



## **SCHL PLAYOFF GAME PROTOCOLS**

### **2025–2026 Season**

The following rules will apply to all teams participating in the SCHL Playoffs:

#### **General Rules**

- **ALL GAMES WILL BE PLAYED PER USA HOCKEY RULES.**
  - All teams must have reviewed approved rosters provided by the SCHL.
  - SCHL will send each program a list of approved players eligible for playoffs.
    - Only players on the approved list may participate.
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#### **Game Procedure**

##### **1) Warm-Up**

- 3 minutes (begins when the Zamboni driver closes the door)
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##### **2) Period Lengths**

(Same as regular season)

###### **a. U12A / U14A / U14B**

- All games will be played as **3 – 15-minute stop-time periods**

###### **b. U8A / U10A / U10B / U10C / U12B / U12C**

- All games will be played as **3 – 12-minute stop-time periods**
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### 3) Running Time Rule

- Games will switch to running time if there is a goal differential of **6 or more**.
  - Running time will continue until the goal differential is reduced to **5 or fewer**.
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### 4) Penalty Lengths

(Same as regular season)

#### a. U12A / U14A / U14B

- Minor: 1.5 minutes
- Major: 4 minutes
- Misconduct: 8 minutes

#### b. U8A / U10A / U10B / U10C / U12B / U12C

- Minor: 1 minute
  - Major: 3 minutes
  - Misconduct: 6 minutes
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### 5) Timeouts

- Each team will have **one (1) timeout per game**.
  - Teams do **not** receive an additional timeout if the game goes into overtime.
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### 6) Overtime Procedure

If the game is tied at the end of regulation:

#### a. Overtime Period

- One (1) **5-minute stop-time sudden death period**
- Played **3-on-3**
- Free substitution

If the game remains tied after overtime:

**b. Shootout (3 Rounds)**

- The home team (higher seed) chooses whether to shoot first or second.
  - Once the order is decided, it remains the same for the entire shootout.
  - The same player may not shoot twice during the first 3 rounds.
  - If tied after 3 rounds, the shootout becomes sudden death.
  - In sudden death rounds, teams may repeat shooters.
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**7) Penalties & Player Eligibility in Overtime/Shootout**

- Penalties carry over from regulation to overtime, and from overtime to the shootout.
- If a player is still serving a penalty at the end of overtime, that player is **not eligible** to participate in the shootout.
- No team will play with fewer than three (3) players in overtime.
  - If a penalty occurs during 3-on-3 overtime, the non-penalized team will add a player (4-on-3).
  - When the penalty expires, teams will continue 4-on-4 until the next stoppage.
  - At the next stoppage, teams will reset to 3-on-3.