

PITTSBURGH AMATEUR HOCKEY LEAGUE

2024 PAHL Playoffs



PLAYOFF RULES

1. SEASON CHAMPS:

- A. Season Champions will be recognized for 18U, 16U, 14U, 12U, and girls divisions 19U, 16U, 14U, and 12U.
- B. Season Champion teams will receive a PAHL Season Champion Banner and individual players will receive medals.
- C. The presentation of the season championship banners only, either immediately prior to the first playoff game/open division game, off the ice prior to the first playoff game or after the playoff game will be determined by the head coach. The head coach may also choose to waive a presentation. Medals to be provided to the team to hand out to the players after the game.

2. PLAYOFFS – QUALIFYING TOURNAMENTS:

- A. All 18U, 16U, 14U, and 12U division teams, and all girl's division 19U, 16U, 14U, and 12U teams must qualify for playoff participation by their performance and final standings in the PAHL regular season.
- B. The number of teams eligible to participate from each division will be as follows and will include approximately 40% of each division, with a minimum of 4 teams.

9 teams or less	Top 4 make playoffs
10 to 13 teams	Top 6 make playoffs
14 or more teams	Top 8 make playoffs

- C. The playoff seeding will be determined from the final PAHL regular season statistics and the higher seeded team in each game will be considered the “home” team.
- D. All divisions will follow a single elimination tournament format.
- E. All PAHL teams that have qualified for the PAHL playoffs must participate or a fine of \$1,000.00 will be assessed.
- F. Playoff Champions will receive a PAHL Playoff Champion Banner and individual players will receive medals.
- G. Playoff Finalists (second place) will receive medals.

3. PLAYOFFS – OPEN DIVISION SEASON END TOURNAMENTS:

- A. All 10U division teams are eligible to enter the open division tournament for their divisions.
- B. Teams electing to attend the Open Division Season End Tournament (ODSET) will be required to register for the tournament and submit payment for their first game in advance.
- C. The tournament formats will be based on the number of teams attending and the most efficient round robin tournament game structure.
 - i. The tournament seeding will be a random method.
 - ii. Semi final game seeding will be from the playoff tournament round robin games, slotting team 1 vs team 4 and team 2 vs team 3 to determine the final pairing for the championship game.
 - iii. Awards will be given to 1st place, 2nd place, and “participants” – all players will receive an appropriate award.
- D. There will be no playoff/end of season tournament for 8U.

4. HOST ASSOCIATIONS:

- A. Host associations / locations will be determined by the PAHL Executive Board after bids have been submitted for the playoff / ODSET divisions.
- B. The host association is responsible for the scheduling and all associated costs for the ice time, referees, EMTs, and security if required.
- C. Each host must choose a Playoff Director who is responsible for verifying team credentials, player eligibility, schedules, game results, etc.
- D. All game misconducts and match penalties must be reported to the PAHL Discipline Director.

5. PARTICIPATING TEAMS:

- A. PAHL will provide USAH team rosters to the Playoff Director before the tournament weekend. Any eligibility issues will be resolved by the PAHL Executive Administrator.
- B. All playoff teams will be charged an amount to be determined by the PAHL. All checks are to be made payable to the host association and paid prior to the start of each playoff game.
- C. All players must sign in before the start of each playoff game and be prepared to play 20 minutes ahead of the scheduled game time.

6. GAME RULES:

- A. All PAHL playoff games are to be played under PAHL regular season rules except:
 - i. Games will not have a curfew.
 - ii. The Playoff Director at each playoff site will consult with the PAHL Executive Administrator to Determine how to resolve a suspended game. The completion of a suspended game, if deemed necessary, will be restarted from the point of suspension.
 - iii. One time out per team of one (1) minute is permitted during regulation time.
 - iv. 18U / 16U AA divisions will be required to have an ice cut between the 2nd and 3rd periods.
- B. Open Division Season End Tournament games (ODSETs) will use the following 5-point scoring system.
 - 2 points for a game win
 - 1 point for a game tie
 - 1 point for the team scoring the most goals in one period and ½ point for any tied periods
 - i. No shoot out will be permitted
 - ii. If teams are tied in points at the end of the round robins the tie breaker list will be as follows.
 1. Head-to-head during the tournament (if a three or more way tie exists, all teams must have played each other the same number of times in order to use this first tiebreaker).
 2. Lowest goals against.
 3. Lowest penalty minutes.
 4. Greatest goal ratio (GF/GA).
 - iii. If tie games occur during semifinal or final single elimination format games during the ODSET competition, the tiebreakers in section "C" below will be used.
- C. Single elimination format qualifying playoff games tied at the end of regulation time will be decided as follows. Teams must change ends before the 1st overtime session begins and remain in the same net throughout all overtime sessions.
 - i. Five-minute sudden death 5 on 5 overtime.
 - ii. Five-minute sudden death 4 on 4 overtime.
 - iii. Five player shootout (home team choice to go first).
 - iv. Sudden death shootout. First unanswered goal wins. The entire player roster (except goalies) must be used, to the number of players on the smaller roster of the two teams playing, before repeating any shooters. The five players participating in the first shootout may not shoot until that point.
 - v. There will be a one (1) minute time out between each overtime period.
 - vi. Any player with unserved penalty time at the end of the overtime periods will not be permitted to participate in either the five-player shootout or the sudden death shootout.