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**Playoff Game Procedures:**

**A. USA Hockey Rules** apply to all playoff games, however, (2) non USA Hockey Rules will be in effect and are as follows:

- a. Each team is allowed one (1) timeout per game which will be 60 seconds in length (including all OT periods)
- b. Mercy rule shall be in effect after (7) goal differential at any time in the game. This will result in running the clock until either the game ends or the differential is less than 7 goals at which point the game reverts back to a stopped clock.

**B. Playoff reseeding:** After every round we will re-seed so that the worst-seeded team will always match up against the highest-seeded remaining team in the next round.

**C. Home team:** Higher seeded team will select jersey color, print the scoresheet and supply an incident report. Home team has control of music if they so choose.

**D. Warm up:**

- a. Pre Quarter-Finals/Quarter-Finals: 5:00 warm up, resurface between 2nd and 3rd.
- b. Semi Finals/Finals: 7:00 warm up on “old ice”, resurface before the start of the game and then after the 2nd period. After both teams have re-entered, 1:00 running clock and then the game starts. Handshake line will be at the conclusion of each playoff game.

**E. Game Format:** 3 (15) minute periods. There is a 1:30 break between each period and all OT periods (this should be posted on the game clock).

**F. Tie Game:** If the score is tied after 3 periods, sudden death OT period(s) to follow in these formats:

- a) First OT period will be 4v4 for 10:00; in the event a team is assessed a penalty, the format moves to 4v3.
- b) All subsequent OT periods will be 5:00 and will be 3v3 until there is a winner; in the event a team is assessed a penalty, the format moves to 4v3. Upon completion of the minor penalty, play continues 4v4. However, with the next stoppage in play, the 3v3 format will resume.
- c) Teams will switch ends at the end of each period, including all OT periods.

**Notes:**

- NFOA should announce all goals/penalties on rinks that are able to accommodate in all playoff games. Championship games will have a starting lineup announced as well as the National Anthem.