

**PENNSYLVANIA  
INTERSCHOLASTIC  
HOCKEY LEAGUE**



**PIHL JV / MS  
TOURNAMENT  
RULES 2019**

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# SECTION 1

## ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

### **PART A – Team Participation Requirements**

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1. All participating teams shall be members of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey League from the Junior Varsity and Middle School levels.
2. All association accounts receivable must have a zero balance as of the final day of the regular season or the team will not be permitted to participate in any post-season PIHL games.
3. Each team shall be certified to be in good standing with the Mid-American District of USA Hockey.
4. All participating teams must submit a fully-completed tournament entry form by February 8, 2019.

### **PART B – Team Financial Requirements**

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1. The “per team, per game” fee shall be:
  - a. Junior Varsity = \$495
  - b. Middle School = \$470
2. Each team shall pay the assigned “per team, per game” fee for each game played in the tournament.
  - a. All teams shall submit a deposit check exactly equal to one “per team, per game” fee on or before February 11, 2019. Failure to make this payment shall exclude the team from the tournament.
  - b. Advancing teams shall mail a check to the league office prior to the team’s next-scheduled tournament game in the full amount of the “per team, per game” fee.
3. The association must have a zero balance owed to the PIHL as of the deposit deadline or the team shall not be permitted to participate in any post-season PIHL game.

### **PART C – Player Eligibility Requirements**

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1. All players must meet all eligibility requirements of the PIHL in order to participate JV/MS tournament games.
2. All players must appear on the USA Hockey Roster and PIHL Roster in order to be eligible for participation in the tournament with that team.

3. Any team found to have used an ineligible player shall be issued a forfeiture for all games in which the player participated.
4. Players must appear on a game roster (scoresheet roster) as participating in at least 50% of his/her team's regular-season PIHL games to be eligible for participation with that team in the tournament.
  - a. Only league games with the designated team shall count towards the total games played.

## **PART C – Eligibility Verification Procedures**

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1. All participating teams must have their "Team Book Check" – including a player-eligibility verification – completed by the final day of the JV/MS regular season.
2. All teams must submit a recertified PIHL roster – which lists all players potentially eligible to compete in the tournament – by the final day of the JV/MS regular season.
  - a. A signature from the school principal must be applied to the roster on or after February 1st as evidence that all players currently attend that school and meet the academic and eligibility requirements of that school district.
3. The PIHL Playoff Committee shall consider requests for exemption to the minimum game requirement in situations where injury or illness clearly prevented the player from meeting the requirement.
  - a. All such requests must be made using only the "Injury Exemption Request Form" and must be fully submitted no later than the final day of the JV/MS regular season.
  - b. The PIHL Playoff Committee shall issue a ruling on all requests for exemption no later than 5 days following the final day of the JV/MS regular season.
  - c. There shall be no appeal permitted on rulings made for or against the minimum game requirement.

## SECTION 2

# TOURNAMENT ADMINISTRATION

### **PART A – Tournament Format**

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1. The PIHL JV/MS Tournament shall be a single-elimination, single-seeded tournament for all levels/pools.
  - a. The winner of each game shall advance to the next round of the tournament; the losing team in each game shall be eliminated from the tournament.
  - b. Teams shall advance through the tournament strictly according to the bracket (no reseeding).
2. The number of teams participating in the JV/MS Tournament shall be determined by the number of PIHL teams that complete the entry form, submit a deposit, and meet the team requirements.
3. The Tournament Director shall use the number of entered teams and the Seeding Procedures to determine the number of number of rounds, the layout of each pool's bracket, and the potential game sites.

### **PART B – Seeding Procedures**

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1. At both the Junior Varsity and Middle School levels, respectively, the participating teams shall be divided into five unique pools based on PIHL regular-season record, as follows:
  - a. All teams in Tier 1, regardless of record, shall be placed into Pool A.
  - b. All teams above .500 in Tier 2 shall be placed into Pool B.
  - c. All teams at or below .500 in Tier 2 shall be placed into Pool C.
  - d. All teams above .500 in Tier 3 shall be placed into Pool D.
  - e. All teams at or below .500 in Tier 3 shall be placed into Pool E.
2. A team may opt-up to a higher pool by designating this intent on the tournament entry form.
3. Brackets are created for each pool by the Tournament Director based on the number of participating teams within the pool.
  - a. Winning percentage shall be a consideration to match teams with better records against teams with lower records in the first round.
  - b. Tier 3 teams are placed into the bracket with additional emphasis on creating “new/unique” opponents over match-ups that happened during the regular season.

# SECTION 3

## GAME ADMINISTRATION

### PART A – Game Scheduling

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1. All games shall be scheduled by the Tournament Director and played on ice time purchased by the PIHL.
2. All preliminary games shall be held at pre-determined sites.
  - a. Games will be scheduled with a consideration of creating a neutral-site venue, as best as possible.
3. The semifinal games shall be played at Ice Castle Arena and the RMU Island Sports Center.
4. Championship games shall be played at Ice Castle Arena.
5. Any team not appearing for its scheduled game shall be issued a forfeiture and shall be charged the full costs of the forfeited game.

### PART B – Home Teams

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1. For each round, the home team shall be the team shown in the upper of line of the pod on the official tournament brackets, regardless of winning percentages, location, or any other factor.
2. The home team shall occupy the bench designated for the home team and reserve all rights granted to the home team by the applicable rulebooks.

### PART C – Uniforms & Equipment

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1. All player uniforms and equipment must meet the JV/MS requirements cited within the current PIHL Playing Rules.
2. The home team shall wear white-colored jerseys and socks; the visiting team shall wear dark-colored jerseys and socks. No team shall be permitted to wear its third/alternate jersey in the post-season.

### PART D – Game Personnel

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1. The Tournament Director shall be responsible for arranging for all On-Ice Officials, Game Coordinators, Emergency Medical Providers, and Security Guards for all tournament games.

2. An Emergency Medical Provider or Local Substitute shall be present and on-duty for any tournament game to start or proceed, as defined within the PIHL Playing Rules.
3. Each team shall provide one responsible adult to serve as the team's Penalty Box Attendant for each of the team's games. Those persons should report to the correct penalty box prior to the start of the game's warm-up period.
4. Security Guards and tournament officials reserve the right to remove fans who interfere with the game, interact inappropriately with those involved in the competition, or exhibit actions that are detrimental to the spirit and values of youth sports.

## **PART E – Admissions**

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1. There shall be no admissions fee charged to spectators by any entity for any tournament game.
2. A 50/50 contest shall only be conducted if both participating teams in the game get 25% of the total pot, regardless of which team coordinates the contest.
  - a. Breakdown: 50% to winning ticket, 25% to home team, 25% to away team
  - b. There shall only be one 50/50 contest per game; any team wishing to conduct a 50/50 contest in its game shall contact the opposition prior to the game to coordinate the contest.
3. No other contests, raffles, drawings, or similar shall be conducted at any tournament game without express written consent from the Tournament Director.

# SECTION 4

## PLAYING RULES

### PART A – Rulebooks

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1. All playing rules shall follow the current “Official Rules and Casebook of Ice Hockey” issued by USA Hockey, except where superseded by the current edition of the PIHL Playing Rules.
2. All exceptions to an applicable rulebook(s) shall be stated within these PIHL JV/MS Tournament Rules.

### PART B – Officiating

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1. All games for all rounds of the tournament shall be officiated using the 2-referee system, in accordance with PIHL Playing Rules.
2. On-Ice Officials shall be assigned only by Pittsburgh Ice Hockey Officials (PIHO), as arranged for by the Tournament Director.
3. As the representatives of the applicable rulebooks, the On-Ice Officials shall be the authority of the on-ice play in all tournament games.

### PART C – Time of Play

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1. All tournament games shall consist of three, 13-minute periods using stop-time.
2. There shall be a 3-minute warm-up period prior to the start of each game. The buzzer shall sound at the conclusion of the warm-up period, at which time all warm-up activity shall end.
3. Each team shall be permitted a maximum of one timeout of 1-minute in length during regulation time.
4. A “running clock” shall be implemented if either team takes a lead of 7 goals and shall continue to run – with the lone exception of scoring plays (goals/penalties) – throughout the remainder of the game, unless the difference in score is reduced to 5 goals.
5. There shall be no curfew applied to any tournament game, regardless of score, time, or situation.
6. The ice shall be resurfaced prior to the start of the warm-up period and no further ice resurfacing shall occur until the full completion of the game, including any overtime periods.



7. All games with a tied score at the end of regulation time shall then have overtime. The procedures for overtime shall be done in accordance with the tournament rules for Overtime Periods.
8. Any tournament game not played to completion shall be considered a suspended game. The PIHL Playoff Committee shall review all instances of suspended games, and upon full investigation, shall issue a ruling to resolve the matter within 24 hours of the start time of the suspended game.

## **PART D – Overtime Periods**

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1. Overtime shall be played for all tournament games with a tied score at the end of regulation time.
2. All overtime periods shall be 13 minutes of sudden-victory, stop-time play.
3. The on-ice manpower for all overtime periods shall be based upon 3-on-3 play, with all applicable penalties carrying over from the end of the previous period.
4. There shall be no timeouts permitted in overtime, event if a team has not used a timeout during regulation time.
5. Playoff overtime shall utilize the following protocol for all games:
  - a. A 1-minute intermission shall take place immediately following the conclusion of regulation time.
  - b. Teams shall not switch defending end zones between the end of regulation time and the start of the overtime period, but the teams shall switch defending end zones between each successive overtime period.
  - c. The ice not shall be resurfaced during overtime.
  - d. Intermissions in overtime shall be 1 minute in length.

## **PART E – Suspensions and Discipline**

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1. All suspensions and disciplinary actions acquired by players, coaches, team officials, teams, and associations shall carry-over from the regular season to the PIHL JV/MS Tournament.
2. Suspensions and disciplinary actions obtained in the tournament shall apply to the subsequent rounds of the tournament for winning teams and/or into the next PIHL regular-season for losing teams under the terms of the the PIHL Playing Rule for “Carryover Suspensions.”
3. Any player issued a Match Penalty in a tournament game shall not be guaranteed to have the required hearing prior to the team’s next game.
4. The “proper authority” for all supplemental discipline, as cited by the USA Hockey rulebook, shall be the PIHL Playoff Committee.

## **PART F – Protests and Disputes**

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1. There shall be no protests permitted for tournament games.
2. The Tournament Director shall be empowered to make all decisions, resolve all disputes, and enact any appropriate policies to address matters not covered within these playoff rules or applicable rulebooks.
3. Rulings required for any dispute must be made within 24 hours of the completion of the game in-question.
4. All decisions made by the Tournament Director shall be final and, as such, shall not be eligible for appeal.



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PENNSYLVANIA INTERSCHOLASTIC HOCKEY LEAGUE  
P.O. Box 747  
Warrendale, PA 15095

[www.PIHLhockey.com](http://www.PIHLhockey.com)  
Commissioner: John C. Mucha  
[commissioner@pihlhockey.com](mailto:commissioner@pihlhockey.com)

Manuscript Prepared By: David L. Fryer, Jr.  
Cover Photography: David Hague

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