



# 2018 Penguins Cup Playoffs

## PIHL Varsity Postseason Rules

### **PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS**

1. All participating programs shall be members of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey League and represent a school based in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
2. All association accounts receivable must have a zero balance as of the final day of the regular season or the team will not be permitted to participate in any post-season PIHL games.
3. Each team shall be certified to be in good standing by their District USA Hockey High School Associate Registrar.
4. All participating teams must have their "Team Book Check" completed by the PIHL Registration Coordinator no later than the final day of the regular season. This includes Credentials Verification and re-certified USA Hockey roster.

### **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

1. Players must appear on a game roster (scoresheet) for at least 50% of their regular season games to be eligible for participation in the Penguins Cup Playoffs. (AAA = 9 games; AA = 10 games; A = 10 games).
  - a. Both Varsity games and Junior Varsity league games count towards this total.
  - b. The PIHL Playoff Committee allows requests for an exemption to the minimum game requirement due to injury or illness only. All requests must be properly submitted using the Injury Exemption Request Form and must be submitted to Commissioner's Office by February 23, 2018.
2. All teams must submit a recertified roster – which lists all players potentially eligible to compete in the Penguins Cup Playoffs – to the PIHL Registration Coordinator by the final day of the regular season.
  - a. The signature from the school principals must be obtained after February 5<sup>th</sup> as evidence that all players attend that school and meet the academic and eligibility requirements of that school district.
3. A player shall not be 19 years of age or older before July 1 of the year the season starts.
4. A player in the 8th grade or lower shall not be eligible to participate.
5. A player shall be eligible for a period of 8 consecutive semesters after commencement of the 9th grade.
6. A player shall meet all eligibility requirements of the league.

### **SEEDING PROCEDURES**

1. The number of teams seeded in the playoff bracket for each classification shall be determined each year by the PIHL Playoff Committee. This is currently located on the front of the PIHL website.
2. All teams will be ranked within their classification/conference by point percentage, as appropriate to the classification's playoff format.
  - a. Point percentage is determined by taking the total accumulated regular season points divided by the total possible points.
  - b. Ties in the rankings (identical point percentages) shall be broken by the Tiebreakers.
3. All teams shall then be placed in the appropriate order in to the playoff bracket, as determined by the classification's format.

### **HOME TEAMS**

1. For each round, the home team shall be the team with the higher seeding number.



2. The home team shall wear their white uniforms and shall occupy the players' bench designated for the home team, as well as reserve all rights granted to the home team by the USA Hockey Rulebook.

### **QUALIFIER GAMES**

1. A qualifier game will occur when two teams are within one percentage point (.99% or less) of each other for the final seed in their final regular season standings, as appropriate to that classification's playoff format.
2. If more than two teams are within one percentage point of each other for the final playoff spot in the classification/conference, the tiebreakers cited below shall be used to determine the two teams involved in the qualifier game.
  - a. If more than two teams are tied for more than one playoff spot, the tiebreakers shall determine the teams that earn a playoff spot, the two teams who participate in the qualifier game for the final playoff spot, and any team that is eliminated from playoff/qualifier contention.
3. This qualifier game, if needed, shall be played at a neutral site determined by the Playoff Committee.

### **TIEBREAKERS (PIHL Rule 6.1.b)**

1. In the event of a regular-season tie in the standings, the tiebreaker system will be used to break this tie.
  - a. If one team involved in the tie owns a tiebreaker advantage over all teams involved the tie, that team will advance.
  - b. If a team has a tiebreaker disadvantage over all teams involved in the tie, that team will be eliminated.
  - c. Any time a team is removed (advances/eliminated) from the tie, the tiebreaker system starts over from the top with the remaining teams.
2. The Tiebreaker System shall be:
  - a. Highest points percentage in games against teams involved in the tie (head-to-head)
  - b. Most wins in regular season.
  - c. Least number of total penalty minutes (average per game) in the regular season.
  - d. Coin Flip

### **GAME SCHEDULING**

1. All games shall be played on ice purchased by the PIHL.
2. The PIHL shall make arrangements for all Referees, Game Coordinators, EMT's, and Security Guards. This shall also pertain to Pennsylvania Cup games in even numbered calendar years.
3. The Penguins Cup Semifinals and Finals shall be held at neutral sites determined by the Playoff Committee.

### **ADMISSIONS**

1. Up to 25 team personnel – consisting of players, coaches and team personnel listed on the team's USA Hockey Roster – may sign in at the playoff games. All others must pay the appropriate Admission Prices set by the league.
2. The home team, as designated by the seeding, shall provide a cash box and start-up money for any games prior to the Penguins Cup Semifinals and Finals.



- a. Each team shall provide a minimum of one representative to help collect the gate. If a team does not offer to participate in this function, that association will be assessed 50% of the total gate money collected.
  - b. The PIHL Admissions Control Sheet shall be used to record the gate money collected. A representative from each team shall sign the Admissions Control Sheet at the conclusion of the admissions process as a designation that the totals are accurate and that their team properly participated in the collection of the gate.
3. Admission Prices shall be as follows:
- a. Qualifier Games - \$5.00 for adults and students, children 11 years old and under are free.
  - b. Preliminary Rounds - \$5.00 for adults and students, children 11 years old and under are free.
  - c. Semifinals - \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students.
  - d. Finals - \$10.00 for all spectators.
4. No association-made passes shall be accepted for playoff games. Only PIHL-issued passes (Association, Guest, Staff) shall be honored during playoff games, as well as credentialed media passes.
5. The home team, as designated by the seeding, shall deposit the revenue in their association's account and then issue a check made payable to the PIHL. Checks should be mailed to: PIHL League Office; P.O. Box 747; Warrendale, PA 15095.
- a. If the revenues are not received within five (5) business days of the date of the game, the home team will lose their percentage of any profit OR shall be assessed a \$500 penalty, whichever is greater. This amount shall be added to the gate due from the home team.
  - b. There will be no further investigation of the admission circumstances.

### **PLAYING RULES**

1. All playing rules will follow that of the "2017-2021 Official Rules and Casebook of Ice Hockey" issued by USA Hockey, except where superseded by the current rules of the PIHL Playing Rules" published by the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey League.
2. Additional exceptions shall be stated in this document and shall trump all of the above rulebooks.

### **OFFICIALS**

1. All games for all rounds of the Penguins Cup Playoffs, including Qualifier Games, shall be officiated using the 2-referee, 2-linesman ("4-man") system.
2. On-ice officials shall be assigned by the local officials' association, as contracted by the PIHL.

### **EMT AND SECURITY**

1. A qualified EMT or local qualified substitution shall be present prior to the start of all games and must be in attendance at all games.
  - a. The EMT must be in attendance for the duration of the game and shall not leave the game until the EMT has checked with the coaches at the end of the game.
2. Security shall be employed at all games.

### **TIME OF MATCH**

1. Three periods of 17 minutes stop-time shall be played.
2. The ice shall be resurfaced prior to the beginning of each game and again prior to the third period.
3. There shall be no curfew.



### **OVERTIME**

1. USA Hockey Rule 638 shall apply with the following exceptions:
  - a. A three-minute rest period will be allowed.
  - b. After completion of two, 10-minute consecutive overtime periods, the ice will be resurfaced.
  - c. Teams will remain on their 3<sup>rd</sup> period ends for the first overtime period. The teams will change ends after each subsequent over time period.

### **SUSPENSIONS AND DISCIPLINE**

1. All suspensions and discipline actions acquired by players, coaches, team officials, teams, and associations shall carry over from the regular season into the Penguins Cup Playoff games.
2. Suspensions and discipline actions shall carry over from one playoff round to the succeeding rounds.
3. Unserved suspensions and/or unfulfilled disciplinary actions obtained in the Penguins Cup Playoffs shall follow the individual and/or group and carry over to the start of the following PIHL season.
4. The “proper authority” for all games shall be the PIHL Playoff Committee.
  - a. The proper authority shall review all matters, except player eligibility, pertaining to the playoffs games and has final say as to discipline of all participants of said games.
  - b. The “proper authorities” decision is final.

### **PROTEST**

1. No protests shall be permitted on playoff game issues.
2. Settlement of all disputes, with the exception of eligibility, shall be reviewed and settled by the “proper authority” (PIHL Playoff Committee) within 24 hours.
3. The decision of the proper authority shall be final.