

...At the NIHL Regular Season's Halfway Mark

Team Name	GP	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA	+/-	GFA	GAA	AVG
Blackbirds 1	6	4	1	1	9	19	11	8	3.17	1.83	1.50
Stallions 1	4	3	1	0	6	15	3	12	3.75	0.75	1.50
Sabres 2	5	3	2	0	6	12	7	5	2.40	1.40	1.20
Skokie 2	5	2	2	1	5	12	16	-4	2.40	3.20	1.00
Bloomington 1	5	1	2	2	4	8	14	-6	1.60	2.80	0.80
Wolf Pack 1	7	2	5	0	4	9	26	-17	1.29	3.71	0.57
Glenview 1	4	1	2	1	3	13	11	2	3.25	2.75	0.75
Cyclones 1	4	1	2	1	3	9	11	-2	2.25	2.75	0.75

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Two things NIHL teams are playing for during the Regular Season

For teams in Tier 1 of their divisions (for example 14 & Under (Bantam) Gold B, Tier 1) another coveted prize worth targeting might be the NIHL Presidents Cup for the best regular season record. Both are highly desired objectives.

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Presidents Cups and Spots in the Wolves Cup Tournament (continued)

While only one team from each division can win a Presidents Cup, there are a select group of teams that will play well enough to secure themselves a spot in the NIHL Wolves Cup Tournament.

At the end of the Regular Season the teams who have won the Presidents Cup for their division receive the trademark,

golden Presidents Cup banner you see hanging proudly in many organizations' Home rinks; and players and coaches are given Presidents Cup caps.

Then everyone's attention turns to the NIHL Wolves Cup Tournament where the qualifying teams begin their quest to play for a NIHL Championship.

What Are the Tiebreakers?

...understand the tiebreakers and to know what their team needs to do to qualify for the Wolves Cup.

The only results considered for breaking ties between tied teams are the results from Regular Season games.

Tiebreakers determine who is in and who is out of the tournament. They also help establish the seeds for each division whether it is playing a Round Robin or a Single-Game-Elimination format.

Once the Regular Season deadline arrives, a NIHL Committee crunches the numbers using tiebreakers A-J in Article 4 Tournament of the NIHL Rules (on the website), in exactly the correct order. Last year, we had a situation with 5 teams all tied on Points.

Where Are the Standings? (contd.)

...to see the results for all the teams in your group. The Standings list the teams in order of Points (PTS).

The Presidents Cup and spots in the Wolves Cup may end up very clear-cut, or the end-of-season results may show teams tied on Points.

Be careful how you interpret the NIHL website's standings. They do not reflect all the tiebreakers used to identify the tournament teams!

Do you want all the detail on tiebreakers? Then you'll need to read "What Are the Tiebreakers" to see how the league separates teams tied on Points. This work can be very complicated and accuracy is critical, so more than one person performs the tiebreaking calculations. This provides the opportunity to double-check the results and ensure we are absolutely certain of the outcome.

At this moment (Dec. 19), these are the front-running, undefeated teams leading their division's chase for the Presidents Cup:

Mite Calder – Bulldogs #1
Mite Turner – Bulldogs #2

Squirt Elite – Sabres #1
Squirt Silver – Winnetka #2

PeeWee Elite – Northbrook #1
PeeWee Silver – Chargers #2,
Cyclones #2 and Komets #1
PeeWee Bronze – Admirals #4

Bantam Elite – Hawks #1 and Ice Dogs #1
Bantam Gold A – Rockford #1
Bantam Bronze – Rockford #2

Midget Major – Bloomington #1

Girls 10U – Glenview
Girls 12U – Falcons, Jets and Sabres
Girls 16/19U – Vikings



Qualifying for the Tournament?

Nothing is Guaranteed. Every team has to earn it.

... will qualify for that year' NIHL Wolves Cup Tournament field. The premise is that no team, in any NIHL division or tier, is guaranteed a spot. Every team has to earn their place in the tournament with their Regular Season performance.

In smaller divisions, there may be just 4 teams that make the tournament - Mite Calder and Turner, and Girls 10U and Girls 16/19U.

On the other end of the spectrum there are cases like Squirt Bronze where sixteen teams will qualify for the tournament with seven coming from Tier 1, five from Tier 2 and four from Tier 3.

Want to know exactly where your team needs to finish to lock up a spot in the Wolves Cup? On the NIHL website click the Wolves Cup tab and then open the 2017 Wolves Cup Tournament Format file.

This document, authored by the NIHL Tournament Committee, shows you where the qualifiers in each division need to finish to get a spot in the tournament.

Elite and Gold A divisions play Round Robins which have 8 teams divided into 2 pools. The first place teams from each pool advance to the Wolves Cup Championship, and the second place teams move on to the Consolation game.

Girls, Gold B, Silver and Bronze tournament brackets are a Single-Game-Elimination format. In these divisions the teams that performed the best during the Regular Season are rewarded with the highest seed. When the tournament brackets are set, the top seeds begin by playing lower-seeded teams. Winners of the semi-finals games advance to the Wolves Cup Championship and the losing teams move on to the Consolation game.