



AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION ILLINOIS, Inc.

“Dedicated to the development of today’s youth through Athletic and Academic excellence.”



2026

Tier I Illinois State Hockey Championships Round Robin Tournament Rules

All levels of the 2026 Tier I Illinois State Hockey Championships Tournament will follow USA Hockey Annual Guide rules governing the playing of National Championships and the USA Hockey Official Rules of Ice Hockey 2021-25.

The 2026 Tier 1 Illinois State Hockey Championship Tournament Series will be conducted for all nine (9) youth levels and all four (4) girl’s levels. There is a round robin series followed by a Championship Series.

ROUND ROBIN SERIES

All teams at every age level must play one another. If any team does not play all the other teams in the age division, they are automatically disqualified from the State Tournament. This year all round robin games must be played from January 31st to February 22nd, 2026. All clubs entering the State Tournament must submit their Round Robin games, age division, location, date and time by January 15, 2026

Round robin game points will be 3 points for a win, 2 points for an overtime win, 1 point for an overtime loss and 0 points for a loss. No ties are allowed. Tie-breaking rules to determine standings positions will follow exactly as outlined in the 2021-25 USA Hockey National Championship Rules Handbook.

One 30 second time out will be allowed during regulation play.

The Home team will wear dark jerseys and dark socks.

Home team will occupy the home bench and use the locker rooms provided.

The “Home” team is responsible for the iPad and running the clock in the Round Robin Series only. These individuals must be of adult age and will be acting as minor officials.

Officials for the 10, 11, 12 and girls U12 age divisions will be a 2-man system. All other age divisions will use a 3-man system.

The 10, 11, 12 and girls U12 age divisions will play fifteen (15) minute periods. The 13, 14 and girls U14 age divisions will play sixteen (16) minute periods. The 15 only, 16 only, girls U16, 18U and girls 19 U will play seventeen (17) minute periods.



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The 10, 11, 12 and girls U12 will each have 1.5-minute minor penalties, 4-minute major penalties and 8-minute misconduct penalties. All other age divisions will have 2-minute minor penalties, 5-minute major penalties and 10-minute misconduct penalties.

All teams will start their games on a clean sheet of ice. There will NOT be resurfacing of the ice at any time during the 10, 11, 12 and girls U12 contest. All other age levels, 13, 14, 15O, 16O, 18U and girls U14, U16, and U19 will have ice resurfaced after the second period. The ensuing faceoff after all ice resurfacing (*inclusive of overtime*) will take place at center ice.

“Sudden Death” overtime games will NOT be resurfaced for ANY age division.

Overtime periods will be 5 minutes in length and conducted as first a 5 x 5, then 4 x 4, then 3 x 3 and finally a 3-man shoot-out. During the shoot-out, no player may shoot a second time until all players rostered (*except goalies*) have had an opportunity to shoot.

Teams involved in overtimes do NOT change ends, they remain defending the same end as in the third period.

An additional 30 second time out for each team will be allowed during OT.

The AHAI fighting penalty will NOT be applied. To agree with the District and National Rules the Tier 1 State Tournament will be an additional single game suspension.

Scoring for the round robin series will be done using Gamesheet electronic scoring app. Home teams will be responsible for providing the iPad for scoring the game.

In event there is issues with iPad manual score sheets must be texted to Gino Cavallini, 314-625-2743, immediately after the game is completed.

Best of Luck to all participants!

Gino Cavallini
Tier I Committee Chairperson
314.625.2743
gino.cavallini@ahai2.org



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