

2026 PAHL PLAYOFFS

Postseason Rules – Administrative



Playoff Provisions

Playoff Home Teams: The home team in each elimination game shall be the team with the higher seeding number, with #1 being higher than #2 and so on.

- 1) In instances where a match-up consists of teams with identical seeding numbers, the Tiebreaker System shall be used to determine the home team.
- 2) The home team shall occupy the player bench designated for the home team and shall reserve all privileges granted by the applicable rulebooks.

Playoff Authority: The League Office remains the authority on all postseason games conducted by the league. The League Office is empowered to make rulings on unique situations, enact any appropriate policies required to address any matter, resolve all disputes, conduct all disciplinary reviews, and manage all supplemental discipline.

- 1) No such action shall violate an established league By-Law.
- 2) All such actions shall be final and therefore not eligible for appeal.

Playoff Discipline: All pending suspensions and disciplinary actions acquired by individuals and associations shall apply to the postseason.

- 1) Suspensions and disciplinary actions incurred during the regular season shall carry-over into the playoff games.
- 2) Suspensions and disciplinary actions incurred in playoff games shall apply to the subsequent rounds for winning teams and/or into the next regular season for losing teams under the terms of Carryover Suspensions.

Playoff Protests: Protests of playoff games shall follow the established league policy for Protests, with the following modifications:

- 1) The initial protest must be filed within 1 hour, and the protesting team's Head Coach must then send one email to the League Office within 1 additional hour of the first notification with full and factual details, plus all supporting evidence, of the basis for the protest.
- 2) There shall be no appeal on adverse rulings issued by the League Office on protests in the postseason.

Playoff Personnel

Playoff Site Coordinator: The host association shall appoint a single individual to coordinate the following: liaise with the League Office on operations, supply the ice schedule with the appropriate number of game slots, arrange for the required Game Personnel for each hosted game, organize player check-in, arrange for the availability and use of a functional scoring device, and post results in a visible location at the host venue.

Playoff Personnel Assignment: The requirements of playoff personnel for each postseason game shall follow the regular-season standards for Game Personnel.

- 1) The host association shall arrange for the Scorekeeper and Timekeeper, for which a separate individual must be serving in each role.
- 2) The host association shall arrange for the Medic.
- 3) The referees shall be assigned through the host's Assignor of Officials.
- 4) Each participating team shall provide one qualified person to serve as its Penalty Box Attendant.
- 5) The League Office withholds the option of providing or requesting additional personnel, such as goal judges, a PA Announcer, and Arena DJ.

Playoff Officiating Systems: League playoff games shall adhere to the officiating systems, policies, and procedures defined within Game Personnel, with the following additions:

- 1) No playoff game at any age classification shall start or resume with less than 2 certified officials participating on the ice.
- 2) No assigned official shall have been on any team roster within the same association of either participating team within the current season.
- 3) No assigned official shall have held decision-making powers with any team within the applicable division within the current season.