

2019 PIHL VARSITY PLAYOFF GUIDE



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Priority

- Have fun and make the postseason experience a positive one for all of our student-athletes!
- Our values of sportsmanship and excellence are just as important in high-stakes situations.
- The best way to make the playoffs enjoyable is to come with a positive attitude and put forth your best effort.

Sportsmanship

- Team behavior and coach behavior must be kept in-check, regardless of circumstance.
 - Respect for the game is never secondary to the desire to win nor to the "heat of the moment."
 - Coaches must set the right example and be the first to address their unruly players.
- A total of 43 teams qualify for the 2019 Varsity playoffs; only 4 get to win all of their games and hoist a trophy.
 - Those 4 teams must win with honor – a championship is hollow when not accompanied by respect.
 - The other 39 teams must bow out with dignity – true character is best displayed in adverse situations.
- Sportsmanship is everyone's responsibility.
 - The behaviors of the adults dictate the behaviors of the minors, both on and off the ice.
 - It also molds our league's culture and sets the example for the future behaviors in our sport.

COMPETITION INFORMATION

Start Times

- Games shall begin only at the published start time.
 - No game shall start earlier than the posted start time since most games will have a live broadcast.
 - All teams must be ready to enter the ice at the scheduled start time.
- Delays shall always be accommodated if the previous game has not yet been completed.
 - If a previous game runs longer than its ice slot, the warm-up period for the next game will begin immediately upon conclusion of the ice being resurfaced.
 - Any other type of delay shall be managed by the on-ice officials.

Pre-Game Protocol

- Individual player introductions shall take place only at Championship Games.
 - In the spirit of sportsmanship, players are not to turn their backs on their opponent during any portion of the introductions.
- The pre-game clock is set to 5:00 and begins when both teams have entered the ice surface.
- Warm-up activity be finalized once the buzzer sounds with 1:00 remaining in the pre-game period.
- By the end of the 5:00 countdown, all warm-up pucks should be collected, and all team huddles should be completed.
- All games intend to have a National Anthem prior to the opening face-off.

Time of Play

- All games shall be played with three, 17-minute periods using stop time.
- Intermissions protocols remain the same from regular-season games, including an ice resurfacing at the conclusion of the second period.
- The PIHL running-clock policies remain in effect for playoff games.
- There shall be no curfew – and therefore no curfew rules – applied to any playoff game.
- Each team is granted a timeout of 1-minute in duration during regulation time.

Overtime Periods

- All playoff games with a tied score at the end of regulation time shall continue into sudden-victory overtime.
- All overtime periods shall be 17 minutes of sudden-victory, stop-time play.
- The on-ice manpower for all overtime periods shall be based upon 5-on-5 play, minus applicable penalties.
- Teams do not switch ends between the end of the third period and the start of overtime, but teams then switch ends for each subsequent overtime period.
- The ice shall be resurfaced following the conclusion of only odd-numbered overtime periods (1st, 3rd, etc), and the intermission shall end immediately upon completion of the ice cut.
- Intermissions in overtime without an ice cut shall be 3 minutes in duration.
- Each team shall be permitted a maximum of one timeout of 1-minute in length in overtime, regardless of whether a timeout was not or was not used by the team during regulation time.

OPERATIONS INFORMATION

Game Staffing

- The PIHL will arrange for all on-ice officials, emergency medical providers, and security guards for all games.
- The PIHL shall supply 4 persons for all playoff games to serve as Game Coordinators and Penalty Box Attendants.
 - No team representation is permitted in the penalty boxes or scorer's box for any reason.
 - Any music or announcing conducted by the home team in preliminary-round games must be done from a location outside of the scoring area; only the PIHL coordinates these items at the semifinals and finals.
- Admissions policies are further outlined in the "Admissions Information" section of this guide.
 - The participating teams must each supply 1 admissions person at each preliminary round game.
 - The PIHL will supply admissions staffing for all games in the semifinals (RMU-ISC) and Finals (UPMC-LSC).

Rulebooks

- The Penguins Cup Playoffs are governed by the Pennsylvania Cup Rules and the Penguins Cup Playoff Rules, in addition to all applicable PIHL Playing Rules and PIHL Administrative Policies.
- The PIHL Division 2 Playoffs are governed by the Division 2 Playoff Rules, in addition to all applicable PIHL Playing Rules and PIHL Administrative Policies.
- The USA Hockey Rulebook and the PIHL Playing Rules direct the on-ice play of all playoff games.
- All governing documents are posted on the PIHL website on the appropriate 2019 playoff pages.

On-Ice Officials

- All games will utilize a 4-man (2 referees, 2 linesman) officiating system.
 - All officiating crews shall be assigned only by PIHO.
- The on-ice officials are always the authority on the game, as a representation of the rulebooks.
 - The Off-Ice Officials and any other league personnel are only there to assist in game operations.
- None of on-ice officials dictate your team's ability (or inability) to advance
 - The focus of the team should remain on the team.
 - This is a vital component of sportsmanship.

Suspensions and Discipline

- All unserved suspensions acquired during the regular season shall carry-over into the playoffs.
 - All suspensions and disciplinary actions obtained during the playoffs shall apply to subsequent rounds for winning teams and/or into the next PIHL regular season for losing teams.
 - All questions regarding suspensions shall be directed to the PIHL Commissioner's Office only.
- No protests shall be permitted during playoff games.
 - All disputes shall be resolved by the PIHL Playoff Committee.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Travel & Arrival

- Only the Commissioner can decide to postpone/delay the game for any reason, including weather conditions.
- Please immediately call the Commissioner's Office if there are travel issues on the way to a game.
- There is no check-in or sign-in required of players, coaches, or team officials prior to the Penguins Cup Finals.
- Teams are to use only the locker room to which it is assigned and leave that room cleaner than it was found.

Team Supplies

- Each team shall have their Team Book immediately available at all games, including all copies of all scoresheets.
- The home team shall supply the scoresheet for all preliminary round games.
 - Extra scoresheets will be available at semifinal games and championships game.
 - Please contact the PIHL Commissioner's Office (or our opponent) in advance of any game in which you may not have a blank scoresheet to use.
- Each team is responsible for providing its own warm-up pucks, water bottles, and other game supplies.
- The home team must wear white uniforms; the away team must wear dark uniforms; no third/alternate jerseys are permitted.

Spectators

- Our playoff games are supposed to be fun for the players; unruly spectators only detract from that mission.
 - The USA Hockey Zero Tolerance Policy will be strictly enforced at all games.
 - The security guards will monitor fan behavior reserve the right to eject any unruly fan without warning.
- No spectators are permitted on the ice for any reason, including championship celebrations.

Photos & Videos

- No photographers/videographers are permitted on the ice or on the benches for any playoff game prior to the championship games.
 - Only photographers/videographers with approved credentials are permitted on the ice during the championship presentations.
 - The PIHL enlists a photographer to take all on-ice pictures for the Championship Games, and those photographs will be available for purchase.
- Please allow ample space and limit distractions for all TribLive HSSN broadcast crews set-up in the general seating area at playoff games.
 - The media sections at RMU-ISC and UPMC-LSC for the semifinals and finals are reserved only for credentialed media members who are covering or broadcasting our playoff games.

ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

Prices & Passes

- Admission is \$5 for adults and students in preliminary rounds.
 - Children under 12 are free.
 - Admissions prices increase for later rounds.
- No association-made passes or regular-season passes shall be accepted for admissions.
 - Credentialed media members and individuals with PIHL Playoff Passes shall be admitted for free upon displaying a valid credential or pass.
- The admissions money is used to cover the costs of the game (ice, staffing, etc.)

Staffing & Supplies

- In preliminary rounds, each participating team shall provide 1 representative for admissions.
 - This representative must arrive 45 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the game and remain on-duty until 15 minutes after the game has started.
 - The PIHL provides all admissions staffing for the semifinals at RMU-ISC and the finals at UPMC-LSC.
- The admissions representative from the home team shall bring a cash box and start-up money.
 - There should be an abundance of one-dollar and five-dollar bills.
- The admissions representative from the away team shall bring at least two copies of the PIHL-issued admissions signs and one copy of the PIHL Admissions Control Sheet.
 - Both forms are available on the PIHL website on the appropriate 2019 playoff pages.

Start-Up

- An admissions table/area should be established 45 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the game.
- Both team representatives should count the total amount of money in the cash box and record it on the Admissions Control Sheet as the "Starting Amount in Cash Box."
- The two copies of the PIHL-issued admissions signs should be affixed in prominent locations in the admissions area.

Wrap-Up

- Admissions should remain in operation until 15 minutes after the start of the game.
- Upon closing, both team representatives must count the amount in the cash box and record the agreed total on the PIHL Admissions Control Sheet as the "Final Amount in Cash Box."
 - The "Total Gate Money Collected" is the final amount minus the starting amount.
- The home team shall deposit all gate money in their association's account.
- The home team shall send the PIHL Admissions Control Sheet to the PIHL League Office within 5 business days of the date of the game, along with a check in the amount exactly equal to the "Total Gate Money Collected."
 - All checks should be made payable to the "PIHL"
 - The PIHL mailing address is: PO Box 747, Warrendale, PA 15095