



**NOVEMBER 28 - November 30, 2025**

**Tournament Directors**

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**I. PROCEDURES**

1. All matters pertaining to team credentials, USA Hockey verification and travel permits must be resolved with the Tournament Director prior to 9:00 PM MST, **November 1, 2025**. All team representatives are responsible for providing sufficient materials to verify USA Hockey registration and birth dates for all players. **It is the responsibility of the tournament director to verify that all participating teams are properly registered with USA Hockey or their country's federation prior to the start of the tournament. A USA Hockey Official Team Roster Form (1-T) approved by the District or Associate Registrar or Hockey Canada Certified Player Roster approved by the governing Canadian federation is required for all participating teams and shall be proof that all participating teams are properly registered and all participants are playing in the appropriate age classification. Travel Permits are required and will be verified for all Non-USA Hockey teams, and any team from an affiliate requiring Travel Permits.**

Hockey Canada approved member branches:

- BC Hockey
- Hockey Alberta
- Saskatchewan Hockey Association
- Hockey Manitoba
- Hockey Northwestern Ontario
- Ontario Hockey Federation
- Hockey Eastern Ontario
- Hockey Quebec
- Hockey New Brunswick
- Hockey PEI
- Hockey Nova Scotia
- Hockey Newfoundland & Labrador
- Hockey North

2. All team representatives are responsible for checking-in at the Phoenix Thanksgiving Shoot-out information Center in the lobby of their assigned venue. All pertinent tournament information regarding game results, team seeding, game and event schedule changes, tournament event information, suspension notices, and other items of importance will be available at this central location. Please visit prior to each scheduled game.

3. Off-ice issues pertaining to tournament organization and procedures shall be forwarded to the Tournament Director.

The Tournament Directors are responsible for resolving all inquiries or disputes regarding off-ice rule application or interpretation, player eligibility, disciplinary action and any other procedural disputes. The Tournament Directors will not overturn any dispute concerning rules and/or the judgment applied by on-ice officials. All decisions of Phoenix Thanksgiving Shoot-out Directors are final.

4. All teams must use the assigned locker rooms posted at the information center or the video monitors. Locker room keys are available from and must be returned to the Check-In center. Keys may be picked up forty-five (45) minutes prior to your game time. The team representative should be prepared to leave collateral (car keys, drivers licenses will not be accepted) when picking up key. It is the team representative's responsibility to ensure that the locker room and showers are clean (no trash / tape / food or drink) prior to vacating the locker room. The team representative is responsible for all damage done to the locker room, showers, or the facility. Special note: Regardless of the precautions taken by the Tournament Staff and the Facilities Management to minimize the risk of items being stolen from locker rooms during the tournament, it can unfortunately occur. Please exercise your own precautions to avoid the chance of property loss. All wallets, cell phones, keys, watches, jewelry, cash and other valuables should not be left in the locker rooms. We suggest managers store these items for the players during the games.

5. All teams must be ready to begin play fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled start time of each game. The scorekeeper will begin a three- (3) minute warm-up period when instructed by the on-ice official. The clock will begin regardless of whether skaters are on the ice. The game will start at the conclusion of the warm-up period. If a team is not ready to begin at that time, it will be charged a time-out. If a team is not ready to start at the conclusion of the time-out, the game will be forfeited (1 - 0).

6. ALL PLAYERS SHALL REMAIN OFF THE ICE SURFACE UNTIL THE ICE SURFACING MACHINE DOORS HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY CLOSED AND THE ON-ICE OFFICIALS ARE PRESENT. VIOLATIONS OF THIS RULE WILL RESULT IN A 2-MINUTE BENCH MINOR FOR THE OFFENDING TEAM ASSESSED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE GAME. All players shall exit the ice surface immediately after the center ice handshakes, unless otherwise instructed by the officials. All teams may have no more than four adult team representatives (including coaches) on the bench at any time. Any person on the bench area must be listed on the team's tournament roster or have prior approval from the Tournament Director. All "parents" are excluded from the bench area of any team at any time.

7. Any scratches for a game (player not dressing) must be reported to the scorekeeper prior to the start of each game. A digital copy of the score sheet will be available online approximately 30 minutes after the game ends. Please do not wait on the ice surface or approach the official scorekeeper for the score sheet. Each team representative is responsible for checking the accuracy of the score sheet. Report all discrepancies to the Tournament Director prior to leaving the facility. "Shots On Goal" are tracked by the Scorekeeper and listed on the all score sheets and score board when possible. The Tournament Director will not adjust "Shots On Goal".

8. Home and Visiting teams are indicated on the tournament schedule. Home teams shall wear their white or light colored jersey and matching socks. Visitors will wear dark jerseys and matching socks. (Each team must wear the assigned home or away colors unless otherwise instructed by the Tournament Director. All jerseys must have a player number clearly displayed. That number must correspond to the player listed on the scorekeeper's roster. Home and Visitor benches are as indicated at the rink.

9. The tournament website is simply a tool to communicate information and results of games. Player scoring and penalties will be entered into the website directly from the official scoresheets. No changes will be made to the website player scoring section after entry from the scoresheet.

10. Locker Room Monitoring: It is the policy of USA Hockey that all teams have at least one responsible adult (head/assistant coach or other approved team personnel) directly monitoring the locker room during all tournament events to ensure that only participants (coaches and players), and other approved team personnel are permitted in the locker room to supervise the conduct in and around the locker rooms at all times while participants are present and also make sure the locker room is appropriately secured during times when minor participants are on the ice. All responsible adults serving as locker room monitors should be gender correct and the co-ed locker room policy must be followed. Monitors must be screened per USA Hockey screening standards and USA Hockey SafeSport certified. Unapproved, non-team personnel, including parents and family members are discouraged from entering locker rooms unless it is truly necessary.

11. Cell Phones & Other Mobile Recording Devices: Per USA Hockey policy, cell phones and other mobile devices with recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras and video cameras, are not permitted to be used in the locker rooms. If phones or other mobile devices must be used, they should be taken outside of the locker room.

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF BRACKETS

All division, bracket, competitive level placements and opponents are made solely at the discretion of the Tournament Director and are final.

## II. POLICIES

1. All alcoholic products are prohibited at all Ice facilities unless it is an approved Ice function. Anyone abusing or bringing alcoholic products into the building or parking lot will be asked to leave and the appropriate players / teams will be subject to disqualification and suspension from the tournament.

2. Any person causing damage to any Ice facility property will be fined commensurate with the damage and will be removed from the premises and/or suspended from all Arizona Hockey Clubs Tournament activities until the fine is paid in full. All persons are subject to prosecution to the fullest extent of the law.

3. The Phoenix Thanksgiving Shoot-out Committee and/or Arizona Hockey Clubs are not responsible for claims against, penalties assessed, or damages caused by the tournament teams and their participants while staying at the local hotels. All team representatives are responsible for ensuring that all agreements, practices, policies, and restrictions of the Hotels and their guests are fully understood. Ensure that all claims are settled prior to your departure from the hotels.

4. There is zero tolerance for verbal abuse of any player, official, parent or spectator. The Tournament Directors reserve the right to remove any violator from the premises for conduct they deem inappropriate. Team representatives and/or coaches are responsible for the actions and behaviors of their players, parents, and fans. USA Hockey Zero Tolerance Policies and Guidelines are clearly posted in all facilities.

5. Noisemakers (Cowbells, Horns, Etc.) are not allowed. All spectators are asked to remember that good sportsmanship demonstrated by all spectators is just as important as the behavior on the ice. The primary purpose of this tournament is to provide a positive and fun atmosphere for all participants. The Tournament Directors reserve the right to remove any violator from the premises for conduct they deem inappropriate. Team representatives and/or coaches are responsible for the actions and behaviors of their players, parents, and fans. USA Hockey Zero Tolerance Policies and Guidelines are clearly posted in all facilities.

## III. RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Only players listed on the official Phoenix Thanksgiving Shoot-out team roster may play in a tournament game. Any team using a player not properly listed on the team roster will result in a forfeit (1 - 0) of the affected game(s). Any team using a player suspended for any reason will forfeit (1 - 0) that game and the suspended player will be ejected for the remainder of the tournament. Suspended players may attend tournament games but are not allowed on the player bench area or locker room. **USA Teams, your current season USA HOCKEY OFFICIAL TEAM ROSTER must be brought with and presented at least 1 hour prior to your first game.**

### **\*Please note the following tournament requirements when you roster your team**

- All players and bench personnel must be listed on the official tournament roster. All USA team players must have been registered with USA Hockey for the 2025-2026 season. All Canadian players must have equivalent registration with their governing Canadian body.
- All players on your roster must adhere to current USA Hockey Age classifications
- You may not register any player on your tournament team who plays during the regular season at a higher level. (For example: currently registered 12U AA players are not eligible to play on a 12U A team for the tournament; a 14U aged player who plays 16U+ during the regular season is not eligible to play on a 14U team for the tournament; a 16U+ A player may not play 16U+ B for the tournament, etc). Exceptions to this policy may be granted after review by the tournament committee but must be disclosed prior to the tournament starting.
- No Player shall be rostered or eligible to play on more than one team in the Tournament. Unusual exceptions may be granted by the tournament committee if injury or other unforeseen circumstances should occur during the tournament weekend.
- Each team will be allowed up to have up to FOUR (4) coaches on the player bench during the game, in accordance with USA

Hockey.

- All bench personnel must have current USA Hockey membership AND have achieved the USA Hockey minimum level of coaching education for the division in which he/she is coaching by 12/31 of the current playing season. Please add travel permits are required for any team from an affiliate requiring travel permits and are required for ALL Canadian team AND an International Competition Form is required for all other foreign teams.

2. Any match penalty will result in a tournament suspension. Any increase in a suspension for a player or coach above minimum requirements is at the discretion of the Tournament Director. Game misconduct penalties will result in a minimum one game suspension. Any player suspended from a game for the second time in Phoenix Thanksgiving Shootout, for any reason, can be ejected for the remainder of the tournament. The Tournament Director's decision is final.

3. Per USA Hockey Rules, all players, in 12U, 14U and 16U+ divisions of the Phoenix Thanksgiving Shoot-out are required to wear mouth guards and all players in every age group are required to wear neck guards. This includes Goalies. A misconduct penalty will result from each infraction, after the team bench has been given a warning.

- Hockey equipment requirements per USA Hockey Rule 304: [Rule 304 | Protective Equipment \(usahockeyrulebook.com\)](http://usahockeyrulebook.com)
- All players competing in youth, girls, high school, or junior hockey within USA Hockey are required to wear neck laceration protectors (NLPs) for all games and practices. In addition, on-ice officials under the age of 18 as well as players in all six disciplines within USA Hockey's disabled hockey program are also required to wear NLPs.
- Per USA Hockey Rules and Hockey Canada Rules Agreement, all Canadian players must wear certified throat protectors.

4. Helmets must be worn at all times during warm-ups, games, handshake line, and anytime in the player bench or penalty box area.

5. Penalty box monitors or attendants are allowed at all levels and are mandatory at the U8 – U14 levels. Reminder: Penalty Box attendants must refrain from coaching and loud cheering while in the penalty box or will be subject to removal.

6. As a USA Hockey sanctioned tournament, all CURRENT USA Hockey penalty rules published and in affect at the time of the tournament will be followed. AHRA, the AZ Referee Association is responsible to ensure staff are aware and trained on all current rules. They are independent contractors. Some examples (not limited to are as follows):

- (1). Players are assessed a game misconduct after 4 penalties in a game AND a coach will receive a game misconduct after 12 penalties in a game.
- (2). Icing the puck during shorthanded situations is permissible U15 and older.

The scorekeeper will mark the official start time on the score sheet at the start of the warm-up period. There will be a one (1)-minute break between each period.

The Tournament Director reserves the right to impose curfew in order to maintain the tournament schedule.

**Exception: If in the third (3) period of the game the goal differential reaches six (6), the game clock will go to running time and will not stop for any reason other than at the discretion of the on-ice officials until the game ends or the goal differential is reduced to less than six (6). The game clock will not be stopped for goals scored, penalties, injuries, or any other reason while the "mercy rule" is in effect unless directed by the on-ice officials.**

7. Each team shall be allowed no more than one (1) time-out during any tournament game. All time-outs will be forty-five (45) seconds in duration. Time-out is not allowed while running time is in force.

8. Points will be awarded in the following manner:

- Win 2 Points
- Loss 0 Points
- Overtime Loss 1 Point

9. All points earned will carry forward to determine seeding for the "Semi Final", "Championship" and "Consolation" Games.

10. The following tiebreaker formula will be used to determine the order of finish (seeding) after round robin play:

A tie is reached when 2 or more teams all have the same number of points after round robin play:

Two-way tie:

- a) Head to head
- b) Most wins overall
- c) Overall goal differential (capped at a maximum of 6 per game)
- d) Overall least goals allowed
- e) Fewest penalty minutes overall
- f) Quickest first goal scored in Tournament
- g) Coin toss

Three (or more) -way tie:

- a) Most "wins" overall
  - b) Overall goal differential (capped at a maximum of 6 per game)
  - c) Overall least goals allowed
  - d) Fewest penalty minutes overall
  - e) Quickest first goal scored in the Tournament
- Draw straws

Penalty times for all divisions will be served as defined by USA Hockey. The following schedule will be utilized for tie breaking purposes.

- Minor - 2:00 minutes
- Major - 5:00 minutes

- Misconduct - 10:00 minutes
- Game Misconduct or Game Ejection - 10:00 minutes
- \*Penalties during running or stop time are of the same duration.

11. All tournament games that end regulation in a tie shall use the follow process to determine a winner:

1. **Sudden Death Period** – 3 on 3 for a 5-minute **RUNTIME** period. If at the end no team scores at the end of this period, the game will move to a shootout.
2. Penalties will carry over into the sudden death overtime period with 4 on 3 on the ice. Any penalties incurred during this sudden death overtime period will result in an automatic penalty shot; player does NOT go to the penalty box. Teams can change lines on the fly.

If the tie still exists after the "Sudden Death", a shootout to determine a winner as prescribed below:

1. Each team will select three (3) players to participate in the shootout.
2. In the first round, players from each team will alternate shots, with the home team deciding on who shoots first.
3. Players will start at center ice and will begin play at the direction of the referee. Goalkeepers must remain in their crease until the shooting player has started play by touching the puck.
4. Players are allowed one shot / shooting attempt only.
5. If, after 3 rounds of shooters, if the teams remain tied, it will be a sudden death shootout with each subsequent player being someone who has not been selected to shoot yet. The shootout will proceed one player at a time; each team having an equal number of turns with the home team participating last in each round. One turn for each team constitutes a round. Only after all players listed on their game roster with the scorekeeper have participated may a player take a second turn. During the fourth round and beyond, the team that scores first, with the other team failing to score is declared the winner.

Penalties will carry over into the sudden death overtime period. Any penalties incurred during this sudden death overtime period will result in an automatic penalty shot; player does NOT go to the penalty box. Teams can change lines on the fly, on referee's whistle or at the buzzer.

12. All referees are certified by USA Hockey and are independent contractors.

The Tournament Director(s) shall be responsible for resolving all inquiries or disputes regarding off-ice rule application or interpretation, player eligibility, disciplinary action and any other procedural disputes. The competition directors will not overturn any dispute concerning rules and/or the judgment applied by on-ice officials. All decisions of Ice Breaker Invitational Director(s) are final.

**THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ADD TO, AMEND OR REMOVE ANY TOURNAMENT PROCEDURE, POLICY, RULE OR REGULATION.**