

2027 Ponytail Tournament

Policies, Procedures & Rules

Tournament Policies

Alcohol products: Alcohol products are prohibited. Anyone using alcoholic products will be asked to leave.

Ambulance service: To ensure the quickest response time, anyone may contact the EMT Services (911) in the event of an emergency situation. Any trips to the hospital using the transportation of an ambulance service or any other means that require payment of a service fee is the responsibility of the transported and/or his/her family or guardian.

On-Ice Officials: All on-ice officials are currently and completely registered and in good standing with USA Hockey and their respective State Association or the International Ice Hockey Federation, (IIHF).

Zero Tolerance: The Ponytail Tournament supports the USA Hockey zero tolerance initiatives for verbal abuse of any player, official, parent, or spectator. The Tournament Director or rink staff reserves the right to remove any violator from the premises.

Damages: Any person causing damage to the tournament facility will be fined commensurate with the damage and will be removed from the premises and/or suspended from all facility activities until the fine is paid in full. All persons are subject to prosecution to the fullest extent of the law.

Monitoring: It is the policy of USA Hockey that all teams have at least one responsible adult (head/assistant coach or other approved team personnel) directly monitoring the locker room during all tournament events to ensure that only participants (coaches and players), and other approved team personnel are permitted in the locker room to supervise the conduct in and around the locker rooms at all times while participants are present. Non-team personnel, including parents and family members, are discouraged from entering locker rooms unless it is truly necessary.

Benches and Penalty Boxes: Reserved only for players and off-ice personnel who are in compliance with USA Hockey requirements.

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Team Placement: Teams are placed in tournament divisions based on several factors, which may include: number of teams registered in a particular age group and/or division, the division/level the team entered at registration, the team's registration with USA Hockey or governing body, the teams placement in their local league, and the record of the team in league play, national rankings, current team performance, etc. Tournament teams with no record of play are placed based on either knowledge of other teams in their local area or league, or from discussion with the respective coach and team manager to gain an understanding of their play, compared to others. The tournament staff, at their sole discretion, may align teams or change teams in any particular division or skill level, and/or distribute teams equally to obtain a balanced division, schedule, format, and/or competitive level of play.

Scheduling Requests: Scheduling requests may be submitted at time of registration but are not guaranteed. After registration closes and divisions are finalized, requests will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Rosters: Players can only be rostered on one (1) team per age group. No players can be added to the roster at game time. No combining of teams/players or substitutions will be accepted. In the event of player injury, certain/extenuating circumstances or other urgent need (e.g. emergency goalie), exceptions and/or substitute player eligibility will be determined and reviewed for approval on a case-by-case basis. All teams must be able to provide a proof of DOB for all players if needed.

Tournament Procedures

All teams must fill out our Ponytail tournament participation waiver and submit prior to the first game of the tournament. Only players that are listed on your team's roster AND have submitted an individual waiver will be eligible to participate.

Any team found using a non-rostered player in any game will forfeit all games in which the non-rostered player participated.

All team representatives (manager and/or coach) must check in at the tournament facility at least one (1) hour before his/her team's first scheduled game.

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All teams must use the locker room assigned to them during check-in. It is the team managers/representatives responsibility to **ensure that the locker room is maintained and kept clean** (no trash/tape/food or drink on the floor) prior to vacating the locker room after each game. The team manager/representative is responsible for all damage done to the locker room, equipment in the locker, or the facility.

Each team/team manager is responsible for the safeguarding of all team items in the locker rooms. The facility and/or host organization assume no liability or responsibility for any theft or damage due to team negligence.

All team representatives are responsible for **checking for any schedule changes, suspensions, and other relevant information** before each scheduled game.

All teams must be ready to begin play fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled start time of each game. The tournament reserves the right to begin games ahead of schedule. The scorekeeper will begin a three (3) minute warm-up period when the Zamboni doors are closed.

All teams may occupy the players' bench prior to the completion of the ice resurfacing. All players shall remain off the ice surface until the Zamboni doors have been completely closed and on-ice officials are present.

Anyone on the players' bench must be listed on the team's tournament roster. All parents, visitors, and spectators are to remain away from the players' bench and penalty box areas.

Team representatives may report score sheet discrepancies to the rink coordinator prior to leaving the facility or in writing via email to girlshockey@byhc.org before the next game. Acceptable changes include corrections affecting player USA Hockey patch eligibility, goalie minutes, penalties assigned to the wrong player, and participation errors. No additional assists may be added. Score sheets will be updated on the tournament website as soon as practicable once verified. Player stat tracking may vary by division, and all final decisions rest with the Tournament Staff - on-ice rulings will not be overturned.

The tournament director shall be responsible for resolving all inquiries or disputes regarding off-ice rule application or interpretation, player eligibility, disciplinary action, and any other procedural disputes. He/she will not overturn any dispute concerning rules and/or the judgment applied by on-ice officials. All decisions of the tournament director are final.

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Tournament Game Rules

The Ponytail Tournament is governed by the rules of USA Hockey, and it is the responsibility of each player, coach, and team manager to be familiar with these rules and ensure all participating players and coaches are registered with USA Hockey for insurance purposes.

All participating teams must be properly registered with USAH and provide a copy of the teams Official Approved Roster to Tournament Host/Director prior to participation.

Only USAH registered Officials will be used to officiate tournament games. All USAH playing rules will be followed.

ALL AGE CLASSIFICATIONS ARE BASED ON 2026/2027 SEASON.

The Ponytail tournament provides a **4 game minimum**.

Penalty Box: Each team is responsible for providing its own penalty box attendant.

Warm Ups: A three (3) minute warm up will take place before the start time of the game. Pucks will be provided. NOTE: Games can start up to fifteen (15) minutes before scheduled time. It is the teams responsibility to watch the game before to determine if the games are running ahead of schedule. The warm up time will start as soon as the ice resurfer has closed the doors to the rink.

Time Outs: One 30-second timeout is permitted per team in the championship game only. No time outs during round robin play.

Length of Periods: All games will be 3 x 13 minute periods.

Rosters: Only eligible players on your USA Hockey roster are eligible to participate in the tournament.

Playoff game OT: If there is a tie at the end of regulation play, a 5-minute run time 3v3 sudden death period will be played. If the overtime does not present a winner, then a shootout consisting of 3 players from each team will be used to determine a winner. If there is still no winner, single shooters will be selected by each team until there is a winner.. Any player that has a penalty on the clock going into a shootout is ineligible to shoot.

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Mercy Rule: The mercy rule shall be in effect. If a team at any point during the third period is leading by 5 or more goals, the clock will revert to running time. If the difference is reduced to 4 goals or less, the clock will revert back to stop time.

Penalties: Penalty times will be as follows: Minor 1:30 minutes, Major 4:00 minutes, Misconduct 7:30 minutes. Any player who receives 4 penalties in a game will be suspended for the next game. Any player who receives a misconduct penalty will automatically be ejected from the remainder of the game in which the infraction occurs, plus the next game.

Division Scoring: All divisions will be scored per game as follows:

- 2 points for a game win
- 1 point for a period win
- 0.5 point for a period tie
- 0 points for a game loss

Tie Breakers: In the event of a tie for **playoff seeding**, the following criteria will be used to determine the team's placement:

1. Head to head
2. GF/(GF+GA) highest percentage advancing
3. Most wins
4. Least amount of goals against
5. Most goals for
6. Least penalty minutes
7. Coin flip

Forfeited games: any forfeited games will be recorded as a 3-0 score.

Goal differential: the maximum goal differential attainable per game is +/-5. Any additional point differential will not be counted towards tournament rankings.

All referee decisions are final. The tournament director will not overrule the referee's decision. We ask that the coaches, players, and spectators be courteous and respectful to the referees. We support the "ZERO TOLERANCE" rule regarding on-ice and off-ice conduct. Any inappropriate behavior may be subject to ejection from the game or rink.

Please Note: The tournament director reserves the right to add to, amend, or remove any tournament procedure, policy, or rule prior to the start of the tournament.