Northwest Montana Youth Hockey Association

8U Winter Classic

January 29-31, 2027

Woodland Ice Rink

· No Split Squads- Split squads, meaning rosters where groups of players only play certain periods.

· 4 on 4 game format

· Roster Cap of 15 Skaters + 2 Goalies

· No Cross Rostering Players between teams

· Only 2 teams per Association, per Division

1. The tournament will be played under USA Hockey rules. Teams will play half-ice games, four vs four plus a goalie. A buzzer will sound every 2 minutes to indicate a line change. The puck will stay in play, aided by the referee to be put in a neutral area. Face offs will occur only to start a period, after a goal, and following a penalty. There will be no line changes outside of the buzzer except in the event of an injury.

2. By default, home teams will wear light colored uniforms, away teams will wear dark. In the event of a conflict, the home team is responsible for changing uniforms.

3. Game time will consist of three 12-minute run-time periods.

4. There will be a 3-minute warm-up period before each game.

5. There will be a two-minute break between each period.

6. There will be an ice-make every two hours.

7. In the event of an injured player on either side, all play will be stopped so the game clock can stop. Once the player is removed from the ice, play will resume.

8. Total game time per game will be no more than 1 hour. Tournament Director/Timekeeper and/or Officials will have authority to adjust game times at any point in order to maintain tournament schedule.

9.The scoreboard will not display more than an 8 goal differential at any point in the game.

10. Each team will be guaranteed 4 games.

11. Two points are granted for a win, one point for a tie and zero points for a loss.

12. During round-robin play, a game ending in a tie will remain a tie. During the final round, a five (5) minute sudden-death overtime period will be held with 4 on 4 skaters. If the game remains tied at the end of the overtime, a 3-player shootout will be held. If the game remains tied, the shootout will continue with one player from each team (not sudden death)

13. Signed referee scoresheets stand - no changes will be made after the fact due to any circumstances.

14. In the event of a tie in the standings, the tie-breaker will be

1) head to head games.

2) fewest goals allowed.

3) fewest penalty minutes.

4) most goals scored- the is a max goals scored for each game to count for this is 8 (to prevent running up the score)

15. SPORTSMANSHIP: Fighting, Abusive Behavior, or unsportsmanlike conduct by players, team officials, or spectators will not be tolerated, either on or off the ice, and will be grounds for removal from the tournament.

· The USA Hockey Zero Tolerance policy is in effect.

· The Referees shall have the option of ending any game should they feel that the player or game officials are endangered.

In such a case, the Tournament Director and Tournament Rules Committee will determine the outcome of the game.

· Any fans using profanity while watching games will be asked to leave.

· Any coach ejected from a game by a referee will be suspended for the following game; if a second offense or incident occurs, the coach will be banned from the tournament

16. Penalties will be called for minor infractions. The penalized player will be returned to their bench for the remainder of that shift (2 min shifts), and will be replaced with another player.

a. A player having five penalties in a game will be ejected.

b. Any player assessed a major penalty will be subjected to Tournament director review and may be ejected from the Tournament.

17. The top two teams will receive banners.

18. Teams are required to vacate the locker room within 20 minutes of a game ending. Gear cannot be left at the rink when a team is not playing.

19. Teams will clean up after themselves in the locker room. There will be no food or garbage left after their team has vacated the locker room or damage done to the locker room facilities. If the facilities are not respected the tournament director will give a verbal warning to the coach and the manager.

20. The facilities and the tournament director are not responsible for lost or stolen items; it is the responsibility of the person to take care of their valuables. Although any type of theft or damage is condemned and will be reported to the proper authorities.

21. Protective Equipment: All US Teams must adhere to USA Hockey Protective Equipment Rules. All Canadian Teams must adhere to Hockey Canada Protective Equipment Rules.

22. All teams must provide USA Hockey or Hockey Canada approved rosters