



2026 Tier II Arizona State Championships

Game Guidelines

All Games will be played using USA Hockey Rules and the USA Hockey District & National Championship Tournament Guidebook for the 2025-2026 Season

Time Management Rules:

- 5 Minute warm-up prior to start of game
- All 14U Games: (3) Sixteen-minute Stop-time periods (16-16-16), except as noted below
- All 16U Games: (3) Seventeen-minute Stop-time periods (17-17-17), except as noted below
- All 18U Games: (3) Seventeen-minute Stop-time periods (17-17-17), except as noted below
- One (1) 1-Minute time out per team, per game
- There shall be an ice cut prior to each game and between 2nd and 3rd periods for ALL age divisions. Twelve (12) minutes shall be placed on the clock for the ice cut between periods and shall begin when the last player exits the ice. Upon returning to the ice, before the start of the following period, players shall receive a one-minute warm-up on the clock with no pucks allowed.
- There shall be a two (2) minute rest period between the first and second periods for All age divisions.
- All warm-ups, rest periods and ice cuts between periods shall be placed on the game clock.
- All teams shall be ready to begin play 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time.
- All games shall be non-curfew games.
- In All Preliminary Round games, run-time shall be used if at any point the goal differential reaches seven (7) or more. If run-time is being used, the clock shall be stopped only for penalty placement or in the event of an injury on the ice, at the discretion of the on-ice referees. Stop-time shall be reinstated if the goal differential returns to less than four (4) goals.
- Running time shall not be allowed during any Championship Series game.

General:

- Each team shall place an adult (no players shall be allowed) in their respective penalty box for each game
- **CREDENTIAL REQUIREMENTS OF TEAMS FOR STATE/ AFFILIATE**
 - o The District Registrar or his/her designee shall verify each team's credentials and eligibility prior to any State/Affiliate and/or District and National Championship Tournaments. The appropriate District Registrar shall determine the deadline for receipt of team credentials for State/Affiliate and/or District Tournaments but shall be submitted no later than three (3) days prior to the start of the State/Affiliate and/or District tournament.

Team Standings (Preliminary Round Games - for ALL Age Divisions):

- Each team will be awarded three (3) points for a win in regulation; two (2) points for a win in overtime or shootout; one (1) point for a loss in overtime or shootout and zero (0) points for a loss in regulation.
- If, after the first two (2) preliminary round games, a third round robin game is scheduled between two teams who have both already mathematically qualified for the championship series, that third preliminary round game will be CANCELLED, as the results of that game would have no bearing on championship series qualifying.
- After the completion of the preliminary round of games, the two teams with the most points in each division will play a best-of-three series for the championship of their division. The home team for game 1, and game 3 if necessary, for the Championship Series will be the team with the most points after the preliminary round of games. Tie breaking rules to determine standings position shall be as described in the USA Hockey District & National Championship Tournament Guidebook for the 2025-2026 Season.

All Games will be played to a winner:

- AAHA policies shall yield to the USA Hockey District & National Championship Tournament Guidebook for the 2025-2026 Season (applicable sections - see below).

Preliminary Round Games ending in a tie:

- If the game is tied following regulation play, **one ten (10) minute** sudden-death overtime period shall be played. The teams shall change ends. Overtime shall be **played 3-on-3** (three skaters plus a goalkeeper). If the score is tied at the end of the ten (10) minute sudden-death overtime period, there shall be a shootout. The winner of the shootout will be credited with one additional goal in the final score. The shootout shall be as described in the USA Hockey District & National Championship Tournament Guidebook for the 2025-2026 Season, Section U (1 (a) 1.), & (c) & (d).

Championship Series Games ending in a tie:

- If the game is tied following regulation play, one (1) sudden-death overtime period shall be played. The length of the overtime shall be equal to the length of the third period and shall be sudden death. Teams shall switch ends for the overtime period. Overtime shall be played 5-on-5 (five skaters plus a goalkeeper). If the score is tied at the end of the sudden-death overtime period, there shall be a shootout. The winner of the shootout will be credited with one additional goal in the final score. The shootout shall be as described in the USA Hockey District & National Championship Tournament Guidebook for the 2025-2026 Season, Section U (1 (b) 1.), (c) & (d).

Player Penalty at end of tied game

** Any player serving a penalty at the end of any tied game or at the end of a tied overtime period will continue to serve that penalty into the sudden death overtime period or shootout.

Preliminary Round & Championship Series Games (all Games played to a winner):

- Reference: USA Hockey District & National Championship Tournament Guidebook for the 2025-2026 Season, Section U - Method of Determining a Champion.

Shootout Procedure. The shootout will be conducted as follows

1. A shootout is defined as a player attempting to score a goal and the opposing goalkeeper attempting to stop the shooter from scoring the goal.
2. The Home team shall have the choice whether his/her team will shoot first or second
3. All goalkeepers and all players from both teams listed on the official game sheet shall be eligible to participate in the shootout.
4. The goalkeepers will defend the net they were defending in the 3rd period.
5. No goalkeepers may shoot in the shootout.
6. Any penalized player whose penalty had not been completed when the overtime period ended or who receives a penalty during a shootout procedure is not eligible to be one of the players selected to participate in any portion of the shootout procedure(s) and must remain in the penalty box.
7. The shootout procedure shall begin with three (3) different individual shooters from each team taking alternate shots. The players do not need to be named beforehand.
8. The goalkeepers from each team may be changed after each shot.
9. The players of both teams will take the shots alternately until a decisive goal is scored. The remaining shots will not be taken.
10. If after the shootout the score is still tied, there will be a sudden death shootout.

Sudden Death Shootout Procedure. The sudden death shootout will be conducted as follows:

1. A sudden death shootout is defined as each team attempting a shot. Should one team be successful and the other team not, the successful team shall win the shootout.
2. The teams will shoot in the same order during the sudden-death shootout as they did during the original previous round shootout
3. Teams will select their shooters to participate in any order in the sudden death shootout, regardless of whether they shot in the previous round. The last player in the 1st round of the shootout may be the 1st player in the sudden death shootout.
4. Players in a sudden death shootout shall not be allowed to take another shot until two additional shooters have completed their attempts.
5. All goalkeepers and all players from both teams listed on the official game sheet shall be eligible to participate in the shootout.
6. Any penalized player whose penalty had not been completed when the over- time period ended or who receives a penalty during a shootout procedure is not eligible to be one of the players selected to participate in any portion of the shootout procedure(s) and must remain in the penalty box.
7. The goalkeepers from each team may be changed after each shot.

8. The official scorekeeper shall record all shots taken indicating the players, indicating the players, goalkeepers and goals scored.

Discipline (All Divisions):

- The Discipline Committee for the State Tournament shall be the AAHA Discipline Committee. The Committee shall act in accordance with Section V of the District and National Championship Tournament Guidebook, 2025-2026 Season.
- The Discipline Committee shall have full power to waive or increase the one- or two-game suspension imposed in Rule 404(b), Game Misconduct. The directors on-site will review video of all game misconducts. However, there shall be no hearing for a game misconduct (or for player or coach suspension under Rule 401(b)) unless deemed necessary by the Discipline Committee. The Discipline Committee shall hold a hearing on any Match Penalty prior to the team's next game.
- All suspensions incurred during the National Playoff schedule (i.e., in State or District Playoffs) shall be served during regularly scheduled games of the National Playoff schedule. In no case may such suspension(s) be served in a game occurring outside the National Playoff schedule by scheduling a game not included in the National Playoff configuration and having the player suspended for that game. Any player or coach on a team winning the State Championship who receives a suspension in the final game of the State Championships will serve their suspension during their team's next game on their team's schedule under USA Hockey rules **AND** during their team's next game in the National Playoff schedule.