

2024 PAHL PLAYOFFS TEAM GUIDE



Table of Contents

- Competition Information
- Operations Information
- Administrative Information

Mission

- Have fun and make the postseason experience a positive one for all of our players!
- The best way to make the playoffs enjoyable is to come with a positive attitude and put forth your best effort.
- It is always rewarding – win or lose – to be a part of a collective effort toward our goal of being a great league.

Sportsmanship

- Sportsmanship is everyone's responsibility.
 - When we succeed at this task, we succeed as a league.
 - If we fail at this task, we fail as a community.
- The behaviors of the adults directly influence the behaviors of the minors, on and off the ice.
 - Coaches must set the right example and be the first to address their unruly players.
 - Spectators must create an enthusiastic, supportive environment.
 - Referees do not dictate a team's ability (or inability) to advance in the playoffs; only the teams do.
- Competition, intensity, and losing is not an excuse for anyone to discard maturity, respect, and decency.
 - Respect for the game can never be sacrificed due to the desire to win.
 - Our champions must win with dignity; all other teams must lose with grace.
 - True character is best displayed in adverse situations; the "heat of the moment" is not an excuse.

COMPETITION INFORMATION

Game Schedule

- The game schedule is set and locked, as posted on the PAHL website.
 - Start times cannot be altered due to requests and other conflicts.
 - All teams must be ready to enter the ice at the scheduled start time.
- Delays shall always be accommodated if the previous game has not yet been completed.
 - If a previous game runs longer than its ice slot, the warm-up period for the next game will begin immediately upon conclusion of the ice being resurfaced.
 - Any other type of delay prior to or during a game shall be managed by the on-ice officials.

Rules & Rulebooks

- All games shall be played according to the USA Hockey rulebooks and the PAHL Playing Rules.
 - The PAHL Playing Rules shall take precedence when a conflict arises between the two sets of rules.
- The host association shall provide accessibility to the USA Hockey Rulebook and the PAHL Playing Rules upon the request of the On-Ice Officials during each game.
 - All playing rules are accessible on the PAHL website at www.pahockey.com/rulebooks

Suspensions and Discipline

- All unserved suspensions accrued during the regular season shall carryover into the playoffs.
 - A scrimmage/exhibition game cannot be added prior to the playoffs to serve a suspension.
 - All suspensions and disciplinary actions received during the playoffs shall apply to subsequent rounds for winning teams and/or into the MidAm State Tournament, if applicable, for all teams.
 - All questions regarding suspensions shall be directed to the PAHL Discipline Director only; no other entity shall be authorized to provide an official statement on suspensions.
- No protests shall be permitted during playoff games; all disputes shall be resolved by the PAHL League Office.
- There shall be no guarantee that a Match Penalty hearing will be conducted prior to a team's next playoff game.

Time of Play

- Period lengths and penalty lengths shall match those of the regular season, per division.
 - The applicable period lengths and penalty times are noted near the top-left of all PAHL scoresheets.
 - The time between the end of the warm-up period and the opening face-off must be expedited: please collect all warm-up pucks, get players onto the bench, and place a starting lineup on the ice.
 - The PAHL running-clock policies remain in effect for playoff games.
- There shall be no curfew – and therefore no curfew rules – applied to any playoff game.
- Each team is granted a timeout of 1-minute in duration during regulation time.
- For 18U and 16U AA games only, the ice will be resurfaced during the second intermission.
 - There shall not be an option to waive the resurfacing.
 - Teams must be ready to return to the ice immediately upon completion of the resurfacing and shall proceed directly to their respective benches to resume play.

Playoff Overtime

- All elimination games with a tied score at the end of regulation time shall continue into sudden-victory overtime.
- All overtime periods shall be 5 minutes of sudden-victory, stop-time play.
 - There shall be a rest period of 1 minute prior to the start of each overtime period.
- The on-ice manpower for each overtime periods shall be based on the following, minus applicable penalties:
 - First overtime period: 5-on-5
 - Second overtime period: 4-on-4
- Penalty time(s) not completed during regulation play shall carryover into overtime; penalty time(s) not completed during the first overtime period shall carryover into the second overtime period.
 - Multiple penalties to a team during overtime shall never reduce a team to less than 3 skaters on the ice.
 - 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 second overtime period.
- Teams shall switch ends between the end of the third period and the start of overtime, and teams shall defend the end for the duration of overtime (both periods, if needed).
- No timeouts are permitted by either team in overtime.

Playoff Shootouts

- All playoff games with a tied score at the end of the second overtime period shall conduct a shootout.
- There shall be a rest period of 1 minute prior to the start of the shootout.
- Teams shall defend the net closest to its bench for the duration of the shootout.
- A player who has uncompleted penalty time at the conclusion of overtime shall not be eligible to participate in the shootout, and any player who has been removed from the game at the direction of the Medic due to injury or illness shall not be eligible to participate in the shootout.
- All shots shall be conducted under the provisions of the USA Hockey rule for Penalty Shots.
 - 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.
 - No timeout nor warm-up activity of any kind shall be granted to any player once the shootout begins.
- 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.
 - Teams must use 5 eligible shooters in the order of their choice. Coaches do not need to report shooters prior to the shootout; a game official shall track which players from each team have attempted shots.
 - The home team shall have the option of shooting first or defending first, which shall then apply to all rounds of the shootout.
- If the shootout score is tied after 5 rounds, an additional tiebreaker round shall be sequentially added, as needed, to determine a winner.
 - All eligible shooters (skaters only) must be used before any player is repeated as a shooter, including all rounds of the shootout.
 - Once one team has used all eligible shooters, both teams are permitted to use a shooter who has already attempted a shot. A shooter may then not be utilized again until the same cycle of players is exhausted.
 - Each team will attempt an equal number of shots in the tiebreaker round(s) until a winner is declared.
- The final score of the game at the end of a shootout shall be established by awarding 1 additional goal (credited to the "Team Bench") to the team that wins the shootout, regardless of how many goals were scored during the shootout.
 - Shots, saves, and goals against in a shootout do not count towards goaltender statistics in the game.

OPERATIONS INFORMATION

Scoresheets

- The PAHL League Office shall supply the official scoresheet for all games in all rounds.
 - A PAHL Scoresheet shall be used, which lists all of the eligible players for each participating team.
 - Scoresheets shall be available at the check-in table upon arrival and shall remain at the check-in table, where it must be signed by the head coach of each team to verify the team's game roster.
- Coaches/managers shall place a straight line through "scratched" players and note any suspended player with 'SUSP' in the SUSP column.
 - The Head Coach of each team – and only the Head Coach – must apply a signature to the team's roster area prior to the start of the game.
 - No player is to be hand-written onto a scoresheet. Any issue with a game roster shall be resolved by contacting the PAHL League Office.

Game Equipment

- Each team is responsible for providing its own warm-up pucks, water bottles, and other game supplies.
- The home team shall select its primary uniform color for the game and must directly inform the opponent at least 20 minutes prior to the start of the game. The away team shall then wear a uniform color that is not in visual conflict with the home team.
 - The home team does not reserve the ability to change its selection once the away is informed of the home team's choice, regardless of the amount of time remaining until the start of the game.
 - In the event of a dispute regarding a potential color conflict between the team uniforms, the On-Ice Officials shall issue a decision to resolve the matter prior to the start of the game.
- The host association shall ensure a continuous supply of puck suitable for game play.
 - It is recommended that game pucks be kept in a container of ice/snow or placed on a cold surface until needed for use.

Game Staffing

- The host association shall arrange for all a Medic, an Official Scorer, and a Clock Operator for all playoff games.
 - A single individual, if deemed capable, can serve as both the Official Scorer and Clock Operator.
 - The host association and/or host venue may arrange, at their discretion, for 1 or more qualified persons to serve as a security guard at a playoff game(s).
- An additional individual(s) can be present in the scorer's box, as appointed only by the host association, to perform in-game music and announcements.
 - Scoring announcements must provide equal content for both teams throughout the game.
 - Music shall only be played at appropriate times, shall not be disruptive to the proceedings of the game, and shall not contain language nor themes that are inappropriate for a family-friendly setting.
- Each participating team shall provide one adult to serve as its Penalty Box Attendant for its playoff game(s).
 - Such individuals shall remain undistruptive to the operations of the game and shall not criticize the ruling, judgment, nor ability of a game official.
 - A Penalty Box Attendant shall not concurrently serve nor assist in another, unrelated capacity with either team – such as coach or statistician – and shall relinquish all such roles if designated as an Off-Ice Official.

On-Ice Officials

- The host association shall arrange for all on-ice officials for all hosted playoff games.
 - The association's Referee Assignor shall ensure that all on-ice officials are deemed to possess sufficient knowledge, abilities, and experience for a playoff game at the assigned level of play.
 - The assigned officials shall not have a personal connection to any team participating in the applicable division of playoffs, even if that team is not participating in the assigned game. Potential conflicts-of-interest shall be brought to the attention of the Referee Assignor to avoid a conflicting assignment and shall include individuals involved (coaches, players, officers, etc.) with associations that have a team participating in the applicable division of playoffs.
- All games shall utilize a 2-official system.
 - At no time shall play start or resume at any other level of play without at least 2 certified officials on the ice. Such instances shall result – even temporarily – in a Suspended Game until the matter is resolved through the PAHL League Office.
 - An available official who meets all applicable requirements shall be eligible to enter a game at any point to maintain a 2-official system.
- The on-ice officials are always the authority on the game, as a representation of the rulebooks.
 - The Off-Ice Officials and any other league personnel are assigned to assist in game operations.
 - Off-Ice Officials, league personnel, and host representative shall not be asked to intervene with nor overrule the on-ice officials pertaining to matters of penalties and on-ice play.

Score Reporting

- The host association shall be responsible for scanning and submitting the scoresheet from each playoff game within 20 minutes of the conclusion of each game.
 - The Team Manager of a participating team can assume this duty if agreed upon by the host.
 - Standard PAHL Score Reporting procedures apply as outlined at www.pahockey.com/scorereporting
 - The League Office will be monitoring the applicable email account for incoming scoresheets; scores do not need to be reported in any other fashion.
 - The host association shall retain the original/official copy of the scoresheet from each game.
 - Each participating team shall obtain a photo/scan of a scoresheet from the designated check-in table after each game, if desired.
- The PAHL website will be updated routinely throughout each day of playoff games with game results.
 - The schedules and brackets involving advancing teams will also be updated on the PAHL website.
 - Divisional pages for playoff results can be found at www.pahockey.com/playoffs2024

Championship Celebrations

- A traditional postgame handshake shall be conducted between the teams after the championship game.
- The losing team is not required to stay on the ice beyond the handshake.
 - There is no shame in leaving the ice if done so respectfully.
 - The individual second-place medals will be given to the team off the ice if this choice is made.
- The winning team will be presented with its championship banner and individual first-place medals on the ice.
 - The winning team can then stay on the ice surface for a team photo and individual celebratory photos.
 - The time allotted for post-game photos will be controlled by the host association/venue to ensure that the next activity scheduled for the ice surface starts on time.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Travel & Arrival

- Only the PAHL League Office has the authority to postpone/delay a playoff game for any reason, including adverse weather conditions.
- Please immediately contact the League Office at the first opportunity if a team is concerned about weather conditions or the team encounters travel issues on the way to a game.

Check-In

- Each participating player must check-in at the designated table prior to each playoff game.
- Injured players and suspended players do not sign in since they will not be participating in the game.
 - An injured player is eligible to be on the team bench during the game if wearing a helmet/cage and a team jersey/jacket.
 - A suspended player is not eligible to be on or near the team bench during the game and shall only enter the ice surface for a championship celebration with his/her team after the completion of the postgame handshake.
- Teams are to use only the locker room to which it is assigned and leave that room cleaner than it was found.
 - Each team is responsible for providing a Locker Room Monitor for each playoff game.

Payment Per Game

- Each team must pay the host association a game fee prior to the start of each game in which it participates.
 - Games with 15-minute periods = \$350 per team, per game
 - Games with 12-minute periods = \$300 per team, per game
- Full payment per game shall be made via check to the host association.
 - Advancing teams are asked to provide payment, if possible, following the previous game (as opposed to paying immediately prior to the next game).
 - Payments should be submitted at the designated check-in table operated by the host; it is the obligation of the team to submit the payment and not the obligation of the host to pursue the payment.

Spectators

- The USA Hockey Zero Tolerance Policy shall be strictly enforced at all games.
 - Spectators who are ejected from a playoff game are automatically banned from all subsequent PAHL playoff games, in addition to consequences henceforth applied by the application association's Spectator Conduct Policy.
- Spectators who enter restricted areas -- namely, locker room hallways -- will be ejected from the premises.
 - Restricted areas must remain clear of unauthorized individuals for the safety of our athletes.
- Spectators are asked not to enter the ice surface during the championship presentation.
 - If the host association/venue permits, spectators may enter the ice surface for photos at their own risk after the formal championship presentation has been completed by the host.
 - The time allotted for post-game photos will be controlled by the host association/venue to ensure that the next activity scheduled for the ice surface starts on time.