

UNITED WOMEN'S HOCKEY LEAGUE



Playoff Rules and Regulations

PLAYOFF GAME STRUCTURE

- A The rules governed by USA Hockey for adult games will be the playing rules for the UWHL.
- B Delayed off-sides, red line icing, and no checking are the general rules implemented during games.
- C There is no "mercy" rule or running clock in effect for UWHL playoff games.
- D Alcohol is not permitted in the locker room or on the benches prior to, during, or after any game. Any **PLAYER, COACH OR TEAM OFFICIAL** found to be in possession of alcohol before, or during a UWHL game, shall be immediately removed from the game and suspended for one additional game.
- E Game venues are responsible for enforcing their own policies in areas other than the locker rooms and the immediate rink area. Participants and fans shall be subject to those rules.
- F UWHL game slots shall be a minimum of ninety (90) minutes (1.5 hours) in length.

PLAYOFF GAME RULES

- A Playoff game format shall be three (3) periods consisting of fifteen (15) minutes each.
- B **TEAMS** shall be given a five (5) minute warm-up period prior to the start of the 1st period.
- C In the event of a tie score at the end of three (3) regulation periods, the overtime procedure is as follows:
 1. Sudden-death overtime consisting of five (5) minute periods with 5-on-5 play. The five (5) minute overtime shall occur if time allows in the ice slot. The maximum amount of Sudden-death overtime is limited to two. If two (2) Sudden-death overtimes have occurred and a winner has not been declared, teams will proceed to a Shoot-Out.
 2. If there is not sufficient time remaining to complete a five (5) minute sudden-death overtime period, a "Best-of-Five" **SHOOT-OUT** will begin, using the following procedure:
 - a. A **SHOOT-OUT** is defined as a penalty shot completion. A player starts with the puck at center ice and attempts to score a goal against the opposing goalkeeper.
 - b. The **HOME TEAM** has the choice to shoot first or second; the **HOME TEAM** is the one having secured the higher seed within the regular season standings.
 - c. All goalkeepers and all players from both teams listed on the official scoresheet shall be eligible to participate in the **SHOOT-OUT**. Goalkeepers are not eligible to shoot.
 - d. The goalkeepers will defend the net they were defending in the 3rd period.
 - e. Any penalized player whose penalty had not been completed when the overtime period ended or who receives a penalty during the **SHOOT-OUT** procedure is not eligible to participate in any portion of the **SHOOT-OUT** procedures(s) and must remain in the penalty box.
 - i. Players serving penalties as "Substitutes", for example for another player receiving 5+Game penalty, or as "Additional Players", for example for another player receiving a 2+10 penalty, are eligible to participate. Players serving goalkeeper or bench minor penalties may not participate.
 - f. The **SHOOT-OUT** procedure shall begin with five (5) different individual shooters from each team taking alternate shots. The players do not need to be named beforehand.
 - i. **REFEREES** should select one member to record progress of the **SHOOT-OUT** including player numbers and results (goal vs no-goal). Do not rely on off-ice officials to keep track.

- g. The goalkeepers from each team may be changed after each shot. Non-participating goalkeepers are not expected to go to the team bench during each attempt but must be penalized if they create any type of distraction.
 - h. After five (5) PLAYERS from each TEAM has shot, the score will be tallied. If neither TEAM has a high score, then there will be a sudden death SHOOT-OUT.
3. A sudden death SHOOT-OUT will use the following procedure:
- a. A sudden death SHOOT-OUT is defined as each team attempting a shot. Should one TEAM be successful and the other TEAM not, the successful TEAM shall win the SHOOT-OUT.
 - b. TEAMS will shoot in the same order during the sudden death SHOOT-OUT as they did during the original previous round SHOOT-OUT. For example, if the home TEAM shot first in the prior round SHOOT-OUT, they shoot first in the sudden death SHOOT-OUT.
 - c. TEAMS will select their shooters to participate in any order in the sudden death SHOOT-OUT, whether or not they shot in the previous round. The last PLAYER in the first round of the SHOOT-OUT may be the first PLAYER in the sudden death SHOOT-OUT. TEAMS may select any of the original five shooters (or different shooters) in any order for sudden death SHOOT-OUT.
 - d. PLAYERS in a sudden death SHOOT-OUT shall not be allowed to take another shot until four different individual teammates have completed their attempts. For example, it is legal for PLAYERS #3, #12, #7, #26, #71, #3 to shoot in that order. It is illegal for PLAYERS #3, #16, #21, #2, #3, #38 to shoot in that order since four teammates have not preceded #3's second attempt.
 - e. All goalkeepers and all PLAYERS from both TEAMS listed on the official scoresheet shall be eligible to participate in the SHOOT-OUT in accordance with the eligibility rules established for the Best-of-Five SHOOT-OUT.
 - f. The goalkeepers from each team may be changed after each shot.
 - g. The official scorekeeper shall record all shots taken indicating the PLAYERS, goalkeepers, and goals scored.
- D REFEREES shall not be assigned to a UWHL PLAYOFF game wherein they are a relative of a PLAYER, COACH or TEAM OFFICIAL involved in the game or where they are a PLAYER, COACH or TEAM OFFICIAL affiliated with any TEAM in that CONFERENCE/DIVISION, per SECTIONS [6.3.B.1.c](#) and [6.3.B.1.e](#).

REFEREE RULES

- A All REFEREES shall be assigned by a Level 3 or Level 4 REFEREE, a USA Hockey approved Assignor, or a non-official who has verified with the REFEREE IN CHIEF that the assigned REFEREES are appropriately qualified and registered.
- B Assigned REFEREES must be of the appropriate age and skill level for adult recreational games, unless otherwise approved by the Assignor.
- C Assigned REFEREES may not be immediate relatives (Parent, Child, Grandparent, Grandchild, Sibling, Spouse, or Partner) of a PLAYER, COACH or TEAM OFFICIAL affiliated with any TEAM in that CONFERENCE/DIVISION, per PPG SECTIONS [6.3.B.1.c](#) and [6.3.B.1.e](#).
- D REFEREES shall not officiate games for the DIVISION in which they are rostered as a PLAYER, COACH or TEAM OFFICIAL.
- E The REFEREE IN CHIEF shall have the responsibility of assigning REFEREES for Playoffs.
- F All REFEREES assigned to UWHL league games must adhere to the "On-Ice Officials Code of Conduct" as listed in the annual USA Hockey Guide and the Official Rules and Casebook of USA Hockey (current edition).