Center in Glenview, Illinois from February 19, 2026 thru Sunday, February 22, 2026.

Off-ice Officials: In all round robin & championship games, the off-ice officials will be provided by the 2026 Tier II Girls' Illinois State Hockey Championships Tournament Committee.



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The following rules will apply to all games:

3. **Playing and Penalty Times:** Age division playing times and penalty times, for all elimination, Round Robin and Championship games are as follows:

Tier II

Division	Periods	Minors	Majors	Misconduct	Overtime
10 and Under	11	1.5	4	8	6
12 and Under	12	1.5	4	8	6
14 and Under	16	1.5	4	8	10
16 and Under	17	2	5	10	10
19 and Under	17	2	5	10	10

The ice will be re-surfaced between the second and third periods of the Girls 16U and 19U Divisions ONLY for all Round Robin and Championship games.

All games will be played to a winner. The following overtime rules apply:

- a. Overtime period lengths will follow National Tournament rules for all National Bound levels (*14u, 16u, 19u*) - ten (10) minute periods with an ice cut after the second overtime period & every subsequent second overtime period within the same game.
- b. In the Round Robin games for the 10U & 12U age divisions only there will be one (1) overtime period six (6) minutes in length. If there is no winner, the game will end in a tie.
- c. Goalies at ALL age divisions will switch sides for every overtime period.
- d. Overtime periods for the 10U and 12U age divisions will be played 5 on 5.
- e. Overtime periods for the National Eligible age divisions (14U, 16U, 19U) will be played 3 on 3.
- f. There are no shootouts in the State Tournament.
4. **Penalty/Suspension:** In the event a player or coach receives a penalty in a 2026 Tier II Girls' Illinois State Hockey Championships Tournament Game which requires that a player or a coach is to be suspended, that player or coach shall serve the suspension during her/his team's next 2026 Tier II Girls' Illinois State Hockey Championships Tournament Game, regardless of any other intervening games or requirement to serve a suspension in another game.



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5. **Round-Robin Games:** If the differential in score reaches five (5) goals or more in the third period, the clock shall be kept running until the goal differential is reduced to four (4), after which it will be a normal stop-clock. USA Hockey and AHAI rules apply in all cases.

All Round Robin games will be played regardless of their meaning.

6. **Points System:** Points will be based on the Three-point (3) system:
Regulation win = Three (3) points Regulation loss = Zero (0) points

Regulation tie = One (1) point for each team with One (1) additional point awarded for the overtime win

7. **Rules:** Coaches should review the applicable rules prior to any Tournament game and bring a copy of the rulebook with them to games, including this letter.

8.

8. **Roster Eligibility:** Rosters complying with AHAI, and USA Hockey By-Laws, Rules and Regulations are the responsibility of the team and supporting organizations. All players at 10U must have played in at least eight (8) sanctioned games and such teams must have played in at least ten (10) sanctioned games. All players at 12U, 14U, 16U, and 19U must have played in at least ten (10) sanctioned games and such teams must have played fourteen (14) sanctioned games.

- a. All Girls on 14U teams and higher that are double rostered on a Youth 14U or older team MUST declare which team they will play on in the State Tournament by December 31, 2025 to Anita Licherman, AHAI Girls Director, Laura Johnson, AHAI Registrar, Tom Hansen, Central District Registrar or they will be ineligible to play on either team.
- b. All players and coaches will be required to check in at the Welcome Desk prior to the start of the team's first game of the Round Robin game. Please allow enough time.

Note: The teams eligible to advance to Districts and Nationals must be familiar with Article XI of USA Hockey's Rules & Regulations regarding Eligibility/Registration. Any question of interpretation a team may have should affirmatively be brought to the attention of the AHAI Registrar, Laura Johnson, by the Team Manager or the Organization's Registrar. The team manager for each team must have, at all times, scoresheets demonstrating compliance with the minimum game requirements and be able to produce them, if questioned. National Bound age level teams advancing to the Championship game are required to have their binders assembled and submitted, in accordance to the email instructions, to the AHAI Registrar, Laura Johnson prior to arrival Championship Day.

9. **Tournament Awards:** All First-place teams will receive a special gift for each player and a Championship banner. The Second-place teams will receive individual plaques and a State Banner. For the 10U & 12U consolation games, a 3rd place State banner will be awarded to the winning team.



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10. Coaches Certification/Persons on Bench: All coaches on the bench, other than rostered players participating in that particular game then on the ice, shall be listed on such teams' roster and coaches shall be certified coaches by USA Hockey at the appropriate level, have completed the mandatory USA Hockey Screening Program, completed the age-appropriate USA Hockey Coach's Module, and must have completed the USA Hockey Safe Sport Training Certification. **NO MORE THAN 4 COACHES ARE PERMITTED ON THE BENCH.**

11. Fan Conduct: Each team shall be responsible for the conduct of fans supporting their team. Failure to control fan conduct may result in game stoppage or penalties against the team not controlling their fans, up to and including the forfeit of the game and disqualification from the Tournament. The AHAI Girls Director and Tournament Committee must approve any forfeit. That decision will be final and is not subject to appeal.

Zero Tolerance will be enforced.

Alcohol and tailgating in the parking lots for both the Round Robin & Championships Day is strictly prohibited.

Alcohol consumption at the Nicholas Sportsplex and Glenview Ice Arenas will strictly adhere to the rules set forth by the Nicholas Sportsplex and the Village of Mount Prospect and the Glenview Ice Arena and the Glenview Park District. Outside alcohol is strictly prohibited.

12. Any Coach (*head coach or assistant coach*) who violates any part of Rule 601 – Abuse of Officials or Other Misconduct shall be suspended for the remainder of the 2026 Girls Tier II State Tournament up to & included the Championship games.

If a coach violates Rule 601 – Abuse of Officials or Other Misconduct, she/he will be suspended from ALL teams for which they are listed on the certified roster. (*For example: If the Head Coach for a 12u team is also a Head Coach or an Assistant Coach for the Organization's 14u team, & Rule 601 is cited as a violation, this coach would be ineligible to be on the bench for either team*).

Rule 601 – abuse of officials or other misconduct can be found in the USA Hockey official rules of ice hockey 2025-29 edition.

13. Please Remind Your Players: All players must adhere to the equipment guidelines per USA Hockey (*this includes mouth guards and neck laceration protectors*).

14. USA Hockey One-Minute Time Out Rule: Will be applicable for all games in the tournament.

15. Admission: There will be a \$5.00 per person admission fee to view Final State Championship Games. No admission fees can be charged for elimination, playdown or round robin games.



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2026 Tier II Girls' Illinois Championships Round Robin Rules

1. All State Tournament rules apply along with the rules listed below. Some may be duplicated.
Three (3) points awarded for a win. One (1) point awarded for a tie. One (1) for an overtime win. Zero (0) points awarded for a loss.
2. All games at the National Eligible age divisions (14U, 16U, 19U) will be played to a winner. All 10u & 12u games will play one (1) overtime period.
 - a. Overtime period lengths will follow National Tournament rules for all National Bound levels - ten (10) minute periods with an ice cut after the second overtime period & every subsequent second overtime period within the same game.
 - b. In the Round Robin games for the 10U & 12U age divisions only there will be one (1) overtime period six (6) minutes in length. If there is no winner, the game will end in a tie.
 - c. Goalies at all age divisions will switch sides for every overtime period.
 - d. 10U and 12U age divisions will be played 5 on 5.
 - e. 14U, 16U, 19U age divisions will be played 3 on 3.
 - f. There are no shootouts in the State Tournament
3. Teams that have the top two (2) point totals after the Round Robin will advance to the Championship Game, unless specified differently by the 2026 Tier II Girls' Illinois State Hockey Championships Tournament Committee. The team earning the most points in the Round Robin will be the Home Team in the Championship Game.
4. If two (2) or more teams have an equal number of points, their seed shall be determined as follows: The below criteria will be applied in order to all tied teams until one team is eliminated. Then the remaining teams will go back to criteria A and reapply the criteria in order until another team is eliminated. This continues until there is one team remaining to break the tie.
 - a. Results of the games between the tied teams.
 - b. Goals allowed subtracted from goals scored in games between the tied teams, with a maximum of Plus five (+5) recorded for those game(s).
 - c. Least goals allowed in games between the two tied teams.
 - d. Goals scored divided by goals allowed in games between the tied teams (*greatest quotient*).



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- e. Goals allowed subtracted from goals scored in all games with a maximum of plus-five (+5) recorded for any game. (Example: Team A wins three games by scores of 6-4, 9-0 & 7-1. Their goal differential will be recorded as Plus-12 (+12). 6-4 is two goals, 9-0 is recorded five goals and 7-1 is recorded as five goals).
- f. Goals scored divided by goals allowed in all games (greatest quotient)
- g. Least goals allowed in all games
- h. Most goals scored in all games
- i. Least penalty minutes in all games
- j. Coin Toss

5. In any Round Robin game, if the differential in score reaches five (5) goals or more in the third period, the clock shall be kept running until the goal differential is reduced to four (4), after which it will be a normal stop-clock.

- a. During the running-clock time, the clock will be stopped only for penalties and injuries.
- b. In these situations, the running clock will resume at the next face-off.



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2026 Tier II Girls' Illinois State Championship Game Rules

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Tier II Girls

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1. **All games will be played to a winner.** The following overtime rules apply:

- Overtime period lengths will follow National Tournament rules for all National Bound levels (14U,16U,19U) - ten (10) minute periods with an ice cut after the second overtime period& every subsequent second overtime period within the same game.
- In the Championship games for the 10U & 12U age divisions only they will have overtime periods six (6) minutes in length until a winner is determined.
- Goalies at all age divisions will switch sides for every overtime period.
- 10U & 12U overtime periods will be played 5 on 5.
- 14U, 16U, 19U overtime periods will be played 3 on 3.
- There are no shootouts in the State Tournament.



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2. **Coaches Certification/Persons on Bench:**

All coaches other than rostered players participating in that particular game then on the ice, shall be listed on such teams' roster and coaches shall be certified coaches by USA Hockey at the appropriate level, have completed the mandatory USA Hockey Screening Program, completed the age-appropriate USA Hockey Coach's Module and must have completed the USA Hockey Safe Sport Training Certification. NO MORE THAN 4 COACHES ARE PERMITTED ON THE BENCH.

3. **Fan Conduct:** Each team shall be responsible for the conduct of fans supporting their team. Failure to control fan conduct may result in game stoppage or penalties against the team not controlling their fans, up to and including the forfeit of the game and disqualification from the Tournament. The AHAI Girls Director and Tournament Committee must approve any forfeit. That decision will be final and is not subject to appeal.

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Rule 601 – abuse of officials or other misconduct can be found in the USA Hockey official rules of ice hockey 2025-29 edition.

5. **Please Remind Your Players:** All players must adhere to the equipment guidelines per USA Hockey (*this includes mouth guards and neck laceration protectors*).

6. **USA Hockey One-Minute Time Out Rule:** Will be applicable for all games in the tournament.

7. **Admission:** There will be a \$5.00 per person admission fee to view Final State Championship Games.

8. **In all State Championship Games:** If the differential in score reaches five (5) goals or more in the third period, the clock shall be kept running until the goal differential is reduced to four (4), after which it will be a normal stop-clock.

- a. During the running-clock time, the clock will be stopped only for penalties and injuries.
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