

# Tournament Rules

## PLAYING RULES

All games will be played under USA HOCKEY and NYSAHA rules.

Please note that 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. All team officials, players, parents, and fans must follow the "ZERO TOLERANCE" rule listed in the current USA Hockey Rule Book, and as posted in the rink. Troy Albany Hockey believes that the tournament experience should be positive for all teams and spectators. Remember, it's just a game!

## CONFLICT OF JERSEY COLOR

All teams should have two different jersey colors with one of the jersey colors being predominantly white. ***The home team listed on the game sheet will wear white.*** Please consult with other team to ensure there is no color conflict.

## START TIMES

All attempts will be made to start games on time as scheduled. TEAMS MUST BE READY TO PLAY 15 MINUTES BEFORE THE SCHEDULED START TIME. THERE WILL BE A THREE MINUTE ON ICE WARM UP PRIOR TO EACH GAME, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER BOTH TEAMS ARE ON THE ICE OR NOT. IF A TEAM IS STILL NOT READY TO PLAY AT THE END OF THE WARM UP PERIOD, THE GAME WILL RESULT IN A FORFEIT SHOWING A GAME RESULT OF (2-0 WIN) FOR THE WINNING TEAM AND (0-4 LOSS) FOR THE FORFEITING TEAM.

## GAME SCHEDULES AND TIMING

The Official Tournament Schedule shall be provided to each team before the start of the first game. Please note that every attempt will be made to adhere to the schedule, but due to unforeseen circumstances, the Tournament Director or Official may have to make changes once the tournament begins. Accordingly, team managers and coaches are responsible to CONFIRM each game time with a Tournament Official prior to leaving the rink between games.

NOTE: *The Tournament schedule will be posted at numerous rinks and will be available online.*

- Teams must be prepared to take the ice 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start times.  
NOTE: Due to the large volume of games scheduled, games must start promptly. It is your responsibility to factor the weather conditions into your travel plans to ensure the outcome of each game is decided on the ice.  
  
The ice will be resurfaced every three periods; before the start of each game.
- All teams must have submitted an **official USA Hockey or Hockey Canada roster of players to the Tournament Committee prior to the first day of tournament play.**
- All players and bench personnel must be listed on the official team roster provided, reviewed and approved by the tournament director(s).
- All players on your roster must adhere to the USA Hockey AGE CLASSIFICATIONS rules of the current calendar year.

- The fundamental intent of the Rink Rat Tournament is that teams that play together for the regular season, and are rostered together as a team play together as your Rink Rat team.
- Should it be necessary to add or substitute players to your regular season roster in order to meet tournament standards for team size, you MAY NOT roster any player on your tournament team that plays during the regular season at a predominantly higher level. (for example: a PeeWee AAA player is not eligible on a PeeWee A team for the tournament; a Bantam age player who plays Midgets during the regular season is not eligible to play Bantam for the Rink Rat tournament). Exceptions to this policy may be granted at the review of the tournament committee and must be disclosed prior to the start of the Rink Rat Tournament.
- **The Rink Rat Tournament Committee reserves the right to move, place or disqualify teams based upon the skill level of their team (if they misrepresent their abilities OR the Tournament Director believes their skills better fits another level.)** If a team is moved to another level and they do not accept the move, they will not be entitled to a refund if they leave the tournament. If a team is moved the Tournament Committee will have sole discretion as to whether or not, if, and how points will be transferred to the new level.
- No player shall be rostered or eligible to play on more than one team in the tournament. Unusual exceptions may be granted by the tournament committee if an injury or other unforeseen circumstances should occur once the tournament has started.
- Any scratches for a game (player not dressing) must be reported to the scorekeeper prior to the start of each game.
- A **minimum** of 6 players and 1 goal-keeper, and a maximum of 18 players and 2 goal-keepers must be dressed on the bench for each game.
- A 10-minute delay will be permitted to dress a second goal tender if the regular goal tender is hurt and not able to return to the game, and the team has no other dressed goal tender on the bench.
- Helmets must be strapped and worn properly at all times during warm-ups, games, handshake lines and anytime the player is on the bench or in the penalty box.
- Mouth guards (colored) must be worn by all players at all times, except at Squirt and Girls 12U levels.
- USA Hockey Playing Rules strongly recommend neck-guards, but they are not mandatory equipment for this tournament.
- There will be a 3 minute warm-up period at the beginning of each game and 1 minute allowed between each period. The timekeeper will determine the end by sounding the buzzer.
- Playing time will be as follows:

**Squirt:** three (3) - 12 minute stop time periods

**Pee Wee:** three (3) - 15 minute stop time periods

**Bantam:** three (3) - 15 minute stop time periods

**Midget:** three (3) - 15 minute stop time period

**Act of God Rule:**

Should an "Act of God" occur (power failure, major injury, or other uncontrollable time consuming event), and the act lasts longer than 45 minutes, after 45 minutes the game will be called and the score remain as is, no matter how much time ran during the game prior to the occurrence of the Act of God.

**TIE GAMES and GAME CLOCK:** There will be no overtime for round-robin games tied after regulation (see tiebreaker procedure for Championship games below). No time outs will be allowed except in the championship games where one 60 second time out will be allowed per team. Due to ice availability, all games must end at the time published in the most recent official schedule. This may mean the game may consist of less than three full periods of "stop-time" play. If it is apparent to the Tournament Official that the game will not end at the scheduled time using "stop time" procedures, the Tournament Official will advise the timekeeper to convert to running-time procedures at a time in the game when the total number of minutes left in game playing time equals the time left until the game is scheduled to end. The timekeeper at an appropriate stoppage of play will advise both benches and referees that running-time procedures will commence. Tournament Officials may waive the requirement to end the game on time. Tournament Officials may change the beginning and ending times published.

**MERCY RULES:** If 6 or more goals separate the teams at any time during the third period "running-time" may be used at the discretion of the on ice official with the consent of the coach whose team is in a deficit situation. Any time the deficit is reduced to less than 6 goals "stop time" will resume. The clock will be stopped for injuries at the discretion of the referee.

**GAME PENALTIES:** Penalties will be assessed as follows:

Any player that receives 4 penalties or more during any one game will be expelled from the current game and ineligible for play in the next scheduled game or the championship game, whichever is sooner.

**Minor**

Squirt & Pee Wee 1 min and 30 sec

Bantam & Midget 2:00 min

**Major**

All Divisions – 5 min

**Misconduct**

All Divisions - 10 min

**All referee decisions are final. No protests shall be entertained.**

**RANKING TEAMS AND TIEBREAKERS**

Points will be awarded as follows after each game to determine championship play at each level.

Game Win - 2 points Game Tie - 1 point

For divisions of five (5) teams, the two teams with the most points as noted above after four (4) games will play in the division Championship game, with the team having the most points being the home team. There will not be a consolation game.

For divisions of four (4) teams, the two teams with the most points as noted above after three games will play in the division Championship game, with the team having the most points being the home team. The two lowest point getting teams per division will play in a consolation game, again with the team having the most points between the two being the home team.

For divisions of three (3) teams, except as otherwise agreed upon by participating teams prior to the tournament, the two teams with the most points as noted above after four (4) games will play in the division Championship game, with the team having the most points being the home team. There will not be a consolation game. Divisions of 6,7 or 8 teams will be broken into two subgroups, and all shall play four games. The two teams having the highest points in their respective bracket will advance to the championship game. There will be no consolation games in Divisions having 6,7, or 8 teams will not have a consolation game.

Tiebreaker procedure for determining advancement into Championship Games:

1. Head to head result between tied teams
2. Most wins overall
3. Goals against (least total goals allowed)
4. Goal differential (goals for minus goals against)
5. Goal differential #2 (goals for divided by goals against)
6. Fastest goal scored in a game
7. Fewest penalty minutes during tournament
8. Coin toss

*This procedure will continue until the tie has been broken, whether it be two, three or four teams in the initial tie.*

**Tiebreaker for Championship games:**

Ties during Championship games will be determined in the following order:

(a) If the score is tied at the end of three periods and the game must be played until there is a winner, the following is recommended:

1. A 2-minute rest period will occur.
2. A 5-minute period shall be played.
3. Teams may play overtime with on-ice strength that cannot be reduced to fewer than three (3) skaters plus a goalkeeper. When penalties are being served that effects on-ice strength, player advantages will be played 5-4, 4-3, or 5-3 and players shall return to the ice at the normal expiration of their penalty. The proper on-ice strength will then be corrected at the first appropriate stoppage of play.
4. The game will be completed once either team scores a goal (sudden victory) and that team shall be declared the winner. If no goal is scored, the same procedure shall be repeated. If the game

remains tied after the second 5 minute sudden death overtime period the game will be decided by a shootout.

**(b)** Any overtime period shall be considered part of the game and all unexpired penalties shall remain in force.

**(c)** If either team declines to play in the necessary overtime period or periods, the game shall be declared a loss for that team.

- If a player is in the penalty box at the conclusion of the game (including the second 5 minute sudden death), they will be ineligible for the shootout.
- If at the end of the shoot-out tiebreaker the teams are still tied, 3 **different** players from the previous shoot-out will be selected by the coaches and the alternate team will have the option of going first. This will be repeated until a winner is determined.

**CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS:** A trophy or banner will be awarded after each Championship game.

*Members of the tournament committee, sponsoring organizations, and Troy Albany Hockey will not be held financially responsible for any accident, or injury, incurred by any players, coaches, team officials, or spectators. Organizations and teams are responsible for their own insurance.*

## **CODE OF CONDUCT:**

All games will be played under USA HOCKEY rules applying to the age bracket on the ice. Once again, please note that 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. All team officials, players, parents, and fans must follow the "ZERO TOLERANCE" rule listed in the current USA Hockey Rule Book, and as posted in the rink Troy Albany Hockey believes that the tournament experience should be positive for all teams and spectators. **Remember, it's just a game!** Please be reminded that youth hockey is a game played by kids for fun.

- The Tournament Director is responsible for resolving all inquiries or disputes regarding off ice rule application or interpretation, player eligibility, disciplinary action or other protocol disputes. The Tournament Director may delegate one or more decisions to an individual or committee. The Tournament Director will not overturn any dispute concerning rules and or the judgment applied by on-ice officials. All decisions by the Rink Rat Tournament Director are final.
- Respect for the referees at all time. Should you have a situation that you would like to discuss concerning a particular individual please bring it to the Tournament Director, or his designated agent. He does not have the power to change the referees decision however, we have advised the refereeing staff to treat all coaches with respect and they will expect the same in return. The referees have also been instructed not to exercise any patience when being subject to swearing, screaming or subject to obscene or inappropriate gestures.
- Any player or coach receiving a game misconduct penalty must serve additional suspensions as required by USA Hockey rules. The tournament Disciplinary Review committee may impose additional penalty (up to and including tournament disqualification) based upon their review of the incidents leading to the disqualification(s).

- **Any player or team representative receiving a fighting, gross misconduct, or match penalty will receive a tournament disqualification.**
- 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 referees, 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.
- 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. NOTE: If you have any questions prior, during or after a game please address them to the Rink Rat 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 correct your problems.
- Noisemakers (Cowbells, Horns, etc) are not allowed in any lobby area. Those using noisemakers during games are asked to be courteous of nearby spectators. All spectators are asked to remember that good sportsmanship demonstrated by all spectators is just as important as behavior on the ice. The primary purpose of this tournament is to provide a positive and fun atmosphere for all. Those failing to respect these standards will be asked to silence their noisemakers for the remainder of the game or be ejected from the arena.