



2025 46th Annual Vail Mountaineer Hockey Club Sportsmanship Tournament

GENERAL

USA Hockey and CAHA rules shall apply – Notes and exceptions listed below:

- All teams, players and coaches must be registered with USA Hockey for the current season, or IIHF. This is a USAH sanctioned event.
- Per USA Hockey regulations, all players are required to wear a **neck** laceration **protector** that is commercially designed and manufactured for that purpose.
- Only USAH officials will officiate games.
- USAH 2025-2029 and CAHA playing rules and age divisions will be used unless otherwise approved.
- High School pre-season tournament teams allowed, Independent Association and “tournament teams” are allowed, however the Tournament Directors have the right to assign a team to a higher division based on team’s reputation if accepted.
- Teams must provide the following at the credential table:
 - USA Hockey Player Roster T-1 form signed by USA Hockey Registrar with adds/deletes- **due a minimum of 2 weeks prior to start of the tournament.**
 - Each team will need to have jersey numbers entered and goalies identified on their USAH T-1 rosters.
 - Each team will need to turn in a roster label or copy of the USAH T-1 roster prior to each game that is played.

- The USA Hockey Sanctioned Tournament Safe Sport Program Protocol will be adhered to.

ENTRY FEE/REFUND POLICY

Entry fees per team for the 2025 Tournament:

- 18U Midget/High School Level \$2,000
September 26-28th
- U14 Level \$1,975
October 24-26th – 14U B

October 31-November 2- 14U A
- U12 Level \$1,900
November 7 – 9 – 12U A and 12U B
- 10U Level \$1,875
November 14 - 16 – 10U A and 10U B

Entry includes a minimum four (4) game guarantee

A non-refundable deposit of \$500 will be offered at time of registration if full payment is not submitted. The intent of the deposit is to submit a team entry for evaluation into the tournament. Only if a division is cancelled or the Tournament Director denies entry of a particular team will the deposit be returned. Full payment is due by credit card or check **AT LEAST TWO WEEKS** prior to the start of the tournament. (18U- due by Sept. 12, 2025; 14U A- due by Oct. 10, 2025; 14U B - due by Oct. 17, 2025; 12U- due by Oct. 24, 2025; 10U- due by Oct. 31, 2025)

- Simply submitting a completed tournament application does not guarantee entry into the tournament. The Tournament Director has sole discretion to determine what teams and division any given team may be accepted into the tournament and or which division they play in. Any team not accepted into the tournament, will have their entry fee returned to them via regular mail or Crossbar refund within seven (7) days of the notification deadline. Tournament fees will not be refunded once the team has been accepted into the tournament. Teams will receive acknowledgement of receipt of application via email and an additional email acceptance once a division is made.
- There will be no admission fee for spectators.

TEAMS/GAME FORMAT

The 2025 Vail Sportsmanship Tournament will include the following:

Level of play will be at the House/Recreational level for the age classifications of 10U through 18U.

- There will be 4 - 12 teams accepted at each of the following age classifications, VMHC reserves the right to alter the number depending on ice availability: If less than 4 teams apply the age division may be dropped.
- Note: First games may begin as early as 7:30 AM on Friday.
- Each team will be required to bring white/light home jerseys and dark away jerseys. If a team has only one jersey, they will notify the other team 30 minutes prior to the game to arrange changes in jersey colors.
- Each team is guaranteed a minimum of 4 pool play games, with the top two teams in each age division advancing to the Championship Game. If more than 4 teams at any one age division are accepted into the tournament, there will be the possibility of crossover games from each of the two pools to determine which teams play in the championship. Depending on pool sizes there is the possibly of additional games.
- All games shall consist of three (3) periods of play. For all age classifications except 18U and 10U, the first and second periods will be a fifteen (15) minute running clock and the third period will be a fifteen (15) minute stop clock. There will be a one (1) minute rest period between periods of play. 3 minutes will be allotted for warm up. Curfew Games will be allotted one hour and 15 minutes (75 minutes) from the time warm up begins. 18U games will be 2 periods 17-minutes running and one period 17-minutes stop. 10U games will be 2 periods -12 Minutes running and one period -12 minutes stop.
- Each team will provide warm-up pucks for all games. VMHC will provide game pucks for all games.
- VMHC will provide people to run the clock and do the electronic scorekeeping. Each team needs to provide a penalty box attendant for all games.
- When the goal differential is **FOUR (4)** or more goals in any portion of the third period, the clock will continue to run. If a team scores, making the goal differential less than **FOUR (4)** in any portion of the third period, the clock will go back to stop time. The time clock will be stopped during a running time period in the event of injuries.

- Penalties will be clock time. Penalties will begin on the drop of the puck. If a penalty ends during a stoppage of play the player may not return to the ice until play has resumed. Any player assessed a match or major fighting penalty on the game sheet will not be allowed to continue to play in the tournament.
- Each team may have one time out per game.
- There will be no overtime play in any pool play game.
- Two (2) points will be awarded for a win, one (1) point for a tie & zero (0) points for a loss.
- The Tournament Director reserves the right to take any game to running or curfew time if the tournament game schedules fall more than 45 minutes behind. Curfew time is one hour and 15 minutes per game and once imposed will remain in effect for the balance of the day. Depending of the cause for curfew time both venues may invoke the curfew play rules to keep play equal across divisions.
- All teams must be present in the rink 45 minutes prior to scheduled game time. All teams must be dressed and ready to take the ice 25 minutes prior to their scheduled game time.
- There may be less than 4 hours between games for some teams in the tournament schedule. Every effort will be made to avoid this.
- High School and 18U A teams will be playing in the same division. High School Teams will be allowed to dress a maximum of 20 players only for any game. However, they may dress any player on their roster for any tournament game. Game rosters are to be turned 15 minutes prior to scheduled game.
- High School: In a mixed division of 18 and 16U and High School teams, teams will be permitted to tag up when offsides and icing will be permitted when shorthanded.
- Games may be scheduled to begin as late as 10:00 PM for 14Us and older, 9:30 PM for 12U and 9:00PM for 10Us.

PENALTIES/SPORTSMANSHIP

- The Vail tournament emphasizes sportsmanship. Please stress this with your coaches, parents and players. Fighting, abusive behavior, or unsportsmanlike conduct, including taunting at any time whether playing or observing will not be tolerated by players, coaches or spectators.

- Any player receiving a fighting penalty will be suspended for the remainder of the tournament.
- Any player receiving a major, other than fighting, (5-minute penalty) along with a game misconduct penalty will be suspended for the next (1) game of the tournament. Should the player receive a second game misconduct the player will be suspended from the next 3 games of the tournament. The Tournament Director and the local supervisor of officials may impose an additional penalty up to and including suspension from all tournament games as well as submitting their findings to appropriate governing bodies.
- Any player that receives a game misconduct penalty consisting of 4 penalties in one game will receive a game misconduct and be suspended for the next two games of the tournament.
- Any team that receives 12 or more penalties in 1 game which results in the coach receiving a game misconduct, the coach will be suspended for the entire tournament.
- Game officials and tournament officials are empowered to call abuse penalties under rule 601 in the immediate area of the arenas, especially for any unsportsmanlike behavior or taunting. Players not actively participating in a game, assessed such a penalty will sit a minimum 10-minute misconduct prior to participating in their next game, and may be removed from all tournament play.
- Any player removed from the ice for a violation of playing rules must immediately proceed to the team locker room and remain inside the locker room until teams have completed the game and left the ice. A registered team official must accompany the removed player until the completion of the game. Failure to go immediately to the locker room and remain in the Locker room will result in suspension from the tournament, as the behavior is considered detrimental to the game of hockey and may be sent to CAHA Disciplinary Committee for supplemental discipline.
- Any spectator ejected for violation of the USA Hockey Zero Tolerance policy for parents and spectators will be banned from attending and/or participating in all remaining activities during the tournament. In addition, the spectator will not be allowed entry into any portion of the rink property (including locker complex, warming room, and rink area). Should a spectator attempt to gain access at any time during the tournament after ejection, the coach of the team this spectator is affiliated with will be held responsible for immediate removal of the spectator.

- The Tournament Director, in collaboration with the on-ice officials, reserves the right to declare a game official prior to the end of regulation time if the teams involved refuse to play hockey and are behaving in an unsportsmanlike manor or in any manor deemed detrimental to the game of hockey. **Designated head coach for that game will be suspended from the remainder of the tournament and face possible sanctions by their states Disciplinary Board for behavior detrimental to the game.**
- All players, coaches, team officials, and spectators are expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times while observing/participating in tournament activities. Players, coaches, and spectators are expected to refrain from the use of vulgar and/or obscene language, gestures, etc. which could be constructed as unsportsmanlike in nature. Individuals persisting in such behavior after being asked to refrain could be subject to actions including banishment from participating in/observing the tournament and if necessary, criminal prosecution.
- The tournament committee will not tolerate abuse of officials and the referees on the ice will have the discretion to call bench penalties for any abuse of officials by the fans, parents, or team officials. Abuse penalties called at the end of a game will carry over to the start of your next tournament game. The referees shall have the option of ending any game should they feel the players or game officials are endangered. In such a case, the outcome of the game shall be determined by the Tournament Director, representative and/or on-ice officials.
- All team officials, players, parents, and fans shall follow the "ZERO TOLERANCE" rule listed in the current USA Hockey Rule Book, and as posted in the rink. Vail Mountaineer Hockey Club believes the tournament experience should be positive for teams and spectators. Remember it's just a game!

NOTE: If you have any questions prior, during or after a game please address them to the Tournament Director or Official. Please do not address problems or complaints to the scorekeeper, timekeeper, or penalty box person. They are nice folks but are unable to address your issues.

CHECK IN:

A team representative must check in at the tournament desk 45 minutes before each game, stating the team is present and ready to play. Failure to submit an accurate team roster label, including starting goal tender for the game is considered a violation of CAHA and Tournament rules, Teams will lose 1 Tie-Breaker period point for failing to submit accurate game roster.

The Head Coach or his/her designated representative must check in with the Official Score-Keeper during the 3rd period of the preceding game submitting his/ her team's roster of eligible players for the upcoming game and starting goal tender for the game. This must be completed and/or verified prior to the team taking the ice.

Games will be scored via Gamesheets electronic scoring system on the CAHA site. Completed game sheets will be posted on the electronic scoring system within 24 hours of game completion.

Credentials must be available upon request, at each game, including a copy of the USA Hockey Official T-1 Team Roster signed by the registrar. Incomplete or missing books will result in the forfeit of the game to be played.

TIE-BREAKER RULES

If two or more teams have an equal number of points, their position in the standings shall be determined by the following tie-breaker rules:

- Two points will be awarded for each period a team wins in pool play (pool play is defined as all games except the championship game or if a semifinal 5th game is added), one point for each period the teams are tied (including zero goals), 0 points for losing the period.
- Winner of head-to-head competition
- The team with the least amount of penalty minutes will advance if teams are still tied.
- Subtracting the number of "goals scored against" from the number of "goals scored for" in the games played against the other teams in pool play, where their position shall be in the order of greater surplus.
- Dividing the "goals scored" in these games by the "goals scored against", where their position shall be determined by the greatest quotient.

- If the above procedure does not break the tie, the teams shall use the “coin-toss” procedure to determine which teams advance.

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

The top two teams in each age division will advance to the Championship Game. If a Championship Game, (or non pool play game) pool play is defined as first 4 games) ends in a tie at the end of three (3) regulation periods, sudden death overtime periods will be played with the following provisions:

- Teams shall not change ends
- A two (2) minute rest period will be taken between the end of regulation play and the sudden death overtime period.
- The ice will not be made prior to the sudden death overtime period.
- Any overtime period shall be considered part of the game and all unexpired penalties shall remain in effect.
- The first team to score in the sudden death overtime period will be declared the winner.
- There will be two (2) sudden death periods each 4 minutes in duration. No rest period. The first period will be 4 on 4, the second period will be 3 on 3. At no time will a team’s numerical on ice strength fall below 3 players. Should a team with 3 players receive a penalty, the penalized player shall immediately proceed to the penalty box, the offending team will be allowed to place a substitute player on the ice and the non offending team will be allowed an extra player for the duration of the penalty (4 on 3). Upon expiration of the penalty the offending player may return to the ice thus keeping the teams at even strength until the next stoppage of play, at which time both teams will start the ensuing face-off with the correct numerical strength (4 on 4 or 3 on 3).
- If the two teams are still tied at the end of the sudden death overtime periods, the winner will be determined by the “shoot-out” procedure.
- The “shoot-out” procedure is as follows:
 - Each team will select five (5) players, who will alternately take penalty shots on the goalie.

- If after the first five (5) players have taken all their shots, the score remains tied, the process will be repeated with five (5) different players from each team, until the tie has been broken. The game score will reflect the original score, plus one goal for the winning team's shot.

AWARDS

Trophies will be awarded to the first and second place teams in each division immediately following the Championship Game.

LOCKER ROOMS

Locker room assignments can be found on the monitor at the entry to each rink. All teams will be responsible for cleaning up the locker room and leaving it in excellent condition. Neither Dobson Ice Arena, Eagle Pool and Ice Rink, nor Vail Mountaineer Hockey Club assumes any responsibility for the loss/theft/damage of any personal property left in the locker rooms. The Team's Head Coach is responsible for the locker room and behavior of players.

DAMAGES TO THE RINK and PROPERTY

Should any player or team damage property in the ice rinks, all cost for repair or replacement shall be borne by the responsible party/team. Arrangement for restitution must be made immediately with the rink or respective manager. Infractions of this rule will be grounds for dismissal from the tournament. *These same regulations will be instituted at the respective tournament hotels.*

EQUIPMENT/JERSEYS/NETS

- All players are required to wear a full complement of hockey equipment, including neck and mouth guards, as required by age group per USA Hockey.
- It will be the home team's responsibility to wear white/light colored jerseys and the visiting team's responsibility to wear dark colored jerseys. Tournament officials must be advised immediately if any team is unable to meet this requirement.
- Goal nets will be anchored by friction cleat devices as called for by the revised USA Hockey rules.

DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE/PROTESTS

- Discipline and protests will be decided by the Tournament Director and local Supervisor of officials
- NO protests are allowed of an on-ice Official's call.
- Protests of any game must be made verbally within 15 minutes of any game and submitted in writing, with a protest fee of \$200.00, within one hour of the alleged occurrence. The line of protest shall be:
 - On-ice officials
 - Protest Committee consisting of the Tournament Directors and local Supervisor of Officials.
 - There may be no protests on playing rules, interpretation of playing rules by on-ice officials or judgment calls.
 - If a referee or linesman fails to show for a game and the coaches agree to play, the coaches lose the right to protest any aspect of the game.
- The Discipline Committee shall be responsible for deciding any actions, suspensions or other actions to be taken against a player or team official.
- No player or team official shall be suspended from participation in the remaining games except as noted above, unless he/she has appeared before the committee and has been given the opportunity to relate his/her version of the incident. The Discipline Committee will meet prior to that team's next game.

OFF-ICE OFFICIALS

Each team is required to have an adult in their team's respective penalty box. Vail Mountaineer Hockey Club will supply a scorekeeper and timekeeper for each game. The Tournament Director, or representative on duty will be an off-ice official and will call and issue penalties through the on-ice officials.

FORFEITS/REFUSAL TO PLAY

Any team which enters a tournament and fails to appear on time for a scheduled game or an team (CAHA registered or otherwise) who fails to provide a valid T-1 roster to the Tournament Director prior to the first game of the tournament will be subject to:

- 1) Forfeit all tournament games as determined by the Tournament Director.
- 2) Pay for all expenses, including but not limited to referee fees and ice costs for each forfeited game.

INTERPRETATION OF RULES

The interpretation of the tournament rules is under the sole discretion of the Vail Mountaineer Hockey Club and The Tournament Committee, including the tie-breaker rule.