



**18th Annual Holiday House League Tournament
December 8-10, 2023**

Presented by the West End Hockey League and the Sensplex facilities

TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS

Playing Rules

1. Playing rules will be those recognized by HEO Minor (Hockey Eastern Ontario), except as noted
2. Neckguards & Mouthguards: Players are required to wear neckguards & mouthguards at all times during play if their own district requires that they do in league play.
3. **Body Checking** (for clarification only): Is **NOT** permitted at any level.
4. Game Length:
 - A) Games will consist of 3 x 10 minute stop-time periods
 - B) A curfew clock will apply to regulation time only in round robin play at the discretion of the tournament coordinator. The tournament committee reserves the right to impose a curfew clock on Playoff games as well, in the case of an extended injury or other prolonged delay.
 - A. If, at the beginning of the third period or at any time during the third period, a team is ahead by five or more goals, straight running time shall commence on the game clock. If the goal differential is seven goals at any time during the first or second period, running time shall also commence. If at any point the margin is reduced to two goals or less, stop-time play shall resume. This rule is in effect for all games including round robin, playoffs, and championship games.
5. Time-Outs: One (1) thirty (30) second time out will be permitted **ONLY** in playoff round games.
6. Overtime: Overtime will only be played in playoff and championship games if regulation time produces a tie. Overtime shall consist of:
 - a. One sudden-death 5-Minute stop time period with teams playing three (3) skaters plus a goaltender.
 - b. If still tied a shootout with 3 skaters from each team. The coach of each team will provide the game officials with the list of these three players immediately following the final overtime period. The team that scores the most goals with these three skaters will be declared the winner. The HOME team will have the option of shooting first or last. Once the order is determined, it will remain the same for all future rounds of shootout. A player from one team will go, followed by a player from the other team, and so on until all 3 designated players have gone.
 - c. If still tied a sudden-death shootout with one player from each team. Each shooter must not have participated in any prior round of the shootout. Whichever team shot first in the previous round, will once again shoot first.
 - d. Repeat step above until no skater remains that has not yet participated from either team. At this point the shootout will continue in reverse order starting with the player who has most recently shot. This will continue until a winner is decided.
7. Round Robin Standings: Standings will be based on points: two (2) points for a win, one (1) point for a tie, no points for a loss.

8. Tie-Breaker, Round Robin: If tied in points, standings (seedings) will be determined based on the following order:
 - a. The head to head result involving the teams tied (two-way ties only or if one team has beaten all others they are tied with).
 - b. The team with the most wins in round robin play.
 - c. The highest ratio of goals for divided by goals for plus goals against $[GF/(GF + GA)]$
 - d. The team with the lowest number of penalty minutes accumulated in round robin play.
 - e. The team with the lowest number of goals against
 - f. The team with the most number of goals for
 - g. Coin toss by the tournament coordinator or a designated representative.

Note: in the event that three or more teams are tied, there will be no reverting back to a previous tie-breaking step as each seed is determined. Furthermore, please note that the tie-breaking order favors fewer goals against as opposed to goals for. Should a team be winning a game by a big margin, it is more favorable for them to shut down the opposition then to try and widen their lead.
9. Stick Measurements: Teams are NOT allowed to request the measurement of any stick during tournament games. If teams have a concern with an opposing player's stick, they must request the measurement prior to the game.
10. Game Misconduct Penalties: Any player or team official receiving a game misconduct penalty will be penalized at a MINIMUM according to the HEO code of discipline, but may be penalized further by the tournament committee or a higher governing body. (it is recommended that all out of district teams consult their own code of disciplines to determine their suspensions if they are in excess of what is assessed by the tournament committee – failure to do so could result in further sanctions by home branches)
11. A player of the game or hardest worker award may be awarded at the conclusion of each game. No player may win the player of the game more than once during the round-robin portion of the tournament.
12. For playoff and championship games, the home team will be the team with the highest seeding after the round robin portion in the tournament.

General and Administration Rules

1. **ZERO Tolerance: Taunting or berating of any players, officials, staff, or tournament volunteers will NOT be tolerated under any circumstances by parents, players, team officials or other spectators.** The Sensplex facilities reserve the right to eject any person whom it deems in its sole discretion to be acting in an improper manner and we accept no liability in connection with such ejections.
2. Referee's Decisions: All referee's decisions are final and may not be appealed.
3. Protests: All protests must be accompanied by a \$200.00 deposit that will be returned only if your protest is successful. A protest will only be heard if it is brought to the attention of the Tournament Coordinator or their delegate within fifteen (15) minutes of completion of the game in question. A hearing and ruling will be completed prior to the team's next scheduled game. All decisions made by the Tournament Committee are final and MUST be respected.
4. Teams must bring with them their official branch issued team roster or player cards, along with proof of age and identity for all players.
5. In the event of a suspended game by way of forfeiture or forfeit, the score shall be recorded as zero for the loser and three (3-0), or the greater margin of victory at the time of the forfeiture, for the winner.
 - a. Should a team who previously forfeited a game during the tournament be in contention for a playoff spot, that spot will be automatically forfeited should it come down to a tiebreaker whereby the goal ratio becomes the deciding factor.
6. Scheduled Game times are approximate. **TEAMS MUST BE PREPARED TO START THEIR GAMES NO LESS THAN 15 MINUTES BEFORE THEIR SCHEDULED START TIME. TEAMS NOT READY TO START THEIR GAMES ON TIME OR WITHIN THE 15-MINUTE WINDOW BEFORE, MAY FORFEIT SUCH GAMES AT THE DISCRETION OF THE TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR OR A DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE.**

7. Check In: One (1) team representative must check-in to the registration desk, no less than 45 minutes before the team's first scheduled game. He or she will be required to fill out a tournament check-in form. The team representative will then be required to check-in to the tournament registration desk before each game.
8. Team officials are responsible for the conduct and supervision of all of their team's participants at all times. No shooting, stickhandling, or passing of any objects is permitted anywhere in the facility other than the ice surfaces! Any pre-existing damage or severe mess in dressing room must be reported immediately when found.
9. Team will shake hands **at the conclusion of the game.**
10. Teams may be **ejected from tournament play with no refund or compensation of any kind** if they are found to be responsible for damage to tournament facilities (including host hotels) or unacceptable dressing room conditions.
11. No outside Food & Beverage is permitted inside the Sensplex facilities.
12. No alcoholic beverages or "tailgating" is permitted on Sensplex facilities property.
13. **Team Warm-Ups:** Note that due to concerns with the safety of their patrons, the Sensplex facilities do not permit 'running' in public areas of their facility.
14. Teams should also read and understand the building rules and regulations that are in the front lobby of the Sensplex facilities.
15. **The tournament coordinator reserves the right to change or alter these rules at any time without prior notice in order to act in the best interests of the tournament.**