

**Pennsylvania High School
Hockey State Championships**

2019

PENNSYLVANIA

STATE FINALS



**RMU ISLAND SPORTS CENTER
PITTSBURGH, PA**

**PENNSYLVANIA
STATE FINALS
RULES 2019**

PENNSYLVANIA CUP CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey League and the Eastern Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey Association will coordinate the Pennsylvania State High School Hockey Championships under the title of the “Pennsylvania Cup Championships.”

The Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey League (PIHL) consists of member associations representing Western Pennsylvania. All member teams play under the PIHL Playing Rules. The Penguins Cup Playoffs are held under the direction of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey League. The Penguins Cup Champions from the Varsity classifications of A, AA, and AAA will represent Western Pennsylvania in the Pennsylvania Cup Championships.

The Eastern Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey Association (EPIHA) consists of four member associations representing the Central Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey League (CPIHL), Inter-County Scholastic Hockey League (ICSHL), the Suburban High School Hockey League (SHSHL), and Lehigh Valley Scholastic Hockey League (LVSHL). The Flyers Cup Playoffs are held under the direction of the Eastern Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey Association high school programs from Eastern Pennsylvania. The Flyers Cup Champions from the Varsity classifications of A, AA, and AAA will represent Eastern Pennsylvania in the Pennsylvania Cup Championships.

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SECTION 1

EVENT ADMINISTRATION

PART A – Playoff Formats

1. The PIHL and EPIHA shall be individually responsible for establishing and publishing their respective playoff formats for the classifications of AAA, AA, and A.
2. The PIHL and EPIHA shall exchange their established playoff formats no later than February 15th of each season.
3. The winning teams in each of the PIHL classifications shall be deemed the “Penguins Cup Champions.” The winning teams in the EPIHA classifications shall be deemed the “Flyers Cup Champions.”
4. Provided that the teams meet the Team Eligibility requirements established herein, the Penguins Cup Champions and the Flyers Cup Champions for each classification shall play in the Pennsylvania Cup Championships.
5. The winner of each Pennsylvania Cup Championship Game shall be the “Pennsylvania Cup Champions” of that classification.

PART B – Committees

1. The Playoff Committees of the Penguins Cup and the Flyers Cup, respectively, shall be responsible for all matters pertaining to conducting the playoff tournaments within their region.
2. The members and chairperson of each Playoff Committee shall be determined solely by the host entity – the PIHL and the EPIHA.
3. The Pennsylvania Cup Championship Committee shall consist of two representatives from each of the established Playoff Committees, as designated by each committee. The Playoff Committee from the host region shall also appoint one person to serve as the chairperson of the Championship Committee for that season’s championship games.
4. Each person on the Championship Committee shall have one vote in all matters and disputes pertaining to the Pennsylvania Cup Championships.
5. The Chairperson of the Championship Committee shall serve as the mediator for all Committee motions and votes, and the Chairperson shall only have a tiebreaker vote, as needed.

PART C – Event Scheduling

1. The Pennsylvania Cup Championships shall be played in late-March of each season on a date established by the Pennsylvania Cup Championship Committee on or before October 1st of each season.
2. The Pennsylvania Cup Championships shall be held in Western Pennsylvania in odd-numbered years; the Pennsylvania Cup Championships shall be held in Eastern Pennsylvania in even-numbered years.
3. The site of the Pennsylvania Cup Championships shall be proposed by the host Playoff Committee no later than October 1st of each season and approved by the Pennsylvania Cup Championship Committee by November 1st of each season.
4. All championship games shall be scheduled to be played consecutively on the same day and at a single location, unless otherwise approved by the Championship Committee prior to October 1st.

PART D – Finances

1. All expenses related to the Pennsylvania Cup Championships are the responsibility of the host league.
2. Any profit achieved from the championship games shall be retained by the host league. Any deficits acquired from the championship games shall be paid by the host league.
3. Any reimbursements for travel, lodging, meals, and similar shall be determined and paid by the respective Playoff Committee.
4. The financial statements from the Pennsylvania Cup Championships shall be shared between the respective Playoff Committees no later than July 1st following that season's championship games.

PART E – Trophies and Awards

1. The host Playoff Committee shall be responsible for the purchase of the trophies and awards for the Pennsylvania Cup Champions.
2. The host committee shall provide for engraving for the traveling state championship trophy, which shall include the names of all players, coaches, and team officials who appear on the team's USA Hockey roster.
3. The host committee shall provide three permanent replica trophies, with the state champion at each of the three classifications awarded with a trophy at the conclusion of each of the three championship games.
4. Any awards or additional hardware issued at the State Championships shall be the full responsibility of the host committee and shall be approved by the Championship Committee prior to purchase.

SECTION 2

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

PART A – Team Participation Requirements

5. All participating teams shall be members of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey League (PIHL) or under the affiliation of the Eastern Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey Association (EPIHA).
6. Only teams representing a school district physically located in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania shall be eligible for the Pennsylvania Cup Championships.
7. All teams must be a “pure” team from the established playoff classifications of AAA, AA, or A.
8. Each team shall be certified to be in good standing with its district affiliate of USA Hockey.

PART B – Player Eligibility Requirements

1. All players must be registered on the team’s USA Hockey roster and appear on the team’s league roster.
2. Players must meet the following participation requirements:
 - a. A player shall not be 19 years of age or older as of July 1st of the year in which the regular season starts.
 - b. A player must be in only the 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade to be eligible.
 - c. A player shall be eligible for a period of 8 consecutive semesters after the commencement of his/her 9th grade year.
3. Players must meet all eligibility requirements of the team’s host league for both the regular season and the postseason in order to participate in the Pennsylvania Cup Championships.
4. Players must appear on a game roster (scoresheet roster) as participating in at least 50% of his/her Varsity team’s regular-season league games to be eligible for participation with that team in the Pennsylvania Cup Championships.
 - a. Both Varsity and next-lower level (e.g., Junior Varsity) league games shall count towards the Varsity total.

PART C – Coach Eligibility Requirements

1. Coaches must be registered on the team’s USA Hockey roster and appear on the team’s league roster.
2. Coaches must have completed all USA Hockey Coaching Education Program requirements as of the established deadlines for the current season.
3. Coaches must meet all eligibility requirements of the team’s host league for both the regular season and the postseason in order to participate in the Pennsylvania Cup Championships.

PART D – Eligibility Verification Procedures

1. Players and coaches shall be verified on the team’s USA Hockey roster via the USA Hockey registration form (Form 1-T).
2. A signature from a school official must be applied to the team’s league roster on or after February 1st as evidence that all players currently attend that high school and meet the academic and eligibility requirements of that school district.
3. A copy of all official game sheets for all rostered players – including those “moved-up” one level to the Varsity team – must be used to verify the minimum game requirement, and all such copies shall be available for review at the Pennsylvania Cup Championships. Game counts recorded in official league websites shall also be accepted.
4. Coaches shall be confirmed as registered with USA Hockey via the USA Hockey “Coaching Certification List” database, and a copy of such verification shall be available for review at the Pennsylvania Cup Championships.
5. The respective playoff committees 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 Varsity regular season.
 - b. The appropriate Playoff Committee shall issue a ruling on all requests for exemption no later than 2 days following the final day of the Varsity regular season.
 - c. There shall be no appeal permitted on rulings made for or against the minimum game requirement.
 - d. The Pennsylvania Cup Championship Committee reserves the right to review all approved requests prior to the start of any Pennsylvania Cup Championship Game in order to verify compliance with the exemption rules.

SECTION 3

GAME ADMINISTRATION

PART A – Game Personnel

1. The host Playoff Committee shall be responsible for scheduling all Scorekeepers, Clock Operators, Penalty Box Attendants, Security Guards, and Admissions Staffing for all Pennsylvania Cup Championship Games.
2. At least one qualified Emergency Medical Provider (EMT-B or higher), as arranged for by the host Playoff Committee, shall be present and on-duty for any Pennsylvania Cup Championship game to start or proceed.
3. Security Guards and event 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 B – Officiating

1. All championship games shall be officiated using the 2-referee, 2-linesman system (“4-man system”).
2. The On-Ice Officials shall be arranged for by the host Playoff Committee using an independent scheduling entity.
3. A unique crew of four officials shall be used for each Championship Game unless otherwise approved by the Championship Committee at least 5 days prior to the date of the games.
4. As the representatives of the applicable rulebooks, the On-Ice Officials shall be the authority of the on-ice play in all championship games.

PART C – Home Teams

1. The home team in each Pennsylvania Cup Championship Game shall be the participating team from the host side of the state, as designated by the host Playoff Committee.
2. The home team shall occupy the player bench designated for the home team and reserves all rights granted to the home team by the applicable rulebooks.

PART D – Uniforms & Equipment

1. 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.
2. All player uniforms and equipment must meet the minimum requirements cited within the current “Official Rules and Casebook of Ice Hockey” issued by USA Hockey.
3. Respective teams shall adhere to any additional equipment/uniform requirements established by its host league, except if any such requirement conflicts with Pennsylvania Cup Championship Rules.

PART E – Admissions

1. Admission Prices for the Pennsylvania Cup Championship Games shall be \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Children under the age of 12 shall be admitted for no charge.
 - a. The host Playoff Committee shall be responsible for collecting the admissions money.
 - b. Admissions shall be valid for all Championship Games conducted on the same day and at the same venue, unless otherwise approved by the Pennsylvania Cup Championship Committee.
 - c. No parking fees, if applicable, shall be covered by Championship Committee nor the respective Playoff Committees.
2. Up to 25 team personnel – consisting only of the players, coaches, and team officials listed on the team’s certified USA Hockey Roster – may sign-in for free admission to the team’s Championship Game.
 - a. The respective Playoff Committees are responsible for providing this list of 25 names from each participating team to the host Playoff Committee at least 2 days prior to the date of the Pennsylvania Cup Championships.
 - b. The host Playoff Committee shall be responsible for establishing a sign-in area at each game.
3. Only passes issued by the Championship Committee shall be honored for admission to Pennsylvania Cup Championship Games. No league- nor association-made passes shall be accepted for any game, regardless of year or location.
4. Credentialed media personnel shall be admitted for free to all Pennsylvania Cup Championship Games.

SECTION 4

PLAYING RULES

PART A – Rulebooks

1. All playing rules shall follow the current “Official Rules and Casebook of Ice Hockey” issued by USA Hockey.
2. All exceptions to an applicable rulebook(s) shall be stated within these Pennsylvania Cup Championship Rules.

PART B – Time of Play

1. All Pennsylvania Cup Championship Games shall consist of three, 17-minute periods using stop-time.
2. There shall be a 5-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. The ice shall be resurfaced prior to the start of the warm-up period and again at the second intermission.
5. 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 Pennsylvania Cup Championship Rules for Overtime Periods.
6. There shall be no curfew applied to any Championship Game, regardless of score, time, or situation.
7. Any game not played to completion shall be considered a suspended game. The Championship 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 C – Overtime Periods

1. All overtime periods shall be 17 minutes of sudden-victory, stop-time play.
2. The on-ice manpower for all overtime periods shall be based upon 5-on-5 play, with all applicable penalties carrying over from the end of the previous period.

3. Each team shall be permitted a maximum of one timeout of 1-minute in length in overtime, regardless of whether a timeout was not or was not used by the team during regulation time.
4. Playoff overtime shall utilize the following protocol for all games:
 - a. A 3-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 shall be resurfaced following the conclusion of only odd-numbered overtime periods (1st, 3rd, 5th, etc.).
 - d. Intermissions in overtime involving an ice surfacing shall end immediately upon completion of the ice resurfacing; intermissions in overtime without an ice resurfacing shall be 3 minutes in length.

PART D – Suspensions and Discipline

1. All suspensions and disciplinary actions acquired by players, coaches, team officials, teams, and associations shall carry-over from the regular season and league playoffs to the Pennsylvania Cup Championship Games.
2. Suspensions and disciplinary actions obtained in the Pennsylvania Cup Championships shall apply to the next league season for all teams under the terms of the respective league rules.
3. The “proper authority” for all supplemental discipline, as cited by the USA Hockey rulebook, shall be the Pennsylvania Cup Championship Committee.

PART E – Protests and Disputes

1. There shall be no protests permitted Pennsylvania Cup Championship Games.
2. The Pennsylvania Cup Championship Committee 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 Championship Committee shall be final and, as such, shall not be eligible for appeal.

