

2019 Buckeye Cup
USA Hockey High School
Ohio State Championship Rules
Adopted **September 1, 2018**

1) NEW PROPOSED RULES

New proposed rules will be submitted no later than 9/1 and have the vote completed no later than 9/30.

2) MEMBERS AND SEQUENCE OF TOURNAMENT

- A) The 3 leagues participating in the Buckeye Cup are the Cincinnati High School Hockey League (www.swordsshockey.com), The Ohio Scholastic Hockey League (www.ohioshl.com), and the North Coast High School Hockey League (NCHSHL), (www.cshlhockey.org).
- B) Each city in the league will host the tournament in rotation. In the event of a new league being added, the new league would be eligible to host after all current leagues have hosted an equal amount of Buckeye Cup Championship Tournaments. Should a city be unable to host at the date specified (see Date & Time), the next city in rotation would become eligible to host. The hosting city will file the appropriate forms to ensure the Buckeye Cup is a USA Hockey-sanctioned event.
- C) The Buckeye Cup shall occur the third (3rd) weekend prior to the beginning of the USA Hockey High School National Championship.

3) GAME BRACKET

There will be a 3-game preliminary round with each team playing the other 3 teams in its pool. The pools will consist of the following seeds from www.myhockeyrankings.com: Pool A: 1, 6, 7, 12

Pool B: 2, 5, 8, 11

Pool C: 3, 4, 9, 10

If there are 3 or more teams from one league in one pool and there are teams with adjacent seeding numbers and with less than 0.10 difference in MHR scores that can switch pools to reduce the number of teams from one league in one pool without increasing the number of teams in any pool from one league to more than 2, then the teams will be switched unless the Buckeye Cup Committee decides otherwise.

4) BUDGETING

- A.) The hosting league will provide each city representative an itemized budget to include the cost of the ice, trainer, security, trophy, referee, or any other miscellaneous items for the upcoming Buckeye Cup no later than **1/31**.
- B.) Failure to provide a budget by deadline will result in a fine of \$100 for every 5 days it is late.
- C.) A fine assessed to the hosting league for failure to provide the budget by the deadline will be paid by the hosting league to the upcoming Buckeye Cup's hosting league when the fees are due for the upcoming Buckeye Cup
- D.) All three leagues must acknowledge this fine in writing.

5) DUE DATE FOR BUCKEYE CUP FEES

- A.) A written statement that a league **confirms** that the teams it is sending to the Buckeye Cup are deemed eligible.
- B.) The Buckeye Cup fees for a league's participating teams is due to the Buckeye Cup's hosting league by the Friday prior to the start of the Buckeye Cup (i.e., one week before the start of the Buckeye Cup).
- C.) Failure to send in any of the above noted Buckeye Cup payments will result in **suspension from the Buckeye Cup.**

6) REFUND POLICY

- A.) Once a team has accepted the invitation to attend the Buckeye Cup and paid the entry fee, there will be no refunds unless the tournament is cancelled.
- B.) A team found ineligible after the start of the Buckeye Cup will not be eligible for a refund for any reason.

7) GAME PLAY FORMAT

Pool Play round 1: Friday night.

Pool Play round 2: Saturday morning.

Pool Play round 3: Saturday late afternoon. The round 3 games shall be 1 v 6, 2 v 5, and 3 v 4.

The winner of each Pool and the next best team by points advance to the Semi-Finals.

Semi-Finals: Sunday morning. The 4 semifinalists shall be ranked by points obtained in the preliminary round and the top ranked team shall play the 4th ranked team and the 2nd ranked team shall play the 3rd ranked team.

Championship: Sunday afternoon.

The Buckeye Cup Tournament is an advancing tournament to the USA Hockey High School National Championship, and will follow the game play format used by USA Hockey, which can be found at:

[**http://nationals.usahockey.com/guidebook**](http://nationals.usahockey.com/guidebook) (Control + Click)

GATE CHARGE

No gate charge for admission to any Buckeye Cup Tournament games.

8) USE OF RINKS & HOTELS

A maximum of 3 facilities may be utilized with a driving distance no further than 20 minutes from the farthest hotel recommended. Hosting city will provide a list of suggested hotels.

9) OFFICIALS & SUPPLIES

The hosting city will include two (2) officials per game, scorekeeper and timekeeper. Each team will provide its own practice pucks and penalty box personnel. A faxed confirmation or email confirming officials will provide proof of scheduling.

10) SECURITY & TRAINER

Each hosting city will provide security guard and certified medical personnel for each Buckeye Cup game. In the event that a facility is used which contains two (2) rinks, a single security guard and a single certified medical professional may be used while two games are being played at the same time. A faxed confirmation or email confirming each will provide proof of scheduling of security and trainer.

11) LOCKER ROOMS

Each team is responsible for any damage that may occur by any of their members to any locker room facility that is used by that team during the Buckeye Cup. Please make sure that a responsible adult is in the locker room at all times for player supervision. The Tournament Committee requests that team coaches, managers, and players cooperate in keeping the locker room clean, orderly and in good condition. Please see that all debris, tape, can, wrappers, etc. are placed in the proper receptacles before leaving the locker room. Car keys will be required to obtain locker room keys prior to each game and returned once locker rooms have been inspected to assure no damage has been done.

12) TROPHIES REQUIRED

A team trophy will be awarded to the winner & runner-up teams. In addition, individual awards are to be given to each player on the winner & runner-up placed teams. Cities may do more if they choose.

13) ROSTERS

- A.) Teams eligible to participate in the Buckeye Cup shall send a copy of their stamped and approved USA Hockey rosters dated no later than 12/31 to the hosting city league director postmarked no later than 2/15.
- B.) The name and jersey number of each player eligible to participate in the Buckeye Cup shall have his/her name listed on his/her league website no later than 1/10. These players will be listed by team.
- C.) A player not listed on his/her league website by 1/10 will be ineligible to participate in the Buckeye Cup.
Roster must be stamped by the USA Hockey registrar no later than 12/31.

14) TEAM AND PLAYER QUALIFICATION AND ELIGIBILITY

The Buckeye Cup will have twelve (12) participating teams. Three (3) teams will earn automatic bids, One (1) each from the three (3) member leagues, and Nine (9) teams will receive at-large bids. All teams must post all scores from **ALL GAMES** played on www.myhockeyrankings.com. **All teams must be registered through USA Hockey as a High School team, Division 2 (combined), not as a 18U or Midget team.**

Automatic Bids Three (3): One (1) team from each member league will qualify to participate in the Buckeye Cup. **The automatic bid shall be the League Tournament Champion, League Regular Season Champion or the highest ranked (myhockeyrankings.com) team from that League.** If a team is unable to attend the Buckeye Cup for any reason prior to the start of the Buckeye Cup, that team's league will replace that team with the next highest ranked unselected team from www.myhockeyrankings.com

At-Large Bids Nine (9): The Nine (9) at-large teams will be selected from the www.myhockeyrankings.com website, using the Ohio-OH USA Hockey Listings posted on the 3rd Wednesday of February. The top Nine (9) ranked teams not already receiving an automatic bid per their league rules will qualify as at-large teams, subject to the next paragraph.

Should a tie exist between teams on [myhockeyrankings.com](http://www.myhockeyrankings.com), head-to-head game results will determine the seeding position. If no head-to-head game was played between the teams, a coin flip will be used to determine the seeding position.

Non-Member-League Teams. If a USA Hockey High School Division 2 registered team that is not a member of the 3-member leagues desires to participate in the Buckeye Cup, it must meet the following requirements:

1. Have 50% or more of its' registered players reside in Ohio;
2. Play a regular season schedule in a High School League as a team and shall not be an all-star team formed for the purpose of attending the USA Hockey National High School Championship;
3. Apply to the Mid-Am District by Dec 1st prior to the National Tournament (see procedure on the Mid-Am website at www.midamhockey.com);
4. Be ranked at www.myhockeyrankings.com and
5. Agree in writing to comply with these Buckeye Cup Rules.

A non-member league team that meets these requirements in a timely fashion and is one of the top 9 (Nine) ranked teams not already receiving an automatic bid will be invited to participate in the Buckeye Cup.

Eligibility:

A. Team must play a regular season schedule in a Varsity USA Hockey High School League as a team. Teams eligible for an OHSAA playoff are not eligible for the Buckeye Cup.

B. Team must have 50% or more of the team's registered players residing in Ohio.

C. Team must play a minimum of ten (10) games in a Varsity USA Hockey League. This includes League games and League Playoff games.

D. Single Program (Varsity and JV within the same program) players must participate in a minimum of five (5) Varsity USA Hockey High School League games with the Varsity team participating in the Buckeye Cup. This includes League games and League Playoff games. No medical waivers shall be granted to reduce the minimum number of games played to less than five (5) games.

E. All other Multi-Program players must play in 50% of League games and League Playoff games with the Varsity team participating in the Buckeye Cup to be eligible for the Buckeye Cup.

F. The following players are NOT eligible to participate in the Buckeye Cup:

1. Players that are eligible for an OHSAA playoff are NOT eligible.
2. Eighth grade players are NOT eligible.
3. Double rostering of current season Junior players is NOT permitted.
4. Double rostering of current season Tier I players is NOT permitted.

H. The following players are eligible to participate in the Buckeye Cup:

1. All players must be full-time students (grades 9-12) and nineteen (19) years old or under as of December 31st of the playing season. Eligibility is not to exceed eight (8) consecutive semesters starting with a player's freshman year. Those High School students graduating mid-year are no longer full-time students and therefore NOT eligible to play on a Varsity High School hockey team, effective on their last day of attending classes full-time.

2. Double rostering of Tier II and Pre-post players is permitted.

3. Double rostering of Bantam/Freshman players is permitted.

4. Internal Double rostering between an organization's Varsity and JV teams is permitted.

I. A challenge of player eligibility may be brought to the hosting city director by any head coach or team manager of a team entered in the Buckeye Cup. The only proof accepted to prove a player is ineligible due to double rostering will be that player's name on another team's scoresheet or stat sheet

15) GAME JERSEY

- A.) All players of a team shall be dressed uniformly per USA Hockey Rule 203(d) with matching jerseys and socks. (the referee of that game will decide all challenges regarding matching jerseys or socks.)
- B.) The team seeded highest will be the Home Team and wear their light-colored jersey.
- C.) If a team has only one set of jerseys, notice prior to the Buckeye Cup must be given so that opponents can attempt to accommodate.

16) GAME PLAYING TIME

Every game will consist of a five (5) minute warm-up, three (3) seventeen (17)-minute periods, and one (1) ice cut between the second and third periods. The intermission that has no ice cut will be 2 (two) minutes in length. All games will be played in full with no curfew games. Games can start up to 20 minutes early. The National Anthem and introduction will only be required in the championship game; cities may do more if they choose. Games will be scheduled with a minimum four (4) hour break from the end of one game to the start of the team's next game. It is recommended the semi-final games Sunday morning not start before 9:30 AM.

17) POINTS

During the preliminary rounds, each team will be awarded three points for a win in regulation, two points for a win in overtime or shootout, one point for a loss in overtime or shootout and zero points for a loss in regulation.

18) TIME OUTS

One (1) time out per team will be allowed in all games. Time outs will be one (1) minute in length. No time outs will be allowed during running time.

19) RUNNING TIME, MERCY RULE & MAX GOAL DIFFERENTIAL (7/10/7)

- A) In the event a team is winning by 7 goals at any time in the game, the clock will go to running time. The clock will not go back to stop-time, even if the goal difference is reduced to below 7. The only reason to stop the clock during running time is an injury. No time outs will be allowed during running time.
- B) The game will end at any time during the game if the goal difference reaches 10.

C) The maximum goal differential to be used in any tiebreaker is 7.

20) PENALTIES FOR INELIGIBLE TEAMS/PLAYERS/COACHES

Teams not following Rule 14. ELIGIBILITY RULES (above) will forfeit eligibility to the Buckeye Cup.

In the event a player or team is found ineligible,

- A.) The team on which the ineligible player played is removed for the remainder of the Buckeye Cup.
- B.) A team will receive only the points it earned in a game if its opponent was found ineligible.
- C.) The ineligible team's league is assessed with a \$500 fine payable to next year's Buckeye Cup.
- D.) The ineligible team's league will hold the \$500 until fees are due for the next year's Buckeye Cup, upon which time the team's league will then pay the fine to the hosting league.
- E.) All three cities must acknowledge this fine in writing.
- F.) It is up to the ineligible team's league to collect the \$500 fine from the team.
- G.) A team found ineligible may appeal the \$500 fine
- H.) The appeal must be made in writing within 10 days of the decision.
- I.) An appeal fee of \$100 must accompany the appeal.
- J.) The appeal fee is refunded only if the appeal is won.
- K.) If appeal is not won, appeal fee will be applied to next year's Buckeye Cup funds.
- L.) In the case where the appeal is not won, the league of the team that appealed will hold the \$100 appeal fee until the fees for the upcoming Buckeye Cup are due, upon which the league will pay the fee to the hosting league.
- M.) An appeal board will consist of the original representatives from each city plus an additional two members from each league. The additional two members from each league will be from teams that are not involved in the original decision (the team that made the challenge of ineligibility and the team that was ineligible). Therefore, the appeal board will consist of a total of three members from each league, equaling nine members on the appeal board.
- N.) Any fines/fees paid toward the upcoming Buckeye Cup will result in a decrease in the total amount of the Buckeye Cup budget by those respective amounts.
- O.) When a team is found ineligible while the Buckeye Cup is in progress, it will be replaced by the hosting league's next available team.

P.) The replacement team for an ineligible team will participate in the remainder of the Buckeye Cup at no charge and can advance just like any of the other participating teams.

21) TIE GAMES AND TIE BREAKER AFTER THREE GAMES

If two or more teams have an equal number of points, their position in the standings shall be determined by the most current USA Hockey Tournament Guidebook tie breaking format. Tie Games during the tournament shall follow the USA Hockey Tournament Guidebook

<http://nationals.usahockey.com/guidebook> (Control + Click)

22) TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT. The tournament management is made up of one representative from each of the leagues. The management reserves the right to make decisions, interpret rules, and make adjustments to the tournament format as they deem necessary. The decision of the tournament management is final.

23) USA HOCKEY NATIONAL TOURNAMENT. The champion of the Buckeye Cup will be the Ohio representative to the USA Hockey High School National Championship Division 2 (Tournament). The champion must attend the Tournament.

However, if the champion chooses not to participate in the Tournament, the Buckeye Cup Committee will determine the appropriate penalty and the Ohio slot will be offered to the remaining Buckeye Cup teams in the following order: a) the other finalist, b) the semi-finalist with the most points, c) the other semi-finalist, d) the remaining teams in the order of points. If USA Hockey offers additional slots in the Tournament, the order will be the same as above.

24) INTERPRETATION. If any rule herein is ambiguous, the tournament management shall look to the following rules in the order/priority shown below:

1. USA Hockey Rules and Regulations (most current version)
2. USA Hockey National Tournament Guidebook (most current version)
3. Mid-Am District Rules and Regulations (most current version)
4. Buckeye Cup Rules (most current version)