



AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION ILLINOIS, Inc.

“Dedicated to the development of today’s youth through Athletic and Academic excellence.”



Visit Us on the Web: www.ahai.org

December 15, 2023

To: All 2024 Illinois State High School Hockey Championships Tournament Participants

Dear Team Contact,

Please find enclosed information regarding your teams' participation in the 2024 Illinois State High School Hockey Championships Tournament.

For ALL High School games played outside of AHAI Hockey Center:

- **PLEASE NOTE TEAMS WILL HAVE 1-3 PLAY-IN GAMES. PLEASE MAKE SURE THEY ARE PLAYED BY DATES ON STATE BRACKETS SO THE NEXT ROUNDS CAN BE PLAYED ON TIME.**

- HOME TEAM will schedule the on-ice Officials with the AHAI Supervisor of Officials, by following the instructions on the AHAI Website. A minimum of five (5) days notice must be allowed for the scheduling of Officials. No Officials other than those scheduled by AHAI are to be used, or the game is subject to forfeiture.

- **ELIMINATION GAMES:** In the case of Elimination Games, minor officials (*one scorekeeper and one timekeeper*) must be adults. The “Home Team” and the “Visiting Team” must each furnish one adult to divide these duties.
- **DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE:** The “Home Team” will have available the following at all times:
 - iPad for Gamesheet Scoring and Operator
 - Backup Paper Scoresheet

Please read all information again very carefully and be sure that you are aware of all deadline dates and requirements for scheduling your elimination games. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Tournament Chairperson, Bob Wagner

GOOD LUCK TO ALL PARTICIPANTS!

Bob Wagner

High School Tournament Chairperson

847-732-8768

rwags517@gmail.com



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December 15, 2023

To: All AHAI High School Managers and Coaches

Subject: 2024 ILLINOIS STATE HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIPS TOURNAMENT FORMAT

Dear Team Manager or Coach,

The following format will be used for the 2024 Illinois State High School Hockey Championships Tournament:

1. Unless otherwise noted, all information is applicable to the **Illinois State High School Hockey Championships Tournament Red Division Varsity, Illinois State High School Hockey Championships Tournament Combined Varsity Division, Illinois State High School Hockey Championships Tournament Invite Only Junior Varsity Division Tournaments and the Illinois State High School Hockey Championships Tournament Girls Varsity High School Division.**
2. Teams wishing to participate in the Illinois State High School Hockey Championships Tournament must have submitted the following (*All items required submission via the internet*) by no later than January 15th, 2024 :
 - a. Single Team Registration and Payment – Individual AHAI webtool team page
 - b. Team Rating Form - <https://form.jotform.com/233386045997066>
 - c. 2023-24 AHAI State High School Tournament Roster Form – AHAI Webtool.
 - d. Upon winning your elimination game and making the final teams playing at the Edge in Bensenville, each team will pay an additional \$300.00 (*Girls is \$200.00*) which is payable on-line and must be paid before the first game at Bensenville may be played. Failure to pay may constitute forfeiture
 - e. A copy of your AHAI/USA Hockey Roster for 2023-24 including all correct names, etc. and duly registered by the AHAI Registrar - via on-line AHAI web tool.



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3. **Team Placement** is only available to AHAI registered Illinois High School Teams and will be as follows:
 - a. **Red Division** – Varsity State Championship. Open to all registered Affiliate Organization High School Division 1 Pure Teams as defined in AHAI rules and regulations.
 - b. **Combined Division** – Open to all Affiliate Organization Division 2 Combined Teams as defined in AHAI rules and regulations.
 - c. **Junior Varsity Teams** may register for the Junior Varsity Division Illinois State High School Hockey Championship Tournament.
 - d. Any properly registered **Girls High School** team, being pure or with a combination of six (6) schools or less, will be eligible to enter the Girls Illinois State High School Hockey Championships Tournament.
 - e. Any improper roster or player may constitute a forfeiture.
4. **Tournament Format** will be as follows:
 - a. The entire high school state tournament will be **Single Elimination**.
 - b. **Playdown Elimination Games should begin no earlier than February 1, 2024 and must be concluded no later than February 25, 2024.** The Home Team will be the higher ranked team as determined by the rankings.
 - c. 2 rounds or 8 teams from the **Red Division Varsity Tournament** will play at the AHAI Hockey Center (*Bensenville*) beginning Sunday, March 3, 2024 with the Semi Final Games on Friday, March 8, 2024 and concluding Wednesday, March 13, 2024 with the Championship Game at the United Center.
 - d. 2 rounds or 8 teams from the **Combined Division Varsity Tournament** will play at the AHAI Hockey Center (*Bensenville*) beginning Saturday, March 2, 2024 with the Semi Final Games on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 and concluding Wednesday, March 13, 2024 with the Championship Game at the United Center.
 - e. Three rounds or 8 teams from the **Junior Varsity Division** will play at the AHAI Hockey Center (*Bensenville*) beginning Thursday, February 28, 2024 with the Semi Final Games on Monday, March 4, 2024 and concluding Saturday, March 9, 2024 with the Championship Game at the AHAI Hockey Center (*Bensenville*).



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- f. One semi-final round of 4 teams from the **Girls High School Division** will be held at the AHAI Hockey Center on Wednesday, March 6, 2024. The Championship Game for the Girls Varsity Division will be held at the United Center on Wednesday, March 13, 2024.
5. **Elimination Playdown Scheduling Must Be Done As Follows:**
- a. The **Home Team** will be the **higher ranked team** as determined by the rankings. The Home Team will schedule the ice for the playdown game based on the reasonable availability of the Visiting Team. All home teams must offer visiting teams a minimum of 3 time slots for the play-in rounds. ***No games may begin later than 10:00 p.m. unless approved by the Illinois State High School Hockey Championships Tournament Committee. The Home team MUST request officials online after logging in to their private access web page at www.ahai2.org/organizations and accessing the State Tournament website.***
- A **minimum of five (5) days** notice must be allowed for the scheduling of Officials. **No Officials other than those scheduled by AHAI** are to be used, or the game is subject to forfeiture.
- b. Playdown game costs will be shared equally by both teams. The **Home Team** will pay the ice costs, referees, and trainers and the **Visiting Team** will reimburse the **Home Team** for one half of the total cost prior to the start of the game.
- c. *Any controversies regarding either Scheduling or Game Settlement costs will be settled solely by the Illinois State High School Hockey Championships Tournament Committee Chairperson(s) — Bob Wagner, 847-732-8768 or e-mail at rwags517@gmail.com.*
- d. All games are to be played to a conclusion to establish a winner by goals scored, i.e. No Ties. It is the responsibility of the **Home Team** to ensure that there is sufficient time to allow for Overtime if the situation arises.
- e. **RESULTS REPORTING:** Results of Elimination games **MUST** be uploaded to the Gamesheet site within 24 hours by the Home team. In addition, if paper scoresheet was used the scoresheet must be e-mailed (*only scanned legible copy please*) in by a representative of the Winning Team within 24 hours to: jdunne@ahai2.org



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6. **Playing Rules** for all Illinois State High School Hockey Championships Tournament Games and Divisions are as follows:
- a. All AHAI and USA Hockey Rules prevail.
 - b. Game Times will be three (3) periods of fifteen (15) minutes Stop Time each for all Divisions except the Red Division. **The Red Division will be three (3) periods of seventeen (17) minutes Stop Time each for all games played.** Overtime Periods will be Ten (10) minutes, "Sudden Death". **Teams will change ends of the ice to start the OT and for each subsequent OT. Numerical strength does not change in the overtime(s).**
 - c. Ice will be resurfaced only after two (2) fifteen (15) minute periods (*after two (2) seventeen (17) minute periods for Red Varsity Division*) of Regulation Play. Each game will begin on a resurfaced ice sheet. Ice will be cleaned after every two periods including overtime.
 - d. Each team shall be allowed one 1-minute time out during all 2024 Illinois State High School Hockey Championships Tournament games inclusive of overtime.
 - e. The Red Varsity Division and the Combined Varsity Division will utilize a four (4) man officiating system.
 - f. Penalties are Minor, two (2) minutes; Major, five (5) minutes; and Misconduct, ten (10) minutes.
 - g. ***Slaughter Rule*** - During the 2024 Illinois State High School Hockey Championships Tournament, if there is a five (5) goal differential at the start of or at any time during the third period, it will initiate a running clock. If the goal differential becomes 3 the game will return to stop-clock.
 - j. The decisions of the Illinois State High School Hockey Championships Tournament Chairperson(s) and the Illinois State High School Hockey Championships Tournament Committee regarding all aspects of the 2024 Illinois State High School Hockey Championships Tournament are to be considered Final. All questions regarding Player eligibility, goalkeepers, protests, advancing teams or team eligibility should be directed to the Illinois State High School Hockey Championships Tournament Chairperson(s) before the start of the games. For the Red Division please contact AHAI High School Committee Chairperson Bob Wagner at 847-732-8768 or e-mail at rwags517@gmail.com.



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- k) Home Team wears dark color jerseys. ALL teams need to have Both Jerseys with them for every game. Referees have the final say on jerseys.
- l) Games may begin up to 10:00 minutes before scheduled slots if all participants are ready as determined by the Tournament Supervisor.
- m) All USA Hockey equipment requirements must be met.
- n) No mechanical noise makers or cow bells are permitted.
- o) Any appeal of a game issue must be recorded on the score sheet at the end of the game before the coaches leave the ice.

***Note** - Fans expelled for Zero Tolerance Violations from a State Tournament Game are banned from all subsequent 2024 Tournament Games.

7. Tournament Awards will be as follows:

- a. Team Name inscribed on Illinois State High School Hockey Championships Tournament Trophy for all High School Divisions.
- b. Individual awards for first and second place in the **Red Varsity Division, Combined Varsity Division, Junior Varsity Division and Girls Division.**
- c. Team Banners for 1st, 2nd and Final Four in the **Red Division Varsity, Combined Division Varsity, Junior Varsity Division and the Girls Division.**

All brackets and scores will be posted on the AHAI site.

We are looking forward to an exciting 2024 Illinois State High School Hockey Championships Tournament and wish all the participants.

Good Luck!

Bob Wagner

High School Tournament Chairperson

847-732-8768

rwags517@gmail.com



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Additional Requirements

As per the 2023-24 AHAI By-Laws, Rules & Regulations

Transfer Students: Article 19

It is the general intent of the Rules to follow IHSA Rules regarding High School transfer students, Home School students, recruiting of high school athletes and high school foreign exchange student eligibility: specifically from the annually published IHSA Rules pertaining to transfer students, recruiting of High School athletes and High School foreign exchange student eligibility. It is the responsibility of the student, parent(s) of the student, coach and high school organization to raise any issues which may be in question and bring them to the High School Committee for resolution before the Playing Season begins.

Wherever appropriate, the Executive Director role within IHSA shall be the AHAI High School Committee Chairperson, or in his/her absence, the individual so designated by the Chairperson.

Transferring students – Any student that transfers from any one school to any other after the start of the school year will : 1) have a thirty (30) day waiting period if the student had not tried out or played on the hockey team of the first school the same year or 2) have a one year waiting period if the student had tried out or played on the hockey team of the first school in the same year. This applies to transfers between any two schools whether they be public or private.

Coaches Certification/Persons on Bench: Article 20

All coaches and other persons on the bench, other than rostered players playing in the particular game then on the ice, shall be screened and certified coaches by USA Hockey at the appropriate level. At least one certified coach must be on the bench for each game. No more than four (4) persons, other than rostered players, in uniform, may be on the bench.

All players/goalkeepers, including injured players, must wear at least their jersey and helmet at all times, including during warm-ups, if they are going to be on the bench.

Division Participation Requirements: Any “regular varsity” team may choose to participate in the Red Varsity Division. Only “Combined Varsity” teams who have made an application to the AHAI High School Committee and relative to the AHAI Official Guide will be eligible to enter the Combined Division. The AHAI High School Tournament Committee reserves the right for final placement of teams into the various “Division” categories.

Player Participation Requirements: Each team may dress a maximum of twenty (20) players including goalkeepers for each State Tournament game. Each player must have participated in at least fifteen (15) games which the team has played, or if the team has played more than twenty (20) games, then seventy-five percent (75%) of the teams total games played, as a part of the team that is rostered and plays in the State Tournament. If there is a question of player eligibility, you, as the coach, must be able to prove eligibility beyond a reasonable doubt. The request as to a player’s eligibility can come from any source.

Failure to comply with these Rules may result in disciplinary action by the High School Committee and the AHAI Rules & Ethics Committee.



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