



MLK TOURNAMENT

January 16 - 19, 2026

Hosted by



CONTACTS

Tournament Director

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Tournament Operations

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To apply, please contact Tournament Director (information above)

The goal of the Tournament is to promote good sportsmanship, Competition and fun. The Tournament Committee will evaluate any activities which do not help the tournament pursue these goals.

PIONEER CLASSIC MLK TOURNAMENT RULES

- 1) The Pioneer Classic Tournaments are USA Hockey sanctioned and will follow all USAH rules.
 - a) USA Hockey rules regarding age classification will be followed
 - b) USA Hockey Certified Officials will officiate all games.
 - c) Safe Sport Compliance: **The USAH sanctioned Tournament Safe Sport Program protocol will be adhered to.**
 - d) **NECK GUARDS** are **Mandatory** for all youth, girls and adaptive players
- 2) A mandatory credentials check will take place for all team managers.
 - a) Team managers must submit the Team's official USA Hockey roster (T1) approved/certified by the state/league organization registrar 2 weeks prior to arrival
 - Rosters must include at least one (1) team manager.
- 3) The entry fees for the tournament and Guaranteed games are as follows;
 - a) Divisions
 - 12A
 - 12B
 - b) All Divisions
 - US \$1,950
 - 4 games Guaranteed, Maximum of 6
- 4) *Checks are payable to **University of Denver**.*
 - a) *Credit card payments are also accepted.*
- 5) The Pioneer Classic Tournaments are invitational tournaments. Due Dates for applications are as follows;
 - a) Registration Opens – September 1, 2025
 - b) Registration Ends – January 12, 2026 or until levels are full
(if levels are full by this time, you will be placed on a waitlist)
 - c) Deposits Due – Time of Application
 - d) Final Balance Due – January 16, 2026
- 6) No deposit is due prior to the tournament. All teams must be paid in full prior to their first game.
- 7) Notification Deadlines
 - a) Teams will be notified of their acceptance or denial within 7 days of acceptance of application and deposit. If the tournament is full, teams will be placed on wait list and accepted if a team decides to withdraw from the tournament.
- 8) Admission for spectators is free.

9) Category of Play

- a) 12U A and B – Competitive Recreation Level

10) Classification

- a) 12U A and B – 2013/2014 Birth Years (PW A and B)

11) There will be a minimum of 4 teams, with a maximum of 6 teams dependent on ice availability.

- a) The Pioneer Classic Tournament reserves the right to cancel a classification based on underperforming application enrollment. Should the Pioneer Classic Tournament cancel a classification, the remaining classifications may be increased if there are teams on the waitlist that still want to participate.

12) Each team must have a light "Home" and a dark "Away" jersey. If your team only has one jersey, please notify the tournament director so the opposing team can wear the opposite.

13) Length of Games (No curfew for Championship Games).

- a) 12U– 75 Min.

14) Length of Periods

- a) 12U
 - 3 Minute Warm Ups
 - 14 Minute Periods – Stop Time
 - 1 Minute Intermissions
 - Ice make after game

15) Game Rules

- a) Each team will have a 3-minute warm-up, which will begin as soon as the officials are on the ice.
 - The Pioneer Classic will provide warm up pucks for each team and game pucks.
- b) Should the goal differential become 4 goals or more, the clock will run in the third period only. The clock will stop on all injuries.
- c) Each team will be allowed one 1-minute timeout per game, which can be called only when play is stopped.
- d) Any team that refuses to play a scheduled game will cause the non-offending team to be awarded a 1-0 victory.
 - Furthermore, Any Team who fails to provide a valid roster (signed and sealed by their appropriate USA Hockey Registrar) to the Tournament Director prior to the first Game of the tournament will be subject to: Forfeit all tournament Games as determined by the Tournament Director; Pay for all expenses, including but not limited to Referee fees and ice costs for each forfeited Game; Denied entry in any Colorado tournaments for the remainder of the season and any approved travel permits will be rescinded.
- e) Overtime - Round Robin and Playoff games that are tied at the end of regulation will go directly to a 3 man shootout.
 - Home team decides if they would like to shoot first or second

- Each team chooses 3 players for initial round.
 - Players alternate penalty shots until all three have gone, or a decisive score is reached
 - If tied after three players, it moves to a sudden death shootout.
 - Each team will select one player. Players cannot repeat the shootout unless the entire team has had a shootout attempt. Only then can a player make a 2nd attempt.
 - Game will be decided when one team has scored more goals in the same number of attempts.
- f) Championship Game Overtime will have one 3 minute 3 vs 3 Overtime period. **This is sudden death overtime.**
- If still tied after the overtime period, there will be a 5 man shootout.
 - Home team decides if they would like to shoot first or second
 - Each team chooses 5 players for initial round.
 - Players alternate penalty shots until all five have gone, or a decisive score is reached
 - If tied after five players, it moves to a sudden death shootout.
 - Each team will select one player. Players can not repeat the shootout unless the entire team has had a shootout attempt. Only then can a player make a 2nd attempt.
 - Game will be decided when one team has scored more goals in the same number of attempts.
- g) Points for round robin play will be awarded based on the following guidelines.
- 3 points for a Win
 - 2 Points for Shootout Win
 - 1 point for a Shootout loss
 - 0 points for a Loss
- h) Tiebreakers: The following tiebreakers are used if teams are tied in points:
- Results of head-to-head, if applicable (if three or more teams are tied, head to head is not applicable)
 - Points from Wins
 - Goals For/Goals Against Differential (goals for minus goals against)
 - Only 5 goals will be awarded to a team +/- if the differential of the game is more than five.
 - Least Penalty Minutes Against
 - Coin Toss.
- 16) Each team should check in for their games no earlier than 30 minutes prior to their game and must exit the locker room within 15 minutes of the conclusion of their game to facilitate locker room use. Someone from each team should be responsible for cleaning up in assigned locker rooms after each game and for collecting any items left behind by players. No food or drinks in locker rooms (except water/sport drinks type beverages).
- a) Pioneer Classic Tournament Series will provide scorekeepers and clock personnel.
 - b) Each team will be required to provide a parent to be in the penalty box.
 - c) The Locker Room is the responsibility of the Head, Assistant Coaches or team manager/designated team official only. No Parents.
 - d) Damage to Rinks and their Facilities will not be tolerated. The repair and replacement costs involved with any damage done to any property at any ice arena, hotel or other facility will be the responsibility of the team(s) and the individual(s) causing such damage. Immediate arrangements for restitution must be made and violations of this rule are cause for disqualification from the tournament. Locker rooms will be checked before and after competition. Lockers rooms damaged

or trashed will result in a \$200 fine or costs of the damages whichever is higher.

17) There will be no protests awarded. All games will be decided based on the rules set forth in this document and as called by the on ice officials during game play.

18) Awards

- a) A Championship Trophy will be given to the first place team of each division
- b) Second place teams will receive a runner up Trophy only.

19) Zero Tolerance

- a) The Tournament Committee will enforce the USA Hockey zero tolerance policy for spectators, parents, coaches and players. Anyone who violates these principles will be removed from the Tournament. Pioneer Classic Tournaments stresses sportsmanship. Fighting, abusive behavior or unsportsmanlike conduct by players, coaches or parents will not be tolerated on or off the ice. Such conduct will be grounds for disqualification from the tournament as determined by the tournament director or the site directors.
- b) All referees are USA Hockey registered officials and have the authority to direct the removal of any player(s), acting in an objectionable and/or unsafe manner on the ice. In addition, the game referees in conjunction with the tournament director and site directors, have the authority to end any game at the time they feel that continuing that game would endanger the safety of the players, coaches and officials. The tournament director and the site directors will determine the outcome of any such game. Tournament and site directors reserve the right to remove anyone from the Ritchie Center facilities.

20) Bench personnel are limited to rostered players and up to 4 coaches. These four team members must also be on the team's USA Hockey roster. Injured players on the bench must wear protective headgear at all times. Parents are not permitted on the bench at any time during a game. Parents who violate these rules are subject to removal from the facility.

21) Game results will be posted on the CAHA Electronic Scoring System at the conclusion of each game within 24 hours.

APPLICATION

- Please contact the Tournament Director to apply for the tournament of choice.
- Payments will be due at the appropriate deadlines outlined in the tournament rules.
- We will request and/or send information via email as applications are confirmed.
- This is not a stay and play tournament requiring you to stay at one of our sponsored hotels. The tournament will provide you with lodging options and teams may choose to use them or use any other options of their choice.

Agreement

You, your organization's officers, officials, players and parents agree by submitting this application for the Pioneer Classic Tournaments, that the host, Jr. Pioneers Hockey and the University of Denver, its officers, sponsors and members assume no legal liability for injuries or any losses or damages as a result of participation in or traveling to and from said tournament. All coaches, managers, players and their parent(s) and/or guardian(s) and team officials of applicant team hereby agree and will abide to all tournament rules and regulations set forth by the Pioneer Classic Tournament Series and further represent that all player registrations are correct. The Pioneer Classic Tournaments Series may have Photographers and video providers at the games, by submitting this application you also agree to allow your players to have pictures taken during games and games to be captured on video.

Contact the following for more information or questions.

Tournament Director

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VISITING TEAM INFORMATION

LODGING/HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

The Pioneer Classic is pleased to have a variety of hotels as partners of the tournaments. Visiting teams traveling to Denver are *not* required to contact one of the lodging facilities to secure overnight accommodations. The lodging facilities will be sent to teams upon registering for the tournament.

OFFICIALS

Officials must check in with the arena front desk prior to your shift. You will be directed to the appropriate locker room for officials to use. Please keep the room clean and know that you will be sharing the locker room with other officials, so please respect each other's property. Tournament rules will be posted in the locker room for your review. Please have a good grasp of the rules prior to stepping on the ice.

HOST STAFF

Facility team members are staffed at the front desk during game. They are trained to assist our guests with questions, concerns and emergency protocol. Visiting teams are required to check in with the front desk in order to gain access to locker rooms.

LOCKER ROOMS

The visiting team locker room(s) will be available immediately following a team check out, approximately 30 minutes prior to game time. We ask that no valuables be brought or left in locker rooms. The Host arenas are not responsible for lost or stolen property. We ask that all teams respect arena properties and monitor the activity within the locker rooms. It is required by USA Hockey and Colorado Amateur Hockey Association (CAHA) that only coaches or managers are in the locker room at all times. Please make sure the locker room is clean after your team uses it and that your team gets out of the locker room as soon as possible after the game as we will have teams requesting access for upcoming games.

WARM UP PUCKS

Teams will not need to travel with warm up pucks. The Pioneer Classic Tournament will provide pucks for warm ups.

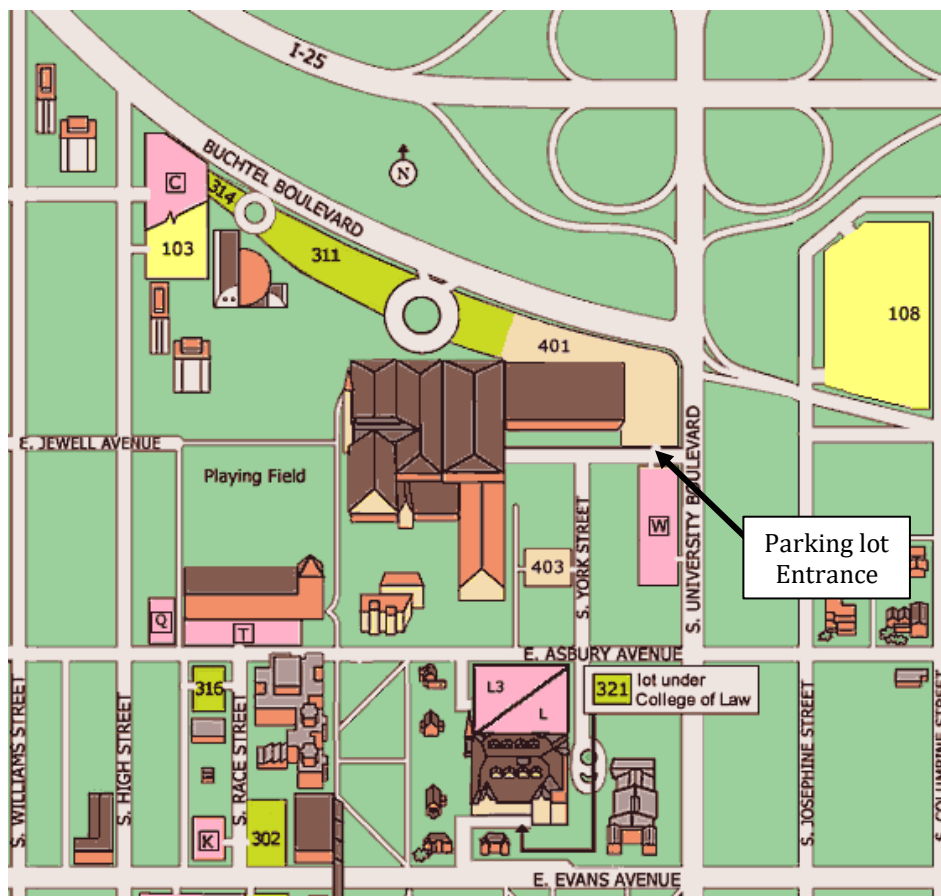
GAME DAY PROTOCOL

- Keys or locker room codes will be issued for your locker room. Please pick up a locker room key or code at the front desk upon arrival.
- Referees will blow the whistle when teams are allowed to take the ice.
- 3min. Warm up will begin.
- Game will play.
- Teams must be out of the locker room within 15 minutes of the end of their game.
- Please return the locker room key it to the desk.

VISITING TEAM PARKING AND ENTRANCE

The University of Denver is a campus that has many events and activities going on throughout the day and evening. When visiting teams arrive they may park in lot 401 (as indicated on the attached parking map).

All teams are required to display a parking pass in their cars. The manager/tournament coordinator of each team will receive a parking pass via email to be distributed to the members of their teams. Additional passes will be on hand should a member of your team forget.



AROUND THE TOWN

If you are going to come to Denver to play ice hockey, why not make it a family vacation as well? Here are some of the things you can do and see while visiting Denver:

Attractions and Museums

- Denver Zoo www.DenverZoo.org
- Denver Museum of Nature and Science www.dmns.org
- Colorado State Capitol <http://www.colorado.gov/capitoltour>
- Wings Over The Rockies Air and Space Museum <http://www.wingsmuseum.org/>
- Children's Museum of Denver <http://mychildsmuseum.org/>
- Denver Firefighter's Museum <http://www.denverfirefightersmuseum.org/>
- Forney Museum of Transportation <http://www.forneymuseum.org/>
- Chamberlain Observatory @ Denver University <http://mysite.du.edu/~rstencil/Chamberlin/>
- Molly Brown House Museum <http://www.mollybrown.org/>

Parks & Recreation

- Denver Botanic Gardens www.botanicgardens.org
- Cherry Creek State Park <http://www.parks.state.co.us/parks/cherrycreek/Pages/CherryCreekHome.aspx>
- Dinosaur Ridge <http://www.dinoridge.org/>
- Red Rocks Park and Amphitheatre <http://www.redrocksonline.com/>
- Public Golf Courses Near Denver University
 - Highlands Ranch Golf Club <http://www.du.edu/highlandsranchgolf/>
9000 Creekside Way, Highlands Ranch, CO 80129
Phone: 303-471-0000, Email: hrgc@du.edu
 - Highlands Ranch Golf Club is an 18-holes over 7,719, semi-private golf club, designed by three-time U.S. Open champion Hale Irwin. Offering magnificent views of the Rocky Mountain Front Range, par-72 course boasts expansive bentgrass greens that many say are the best in the region.
 - The Homestead Golf Course <http://www.lakewood.org/Homestead/>
 - 18 holes over 5,048 yards with a par of 65 (Municipal) 11500 W Hampden Ave Lakewood, CO 80227-4238 (720) 963-5181
 - Red Hawk Ridge <http://www.crgov.com/index.aspx?NID=262>
 - 18 holes over 6,942 yards with a par of 72 (Municipal) 2156 Red Hawk Ridge Dr Castle Rock, CO 80109-3524 (720) 733-3500
 - The Links at Highlands Ranch <http://thelinksgolfcourse.com/>
 - 18 holes over 4,800 yards with a par of 62 (Public) 5815 Gleneagles Village Pkwy Highlands Ranch, CO 80130-3314 (303) 470-9292
- The Ridge at Castle Pines <http://www.playtheridge.com/index.php>

- 18 holes over 7,103 yards with a par of 71 (Public) 1414 Castle Pines Pkwy Castle Rock, CO 80108-8228 (303) 688-4301
- Lone Tree Golf Club <http://www.golflonetree.com/>
 - 18 holes over 7,054 yards with a par of 72 (Municipal) 9808 Sunningdale Blvd Littleton, CO 80124-3124 (303) 799-9940
- Deer Creek Golf Club at Meadow Ranch <http://www.deercreekgolfclub.net/>
 - 18 holes over 7,003 yards with a par of 72 (Public) 8135 Shaffer Pkwy Littleton, CO 80127-4100 (303) 978-1800

Sports Venues

- Ball Arena – Home of the Denver Nuggets, Colorado Avalanche and Colorado Mammoth. They also host concerts and other events.
 - Denver Nuggets <http://www.nba.com/nuggets/>
 - Colorado Avalanche <http://avalanche.nhl.com/>
 - Colorado Mammoth <http://www.coloradomammoth.com/>
 - Calendar of Events <http://www.pepsicenter.com/content/calendar/>
 - Tours of Facility <http://www.pepsicenter.com/fan-guide/guest-info/tours/>
- Coors Field – Home of the Colorado Rockies.
 - For tours of the facility: <http://colorado.rockies.mlb.com/col/ballpark/tours/index.jsp>
- Mile High Stadium – Home of the Denver Broncos.
 - Denver Broncos <http://www.denverbroncos.com/>
 - Stadium Tours http://www.sportsauthorityfieldatmilehigh.com/stadium_info/stadium_tours
- Denver Coliseum – Concerts and other events.
 - Denver Coliseum Calendar of Events <http://www.denvercoliseum.com/EventCalendar.aspx>

Shopping

- Cherry Creek Shopping Center <http://www.shopcherrycreek.com/>
 - Located in the heart of Denver, Cherry Creek Shopping Center is the Rocky Mountain region's premier shopping environment with over 160 shops.
- Downtown Denver – 16th Street Mall <http://www.denver.org/what-to-do/attractions/16th-street-mall>
- Belmar Outdoor Shopping District <http://www.belmarcolorado.com/>
 - Located just 10 minutes from downtown Denver, Belmar's outdoor shopping and dining district includes Sur La Table, White House|Black Market, Charming Charlie, The Gap & more!
- Antique Row <http://www.antique-row.com/>
 - Over one hundred dealers offering unique art, antiques and collectibles for the discriminating buyer. A unique shopping experience.
- Park Meadows <http://www.parkmeadows.com/>
 - With 185 popular retailers and restaurants; American Girl, Microsoft, Nordstrom, Sephora, and more, shoppers enjoy the lush landscaping, soaring timber ceilings and relaxing outside beside a bubbling stream in The Vistas.
- Outlets at Castle Rock <http://www.outletsatcastlerock.com/>

- Highlands Square <http://highlands-square.com/>
 - Highlands Square at 32nd and Lowell is a charming neighborhood of quaint boutiques and restaurants, situated among bungalow-style houses. It's got an undeniably small town feel to it, even though it's just minutes from downtown. Here, you'll find shops offering anything from books and gifts to fine lingerie and contemporary fashions. Grab a cup of coffee at the popular hangout Common Grounds and start browsing.