

2026 PAHL PLAYOFFS

Postseason Rules – Gameplay



Playoff Game Protocols

Playoff Rules: All league playoff games shall be played in accordance with all standard league playing rules, except as explicitly cited within these playoff rules.

Playoff Timeouts: Each team shall be permitted a maximum of one timeout of 1 minute in length in regulation time of a playoff elimination game.

Playoff Curfew: There shall be no curfew applied to any elimination game. A playoff game that is not played to completion shall be deemed a Suspended Game.

Playoff Overtime

Playoff Overtime Length: One, 10-minute overtime period shall be played for elimination games (excludes ODSET preliminary games) with a tied score at the end of regulation time, which shall be sudden-victory, stop-time play.

Playoff Overtime Manpower: The on-ice manpower for the overtime period shall be based on 4-on-4 play.

- 1) Applicable penalties that carryover into the overtime period or are assessed during an overtime period shall adjust the on-ice manpower in overtime.
- 2) Multiple penalties to a team during overtime shall never reduce a team to less than 3 skaters on the ice; applicable instances shall adjust the on-ice manpower by increasing the number of skaters for the non-penalized team.
- 3) In the event that the expiration of a penalty(s) temporarily increases the on-ice manpower above the base manpower, teams shall revert to the appropriate base manpower at the next natural stoppage of play.
- 4) The On-Ice Officials shall make all determinations regarding the application of penalties and subsequent on-ice manpower, including any adjustments required at the start of the overtime period due to a carryover penalty(s).

Playoff Overtime Intermissions: The overtime period in postseason elimination games shall be preceded by a 1-minute rest period.

- 1) Teams shall remain in the playing area and gather in, at, or near their respective team benches.
- 2) No warm-up activity involving pucks shall be permitted by any player.
- 3) The ice shall not be resurfaced, and any maintenance done to the ice surface must result in – or restore – an equal playing surface for both teams.
- 4) Teams shall switch defending end zones between the end of regulation time and the start of overtime.

Playoff Overtime Timeouts: No timeouts shall be granted to a team in overtime, even if the team did not use its allotted timeout during regulation time.

Playoff Shootouts

Playoff Shootout Application: If the score remains tied at the conclusion of the overtime period of an elimination game, a shootout shall be conducted.

- 1) The Playoff Overtime Intermission protocol shall be applied prior to the shootout, including a 1-minute, on-ice rest period.
- 2) The final score of the game at the end of a shootout shall be determined by awarding 1 additional goal to the team that wins the shootout.

Shootout Provisions: All the following shall apply to the shootout:

- 1) All players must remain fully inside the team bench during each shot attempt, except for the goaltender of each team who is participating in the shootout and the skater who is attempting the current shot.
- 2) No warm-up activity of any kind shall be granted to any player once the shootout begins, even if a team changes its goaltender.

Shootout Participation: The following criteria applies to shootout eligibility:

- 1) The player must be cited on the scoresheet as participating in the game and still be in full uniform at the conclusion of the preceding overtime period.
- 2) Any penalized player who has uncompleted penalty time when the overtime period ends or who receives a penalty during the shootout is not eligible to participate in the shootout and must remain in the penalty box.
- 3) A player who has been barred from participation by a directive of the Medic due to injury or illness shall not be eligible to participate in the shootout.
- 4) A different goaltender may be used at any point of the shootout as long as that goaltender meets the shootout participation requirements.

Shootout Protocol: The shootout procedure shall be, as follows:

- 1) The shootout shall consist of 5 rounds unless, at any point, one team holds a lead greater than the number of shooters remaining for the opponent.
- 2) Teams must use 5 eligible shooters in the order of their choice, and an official shall track which players from each team have attempted shots.
- 3) The goaltenders shall defend the net closest to the respective team benches throughout the shootout.
- 4) The home team shall have the option of shooting first or defending first, which shall then apply to all rounds of the shootout.
- 5) Each shot attempt shall be governed by the USAH rule for Penalty Shots.

Shootout Tiebreaker: If the shootout score is tied after 5 rounds, an additional round shall be sequentially added, as needed, to determine a winner.

- 1) Any eligible shooter may be used by a team during any necessary tiebreaker rounds, regardless of the number of previous shot attempts by any player.
- 2) Each team will have an equal number of chances to shoot in the tiebreaker rounds until a winner is declared.