

POSTSEASON RULES - ADMINISTRATION

Pittsburgh Amateur Hockey League 2024-25



Playoff Berths

League Playoff Qualifiers: For all age classifications above 10U, the total number of teams in each division shall determine the number of teams from the division that shall qualify for the league playoffs, as follows:

- 1) 11 or more divisional teams = Top 6 teams qualify for the playoffs
- 2) 6-10 divisional teams = Top 4 teams qualify for the playoffs
- 3) 5 or less divisional teams = Top 2 teams qualify for the playoffs

10U Playoff Opt-In: Eligible teams in all 10U divisions shall each be given the option to declare for the Open Division Season-End Tournament (ODSET).

- 1) The League Office shall establish the means for teams to opt-in and register for the 10U Open Division Season-End Tournament.
- 2) Any 10U team that is barred from postseason participation under the provisions of Playoff Team Eligibility shall not be eligible to register for any divisional ODSET.

8U Playoff Restriction: There shall be no postseason tournament, playoff, nor championship-style jamboree conducted, coordinated, nor recognized by the league for any 8U division/grouping.

Playoff Withdrawal: Any team that qualifies for the league playoffs but has a league record of under .500 in the standings shall have the option to withdraw from the playoffs, with no consequences, prior to the game schedule being finalized. Any other team that withdraws prior to any playoff game or fails to play any of its assigned playoff games shall be assessed a fine of \$1,000.

Playoff Team Replacements: The League Office shall replace any team who qualifies for the league playoffs but is not participating in the postseason due to failure to maintain good standing with the league, applied disciplinary action via due process, automatic disqualification due to specified rules violations, or voluntary Playoff Withdrawal.

- 1) The next applicable team, in order, from the Division Rankings shall be the first option as a replacement.
- 2) If the current option for a replacement team declines the invitation, the sequence shall continue until an eligible team accepts the invitation.
- 3) If no eligible team accepts the invitation, that spot in the playoff bracket shall result in a bye for the corresponding opponent.

Standard Postseason Format

Playoff Format: The postseason format for all age classifications above 10U shall establish single-elimination brackets.

Playoff Seeding: Seeding shall be assigned to each qualifying team in strict accordance with the Division Rankings and shall be utilized to place teams into the playoff bracket.

- 1) All qualifying teams within a division shall be placed in the appropriate order into a standard, single-elimination bracket, with the higher seeds inversely playing the lower seeds in the first round.
- 2) Byes shall only be granted to the higher-seeded teams, where applicable.
- 3) Teams are not resorted nor reseeded after any round; the progression through the elimination bracket shall always be applied.

Playoff Player Eligibility

Playoff Player Eligibility: In addition to standard Participation Policies, players must meet the following requirements to participate in playoffs with a team:

- 1) Appeared on the team's league roster on or before November 30th or was placed on a roster for the first time on or before December 31st
- 2) Participated in at least 50% of the team's regular-season league games for 14U and above, with exceptions approved via Playoff Injury Exemptions.

Playoff Injury Exemptions: A player who does not meet the minimum requirement for games played can be granted a participation waiver by the League Office for proven injury situations under the following requirements:

- 1) The player participated in at least 25% of league games or, for 18U teams only, participated in at least 1 league game.
- 2) The player was injured for at least 25% of league games, with documented proof of injury from an independent professional medical provider.

Playoff Provisions

Playoff Schedules: The League Office shall use the ice slots provided by the host venue(s) to establish the playoff game schedules for each division.

- 1) A minimum rest period of 4 hours shall be required from the expected end of any game until the next game played by the advancing team.
- 2) No team shall play more than 2 playoff games in a single day.
- 3) The higher-seeded teams shall be given priority, in order, in assignments to the divisional playoff game schedules, but schedules shall not be arranged nor changed to meet the needs/requests of any individual team.
- 4) Games involving advancing teams that will meet in the next round shall be played simultaneously or consecutively, as best applicable.

Playoff Home Teams: The home team in each elimination game shall be the team with the higher seeding number, with #1 being higher than #2 and so on.

- 1) In instances where a match-up consists of teams with identical seeding numbers, the Tiebreaker System shall be used to determine the home team.
- 2) The home team shall occupy the player bench designated for the home team and shall reserve all privileges granted by the applicable rulebooks.

Playoff Authority: The League Office remains the authority on all postseason games conducted by the league. The League Office is empowered to make rulings on unique situations, enact any appropriate policies required to address any matter, resolve all disputes, conduct all disciplinary reviews, and manage all supplemental discipline.

- 1) No such action shall violate an established league By-Law.
- 2) All such actions shall be final and therefore not eligible for appeal.

Playoff Discipline: All pending suspensions and disciplinary actions acquired by individuals and associations shall apply to the postseason.

- 1) Suspensions and disciplinary actions incurred during the regular season shall carry-over into the playoff games.
- 2) Suspensions and disciplinary actions incurred in playoff games shall apply to the subsequent rounds for winning teams and/or into the next regular season for losing teams under the terms of Carryover Suspensions.

Playoff Protests: Protests of playoff games shall follow the established league policy for Protests, with the following modifications:

- 1) The initial protest must be filed within 1 hour, and the protesting team's Head Coach must then send one email to the League Office within 1 additional hour of the first notification with full and factual details, plus all supporting evidence, of the basis for the protest.
- 2) There shall be no appeal on adverse rulings issued by the League Office on protests in the postseason.

Playoff Personnel

Playoff Site Coordinator: The host association shall appoint a single individual to coordinate the following: liaise with the League Office on operations, supply the ice schedule with the appropriate number of game slots, arrange for the required Game Personnel for each hosted game, organize player check-in, perform Score Reporting procedures, post results in a visible location at the host venue.

Playoff Personnel Assignment: The requirements of playoff personnel for each postseason game shall follow the regular-season standards for Game Personnel.

- 1) The host association shall arrange for the Scorekeeper and Timekeeper, for which a separate individual must be serving in each role.
- 2) The host association shall arrange for the Medic.
- 3) The referees shall be assigned through the host's Assignor of Officials.
- 4) Each participating team shall provide one qualified person to serve as its Penalty Box Attendant.
- 5) The League Office withholds the option of providing or requesting additional personnel, such as goal judges, a PA Announcer, and Arena DJ.

Playoff Officiating Systems: League playoff games shall adhere to the officiating systems, policies, and procedures defined within Game Personnel, with the following additions:

- 1) No playoff game at any age classification shall start or resume with less than 2 certified officials participating on the ice.
- 2) No assigned official shall have been on any team roster within the same association of either participating team within the current season.
- 3) No assigned official shall have held decision-making powers with any team within the applicable division within the current season.