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AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION ILLINOIS, Inc.

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2025
AHAI Tier II Illinois State Championships
Rules and Information
"AA" and "A" & "B" Divisions Only

This Tournament will be played according to AHAI and USA Hockey By-Laws and Playing Rules except where these Tournament Rules conflict; then the Rules of this Tournament will prevail.

1) **HOME TEAMS:** In the brackets shown for all Tournament games, the team with the highest NUMERIC designation *(i.e. "1" being the highest)* is designated as the "HOME TEAM".

2) **ELIMINATION GAMES:** In ALL Elimination games down to the "Final 8 Round Robin" teams as shown on the pairings sheets:

   a) **ICE SCHEDULING:** The "Home Team" schedules ice to the reasonable availability of the "Visiting" team. It is not required to be on "Neutral" ice; however, it may be necessary to use "Neutral" ice in the case of longer distances *(Rockford, Peoria, etc.)* if weekend games cannot be scheduled. NOTE: Be sure to schedule sufficient ice time to complete an Elimination Game.

   b) **DEADLINES:** All Elimination games must be played prior to February 21, 2025, at midnight. This may be earlier in some cases as required by the Division Tournament Coordinator or Tournament Chairperson due to ice scheduling. In cases where the teams do not play their Elimination games prior to the deadline, the Tournament Rules/Protest Committee will select the team(s) to continue participation. In cases where a team has more than one *(1)* Elimination game, the first game must be completed February 1, 2025 thru February 12, 2025. The 2nd round from February 13, 2025 thru February 21, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

   c) **OFFICIALS SCHEDULING:** The "HOME TEAM" schedules the game online or by contacting their officiating scheduler. Officiating fees are to be entered in the online system and will be billed to the home team. Officials are NOT to be paid at the game. It is required that a minimum of 5 days notice be allowed for the Home Team to obtain officials.

   d) **ELIMINATION GAMES:** In the case of Elimination Games, minor officials *(one scorekeeper and one timekeeper)* must be adults. The "Home Team" and the "Visiting Team" must each furnish one adult to divide these duties.

e) **DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE:** The "Home Team" will have available the following at all times:

iPad for Gamesheet Scoring and Operator

Backup Paper Scoresheet

A current USA Hockey Rule Book

A current AHAI Official Guide

3) **SETTLEMENT OF ELIMINATION GAME COSTS:** The "**VISITING"** team should bring two *(2)* checks with them to their Elimination Game (one *(1)* for the referees and one *(1)* for the the ice). Referee payment will be made at the beginning of the Elimination Game by the **"VISITING"** team. The difference between the referee's cost and the ice cost is to be settled between the participating teams whereby the end result is 50% of the total cost is borne by each team. It is suggested that financial arrangements be made and clarified when scheduling the game. The **"Home"** team must furnish a bill or contract to substantiate the ice cost if requested to do so. The fees for referees will be based on a *(2)* man system *(for all Elimination Games)*; fees to be as follows per referee per game:

Squirts	**10U**	**$50**	**per official**
Peewees	**12U**	**$60**	**per official**
Bantams	**14U**	**$70**	**per official**
Midget All	**167&18U Referee $90 - Linesman $70 per official**		

4) **OVERTIME PROCEDURES.** *(a)* "Final 8 Round Robin" Games *(Not Involving Elimination)*: One ten *(10)* minute, sudden death overtime period shall be played in the Round Robin games *(not involving elimination)* in the case of a tie. At the completion of the third period in a tied game, teams shall receive a two *(2)* minute rest period. After the rest period, each team shall start the overtime period defending the goal farthest from its respective bench. If a goal is scored in the overtime period, the game shall be considered completed with the winning team scoring the goal receiving two points and the losing team receiving one point. If no goal is scored in the ten-minute overtime period, the game shall be considered a tie with each team being awarded one point. An overtime period shall be considered part of the game and all unexpired penalties from the regulation periods shall remain in force and continued to be served in the overtime period.

(b) Elimination Games preceding "Final 8 Round Robin" Games and Championship & 3rd/4th Place Games: All such games will be played to a finish so that a winner is determined by goals scored. All such games resulting in a tie after three periods will play "sudden death" overtime period*(s) (each such period being equal in length to each of the first three periods)* until a goal

is scored if needed to determine a winner. The teams shall receive a two *(2)* minute rest period and each team will start the first overtime period defending the goal farthest from its respective benches; Teams shall switch ends each overtime period if additional overtime periods are required. An overtime period shall be considered part of the game and all unexpired penalties from the regulation and overtime period*(s)* shall remain in force and continued to be served in the overtime period*(s)*. Should sufficient ice time not be available to complete the game and secure a winner by goals scored, the game will be rescheduled and completed with the game clock being started at the exact time the original game was suspended. Failure to determine a winner shall be referred to the tournament chairman.

5) **RESULTS REPORTING:** Results of Elimination games **must be uploaded to the Gamesheet site in within 24 hours** by the winning team to the Division Coordinator and Keri Zschach at **keri.zschach@ahai2.org**. Results of all games MUST be posted by the winning team on the tournament website immediately following the game.

6) **ROUND ROBIN FEES:** Tournament fees for the Final 8 Round Robin Teams will be as follows:

Squirt:	**per team**	**$875**
Pee Wee:	**per team**	**$900**
Bantam:	**per team**	**$950**
Midget:	**per team**	**$1150**

7) **FEE PAYMENT/TEAMS WITH A BYE:** Teams drawn, placed or receiving a bye directly into the Final 8 Round Robin must **submit the appropriate Round Robin Fee electronically by February 21, 2025.** Contact your organization Registrar if you have not already received your username and password to use www.ahai2.org/organizations.

8) **FEE PAYMENT/ALL OTHER TEAMS:** All other teams entering the Final 8 Round Robin by virtue of victories in Elimination games, must submit their Round Robin Fees electronically. Contact your organization Registrar if you have not already received your username and password to use www.ahai2.org/organizations **PRIOR** to taking the ice for its first Round Robin Game.

9) **SEMI-FINAL GAMES.** In the Pee Wee 12U AA, Bantam 14UAA, Midget Minor 16UAA and Midget Major 18U AA divisions there will not be Semi-Final games to determine the team going into the Championship game. All divisions will have a 3rd & 4th place game, except there will be no Midget 3rd & 4th place games.

10. **OFFICIALS**

a) **For all Elimination Games, no on ice officials other than those assigned by or through the home team regular season Referee Coordinator and are to be used or the game result is subject to protest.**

b) **In all Round Robin, Semi-Final and Championship Games, no on ice officials other than those assigned by or through the AHAI/IHOA Referee Coordinator and are to be used or the game result is subject to protest.**

c) In all Elimination games, Round Robin, Semi-Final games and position games, each and every off-ice minor official should **be at least 18 years of age**. *(Referees are not considered minor officials).*

11) **PLAYING AND PENALTY TIMES:** Age division playing times, and penalty times, for **ALL** Elimination, Round Robin, Semi-Final and Championship games in minutes are as follows:

AGE DIVISION	*PERIOD TIME*	*MINOR PENALTY*	*MAJOR PENALTY*	*MISCONDUCT PENALTY*	*OVERTIME PERIOD*
Squirt	**13**	**1.30**	**4**	**8**	**10**
Pee Wee	**14**	**1.30**	**4**	**8**	**10**
Bantam	**15**	**1.30**	**4**	**8**	**10**
Midget	**17**	**2.00**	**5**	**10**	**10**

12) **PENALTY/SUSPENSION:** In the event a player or coach receives a penalty in a Tier II Illinois State Hockey Championship Tournament game which requires that a player or coach is to be suspended for fighting, etc., that player or coach shall serve the suspension during his/her team's **NEXT TIER II ILLINOIS STATE HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT GAME** regardless of any other intervening games or requirement to serve a suspension in any other game.

13) **SUSPENSIONS:** Penalties resulting in suspension*(s)* will be referred to the Tournament Rules/ Protest Committee. Hearings will be held as expeditiously as possible.

14) **ALL GAMES WILL BE PLAYED STOP TIME:** USA Hockey and AHAI rules apply in all cases.

15) **MERCY RULE:** In all Tier II Illinois State Hockey Championships Tournament games, with a five *(5)* goal lead at any time in the third *(3rd)* period, the clock shall run continuously in the third (3rd) period until either the lead has been reduced to three *(3)* goals or the game time runs out. The clock will only stop when penalties are being communicated by the referee to the minor official *(the scorekeeper)*. All penalty times incurred during this running clock situation will be the same as they would be if there was stop time.

16) **COACHES CERTIFICATION/PERSONS ON BENCH:** All coaches and non-uniformed personnel participating in the 2025 Tier II Illinois State Hockey Championships Tournament *(including managers and door openers)* must have completed the appropriate level of the USAH Coaching Education Program. If they do not have the appropriate Coaches certification, that person will not be allowed on the bench for that particular game. In addition, injured players must wear at least their jersey and helmet at all times if they are going to be on the bench. All coaches and managers must have completed the USAH Screening Requirements to be eligible to participate in the 2025 AHAI Tier II Illinois State Hockey Championships Tournament.

No more than four *(4)* persons, other than rostered players, in uniform, may be on the bench.

The Head coach on the AHAI roster shall normally be on the bench; if not, then the assistant coach on the AHAI Roster. Any deviation shall be brought to the attention of the Tournament Coordinator prior to the team taking the ice for each AHAI Tier II Illinois State Hockey Championships Tournament game. When bringing the matter to the attention of the Tournament Coordinator, it should be done with as much factual information as possible and as much time as possible to permit the Tournament Coordinator to take appropriate action. Violation*(s)* of this rule shall be referred to the Tournament Rules/Protest Committee and the AHAI Rules & Ethics Committee for appropriate action, including forfeiture, inability of your team to take the ice and suspension.

NOTE: ***All players, including injured players, must wear at least their jersey and helmet at all times, including warm-ups, if they are going to be on the bench.***

17) **RULES:** Coaches should review the applicable rules prior to any Tournament Game and bring a copy of applicable Rule Books with them to games, including this letter.

18) **ROSTERS:** Rosters complying with AHAI and USA Hockey By-Laws, Rules and Regulations are the responsibility of the team and supporting organizations. Any question or interpretation a team may have should affirmatively be brought to the attention of the appropriate AHAI Committee by the team or the Organization.

NOTE: ***Read carefully AHAI Playing Rules and Regulations regarding "rosters" and the number of games a player is required to have participated in with your team to be eligible to play in the State Tournament.***

19) **ICE TIMES/ROUND ROBIN:** Round Robin ice schedules **may not be changed** without the prior permission of the Division Coordinator, and then only under extraordinary circumstances. Any costs involved in changes shall be paid by the Organization requesting the change.

20) **TOURNAMENT AWARDS:** All First, Second, and Third place teams receive individual plaques and a State Banner. All Fourth place teams receive a State Banner.

21) **ADMISSION CHARGES** No admission may be charged for Round Robin or Elimination games. There will be no charge for the Championship games played at the Mt. Prospect Ice Rink from March 8-10, 2025.

22) **SCORING:** Gamesheet scoring will be used in all divisions for the Tournament. The "Home Team" will have available the following at all times: iPad for gamesheet scoring and operator. If you are a NIHL team that does not uses Gamesheet, contact **jdunne@ahai2.org**. Gamesheet uses the approved USAH roster and can upload the USAH roster into the Gamesheet system.

23) **FAN CONDUCT:** Each team shall be responsible for the conduct of fans supporting their team. Failure to control fan conduct may result in game stoppage, penalties against the team not controlling their fans, up to and including forfeit of the game and disqualification from the Tournament. Any forfeit must be approved by the Division Coordinator. That decision shall be final and is not subject to appeal.

24) **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES** will alcoholic beverages be allowed at the Tournament. Intoxicated persons will be removed from the rink. Violation*(s)* of this Rule shall be referred to the AHAI Rules & Ethics Committee for appropriate action.

25) **TIME OUTS:** USA Hockey one *(1)* minute time out rule will be allowed in all AHAI Tier II Illinois State Championships Tournament games.

26) **PLAYER ON MORE THAN ONE TEAM:** A player may play on only one *(1)* team in the AHAI State Youth "AA" , "A" or "B" Tournament. Refer to Rules & Regulations, Article 11.1 in the AHAI Annual Guide.

27) **FIRST TEAM "AA":** As a reminder, AHAI Rule, Article 16.1.5 "Tier II Team" which in essence says, If you field only one team at an age level, it shall be "AA". This is regardless of any local league rules and applies to the 2025 AHAI Tier II Illinois State Championships Tournament. *(See New **Standardized Team Placement Rule**)*.

28) **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY:** You are also reminded that only legally rostered and registered AHAI teams may participate in the AHAI Tier II Illinois State Championships Tournament. It is the responsibility of the individual organization to make certain that their rosters have been properly registered with the AHAI Registrar, and that they are correct and comply with all AHAI/ USA Hockey Rules and Regulations. It is not the responsibility of AHAI to police this. Some Leagues and local rules may allow teams to play at other levels. Those teams are not eligible for the AHAI Tier II Illinois State Championships Tournament except in accordance with AHAI Rules. Should you have any questions regarding the level you should play at, please contact the Tournament Chairperson for a ruling. The fact that you have received this invitation does not mean that you automatically qualify for this Tournament.

29) **SCORING IN THE ROUND ROBIN AND TIE BREAKING RULES**

A. **POINTS EARNED:** In Round Robin play, two *(2)* points shall be earned for a win in either regulation or overtime, one *(1)* point for a tie, one *(1)* point for a loss in overtime, and zero (0) points for a loss in a game which is determined in regulation time. The greatest number of points shall determine the order of finish in each Round Robin bracket. If there are more than two *(2)* teams involved in a tie-breaker, then the tie-breaker rules shall be applied simultaneously to the tied teams. For calculating the Goal Differential or Goal Division statistics below there shall be a maximum differential of 5 goals for any one game. If the differential is greater than 5 goals, the winning team's goals shall be reduced to equal the losing teams goals plus. 5. The tie breaking rules are as follows and are to be applied in the order listed herein:

I. **GAMES WON IN GAMES INVOLVING THE TIED TEAMS ONLY:** The order of finish shall be determined by the team winning the most games in games between or among the tied teams..

II. **GAMES WON IN REGULATION TIME INVOLVING THE TIED TEAMS ONLY:** The order of finish shall be determined by the team winning the most games ending in regulation time games in games between or among the tied teams.

III. **GOAL DIFFERENTIAL IN GAMES INVOLVING THE TIED TEAMS ONLY:** Subtract goals against from goals scored in the games between or among the tied teams. The order of finish shall be determined in the order of the greatest surplus.

IV. **GOAL DIVISION IN GAMES INVOLVING THE TIED TEAMS ONLY:** Divide the goals scored by the goals against in the games between or among the tied teams only. The order of finish shall be in the order of the greatest quotient.

NOTE: A quotient involving a division by zero (0) shall be considered superior to a division by any number other than zero (0). However, if two or more tied teams each have had no goals scored against them in the games involving the tied teams only, the tied teams shall be ranked high to low in descending order based upon the number of goals for in games between or among the tied teams.

V. **GAMES WON IN ALL ROUND ROBIN GAMES:** The order of finish shall be determined by the team winning the most games in all games played in the Round Robin.

VI. **GAMES WON IN REGULATION TIME IN ALL ROUND ROBIN GAMES:** The order of finish shall be determined by the team winning the most games in all games played in the Round Robin.

VII. **GOAL DIFFERENTIAL IN ALL ROUND ROBIN GAMES:** Subtract goals against from goals scored in all games played in the Round Robin. The order of finish in each division shall be determined in the order of the greatest surplus.

VIII. **GOAL DIVISION IN ALL ROUND ROBIN GAMES:** Divide the goals scored by the goals against in all games played in the Round Robin. The order of finish in each division shall be in the order of the greatest quotient.

NOTE: A quotient involving a division by zero (0) shall be considered superior to a division by any number other than zero (0). However, if two or more tied teams each have had no goals scored against them in all Round Robin games, the teams shall be ranked high to low in descending order based upon the number of goals for in all Round Robin games.

IX. **LEAST PENALTY MINUTES IN GAMES INVOLVING THE TIED TEAMS ONLY:** The order of finish shall be determined by the team with the least penalty minutes in the game between the tied teams.

X. **LEAST PENALTY MINUTES IN ALL ROUND ROBIN GAMES:** The order of finish shall be determined by the team with the least penalty minutes in all games played in the Round Robin.

XI. **STATE TOURNAMENT RANKING:** If a tie still exists as to any position within a Round Robin bracket after applying the above provisions, the order of finish shall be determined based upon the order of state ranking between or among the tied teams.

APPLICATION OF TIE BREAKING RULES: A tie for a superior or inferior position may be broken in favor of one of the tied teams even if a tie still exists between the remaining teams. If the remaining teams are still tied after the awarding of a superior or inferior position or positions, a new tie breaking analysis for the remaining positions of finish shall occur for the still-tied teams starting directly with Rule AI, above.

By way of example, suppose Teams A, B and C each have four points in their Round Robin bracket by virtue of each team beating Team D, and each winning one game against each other, all games being completed in regulation time without overtime. Upon further supposing that Team A has a Goal Differential in games only involving the three tied teams of +2, B has a Goal Differential of +0, and Team C has a Goal Differential of -2, then Team A shall be declared the winner, Team B shall be declared the second place winner, and Team C shall be declared the third place winner of the bracket since ties for both superior and inferior positions can be broken. If on the other hand supposing that Team A has a Goal Differential in games only involving the tied teams of +2, Team B has a Goal Differential of -1, and Team C also has a Goal Differential of -1, then Team A shall be declared the winner, and since the remaining Teams B and C are still tied after the awarding of the superior position *(i.e. they both have an identical Goal Differential of -1)*, then a new tie breaking analysis for the positions of finish shall occur for Teams B and C starting back with Rule AI, above, since a tie for the superior position but not the inferior position can be broken.

` The 2025 Tier II Illinois State Hockey Championships Committee shall have the sole authority to interpret and apply the Rules. The decision of the Committee is final.

B. **FORFEITS**. Any games declared a "forfeit" shall have the score of 1-0 recorded as the official score for that game unless the Tournament Rules/Protest Committee, in its sole discretion, determines that the forfeit was deliberate and, in that case, the Committee shall determine the score to be awarded and action to be taken in regard to the forfeiting team.