



2026 WGHL Playoff Rules

Game Operations

Score Sheets are all live on GAME SHEET.

WGHL GAMESHEET LOGIN CODE: ipad-wghl-co

1. Game length for the playoffs are the same as the regular season games at each division.
 - **12U - Three 12-minute stop time periods. 1:00 Minute Penalties**
 - **14U - Three 14-minute stop time periods. 1:30 Minute Penalties**
 - **15U - Three 16-minute stop time periods. 2:00 Minute Penalties**
 - **16U - Three 16-minute stop time periods. 2:00 Minute Penalties**
 - **19U - Three 17-minute stop time periods. 2:00 Minute Penalties**
2. There will be a 5-minute warmup after the officials take the ice. All teams are required to have their own pucks for warm-up.
3. There will be no curfew games.
4. There will be a run clock in the third period if the goal differential is 5 or more.
5. There will be no ice made between periods. The ice shall be resurfaced before the start of each game. Overtime ice-makes shall be at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
6. **All games will utilize the overtime and shootout procedures listed below to determine a winner.**
7. **Standings scoring: 3 pts for a win, 0 pts for a regulation loss, 2 pts for an OTW. 1 pt for a OTL. (See OT and tie breaking rules below).**
8. **Each team will be allowed one timeout PER GAME. If timeout is not used in regulation, it may be used in the overtime period.**
9. Only coaches, players and team officials listed on the teams USA Hockey's official roster shall be allowed on the bench.
10. Spectators must view the games from the designated area of the playoff site. USA Hockey guidelines for parent, player, coach and other spectator behavior shall be enforced by the on-ice officials and the host tournament director and staff.
11. Absolutely no horns or noise makers will be tolerated.
12. Each team should be prepared to provide a person to run the penalty box for their respective team. The host association reserves the right to provide all off-ice officials and may refuse requests for team reps to run the penalty box. If one team has a team representative, then the other team should be allowed one person as well.
13. Each team should have both home and away jerseys available. The home team wears light, the away team wears dark.
14. USA Hockey rules will apply and be followed. All players are required to have a mouth guard and neck guard. 15U division will follow 16U USA Hockey rules for icing and tag-up offsides.
15. All players & coaches must be present 45 minutes before the scheduled start of the game.

16. Each team should be ready to play ten (10) minutes prior to the scheduled start of the game. If officials are ready to go, the game will start early.
17. A short award ceremony will take place at the conclusion of the Championship games.

Formats

1. Seedings will be based on win % from the regular season for all divisions.
2. Divisions will utilize a round robin format, reseed for semi's, then a championship game. **Games cannot end in ties. OT for all games.**
3. OT Rules
 1. For all games except Championship games, If a game is tied at the end of regulation play, a 5-minute (stop time) sudden-death overtime period will be played. This will be a 3 on 3 overtime period. Teams will not switch ends to eliminate the long change. If the game remains tied after the overtime period, a 3 player shoot-out will decide the outcome. If still tied, the shootout will become a sudden death shootout using an additional skater from each team until a winner is established. Teams must use all of the skaters on their roster before any of the previous chosen skaters are eligible to shoot again. Once a team uses all players, then both teams are able to repeat their roster. Any player serving a penalty at the end of the overtime period will be ineligible to be a shooter. The Home Team chooses to shoot 1st or 2nd.
 2. For the Championship game, if a game is tied at the end of regulation play, a 10-minute (stop time) sudden-death overtime period will be played. This will be a 4 on 4 overtime period. Teams will not switch ends to eliminate the long change. If the game remains tied after the overtime period, a second overtime sudden death period will take place. This will be a 3 on 3 overtime period for 5 minutes. If no one has scored at this point, a shoot-out will decide the outcome. For the shootout, each team will select 5 shooters and a goaltender from their roster. Shooters will alternate taking penalty shots at the opponent's goaltender. The team with the most goals after 5 shots will be declared the winner. If still tied, the shootout will become a sudden death shootout using an additional skater from each team until a winner is established. Teams must use all of the skaters on their roster before any of the previous chosen skaters are eligible to shoot again. Once a team uses all players, then both teams are able to repeat their roster. Any player serving a penalty at the end of the overtime period will be ineligible to be a shooter. The Home Team chooses to shoot 1st or 2nd.
1. **Tiebreakers**
 - a. **result of the head-to-head games played between the tied teams (**This tie breaker does not apply if three or more teams are tied**)**
 - b. **Most total wins**
 - c. **Fewest goals against**
 - d. **Differential – Subtracting goals scored against from goals scored in these games, the positions being determined in order of the greatest surplus**
 - e. **Quotient – Dividing the goals scored in these games by the goals scored against, the positions being determined in order of the greatest quotient.**
 - f. **Fewest penalty minutes**
 - g. **Coin Toss – The team with the highest goal total will call heads or tails**

Protests

1. Protests on all matters other than playing rules and/or referees judgment must be filed with the Tournament Director in writing no later than one hour after completion of the Game involved.
2. Written protests must contain all the facts and must be accompanied by a protest fee of \$200.00, which will be returned if the protest is upheld.
3. Officials must be notified at the time of protest so that it may be announced to all officials and the public. (The fee will be forfeited if the protest is turned down.)

V. Forfeits

1. A forfeit shall be declared if one of the teams is unavailable or unwilling to play. USA Hockey rules apply to the minimum number of players. If a team is late for the start of a game for whatever reason, they need to contact a member of the Playoff Tournament Committee. The Tournament Committee will determine any delay to start the game.
2. A Team that has committed to enter the WGHL Playoff Tournament and fails to participate in the Tournament shall have its Team, Team officials and players subject to suspension for a maximum of one year by the WGHL Disciplinary Committee. Any Team which fails to appear for a scheduled Game of the Tournament shall be subject to the following:
 - a. Forfeit of all tournament Games as determined by the WGHL Tournament Director.
 - b. Pay for all expenses, including but not limited to Referee fees and ice costs for each forfeited Game.
 - c. Denied entry or participation in any further WGHL events.
 - d. The WGHL Disciplinary Committee may impose additional disciplinary actions per WGHL bylaws.

Authority of WGHL Tournament Directors & Officials

1. The WGHL BOD shall have authority and responsibility for all off ice rules and regulations enforcement.
2. The WGHL Director shall have the authority, with the advice of the Official to: terminate play, determine resurfacing as set forth in these rules, and decide if a Game must be replayed and the manner of replay.
3. In all playoff Tournament Games, the qualified and designated Officials shall have sole authority of and responsibility for the enforcement and interpretation of the playing rules on the ice except as provided herein.

Awards

1. The WGHL will provide Champion banners and hats for each division playing as determined by the Tournament Committee.
2. No Championship banners shall be made/displayed without the consent of the WGHL Executive Committee.
3. Champion Hats will be awarded to players on Championship winning team(s)

Vendors

1. Only approved vendors will be allowed within the ice facilities for all WGHL Tournament Activities. This includes but not limited to: apparel, photographs, video and food.
2. Any person(s) or business that is found to be performing sales or promoting any items without a contract or permission from the WGHL Executive Committee will be ejected from the tournament and the building for the duration of the tournament.

WGHL Playoff Tournament Staff:

Hannah Westbrook - WGHL Director

Lyndsey Fry - WGHL President

Eric Ballard - WGHL VP

Jeff Schultz - WGHL Secretary

Jim Kasper - WGHL Treasurer