

# East Grand Forks Blue Line Club

## East Grand Forks Parks & Recreation Department

### 2026 North/South Challenge Rules and Regulations

- 1) All games will be played according to USA Hockey Rules as modified by Minnesota Hockey.
- 2) Official USA Hockey Rosters are due two weeks prior to scheduled Tournament date. A maximum of 20 players and four coaches with appropriate USA Hockey certifications are allowed on the team bench.
- 3) All referees are certified by USA Hockey. All referee decisions are final; no protests are allowed. The **Zero Tolerance policy** will be enforced for all players, coaches and spectators.
- 4) Game Times:
  - a. A five-minute warm-up period is scheduled prior to each game. The clock will start once the first team steps onto the ice. Please be ready at designated times. Games may start up to 15 minutes early.
  - b. All Pee wee and Bantam games will be three, seventeen-minute stop-time periods.
  - c. Each team gets one timeout per game.
  - d. All games will be running time when a five (5) goal lead exists after the second period. The game will return to stop-time if the margin is less than five (5).
  - e. Ice will be resurfaced every two periods.
- 5) Pool Play Games:
  - a. Teams will be awarded three (3) points for a regulation win, two (2) points for an overtime/SO win, one (1) point for an overtime/SO loss, and zero (0) points for a regulation loss.
- 6) Overtime Procedure (For All Games):
  - a. Overtime will be a five-minute sudden victory period with three skaters per team (3 skaters plus a goalie). If a team has a penalty, play will be 4 on 3 and any additional penalties to short-handed team will result in 5 on 3 play. When the penalty expires, play will continue at 4 on 4 or 5 on 5 until the next stoppage of play.
  - b. If the tie is not broken, a shootout will follow to determine the winner. Each team will select three (3) players who will alternate taking penalty shots. The home team will have the choice of shooting first or second. Best out of three wins. If still tied, the shootout will go to a sudden death format, alternating one (1) player per team until a winner is determined. Players may only shoot once and cannot shoot again until all eligible players on roster have participated. Any player with penalty time remaining at the end of the overtime will not be eligible to participate in the shoot-out.
- 7) Pool Play standings will be determined according to point totals. Ties in pool standings will be broken using the following criteria:
  - a. Two Teams Tied:
    - i. Head-to-head results
  - b. Three or More Teams Tied:
    - i. Total points in games between tied teams
    - ii. Total plus/minus in games between tied teams with maximum 8 goal differential
    - iii. Fewest Goals against in games between tied teams
    - iv. If three teams are still tied restart process at step one using all games played.
    - v. Coin Flip
  - c. Note: If three or more teams are tied, once a team is seeded, the tie-breaking criteria will be reset for the remaining tied teams.
  - d. Example:
    - i. Team A scored 7 goals and allowed 4 goals  $7-4 = +3$
    - ii. Team B scored 9 goals and allowed 7 goals  $9-7 = +2$
    - iii. Team C scored 8 goals and allowed 5 goals  $8-5 = +3$
  - e. This would place Team B as the third seed and Teams A & C would go back to head-to-head results.
- 8) Medical Personnel/First Aid: A certified athletic trainer, emergency medical technician (EMT), paramedic or medical physician shall attend all games. All decisions regarding an injured player returning to competition during the tournament will be made by the Tournament medical staff. All decisions are final.
- 9) Jerseys: Each team should have two (2) separate Jerseys, white and dark. The home team is listed FIRST and will wear their white or light-colored jerseys.
- 10) Locker room assignments will be posted for each day.
- 11) **Have FUN!!**