



**DISTRICT AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
TOURNAMENT
GUIDEBOOK**

2015-16 SEASON

NOTE: Section 1 of this USA Hockey District and National Championship Tournament Guidebook (this “Guidebook”) contains the USA Hockey Rules and Regulations governing eligibility and qualification for the District and National Championships as set forth in Article IX of the USA Hockey Rules and Regulation. Section 2 of this Guidebook contains the requirements, rules, regulations, operation and procedures of all USA Hockey Affiliate, District and National Championship Tournaments. For regulations applicable to regional, invitational and national championships for the Junior, Adult Men and Sr. Women (30 & Over, 40 & Over, and 50 & Over) classifications, please contact your appropriate registrar, the junior staff liaison, or the USA Hockey national office. Section 3 of this Guidebook contains a pilot program for the divisions/classifications to be included within the High School National Championships.

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Blue shaded areas represent revisions or additions to the USA Hockey District and National Tournament Guidebook.

SECTION 1

*Annual Guide provisions
governing eligibility and
qualification for the District
and National Championships*



DISTRICT PLAYOFFS AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- **Youth Classifications**
(13 & 14, 15 & 16, 17 & 18)
- **Girls'/Women's Classifications**
(13 & 14, 15 & 16, 17 to 19, Women's Senior A, B & C)
- **High School Classifications**
(Varsity and/or Prep School Divisions)

Each season, USA Hockey shall conduct District Playoffs and National Championship Tournaments in the Youth, Girls'/Women's and High School Age Classifications. The Rules and Regulations governing eligibility and qualification for the District and National Championships are set forth in this Article IX. The USA Hockey Youth Council shall approve a USA Hockey District and National Championship Tournament Guidebook, which shall be published and available on the USA Hockey website on or before September 1st prior to the following year's District and National Championships. Except as set forth herein, to the extent of any contrary information in the USA Hockey Annual Guide, the District and National Championship Tournament Guidebook shall be the binding authority for the requirements, rules, regulations, operation and procedures of all USA Hockey District and National Championship Tournaments. For regulations applicable to regional, invitational and national championships for the Junior, Adult Men and Sr. Women (30 and Over, 40 & Over, and 50 & Over) classifications, please contact your appropriate registrar, the junior staff liaison, or the USA Hockey national office.

A. PLAYER AND TEAM REGISTRATION

All national tournament-bound teams and players (except Women's Senior A) must be registered with USA Hockey and must be a member in good standing of an affiliate association on or before December 31 of the playing season. (Women's Senior A teams must be registered with USA Hockey and be a member in good standing of an affiliate association by the third Monday in March). Teams competing on natural ice have until January 20 to register. Player changes to the official team roster for youth Tier I and Tier II teams and girls'/women's national tournament-

bound teams will not be accepted after December 31. For games to count in meeting the 20/10 (14/10 girls'/women's) rule, that team's official team roster registration form (1-T) must be certified by the appropriate district registrar or his/her designee prior to that game being played.

B. COACHING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All coaches must have current USA Hockey certification and the corresponding online age-specific module to participate in the district and national championships. All coaches are expected and required to follow all USA Hockey rules, including the helmet rule, during all pre-tournament and tournament events. Non-compliance will result in a Discipline Committee hearing with a minimum one game suspension. Please refer to the Coaching Education requirements, USA Hockey Annual Guide.

C. TEAM CLASSIFICATIONS

Youth/Girls

Within each Youth and Girls' classification, the District and National Championships shall be at the Tier I and Tier II levels with eligibility to participate as follows:

Tier I: Any youth or girls' team that is properly registered with USA Hockey as a Tier I national championship bound team.

Tier II: Any youth or girls' team that is certified Tier II by an affiliate organization which has jurisdiction over the team. Tier II certification will be based on criteria set up by the affiliate and approved by the Youth Council.

If the affiliate rules permit a certified Tier II team to participate in the affiliate's Tier I district playoffs and a certified Tier II team elects to participate in that affiliate's Tier I district playoffs, then that certified Tier II team shall be ineligible to participate in the Tier II national championships.

High School Varsity and Prep School

Varsity Division (male and female teams): Pure teams that are community based public high schools, private schools drawing their students exclusively from a local metropolitan area (excluding any school that boards players) OR a combined team from a state that has NO pure teams. Representation

from each state will be determined by the state affiliate participating in the tournament. Billed players competing on Tier I, Tier II or junior teams are not eligible to compete in the High School Varsity national tournament. Participation is restricted to amateurs who are full-time students (grades 9-12), and 19 years old or under as of December 31 of the playing season. Eligibility is not to exceed eight (8) consecutive semesters starting with a player's freshman year. Clarification: Those high school students graduating mid-year are no longer full-time students and therefore, are not eligible to play on a varsity high school hockey team, effective on their last day of attending classes full-time.

Prep School Division (male and female teams): Boarding schools, non-community based high schools and others. All teams, players and coaches must register with USA Hockey prior to application for participation.

For districts only, these rules and regulations may be modified for local and state association competition and districts that are composed of a single state, as conditions may require.

Player eligibility regulations may not be less restrictive than those governing national championships.

D. TOURNAMENT ELIGIBILITY AND REGISTRATION

- (1) Players and registered team members properly classified shall be eligible to participate in district and national tournaments see:
 - (a) Rules & Regulations; Section II: Classifications; Subsections Youth, Girls/Women, High School Varsity and/or Prep School
 - (b) Rules & Regulations; Section III: Team Membership and Registration.
- (2) The team shall be certified by its appropriate registrar (form 2-C, team roster registration certification) to have complied with all eligibility requirements.
- (3) A verification and affirmation that a review of each player's birth certificate has been completed by a district registrar

- or his/her designee. When no verification and affirmation is provided, a copy of government issued birth certificate, verification of birth or copy of a passport identification page for each rostered player, is required. Also, for High School Varsity and/or Prep School divisions, evidence of current school enrollment eligibility to participate on the team is required.
- (4) The team's certified player roster must be in the hands of the championship director one week before the start of the championship.
 - (5) The team and each rostered member must be eligible to participate in the district championships in order to participate in the national championships.
 - (6) Number of Games for Eligibility – districts and nationals
 - (a) Each team must have competed as a team unit in at least twenty (20) games for youth teams, at least fourteen (14) for girls'/women's teams except Women's Senior A and at least ten (10) games for High School Varsity and/or Prep School divisions, and
 - (b) Each player must have played in at least ten (10) games during the season or at least five (5) games for High School Varsity and/or Prep School divisions. Women's Senior A players must have played in the ten (10) games prior to the third Monday in March. Women's Senior A district all-star teams are allowed and may be composed of players having played in ten (10) games for a district team prior to the third Monday in March. This team will not be required to have played as a team prior to the nationals.
 - (c) For games to count in meeting the 20/10 (14/10 girls'/women's, 10/5 high school varsity and/or prep school) rule, that team's player roster form (1-T) must be certified by the appropriate registrar or his/her designee prior to that game being played. Teams formed and certified prior to the September 1 season start may have games played in August counted toward fulfilling the 20/10 (14/10 girls'/women's, 10/5 high school varsity and/or

prep school) requirement, with approval of the district registrar. Player changes to the official team roster for youth Tier I and Tier II teams and girls'/women's national championship bound teams will not be accepted after December 31 (February 15 for High School Varsity and/or Prep School divisions). Any question regarding eligibility of game count in the girls'/women's program would be resolved by a committee composed of the appropriate registrar, the appropriate district Girls'/Women's Section Representative and the Girls'/Women's Section Director. If the issue cannot be resolved, the team may appeal to a committee composed of the Youth Council chair, the Registrar Section director and the national championship director or their designees.

- (d) A game is a match played against another team which is registered with a member organization of the IIHF of the same competitive level and officiated by registered officials. A game shall consist of at least three (3) periods (or the equivalent, see paragraph R. Time of Periods below), except where the game is interrupted, (by some unforeseen event) after two (2) periods have been completed. High School Varsity/Prep School games played against school sanctioned teams and USA Hockey high school teams shall count as games toward the 10/5 rule.
- (7) **Ineligible Coach(s)/Player(s):** Any coach of a team that knowingly plays an ineligible player(s) shall be suspended from coaching in any games that lead to a district or national championship in the current hockey season.
- (8) **Appeal Procedure:** Should a youth level, girls'/women's or high school varsity and/or prep school team, coach or player(s) be declared ineligible to compete by a final decision of the applicable Affiliate, District or Registrar in a district and/or national championship or playoffs leading to a district or national championship, the team, coach or player may appeal its ineligibility to the National Championships Appeal Committee, which shall be comprised of the Youth Council chair, the Registrar Section director and the national

championship director or their designees. The National Championships Appeal Committee will add the High School Section director in the case of High School Varsity and/or Prep School divisions. Upon receipt of the appeal the National Championships Appeal Committee will render a decision as soon as possible. The decision of this National Championships Appeal Committee shall be final.

E. NUMBER AND QUALIFICATION OF TEAMS

(1) Districts

- (a) The qualifying procedure and number of teams, and the entry of a host team, shall be determined by the district. The national championship director shall act as the final authority in all unresolved disputes.
- (b) The host shall be allowed an entry at districts, if permitted by the district or affiliate.
- (c) It is recommended that the national championship host team not participate in state or district playoffs.

(2) Nationals

- (a) One representative from each district, plus a host team, shall be qualified to participate in the national championships. For the High School Varsity and/or Prep School divisions, each affiliate shall have the ability to send a representative for each state represented by the affiliate. At the discretion of the tournament director and the high school section chair, additional qualified teams may be invited to fill the tournament.
- (b) Where a program already designated to act as host for a national championship tournament elects to participate in its district playoffs and wins the district playoffs, the district playoffs runner-up team will be designated to represent the district in the national championship. The host team must participate in the host position in the game format at all national championship tournaments, unless specifically approved otherwise.
- (c) No team representing a district shall be ineligible from championship competition for reasons other than those

found in this Article IX or in the National Championship Tournament Guidebook.

- (d) If, for any reason, there are less than twelve (12) teams qualified, the national championship director may select a team or teams in order to operate the tournament successfully.
- (e) For a tournament to qualify as a national championship, at least three (3) districts and a host must be represented.
- (f) The Youth Council and the national tournament director have the discretion to operate a national tournament with any number of teams.

(3) Nationals – Specifically for Girls’/Women’s Teams

- (a) A Women’s Senior B or C team must move up from its present classification if it has won a women’s senior national championship in any of the last three (3) years and placed first or second in either of the two (2) other years. This includes teams of different program registration when a majority of the same players are composed of the same entity.
- (b) When a women’s senior team has qualified to move to the next highest classification in the next national championship and participated, the Girls’/Women’s Section will review their ability to be competitive with the higher classification teams and make a recommendation to either remain or move down a classification.

F. ENTRY FEES

(1) Districts

Not in excess of \$800 per team. Any fee in excess of this amount must be approved by the chairperson of the appropriate Council.

(2) Nationals

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Youth: | None |
| Girls: | None |
| Women’s Senior: | \$500 maximum |
| High School Varsity and/or Prep School: | None |

G. NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO ENTER TEAM(S)

- (1) Affiliate associations shall signify their intentions of entering a team(s) in the district at least sixty (60) days prior to the tournament.
- (2) A district shall signify their intention of entering a team or teams in the national championship, in writing, to USA Hockey with a copy to the Youth Council chair by October 15 of the current season. Affiliates shall signify their intention of entering a team(s) in the High School Varsity and/or Prep School national tournament by November 15 of the current season.
- (3) Once declared, the district/affiliate must compete in the national championships or be subject to a one-year suspension from future championship eligibility by the USA Hockey Board of Directors.

The Youth Council shall:

- (a) Notify the affected parties of the council's suspension recommendation at least thirty (30) days prior to the USA Hockey Annual Congress.
 - (b) Give the affected parties an opportunity, in person or writing, to explain the circumstances which caused the non-appearance.
 - (c) Include its decision in the council's report to the Board of Directors at its Annual Meeting.
 - (d) Participation in USA Hockey district and national championship play shall be at the discretion of USA Hockey affiliate associations, subject to rules with regard to notice, etc., as set forth herein. No affiliate shall be forced to participate, nor shall any of its constituent organizations have a vested right to participation, simply because USA Hockey does provide a national championship for which they may be eligible.
- (4) No USA Hockey member team or association may participate in any league that prohibits that team or association from entering and fully participating in its state, district or national championship. All teams participating in that league shall not be eligible to participate in any state, district or national championship.

H. COMPLETION DATES

All district tournaments must be completed not less than fourteen (14) days prior to the first day of the national championships. Dates for national championships will be established by the Youth Council at the Annual Congress prior to the tournaments and announced at that time.

I. AGE CLASSIFICATIONS

(1) Youth

To be eligible to compete during the 2015-16 season, a player must have been born during the year indicated below:

| | |
|---------|---------------|
| 13 & 14 | 2001 and 2002 |
| 15 & 16 | 1999 and 2000 |
| 17 & 18 | 1997 and 1998 |

To be eligible to compete during the 2016-17 season, a player must have been born during the year indicated below:

| | |
|---------|---------------|
| 13 & 14 | 2002 and 2003 |
| 15 & 16 | 2000 and 2001 |
| 17 & 18 | 1998 and 1999 |

A youth or girls player may play on a team in an older classification only if the applicable Affiliate's rules or decisions, and the applicable local program's rules or decisions, permit that player to do so. A youth or girls player residing in one Affiliate may not play on a team in an older classification in a different Affiliate unless both the Affiliate where the player resides and the Affiliate where the player desires to play have granted permission to play in an older classification. In the event a youth or girls player has been denied the permission to play in an older classification in an Affiliate other than the Affiliate where the player resides, the player may appeal such denial to the USA Hockey Player Development Committee.

(2) Girls/Women

To be eligible to compete during the 2015-16 season, a player must have been born during the year indicated below:

| | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 13 & 14 | 2001 and 2002 |
| 15 & 16 | 1999 and 2000 |
| 17 to 19 | 1996, 1997 and 1998 |
| Women's Senior | 1997 or prior |

To be eligible to compete during the 2016-17 season, a player must have been born during the year indicated below:

| | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 13 & 14 | 2002 and 2003 |
| 15 & 16 | 2000 and 2001 |
| 17 to 19 | 1997, 1998 and 1999 |
| Women's Senior | 1998 or prior |

A youth or girls player may play on a team in an older classification only if the applicable Affiliate's rules or decisions, and the applicable local program's rules or decisions, permit that player to do so. A youth or girls player residing in one Affiliate may not play on a team in an older classification in a different Affiliate unless both the Affiliate where the player resides and the Affiliate where the player desires to play have granted permission to play in an older classification. In the event a youth or girls player has been denied the permission to play in an older classification in an Affiliate other than the Affiliate where the player resides, the player may appeal such denial to the USA Hockey Player Development Committee.

SECTION 2

*Requirements, rules, regulations,
operation and procedures of
all USA Hockey District and
National Championships*



J. REQUIREMENTS TO HOST A DISTRICT AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

In order to be eligible to be awarded USA Hockey district/affiliate tournaments, national tournaments or coaching/officiating clinics, the host facility should be a STAR Facility member with at least one STAR Certified Ice Technician on staff and register all of its ice hockey programs/leagues with USA Hockey. Exceptions can be granted with the approval of the appropriate council, committee or section.

(1) Selecting A Host – Nationals

Application to host a national championship shall be submitted on the official application form with the accompanying fee to the USA Hockey Youth Council staff liaison, by May 15 two years prior to the national championship being applied for. The tournament host must agree to all of the rules and regulations of the national championships. This fee is nonrefundable to hosts who are awarded championships.

(2) Outside Web Facilitators – Nationals

All hosts are required to provide the necessary on-site web support to upload game results/statistics immediately following the conclusion of each game. USA Hockey owns and uses the “Official National Championship Tournament Tool” scoring system, which all host locations are required to use exclusively to post live scores, statistics, game information and standings from each game of the tournament. No other scoring system or data publication system may be used during this event, regardless of any other rink arrangements. Host will not permit any such information to be displayed on any websites other than usahockey.com without the expressed prior written consent of the National Championship Chair and USA Hockey Executive Director.

(3) District/National Requirements

- (a) A sufficient amount of ice time shall be provided to comply with the regulations which permit a maximum number of games per day per team. – See Appendix 1
- (b) Accommodations for each team at National Championships shall be arranged at a 3 star hotel (or better) at the best possible rate. There shall be a minimum

of 12 rooms allocated for each team. The hotel expense is the responsibility of each team.

- (c) At the National Championship, all team members and staff that require hotel reservations are required to stay in the host hotel(s). The penalty for teams that do not stay in the host hotel(s) will be the full price of the rooms for the entire tournament. The involved district will be responsible to collect the monies and forward them to the Youth Council Chair. Districts have the authority to require team members and staff to use a host hotel(s).
- (d) No transportation will be provided by the host. The host will provide teams with a list of agencies where rental vehicles may be obtained.
- (e) The host shall be required to arrange for medical personnel to be in attendance at all district and national championship games. At least one of the following types of medical personnel shall be in attendance at each game: a certified athletic trainer, EMT, paramedic or physician. An Emergency Action Plan is necessary in case there is a need for resuscitation or emergency transport. The host shall be responsible for providing information on additional medical care beyond emergency treatment at the arena, the cost of which is the responsibility of the player's team or parents.
- (f) All television, internet and radio rights are the property of USA Hockey. The selling of these rights shall be negotiated through the national office.
- (g) Hosts are required to provide a room for each director attending their event. All directors/ staff need to stay in the same hotel or in properties that are within walking distance of each other.
- (h) At the USA Hockey National Championships the host shall pay \$160 per game for official's fees, payable to USA Hockey, and shall provide a hospitality room at the rink to be used by the officials/staff at no cost. Upon paying the per game fee, the host has no further responsibility with respect to officiating. The officiating program will

take control of game fees, hotel accommodations, transportation to the event site(s), shuttle service between hotel and rink site(s) and per diem expenses. This applies to all youth and girls'/women's national championships.

K. CHAMPIONSHIP CHAIR AND TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

(1) Districts/Affiliates

A USA Hockey District Director or his/her designee from the district/affiliate holding the tournament shall be named District/Affiliate Championship Chair. The District/Affiliate Tournament Committee shall be comprised of the applicable District/Affiliate Championship Chair and at least two other USA Hockey or Affiliate personnel from the Districts/Affiliates involved in the tournament.

(2) Nationals

The National Championship Chair will be appointed by the Youth Council chairperson, who shall select a Tournament Director for each National Championship location. There shall be a National Tournament Committee, comprised of the National Championship Chair, Youth Council Chairperson, and the Chairperson of the USA Hockey Registrars Section, with responsibility for oversight of all USA Hockey National Championships, and an on-site Tournament Committee responsible for oversight of each tournament location. The on-site Tournament Committee at each National Championship Tournament shall be comprised of the on-site Tournament Director and at least two other USA Hockey Directors or other USA Hockey appointed personnel as selected by the National Championship Chair.

L. MANDATORY COACHES/MANAGERS MEETINGS

An opening meeting for all teams participating in the tournament **shall be held** prior to the start of play at a time and place to be set by the on-site Tournament Director. ***All participating teams are required to have a representative (coach and/or manager) present at such meeting.*** No one person may represent more than one team at this meeting unless prior approval is granted by the on-site Tournament Director. ***Failure to have a team representative present shall result in the suspension of the***

head coach, as listed on the team's official roster, from that team's first game of the tournament. After the preliminary games there will be a second meeting at a time and place determined by the on-site Tournament Director. ***It is mandatory for the head coach listed on the team's official team roster to attend this meeting. If the head coach is not present at this second pairings meeting, the head coach will be suspended from the next game of the Tournament.***

M. SCHEDULES AND FORMATS

(1) Affiliates and Districts

- (a) The tournament format and schedule of games, including home and visiting team designations, must be set by the applicable Affiliate or District Tournament Committee and approved by the National Championship Chair no less than thirty (30) days prior to the first game of the Affiliate/District Tournament.
- (b) The schedule of games shall be sent to all qualified teams by registered mail, courier mail, email, telefax, or electronic communication no less than ten (10) days in advance of the first game.
- (c) Anyone requesting a change in the schedule must notify the applicable Affiliate or District Championship Chair within 48 hours of receipt. Unresolved matters shall be referred to the appropriate Council.

(2) Nationals – Youth Tier I, Tier II, Girls'/Women's, High School Varsity and/or Prep School

- (a) The Tier I National Championship Tournament shall include a total of 16 teams, comprised of one team representing the host, one team from each USA Hockey District sending a team, and at-large teams selected by the National Tournament Committee. The Tier II, Girls'/Women's and High School National Championship Tournaments shall include up to 48 teams, as determined by the National Tournament Committee. All teams (Tier I, Tier II, Girls'/Women's and High School) will be placed and/or seeded by the National Championship Tournament Committee.

- (b) The schedule of games to be played during the National Championships, including home and visiting team designations, must be forwarded to the National Championship Chair, in writing, on or before December 1 preceding the tournament by the host. The National Championship Chair will return the approved game schedule and times of games to the host by February 1 preceding the tournament. The game schedule format may be played Thursday through Monday. Any deviation from these requirements must be approved by the appropriate Council.

(3) Tournament Formats

(a) Requirements for All Tournaments

- An ice cut is required before every game and between the 2nd and 3rd periods. This includes all round-robin, quarterfinal, semifinal and championship games.
- The recommended game slot length(s) are set forth in Appendix 2 and include all required ice cuts.
- If teams are playing 2 games in 1 day there is a minimum of 4 hours rest required between games.
- There is a minimum of 12 hour rest between games played on consecutive days.
- All championship games should be scheduled to end no later than 3:00 p.m.

***Note:** Only the National Championship Chair may grant an exception to any of the above items.*

(b) 6 Team Format (12 Game Slots)

- Two (2) conferences (American & National)
- Team placement/seeding will be provided by the National Championship Chair
- Three (3) teams in each conference
- Teams play cross-conference
- Preliminary round games = 3 on Day 1, 3 on Day 2 and 3 on Day 3
- Total preliminary round games = 9
- Top 4 teams regardless of conference will advance to semifinals

- Semifinal games = 2 (played on Day 4)
- Third place medals are presented to the losing teams of the semifinal games on Day 4
- All championship games should be scheduled to end no later than 3:00 p.m. on Day 5

**See Appendix 1 for sample schedule*

**See Appendix 2 for game time lengths*

(c) 8 Team Format (15 Game Slots)

- Two (2) conferences (American & National)
- Team placement/seeding will be provided by the National Championship Chair
- Four (4) teams in each conference
- Teams play against all teams in their conference
- Preliminary round games = 4 on Day 1, 4 on Day 2 and 4 on Day 3
- Total preliminary round games = 12 (6 per conference)
- Top 2 teams in each conference advance to semifinals
- Semifinal games = 2 (played on Day 4)
- Third place medals are presented to the losing teams of the semifinal games on Day 4
- All championship games should be scheduled to end no later than 3:00 p.m. on Day 5

**See Appendix 1 for sample schedule*

**See Appendix 2 for game time lengths*

(d) 10 Team Format (23 Game Slots)

- Two (2) conferences (American & National)
- Team placement/seeding will be provided by the National Championship Chair
- Five (5) teams in each conference
- Teams play against all teams in their conference
- Preliminary round games = 6 on Day 1, 8 on Day 2 and 6 on Day 3
- Total preliminary round games = 20 (10 per conference)

- Some teams will play 2 preliminary round games in a day but always against a team that has also played that day
- Four (4) hours minimum rest is required between games on the same day
- Some teams will have an “OFF DAY” during the preliminary round
- Top 2 teams in each conference will advance to semifinals
- Semifinal games = 2 (Played on Day 4)
- Third place medals are presented to the losing teams of the semifinal games on Day 4
- All championship games should be scheduled to end no later than 3:00 p.m. on Day 5

**See Appendix 1 for sample schedule*

**See Appendix 2 for game time lengths*

(e) 12 Team Format (25 Game Slots)

- Two (2) conferences (American & National)
- Team placement/seeding will be provided by the National Championship Chair
- Four (4) Divisions of 3 team each = USA, Olympic (American), NHL and Liberty (National)
- Teams play cross division within their conference
- Preliminary round games = 6 on Day 1, 6 on Day 2 and 6 on Day 3
- Total preliminary round games = 18 (9 per conference)
- Top 4 teams in both conferences will advance to the quarterfinal round
- A1 vs N4, N1 vs A4, A2 vs N3, N2 vs A3
- Quarterfinal games = 4 (Day 4 morning)
- Semifinal #1: Winner A1/N4 vs Winner N2/A3 (Day 4 evening – minimum of 4 hours rest)
- Semifinal #2: Winner N1/A4 vs Winner A2/N3 (Day 4 evening – minimum of 4 hours rest)
- Third place medals are presented to the losing teams in the semifinal games on Day 4

- All championship games should be scheduled to end no later than 3:00 p.m. on Day 5

**See Appendix 1 for sample schedule*

**See Appendix 2 for game time lengths*

(f) 16 Team Format (31 Game Slots)

- Two (2) conferences of 8 teams each (American & National)
- Team placement/seeding will be provided by the National Championship Chair
- Four (4) Divisions of 4 team each = USA, Olympic (American), NHL and Liberty (National)
- Teams play against all teams in their division
- Preliminary round games = 8 on Day 1, 8 on Day 2 and 8 on Day 3
- Total preliminary round games = 24 (12 per conference)
- Top 2 teams in each division will advance to quarterfinals
- Quarterfinals: U1 vs O2, L1 vs N2, O1 vs U2, N1 vs L2
- Quarterfinal games = 4 (Day 4 morning)
- Semifinal #1: Winner U1/O2 vs Winner L1/N2 (Day 4 evening – minimum of 4 hours rest)
- Semifinal #2: Winner O1/U2 vs Winner N1/L2 (Day 4 evening – minimum of 4 hours rest)
- Third place medals are presented to the losing teams of the semifinal games on Day 4
- All championship games should be scheduled to end no later than 3:00 p.m. on Day 5

Note: *Quarterfinals will be removed from the schedule in 2017 Tier I seeded tournament.*

**See Appendix 1 for sample schedule*

**See Appendix 2 for game time lengths*

N. CREDENTIAL REQUIREMENTS OF TEAMS FOR DISTRICTS AND NATIONALS

- (1) The District Registrar or his/her designee shall verify each team's eligibility for District and National championships.
- (2) Team credentials must be submitted to the appropriate District Registrar at least ten (10) days prior to the start of national championships. The appropriate District Registrar shall determine the deadline for receipt of team credentials for district tournaments.
- (3) The District Registrar or his/her designee will address any incomplete credentials at the Opening Coaches/Managers meeting.
- (4) The credentials for each team shall include the following items:
 - (a) For National Championships only, a copy of the Team Roster Registration Certification Form (form 2-C) signed by the appropriate registrar or his/her designee.
 - (b) A completed Credentials Verification Form (form 1-C) and a USA Hockey Certified Roster Form (form 1-T) created by registration software.
 - (c) A verification and affirmation that a review of each player's birth certificate has been completed by a District Registrar or his/her designee. When no verification and affirmation is provided, a copy of government-issued birth certificate, verification of birth or copy of a passport identification page for each rostered player, is required. Also, for High School Varsity and/or Prep School divisions, evidence of current school enrollment eligibility to participate on the team is required.
 - (d) USA Hockey waiver and release completed for each registered participant and team manager (not required for participants who have registered online at usahockey.com).
 - (e) Sanctioned game scoresheets to verify compliance with the 20/10 minimum number of games for eligibility rule

(14/10 girls'/women's, 10/5 high school varsity and/or prep school) for each team and rostered player.

- (f) USA Hockey consent to treat form for each rostered participant and manager.
- (g) Coaching credentials for each coach at the level mandated by USA Hockey as shown on the official roster (Form 1-T), credentials verification report (Form 1-C), or required registration and coaching credentials generated through registration software, whichever demonstrates most complete and current information.
- (h) Completed code of conduct for each rostered participant and team manager.
- (i) Non-U.S. citizens must meet proof of resident status eligibility and transfer from home country ice hockey federation (if required) as stated in Rules & Regulations II: Classifications, paragraph C, of the USA Hockey Annual Guide.
- (j) Other documents pertinent to team activities and player and coach eligibility.
- (k) A copy of the team player roster registration form (1-T) for each team shall be available from the on-site Tournament Committee upon request from any of the participating teams. Should the on-site Tournament Committee become aware of, and subsequently determine a player(s)/Coach to be ineligible before, during or after the tournament, said player(s) shall be ruled ineligible to participate in any remaining games and the team using the ineligible player(s) shall be required to forfeit any games in which the player(s) participated by the Tournament Disciplinary Committee. Also, if it is proven that the coach or manager was aware of the situation, they shall be subject to suspension.

O. NUMBER OF PLAYERS

A maximum of twenty (20) players, including goalkeepers, shall be permitted to play in a game. The maximum number of players, excluding goalkeepers, shall not exceed eighteen (18). It is highly

recommended that all teams arrive at the District and National Championship with two (2) goalkeepers qualified under the rules. Teams that are unable to arrive with a backup goalkeeper shall be permitted, with the approval of the National Tournament Director or his/her appointee, and appropriate registrar, to use a substitute goalkeeper from a lower level (Tier I, II, then house/rec.) team within the same association, affiliate or district. Selection order should start with the same age classification (lower level team) first and if not available, then move to the next younger age classification (any tier, house/rec.). The backup goalkeeper shall only be permitted to participate in a game with the approval of the Tournament Director if the original goalkeeper is injured, ill or unable to participate.

Note: *The high school teams may roster up to 30 players.*

P. UNIFORMS

All teams entered must be properly uniformed. All teams must arrive with a home (light) and visitor (dark) jersey. No additional jersey will be allowed. Unless otherwise approved by the on-site Tournament Director, the home team shall wear light jerseys and the visiting team shall wear dark jerseys in all games. If the home team in each game has not been established by the Tournament Committee, it shall be determined by the National Championship Chair or his/her designee. All players participating in the National Championships must properly sew his/her nationals patch(es) on his/her jersey(s) in the designated area. The head coach will not be allowed to coach until his/her players have complied with this rule and are properly uniformed.

Q. TIME BETWEEN GAMES

(1) Districts

It is recommended that no team shall be required to play a second game in one day against a team playing its first game on that day. There shall be a minimum of four (4) hours between games played on the same day and twelve (12) hours on games played on consecutive days.

(2) Nationals

No team shall be required to play more than two (2) games per day, and no team shall be required to play a second game

in one day against a team playing its first game on that day, except with specific written prior approval of the National Championship Chair. There shall be a minimum of four (4) hours between games on the same day and twelve (12) hours between games played on consecutive days.

**R. TIME OF PERIODS (ALL STOP TIME IN MINUTES)
AND ICE CLEAN REQUIREMENTS**

(1) Youth Tier I, Youth Tier II, Girls’/Women’s, High School Varsity and/or Prep School

| Class | 1, 2, 3 | | | PENALTIES | | |
|-----------------|---------|--------|-----------|-----------|-------|---------|
| | Warmup | Period | Overtime* | Minor | Major | Miscon. |
| 13 & 14 | 5 | 16 | 5/16 | 2 | 5 | 10 |
| 15 & 16 | 5 | 17 | 5/17 | 2 | 5 | 10 |
| 17 & 18 | 5 | 17** | 5/17 | 2 | 5 | 10 |
| 17 to 19 | 5 | 17 | 5/17 | 2 | 5 | 10 |
| Women’s | 5 | 15 | 5/15 | 2 | 5 | 10 |
| HS Varsity/Prep | 5 | 17 | 5/17 | 2 | 5 | 10 |

**Round robin games will utilize one (1) 5-minute overtime period, then proceed to a shootout if a winner has not been determined. Games tied in quarterfinal, semifinal and championship rounds will utilize sudden death overtime periods equal to the length of the third period until a winner is determined.*

***In 2017, the 17 & 18 age classification will play 20-minute periods with ice cuts between each period.*

- (2) Each team is permitted one time-out of 60 seconds, whether in regulation or overtime, per the USA Hockey Playing Rules.
- (3) During district and national championship games, the ice shall be cleaned before each game and between the second and third periods, and there shall be a two (2) minute rest period between the first and second period, including in the semifinal and championship games. Any variation must be approved by the applicable Tournament Chair.
- (4) The referees shall enter the ice before the teams for every game. The warm-up clock will start as soon as the referees have completed their safety checks, put nets in place and

the ice resurfacers gates are closed. All warm-ups and rest periods shall be placed on the game clock.

S. PLAYING RULES

The official USA Hockey playing rules shall be used. No protests shall be permitted on the playing rules.

T. OFFICIALS

The three or four official system, at the discretion of the National Championship Chair and National Referee-in-Chief, shall be used. All referees and linesmen shall be assigned by the referee-in-chief, or his/her appointee, of the district holding the tournaments. Neither shall be eligible to officiate in any games. All referees and linesmen must hold at least a Level 3 classification. The district referee-in-chief, or his/her appointee, shall be in attendance at all games to supervise officials. All referees and linesmen are required to wear only the USA Hockey crest, and/or national tournament patch, on their referee sweaters.

U. METHOD OF DETERMINING CHAMPION

(1) Overtime for Nationals (Recommended for Districts)

(a) Youth, Girls'/Women's and High School Varsity and/or Prep School Preliminary-Round Games

1. All Games Played to a Winner

If the game is tied following regulation play, one five (5) minute sudden death overtime period shall be played. At the completion of the third period, the tied teams shall receive a two (2) minute rest period. The teams will remain on the ice. The teams shall change ends. If the score is tied at the end of the five (5) minute sudden death overtime period, there shall be a shootout. The winner of the shootout will be credited with one additional goal in the final score.

2. Shootout

The shootout will be conducted as follows:

- A shootout is defined as a player attempting to score a goal and the opposing goalkeeper attempting to stop the shooter from scoring the goal.

- The referee shall call the two captains to the referee's crease to flip a coin to determine which team takes the first shot. The winner of the coin toss will have the choice whether his/her team will shoot first or second.
- All goalkeepers and all players from both teams listed on the official game sheet shall be eligible to participate in the shootout.
- The goalkeepers will defend the net they were defending in the 3rd period.
- Any penalized player whose penalty had not been completed when the overtime period ended or who receives a penalty during a shootout procedure is not eligible to participate in any portion of the shootout procedure(s) and must remain in the penalty box.
- The shootout procedure shall begin with five different individual shooters from each team taking alternate shots. The players do not need to be named beforehand.
- The goalkeepers from each team may be changed after each shot.
- The players of both teams will take the shots alternately until a decisive goal is scored. The remaining shots will not be taken.
- If after the shootout, the shootout score is still tied, there will be a sudden death shootout.

3. Sudden Death Shootout

The sudden death shootout will be conducted as follows:

- A sudden death shootout is defined as each team attempting a shot. Should one team be successful and the other team not, the successful team shall win the shootout.
- Teams will select their shooters to participate in any order in the sudden death shootout, whether or not they shot in the previous round. The last player in the first round of the shootout may be the first player in the sudden death shootout.

- Players in a sudden death shootout shall not be allowed to take another shot until four additional shooters have completed their attempts.
- All goalkeepers and all players from both teams listed on the official game sheet shall be eligible to participate in the shootout.
- Any penalized player whose penalty had not been completed when the overtime period ended or who receives a penalty during a shootout procedure is not eligible to participate in any portion of the shootout procedure(s) and must remain in the penalty box.
- The goalkeepers from each team may be changed after each shot.
- The official scorekeeper shall record all shots taken indicating the players, goalkeepers and goals scored.

(b) Quarterfinal, Semifinal and Championship Games

1. The game shall be continued to determine a winner.
2. At the completion of the third period, there shall be a two (2) minute rest period before the start of the first overtime session.
3. All overtimes shall be equal to the length of the third period and shall be sudden death. Teams shall switch ends at the end of the third period and each overtime period.
4. If the teams are still tied at the completion of the first overtime, the teams shall leave the ice and the ice shall be resurfaced. A second overtime period shall begin immediately following the ice resurfacing.
5. Following the second overtime, there shall be a two (2) minute rest period prior to the start of the third overtime session.
6. If the teams remain tied at the completion of the third overtime period, the teams shall leave the ice and the ice shall be resurfaced.

7. Thereafter, the foregoing process in items 1-6 shall be repeated until such time as a winner is determined.

(2) Process to Determine Quarterfinalists, Semifinalists and/or Finalists

- (a) During the youth and girls'/women's 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.
- (b) Refer to the formats for tournaments set forth in Article III above and Appendix 1 for information on home team designations in any quarterfinal and semifinal game. The on-site Tournament Director will determine the home team by the toss of a coin.

(c) Youth, Girls'/Women's And High School Varsity and/ or Prep School – Tie Breaking Rules to Determine Standings Position

If two or more teams have an equal number of points, their position in the standings shall be determined by the following tie breaking format. If one tie-breaker establishes a position for one or more teams, each team is placed in the applicable position. Once a team or teams are placed, the remaining tied teams shall start the tie breaking process again at step 1. (If all tied teams have not played each other, then proceed to step 2).

Note: *A team may go into the tie breaking process having defeated another of the tied teams and still not advance.*

The tie-breaker formulas are as follows:

1. The results of the head-to-head games played between the tied teams in the following order:
 - a. Standings — Most points.
 - b. Most total wins (whether in regulation, overtime and shootout).
 - c. Differential — Subtracting goals scored against from goals scored in these games, the positions being determined in order of the greatest surplus.

- d. Quotient — Dividing the goals scored in these games by the goals scored against, the positions being determined in order of the greatest quotient. A quotient involving dividing by zero (0) has higher standing than a quotient from dividing by any number other than zero. Where two or more teams have no goals against and the quotient tie breaker is required, the teams shall be ranked high to low in descending order of “goals for.”
2. If after applying the formulas of 1 a, b, c or d the tie still exists, the results of all the games played by the teams tied in the following order.
 - a. Most total wins (whether in regulation, overtime and shootout).
 - b. Differential — Subtracting goals scored against from goals scored in these games, the positions being determined in order of the greatest surplus.
 - c. Quotient — Dividing the goals scored in these games by the goals scored against, the positions being determined in order of the greatest quotient. A quotient involving dividing by zero (0) has higher standing than a quotient from dividing by any number other than zero. Where two or more teams have no goals against and the quotient tiebreaker is required, the teams shall be ranked high to low in descending order of “goals for.”
 - d. Most periods won — In the games played by each tied team, points will be awarded for each regulation period won (2 points) and for each regulation period tied (1 point). Positions shall be in the order of highest point total.
 - e. Quickest first goal — The team that scored the quickest goal in their preliminary round games shall be ranked highest.

3. If the above procedure does not break the tie, the teams shall use a shootout procedure as previously described.

Note: *If a team forfeits any of its games, and becomes involved in any tie breaking formula to determine its eligibility to advance to the next level of play, the team forfeits all games in the round robin play and the games are recorded as 1-0 victories for the non-offending team.*

V. DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE

- (1) The Discipline Committee for each Affiliate, District or National Championship shall be composed of three (3) people and be appointed prior to the first game by the on-site Tournament Director. Its members shall not come from the same community. The referee-in-chief, or his/her appointee, shall not be eligible to serve on the Discipline Committee.
- (2) The Discipline Committee shall be responsible for deciding any action, suspensions or otherwise, to be taken against a player or team official to be served during the tournament in question. The Discipline Committee shall have full power to waive or increase the one-or two-game suspension imposed in Rule 404(b), Game Misconduct.
- (3) The Discipline Committee shall have authority to initiate action involving supplementary discipline against a player or team official whether or not it involves the playing rules; provided, however, that no suspension shall occur without first giving notice of the intended action and providing the opportunity for a hearing.
- (4) There shall be no hearing for a game misconduct unless deemed necessary by the Discipline Committee. The Discipline Committee shall hold a hearing on any match penalty prior to the team's next game.
- (5) All actions taken by the Discipline Committee as a result of incidents occurring at the Affiliate or District Championship must be reported within five (5) days to:

- (a) the Youth Council Chair;
 - (b) the National Championship Chair; and
 - (c) the respective affiliate(s)
- (6) The National Championship Appeals Committee shall have the authority to review and take appropriate action on any incident in an Affiliate or District Championship. For any incident occurring in the last game of a team's, coach's or player's participation in an Affiliate, District or High School Tournament, and the team, coach and/or player is scheduled to participate in a National Championship Tournament, then the National Championship Appeals Committee shall have jurisdiction and be responsible for determining the team's, coach's eligibility and any suspension for the National Championship Tournament.
- (7) The National Championship Appeals Committee shall be the sole authority in determining the eligibility of the individual(s) for the National Championships.
- (8) All suspensions incurred in the course of the national playdown schedule (i.e., in state or district playoffs) shall be served during regularly scheduled games of the championship playoff schedule. In no case, may such suspension(s) be served in a game occurring outside the championship playoff schedule, by scheduling a game not included in the national playdown configuration and having the player sit out that game.
- (9) Affiliate, District and National Discipline Committee authority, and the National Championship Appeals Committee's authority shall be solely to determine eligibility to participate in the applicable tournament, and any discipline that may extend beyond the applicable Affiliate, District or National Championship shall be referred to the applicable Affiliate Association.
- (10) If a player receives a major penalty during an Affiliate, District or National Tournament, the Discipline Committee shall review the player's status to ensure compliance with Rule 411 (Progressive Suspensions) and shall impose any required suspensions thereunder.

W. DISPUTES/OPERATION OF TOURNAMENT

- (1) Pre-tournament disputes between the on-site Tournament Director, the host committee and/or the district referee-in-chief, shall be resolved by the National Championship Chair in consultation with the Youth Council chair.
- (2) After the commencement of the first game, the tournament referee-in-chief, in consultation with the National Referee-in-Chief, shall act as the final arbiter in all disputes involving the interpretation of the playing rules.
- (3) For any other decision, other than playing rules interpretation, with regard to the operation of the tournament (including zero tolerance, tournament play or conduct not in the best interest of hockey), the on-site USA Hockey Tournament Committee shall have the final authority to make the appropriate decision.
- (4) The on-site USA Hockey Tournament Committee, in all matters pertaining to tournament play, shall have the authority to adjust matters at any time in the best interests of the tournament and ice hockey in general.

X. MERCHANDISE AND AWARDS

(1) Districts

The host may supply championship and runner-up awards.

(2) Nationals

USA Hockey shall supply championship, runner-up and third place trophies and/or awards. USA Hockey shall supply patches suitable for wearing on a jersey for each team participating in the youth and girls'/women's championships. The Marketing Department will present a merchandise proposal to the National Championship Chair (30) days prior to the Fall Youth Council Meeting. The Youth Council will then determine its national championships merchandise program.

- (3) No all-tournament teams shall be selected.

SECTION 3

*Pilot program for high school
national championship*



HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

The USA Hockey Youth Council has approved a pilot program related to the High School national Championship Tournament. The High School National Championship Tournament will be divided into two divisions, with Division 1 and Division 2 separated and each Division competing for their own National Championship. The tournaments will be held in the same place at the same time.

Following are the definitions to be used for each Division:

High School/ Prep School Division 1: Formal high school and prep school teams or non-varsity teams consisting of full time students attending the same high school or prep school or full time students that are eligible to play sanctioned varsity sports at that school.

High School/ Prep School Division 2: Formal high school and prep school teams or non-varsity teams consisting of full time students attending more than one high school/prep school.

Girls' High School/Prep Division 1: Formal high school and prep school teams or non-varsity teams consisting of full time students attending the same high school or prep school or full time students that are eligible to play sanctioned varsity sports at that school.

Girls' High School/Prep Division 2: Formal high school and prep school teams or non-varsity teams consisting of full time students attending more than one high school/prep school.

Note: *The intent of the above descriptions is to make Division 1 the designation for "pure" high school teams and Division 2 for "combined" teams.*

Tournament eligibility requirements will remain the same with each Affiliate determining its representative for the tournament. To encourage the growth of "pure" teams, any Affiliate with Division 1 teams would have to send a Division 1 team to the tournament before being allowed a slot in the Division 2 Tournament. Besides meeting Division 2 team requirements, all Division 2 teams must 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 National Tournament.

Any Affiliate with “pure” teams that cannot field a “pure“ team for the Division 1 side of the tournament can petition the USA Hockey High School Section for a waiver of the Division 1 requirement. Waivers will be considered on an individual basis.

APPENDICES

Schedules
Game Length Requirements



APPENDIX 1

6-TEAM SCHEDULE

Number of rinks used: 2

Length of game slots: 2 hours (*adjust slot length based on age classification*)

| AMERICAN CONFERENCE | NATIONAL CONFERENCE |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | 4 |
| 2 | 5 |
| 3 | 6 |

| DAY | TIME | RINK | HOME | VISITOR |
|-------|----------|----------------------------|------------|------------|
| Day 1 | 8:00 am | R1 | 1 | 4 |
| Day 1 | 8:00 am | R2 | 2 | 5 |
| Day 1 | 10:00 am | R1 | 3 | 6 |
| | | | | |
| Day 2 | 8:00 am | R1 | 6 | 2 |
| Day 2 | 8:00 am | R2 | 4 | 3 |
| Day 2 | 10:00 am | R1 | 5 | 1 |
| | | | | |
| Day 3 | 8:00 am | R1 | 3 | 5 |
| Day 3 | 8:00 am | R2 | 1 | 6 |
| Day 3 | 10:00 am | R1 | 2 | 4 |
| | | | | |
| Day 4 | 10:00 am | R1 (<i>Semifinal 1</i>) | Seed 1 | Seed 4 |
| Day 4 | 10:00 am | R2 (<i>Semifinal 2</i>) | Seed 2 | Seed 3 |
| | | | | |
| Day 5 | 10:00 am | R1 (<i>Championship</i>) | Winner SF1 | Winner SF2 |

1. The winners of the semifinal games will play for the USA Hockey National Championship. The on-site Tournament Director will determine the home team by the toss of a coin.

8-TEAM SCHEDULE

Number of rinks used: 2

Length of game slots: 2 hours (*adjust slot length based on age classification*)

| AMERICAN CONFERENCE | NATIONAL CONFERENCE |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | 5 |
| 2 | 6 |
| 3 | 7 |
| 4 | 8 |

| DAY | TIME | RINK | HOME | VISITOR |
|-------|----------|----------------------------|------------|------------|
| Day 1 | 8:00 am | R1 | 1 | 2 |
| Day 1 | 8:00 am | R2 | 5 | 6 |
| Day 1 | 10:00 am | R1 | 3 | 4 |
| Day 1 | 10:00 am | R2 | 7 | 8 |
| | | | | |
| Day 2 | 8:00 am | R1 | 4 | 1 |
| Day 2 | 8:00 am | R2 | 8 | 5 |
| Day 2 | 10:00 am | R1 | 2 | 3 |
| Day 2 | 10:00 am | R2 | 6 | 7 |
| | | | | |
| Day 3 | 8:00 am | R1 | 1 | 1 |
| Day 3 | 8:00 am | R2 | 5 | 7 |
| Day 3 | 10:00 am | R1 | 2 | 4 |
| Day 3 | 10:00 am | R2 | 6 | 8 |
| | | | | |
| Day 4 | 10:00 am | R1 (<i>Semifinal 1</i>) | American 1 | National 2 |
| Day 4 | 10:00 am | R2 (<i>Semifinal 2</i>) | National 1 | American 2 |
| | | | | |
| Day 5 | 10:00 am | R1 (<i>Championship</i>) | Winner SF1 | Winner SF2 |

1. The winners of the semifinal games will play for the USA Hockey National Championship. The on-site Tournament Director will determine the home team by the toss of a coin.

10-TEAM SCHEDULE

Number of rinks used: 2

Length of game slots: 2 hours (*adjust slot length based on age classification*)

| AMERICAN CONFERENCE | NATIONAL CONFERENCE |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | 6 |
| 2 | 7 |
| 3 | 8 |
| 4 | 9 |
| 5 | 10 |

| DAY | TIME | RINK | HOME | VISITOR |
|-------|----------|------|------|---------|
| Day 1 | 8:00 am | R1 | 1 | 2 |
| Day 1 | 8:00 am | R2 | 3 | 4 |
| Day 1 | 10:00 am | R1 | 6 | 7 |
| Day 1 | 10:00 am | R2 | 8 | 9 |
| Day 1 | 4:00 pm | R1 | 1 | 3 |
| Day 1 | 4:00 pm | R2 | 6 | 8 |

Teams 5 and 10 do not play games on Day 1
Teams 1, 3, 6, 8 play two games on Day 1

| | | | | |
|-------|----------|----|----|---|
| Day 2 | 8:00 am | R1 | 5 | 2 |
| Day 2 | 8:00 am | R2 | 1 | 4 |
| Day 2 | 10:00 am | R1 | 10 | 7 |
| Day 2 | 10:00 am | R2 | 6 | 9 |
| Day 2 | 4:00 pm | R1 | 5 | 1 |
| Day 2 | 4:00 pm | R2 | 4 | 2 |
| Day 2 | 6:00 pm | R1 | 10 | 6 |
| Day 2 | 6:00 pm | R2 | 9 | 7 |

Teams 3 and 8 do not play games on Day 2
Teams 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 play two games on Day 2

| | | | | |
|-------|----------|----|----|---|
| Day 3 | 8:00 am | R1 | 2 | 3 |
| Day 3 | 8:00 am | R2 | 5 | 4 |
| Day 3 | 10:00 am | R1 | 7 | 8 |
| Day 3 | 10:00 am | R2 | 10 | 9 |

| DAY | TIME | RINK | HOME | VISITOR |
|---|----------|--------------------------|------------|------------|
| Day 3 | 4:00 pm | R1 | 3 | 5 |
| Day 3 | 4:00 pm | R2 | 8 | 10 |
| <i>Teams 1 and 6 do not play games on Day 3</i> | | | | |
| <i>Teams 3, 5, 8 and 10 play two games on Day 3</i> | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Day 4 | 10:00 am | R1 <i>(Semifinal 1)</i> | American 1 | National 2 |
| Day 4 | 10:00 am | R2 <i>(Semifinal 2)</i> | National 1 | American 2 |
| | | | | |
| Day 5 | 10:00 am | R1 <i>(Championship)</i> | Winner SF1 | Winner SF2 |

1. The winners of the semifinal games will play for the USA Hockey National Championship. The on-site Tournament Director will determine the home team by the toss of a coin.

12-TEAM SCHEDULE

Number of rinks used: 2

Length of game slots: 2 hours (*adjust slot length based on age classification*)

| AMERICAN CONFERENCE | | NATIONAL CONFERENCE | |
|---------------------|---------|---------------------|---------|
| USA | OLYMPIC | NHL | LIBERTY |
| 1 | 4 | 7 | 10 |
| 2 | 5 | 8 | 11 |
| 3 | 6 | 9 | 12 |

| DAY | TIME | RINK | HOME | VISITOR |
|-------|----------|------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Day 1 | 8:00 am | R1 | 1 | 4 |
| Day 1 | 8:00 am | R2 | 7 | 10 |
| Day 1 | 10:00 am | R1 | 2 | 5 |
| Day 1 | 10:00 am | R2 | 8 | 11 |
| Day 1 | 12:00 pm | R1 | 3 | 6 |
| Day 1 | 12:00 pm | R2 | 9 | 12 |
| | | | | |
| Day 2 | 8:00 am | R1 | 5 | 1 |
| Day 2 | 8:00 am | R2 | 11 | 7 |
| Day 2 | 10:00 am | R1 | 6 | 2 |
| Day 2 | 10:00 am | R2 | 12 | 8 |
| Day 2 | 12:00 pm | R1 | 4 | 3 |
| Day 2 | 12:00 pm | R2 | 10 | 9 |
| | | | | |
| Day 3 | 8:00 am | R1 | 1 | 6 |
| Day 3 | 8:00 am | R2 | 7 | 12 |
| Day 3 | 10:00 am | R1 | 2 | 4 |
| Day 3 | 10:00 am | R2 | 8 | 10 |
| Day 3 | 12:00 pm | R1 | 3 | 5 |
| Day 3 | 12:00 pm | R2 | 9 | 11 |
| | | | | |
| Day 4 | 8:00 am | R1 (<i>Quarterfinal 1</i>) | American 1 | National 4 |
| Day 4 | 8:00 am | R2 (<i>Quarterfinal 2</i>) | National 2 | American 3 |
| Day 4 | 10:00 am | R1 (<i>Quarterfinal 3</i>) | National 1 | American 4 |
| Day 4 | 10:00 am | R2 (<i>Quarterfinal 4</i>) | American 2 | National 3 |

| DAY | TIME | RINK | HOME | VISITOR |
|-------|----------|--------------------------|------------|------------|
| Day 4 | 5:00 pm | R1 <i>(Semifinal 1)</i> | Winner QF1 | Winner QF2 |
| Day 4 | 5:00 pm | R2 <i>(Semifinal 2)</i> | Winner QF2 | Winner QF4 |
| | | | | |
| Day 5 | 10:00 am | R1 <i>(Championship)</i> | Winner SF1 | Winner SF2 |

1. Home team for each semifinal game shall be the team that was seeded highest prior to the quarterfinal games. In the event that two teams are tied, the Tournament Director will determine the home team by the toss of a coin.
2. The winners of the semifinal games will play for the USA Hockey National Championship. The on-site Tournament Director will determine the home team by the toss of a coin.

DISTRICT ASSIGNMENTS FOR A 12-TEAM FORMAT YOUTH TIER I, TIER II, GIRLS/WOMEN

2016

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. New York | 7. Massachusetts |
| 2. Rocky Mountain | 8. Central |
| 3. Atlantic | 9. Minnesota/Northern Plains |
| 4. New England | 10. Mid-American |
| 5. Pacific | 11. Michigan |
| 6. Host | 12. Southeastern |

2017

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. New York | 7. Atlantic |
| 2. New England | 8. Minnesota/Northern Plains |
| 3. Massachusetts | 9. Southeastern |
| 4. Rocky Mountain | 10. Host |
| 5. Pacific | 11. Central |
| 6. Michigan | 12. Mid-American |

TIER II

16-TEAM SCHEDULE

Number of rinks used: 2

Length of game slots: 2 hours (adjust slot length based on age classification)

| AMERICAN CONFERENCE | | NATIONAL CONFERENCE | |
|---------------------|---------|---------------------|---------|
| USA | OLYMPIC | NHL | LIBERTY |
| 1 | 5 | 9 | 13 |
| 2 | 6 | 10 | 14 |
| 3 | 7 | 11 | 15 |
| 4 | 8 | 12 | 16 |

| DAY | TIME | RINK | HOME | VISITOR |
|-------|----------|------|------|---------|
| Day 1 | 8:00 am | R1 | 1 | 2 |
| Day 1 | 8:00 am | R2 | 3 | 4 |
| Day 1 | 10:00 am | R1 | 5 | 6 |
| Day 1 | 10:00 am | R2 | 7 | 8 |
| Day 1 | 12:00 pm | R1 | 9 | 10 |
| Day 1 | 12:00 pm | R2 | 11 | 12 |
| Day 1 | 4:00 pm | R1 | 13 | 14 |
| Day 1 | 4:00 pm | R2 | 15 | 16 |
| | | | | |
| Day 2 | 8:00 am | R1 | 2 | 3 |
| Day 2 | 8:00 am | R2 | 4 | 1 |
| Day 2 | 10:00 am | R1 | 6 | 7 |
| Day 2 | 10:00 am | R2 | 8 | 5 |
| Day 2 | 12:00 pm | R1 | 10 | 11 |
| Day 2 | 12:00 pm | R2 | 12 | 9 |
| Day 2 | 4:00 pm | R1 | 14 | 15 |
| Day 2 | 4:00 pm | R2 | 16 | 13 |
| | | | | |
| Day 3 | 8:00 am | R1 | 1 | 3 |
| Day 3 | 8:00 am | R2 | 2 | 4 |
| Day 3 | 10:00 am | R1 | 5 | 7 |
| Day 3 | 10:00 am | R2 | 6 | 8 |

| DAY | TIME | RINK | HOME | VISITOR |
|-------|----------|------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Day 3 | 12:00 pm | R1 | 9 | 11 |
| Day 3 | 12:00 pm | R2 | 10 | 12 |
| Day 3 | 4:00 pm | R1 | 13 | 15 |
| Day 3 | 4:00 pm | R2 | 14 | 16 |
| | | | | |
| Day 4 | 8:00 am | R1 (<i>Quarterfinal 1</i>) | USA 1 | OLY 2 |
| Day 4 | 8:00 am | R2 (<i>Quarterfinal 2</i>) | LIB 1 | NHL 2 |
| Day 4 | 10:00 am | R1 (<i>Quarterfinal 3</i>) | OLY 1 | USA 2 |
| Day 4 | 10:00 am | R2 (<i>Quarterfinal 4</i>) | NHL 1 | LIB 2 |
| Day 4 | 5:00 pm | R1 (<i>Semifinal 1</i>) | Winner QF1 | Winner QF2 |
| Day 4 | 5:00 pm | R2 (<i>Semifinal 2</i>) | Winner QF3 | Winner QF4 |
| | | | | |
| Day 5 | 10:00 am | R1 (<i>Championship</i>) | Winner SF1 | Winner SF2 |

1. Home team for each semifinal game shall be the team that was seeded highest prior to the quarterfinal games. In the event that two teams are tied, the Tournament Director will determine the home team by the toss of a coin.
2. The winners of the semifinal games will play for the USA Hockey National Championship. The on-site Tournament Director will determine the home team by the toss of a coin.

TIER I

16-TEAM SCHEDULE (SEEDED)

Number of rinks used: 2

Length of game slots: 2 hours *(adjust slot length based on age classification)*

| AMERICAN CONFERENCE | | NATIONAL CONFERENCE | |
|---------------------|---------|---------------------|---------|
| USA | OLYMPIC | NHL | LIBERTY |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 16 | 15 | 14 | 13 |

| DAY | TIME | RINK | HOME | VISITOR |
|-------|----------|------|------|---------|
| Day 1 | 8:00 am | R1 | 1 | 16 |
| Day 1 | 8:00 am | R2 | 2 | 15 |
| Day 1 | 10:00 am | R1 | 3 | 14 |
| Day 1 | 10:00 am | R2 | 4 | 13 |
| Day 1 | 12:00 pm | R1 | 8 | 9 |
| Day 1 | 12:00 pm | R2 | 7 | 10 |
| Day 1 | 4:00 pm | R1 | 6 | 11 |
| Day 1 | 4:00 pm | R2 | 5 | 12 |
| | | | | |
| Day 2 | 8:00 am | R1 | 9 | 1 |
| Day 2 | 8:00 am | R2 | 10 | 2 |
| Day 2 | 10:00 am | R1 | 11 | 3 |
| Day 2 | 10:00 am | R2 | 12 | 4 |
| Day 2 | 12:00 pm | R1 | 16 | 8 |
| Day 2 | 12:00 pm | R2 | 15 | 7 |
| Day 2 | 4:00 pm | R1 | 14 | 6 |
| Day 2 | 4:00 pm | R2 | 13 | 5 |
| | | | | |
| Day 3 | 8:00 am | R1 | 1 | 8 |
| Day 3 | 8:00 am | R2 | 2 | 7 |
| Day 3 | 10:00 am | R1 | 3 | 6 |
| Day 3 | 10:00 am | R2 | 4 | 5 |

| DAY | TIME | RINK | HOME | VISITOR |
|-------|----------|------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Day 3 | 12:00 pm | R1 | 9 | 16 |
| Day 3 | 12:00 pm | R2 | 10 | 15 |
| Day 3 | 4:00 pm | R1 | 11 | 14 |
| Day 3 | 4:00 pm | R2 | 12 | 13 |
| | | | | |
| Day 4 | 8:00 am | R1 (<i>Quarterfinal 1</i>) | USA 1 | OLY 2 |
| Day 4 | 8:00 am | R2 (<i>Quarterfinal 2</i>) | LIB 1 | NHL 2 |
| Day 4 | 10:00 am | R1 (<i>Quarterfinal 3</i>) | OLY 1 | USA 2 |
| Day 4 | 10:00 am | R2 (<i>Quarterfinal 4</i>) | NHL 1 | LIB 2 |
| Day 4 | 5:00 pm | R1 (<i>Semifinal 1</i>) | Winner QF1 | Winner QF2 |
| Day 4 | 5:00 pm | R2 (<i>Semifinal 2</i>) | Winner QF3 | Winner QF4 |
| | | | | |
| Day 5 | 10:00 am | R1 (<i>Championship</i>) | Winner SF1 | Winner SF2 |

1. Home team for each quarterfinal, semifinal and championship game shall be the highest seeded team.
2. Note that quarterfinals will be removed from the schedule in 2017 Tier i seeded tournament.

APPENDIX 2

GAME LENGTH REQUIREMENTS

| GROUP | TIER | DIVISION | ROUND ROBIN | QUARTER FINALS | SEMI FINALS | FINALS |
|-------------|--------|----------|-------------|----------------|-------------|----------|
| Youth | I & II | 14U | 110 min. | 120 min. | 120 min. | 120 min. |
| Youth | I & II | 16U | 120 min. | 120 min. | 120 min. | 120 min. |
| Youth | I & II | 18U | 120 min. | 120 min. | 120 min. | 120 min. |
| | | | | | | |
| High School | — | 1 & 2 | 120 min. | 120 min. | 120 min. | 120 min. |
| | | | | | | |
| Girls | I & II | 14U | 110 min. | 120 min. | 120 min. | 120 min. |
| | I & II | 16U | 120 min. | 120 min. | 120 min. | 120 min. |
| | I & II | 18U | 120 min. | 120 min. | 120 min. | 120 min. |
| | | | | | | |
| Women | — | Senior A | 100 min. | 120 min. | 120 min. | 120 min. |
| | — | Senior B | 100 min. | 120 min. | 120 min. | 120 min. |
| | — | Senior C | 100 min. | 120 min. | 120 min. | 120 min. |
| | — | Over 30 | 100 min. | 120 min. | 120 min. | 120 min. |

1. All divisions include ice cuts before each game and between the second and third periods.
2. All ice cuts are included in the total game length.

