

2023 Buckeye Cup
USA Hockey High School
Ohio State Championship Rules
Adopted **August 1, 2022**

1) NEW PROPOSED RULES

New proposed rules will be submitted between April 1 and September 30 via conference calls and have a vote completed no later than October 31.

2) MEMBERS AND SEQUENCE OF TOURNAMENT

- A) The Three (3) leagues participating in the Buckeye Cup are The Ohio Scholastic Hockey League (www.ohioshl.com), the North Coast High School Hockey League (NCHSHL), (www.cshlhockey.org) and the Cincinnati High School Hockey League, (www.chshl.club).
- B) Each city in the league will host the tournament in rotation. In the event of a new league being added, the new league would be eligible to host after all current leagues have hosted an equal amount of Buckeye Cup Championship Tournaments. Should a city be unable to host at the date specified (see Date & Time), the next city in rotation would become eligible to host. The hosting city will file the appropriate forms to ensure the Buckeye Cup is a USA Hockey-sanctioned event.
- C) The Buckeye Cup shall be completed not less than **three (3) full weekends** prior to the first day of the USA Hockey High School National Championships. The **2023** Buckeye Cup Tournament will be **February 24-26, 2023** in **Columbus**, Ohio.
- D) The Host League shall send a published schedule of the Tournament Game Dates and Times 30 days prior to the start of the Tournament to each League representative.

3) GAME BRACKET

There will be a 3-game preliminary round with each team playing the other 3 teams in its pool. The pools will consist of the following seeds from www.myhockeyrankings.com:

Pool A: 1, 6, 7, 12

Pool B: 2, 5, 8, 11

Pool C: 3, 4, 9, 10

If there are 3 or more teams from one league in one pool and there are teams with adjacent seeding numbers and with less than 0.10 difference in MHR scores that can switch pools to reduce the number of teams from one league in one pool without increasing the number of teams in any pool from one league to more than 2, then the teams will be switched unless the Buckeye Cup Committee decides otherwise.

4) BUDGETING

- A.) The hosting league will provide each city representative an itemized budget to include the cost of the ice, trainer, security, trophy, referee, or any other miscellaneous items for the upcoming Buckeye Cup no later than four (4) weeks prior to the first day of Buckeye Cup.
- B.) Failure to provide a budget by deadline will result in a fine of \$100 for every 5 days it is late
- C.) A fine assessed to the hosting league for failure to provide the budget by the deadline will be paid by the hosting league to the upcoming Buckeye Cup's hosting league when the fees are due for the upcoming Buckeye Cup.
- D.) All **active participating** leagues must acknowledge this fine in writing.

5) DUE DATE FOR BUCKEYE CUP FEES

- A.) Each League shall send a written statement that a league confirms that the teams it is sending to the Buckeye Cup are deemed eligible.
- B.) The Buckeye Cup fees for a league's participating teams is due to the Buckeye Cup's hosting league by the Friday prior to the start of the Buckeye Cup (i.e., one (1) week before the start of the Buckeye Cup).
- C.) Failure to send in any of the above noted Buckeye Cup payments will result in suspension from the Buckeye Cup, unless approved by the Tournament Director and the Buckeye Cup Committee.

6) REFUND POLICY

- A.) Once a team has accepted the invitation to attend the Buckeye Cup and paid the entry fee, there will be no refunds unless the tournament is cancelled.
- B.) A team found ineligible after the start of the Buckeye Cup will not be eligible for a refund for any reason.

7) GAME PLAY FORMAT

Pool Play round 1: Friday night.

Pool Play round 2: Saturday morning.

Pool Play round 3: Saturday late afternoon. The round 3 games shall be 1 v 6, 2 v 5, and 3 v 4.

The winner of each Pool and the next best team by points advance to the Semi-Finals. Refer to Section 22 for Tie-Breaker Procedure.

Refer to USA Hockey Tournament Guidebook (<http://nationals.usahockey.com/guidebook>) for explanation of tie-breakers.

Semi-Finals: Sunday morning. The 4 semifinalists shall be ranked by points obtained in the preliminary round and the top ranked team shall play the 4th ranked team and the 2nd ranked team shall play the 3rd ranked team.

Championship Game: Sunday afternoon. Higher Seeded Team in Tournament based on tournament play is the Home team.

The Buckeye Cup Tournament is an advancing tournament to the USA Hockey High School National Championship, and will follow the game play format used by USA Hockey, which can be found at:

<http://nationals.usahockey.com/guidebook>.

8) GATE CHARGE

No gate charge for admission to any Buckeye Cup Tournament games.

9) USE OF RINKS & HOTELS

A maximum of 3 facilities may be utilized with a driving distance no further than 20 minutes from the farthest hotel recommended. Hosting city will provide a list of suggested hotels.

10) OFFICIALS & SUPPLIES

The hosting city will include two (2) officials per game, scorekeeper and timekeeper. Each team will provide its own practice pucks and penalty box personnel. A faxed confirmation or email confirming officials will provide proof of scheduling. Semi-Final and Championship Games shall be played with a 4-man officiating system.

11) SECURITY & TRAINER

Each hosting city will provide a security guard and certified medical personnel for each Buckeye Cup game. In the event that a facility is used which contains two (2) rinks, a single security guard and a single certified medical personnel may be used while two games are being played at the same time. A faxed confirmation or email confirming each will provide proof of scheduling of security and trainer. Buckeye Cup will follow USA Hockey Injury/Concussion Return To Play Policy as noted in the USA Hockey Tournament Guidebook (<http://nationals.usahockey.com/guidebook>).

12) LOCKER ROOMS

Each team is responsible for any damage that may occur by any of their members to any locker room facility that is used by that team during the Buckeye Cup. Please make sure that a responsible adult is in the locker room at all times for player supervision. The Tournament Committee requests that team coaches, managers, and players cooperate in keeping the locker room clean, orderly and in good condition. Please see that all debris, tape, can, wrappers, etc. are placed in the proper receptacles before leaving the

locker room. Car keys will be required to obtain locker room keys prior to each game and returned once locker rooms have been inspected to assure no damage has been done.

13) TROPHIES REQUIRED

A team trophy will be awarded to the winner & runner-up teams. In addition, individual awards are to be given to each player on the winner & runner-up placed teams. Cities may do more if they choose.

14) ROSTERS

A.) Teams eligible to participate in the Buckeye Cup shall send a copy of their stamped and approved USA Hockey rosters dated no later than 12/31 to the hosting city league director postmarked no later than four (4) weeks prior to the first day of Buckeye Cup.

B.) The name and jersey number of each player eligible to participate in the Buckeye Cup shall have his/her name listed on his/her league website no later than 1/10. These players will be listed by team.

C.) A player not listed on his/her league website by 1/10 will be ineligible to participate in the Buckeye Cup. Roster must be stamped by the USA Hockey registrar no later than 12/31.

D.) USAH Rosters shall be posted on myhockeyrankings website. Rosters must be posted by November 1 and may be changed up to December 31.

E.) NUMBER OF PLAYERS

A maximum of twenty (20) players, including goalkeepers, shall be permitted to play in a game. The maximum number of players, excluding goalkeepers, shall not exceed eighteen (18).

It is highly recommended that all teams arrive at the District and National Championship with two (2) goalkeepers qualified under the rules. Teams that are unable to arrive with a backup goalkeeper shall be permitted, with the approval of the appropriate registrar and then the on-site Tournament Director or his/her appointee, to use a substitute emergency backup goalkeeper from a lower level Tier II or house/rec. team within the same association, affiliate or district. The substitute emergency goalkeeper shall only be permitted to participate in a game in the event of extenuating circumstances and with the approval of the on-site Tournament Director.

NOTE: The high school teams may roster up to 30 players.

15) TEAM AND PLAYER QUALIFICATION AND ELIGIBILITY

The Buckeye Cup will have twelve (12) participating eligible teams. **Three (3)** teams will earn automatic bids, One (1) each from the **participating** member leagues, and **Nine (9)** teams will receive at-large bids. All teams must post all scores from **ALL GAMES** played on www.myhockeyrankings.com.

Automatic Bids **Three (3):** One (1) team from each **participating** member league will qualify to participate in the Buckeye Cup. The automatic bid shall be the League Tournament Champion, League Regular Season Champion or the highest ranked ([myhockeyrankings.com](http://www.myhockeyrankings.com)) team from that League.

If a team is unable to attend the Buckeye Cup for any reason prior to the start of the Buckeye Cup, that team's league will replace that team.

At-Large Bids **Nine (9)**: The Nine (9) at-large teams will be selected from the www.myhockeyrankings.com website, using the Ohio-OH USA Hockey Listings posted on the 2nd Wednesday of February. The top **Nine (9)** ranked teams not already receiving an automatic bid per their league rules will qualify as at-large teams, subject to the next paragraph.

Should a tie exist between teams on myhockeyrankings.com, head-to-head game results will determine the seeding. If no head-to-head game was played between the teams, go to the highest strength of schedule to determine the seeding. If a tie still exists between the teams, go to a coin flip.

Leagues shall require all teams to post all regular season league game scoresheets on their respective league website.

Non-Member League Teams. If a USA Hockey High School Division 2 registered team that is not a member of the **Three (3) participating** member leagues desires to participate in the Buckeye Cup, it must meet the following requirements:

1. Have 50% or more of the team's registered players reside in Ohio;
2. Play a regular season schedule as a High School Division II team and shall not be an all-star team formed for the purpose of attending the USA Hockey National High School Championship; (Refer to <http://nationals.usahockey.com/guidebook>)
3. Apply to the Mid-Am District by Dec 1st prior to the National Tournament (see procedure on the Mid-Am website at www.midamhockey.com);
4. Be ranked at www.myhockeyrankings.com and
5. Agree in writing to comply with these Buckeye Cup Rules.

A non-member league team that meets these requirements in a timely fashion and is one of the top **Nine (9)** ranked teams not already receiving an automatic bid will be invited to participate in the Buckeye Cup.

Eligibility:

- A. Any players and/or teams that are members of an OHSAA program are ineligible.
- B. Eighth graders are ineligible.
- C. Double rostering of current season Junior players is NOT permitted.
- D. Double rostering of current season Tier I players is NOT permitted.
- E. Double rostering of Tier II and pre-post players is permitted
- F. Double rostering of Bantam freshman players is permitted
- G. Internal double rostering between an organization's varsity and junior varsity teams is permitted. (Only grades 9-12 are permitted.)

- H. A player must participate in 50% of his/her Varsity or Junior Varsity team's league games that season and play in a minimum of Five (5) Varsity Team Games in order to be eligible to participate in the Buckeye Cup.
- 1.) If a player begins participation on a Varsity team late in the season, then 50% of those league games would begin after his/her start date with the team. Player must be on the Varsity team roster stamped no later than 12/31 per Rule 14 C.
 - 2.) If a player is unable to participate on a team due to medical reasons validated by a physician, then 50% of his/her Varsity league games would include only those games he/she was medically cleared for or those prior to the medical reason excusing the player from participation.
 - 3.) Notwithstanding the above, each player must have played in at least FIVE (5) games for the Varsity team participating in the Buckeye Cup.
- I.) A challenge of player eligibility may be brought to the hosting city director by any head coach or manager of a team entered in the Buckeye Cup. The only proof accepted to prove a player is ineligible due to double rostering will be that player's name on another team's scoresheet or stat sheet.
- J.) Teams **MUST** be registered through USA Hockey as a High School team, not Midget, and must be registered as Division 2 (combined). Only Teams whose roster includes 50% or more players living in the State of Ohio are eligible.

16) PENALTIES FOR INELIGIBLE TEAMS/PLAYERS/COACHES

Teams not following Rule 14 (Rosters) and Rule 15 (Team and Player Qualification Eligibility) will forfeit eligibility to the Buckeye Cup.

In the event a player or team is found ineligible, during the Buckeye Cup, all games of that team will be a forfeit. If a team Forfeits any of its games, the team that forfeited will not advance and all games played against the forfeiting team shall be recorded as 1-0 victories for all opposing teams.

(Refer to USA Hockey Tournament Guidebook - <http://nationals.usahockey.com/guidebook> - Process To Determine Quarterfinalists, Semifinalists and Finalists)

17) GAME JERSEY / UNIFORMS

All teams entered must be properly uniformed. All teams must arrive with two (2) sets of jerseys: a home (light) and a visitor (dark) jersey. No additional jersey will be allowed.

Unless otherwise approved by the on-site Tournament Director, the home team shall wear light jerseys and the visiting team shall wear dark jerseys in all games.

All players of a team shall be dressed uniformly per USA Hockey Rule 203(b). (the referees of that game will decide all challenges regarding matching jerseys or socks.)

18) GAME PLAYING TIME

Every game will consist of a five (5) minute warm-up, three (3) seventeen (17) minute periods, and one (1) ice cut between the second and third periods. The intermission that has no ice cut will be two (2) minutes in length. All games will be played in full with no curfew games. Games can start up to 20 minutes early.

The National Anthem and introduction will only be required in the championship game; cities may do more if they choose. Games will be scheduled with a minimum four (4) hour break from the end of one game to the start of the team's next game. It is recommended the semi-final games Sunday morning not start before 9:30 AM.

19) POINTS

During the preliminary rounds, 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 points for a loss in regulation.

20) TIME OUTS

One (1) time out per team will be allowed in all games. Time outs will be one (1) minute in length. No time outs will be allowed during running time.

21) RUNNING TIME, MERCY RULE & MAX GOAL DIFFERENTIAL (7/10/7)

In the event a team is winning by eight (8) goals at any time in the game, the clock will go to running time. The clock will not go back to stop-time, even if the goal difference is reduced to below eight (8). The only reason to stop the clock during running time is an injury. No time outs will be allowed during running time.

The game will end at any time during the game if the goal difference reaches 10 (ten).

The maximum goal differential to be used in any tiebreaker is eight (8).

22) TIE BREAKER AFTER THREE GAMES

If two or more teams have an equal number of points, their position in the standings shall be determined by the most current USA Hockey Tournament Guidebook – Process to Determine Quarterfinalists, Semifinalists and Finalists.

(Refer to <http://nationals.usahockey.com/guidebook>)

23) TIE GAMES

All games tied at the end of regulation play shall follow the format shown in the most current USA Hockey Tournament Guidebook – Method of Determining Champion.

(Refer to <http://nationals.usahockey.com/guidebook>)

24) TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT. The Tournament Management/Discipline Committee is made up of one representative from each of the participating leagues and the tournament director. The Tournament Management/Discipline Committee reserves the right to make decisions, interpret rules, and make adjustments to the tournament format as they deem necessary. The decision of the Tournament Management/Discipline Committee is final.

25) USA HOCKEY NATIONAL TOURNAMENT. The champion of the Buckeye Cup will be the Ohio representative to the USA Hockey High School National Championship Division 2 (Tournament). However, if the champion chooses not to participate in the Tournament, the Ohio slot will be offered to the remaining Buckeye Cup teams in the following order: a) the other finalist, b) the semi-finalist with the most points, c) the other semi-finalist, d) the remaining teams in the order of points. If USA Hockey offers additional slots in the Tournament, the order will be the same as above.

26) INTERPRETATION.

If any rule herein is ambiguous, the tournament management shall look to the following rules in the order/priority shown below:

1. USA Hockey Rules and Regulations
2. USA Hockey National Tournament Guidebook
3. Mid-Am District Rules and Regulations
4. Buckeye Cup Rules

27) HEAD COACH/TEAM MEETING. An opening meeting for all teams participating in the tournament shall be held prior to the start of play via Zoom at a time set by the Tournament Director. All participating teams are required to have a team representative. No one person may represent more than one team at this meeting. Failure to have a team representative present shall result in the suspension of the head coach, as listed on the team's official roster, from that team's first game of the national championship tournament.