** General Rules and Information**

 *Presented by the Chicago Cougars Jr. Hockey team*

* **All games will be played under current USA Hockey Rules**
* All players must wear numbered uniforms in the proper team colors. The home team will wear a white or light-colored jersey and the visiting team shall wear a dark colored jersey

Each team will need to provide a penalty box attendant for each game and this volunteer becomes an off-ice official and has to remain neutral during the game and help the on-ice officials, if needed.

All games will be three 15-minute stop time periods. Penalties are assessed as follows: two minute minors, five minute majors, and ten minute misconducts.

A running clock will be used in the 3rd period when one team is ahead by 6 or more goals. Each game will start with a fresh cut of ice. Warmups are 5 minutes.

 **2021 Tournament Format**

Each team will play two games within its’ group. The top team in each of the five groups will advance to the “Final Eight” along with 3 Wild Card teams. In the Preliminary round, there cannot be any ties and we will go to a 3 man shootout if there is a tie at the end of regulation.

**Point system:** Teams will be awarded 3 points for a win, 2 points for a shootout win, 1 point for a shootout loss and 0 for a straight loss.

(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.)

**Tournament Standings and Tiebreakers within the Groups:**

Standings will be compiled by the tournament director and posted at the rinks. Teams will be ranked within their tournament group by the total number of points obtained. In the event of a tie, final standings will be determined by the following criteria:

**Ties within the Group to determine Group Winner:**

a. Head to head– With 3 or more teams tied we skip Head to Head and go to most wins.

b. Most wins

c. Goal differential between teams tied for points

d. Goal differential of the entire group

e. Fewest goals against

f. Fewest penalty minutes

g. Coin toss

**Ties to determine the 2 wild card teams:**

a. Most points

b. Most wins

c. Goal differential between teams tied for points

d. Goal differential of the entire group

e. Fewest goals against

f. Fewest penalty minutes

g. Coin toss

* **Tie games/Tie breaking procedures**

If any group play game ends in a tie, we go to the rules below.

a. Shootout (3 players/team) – most goals wins

c. If shootout ends in tie, sudden death shootout until winner is decided (each team must continue through their roster until all players have taken a shot).

If any Final 8, Consolation, and Championship game ends in a tie the following tie-breaking procedure will be followed:

a. 5 minute sudden death overtime period (3 on 3)

b. Shootout (3 players/team – each player may only shoot once) – most goals wins

c. If shootout ends in tie, sudden death shootout until winner is decided (each team must continue through their roster until all players have taken a shot.