



AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION ILLINOIS, Inc.

“Dedicated to the development of today’s youth through Athletic and Academic excellence.”

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2024

Illinois State High School Hockey Championships Tournament Rules & Format

AHAI will once again host the following divisions:

Junior Varsity Division
Varsity Girls’ Division
Combined Varsity Division
Red Varsity Division

AHAI rules prevail over individual League or Association rules. Teams are not eligible except in accordance with AHAI Rules and Regulations. Should you have any questions regarding your eligibility please refer to your 2023-24 AHAI Official Guide or the AHAI website at www.ahai.org. For your convenience, we have attached a sheet listing the more pertinent rules and regulations. If you still have further questions, please contact the Tournament Chairperson for a ruling. The fact that you have received this invitation does not automatically qualify your team for the State Tournament. It is the responsibility of AHAI and the AHAI Tournament Committee to investigate violations of the rules. Furthermore, the High School Committee reserves the right to withdraw an invitation under certain circumstances.

The site for the Illinois State High School Championship games will be the United Center in for all Divisions except Junior Varsity. The Junior varsity will play their Championship game at the Edge Ice Arena in Bensenville, Illinois.

Any “Regular Varsity” team may choose to participate in the Red Division Varsity Tournament. (*The AHAI High School Tournament Committee reserves the right for final placement of teams into the various “Division” categories*). Only “Combined Varsity teams who have made application to the AHAI High School Committee and relative to the AHAI Official Guide will be eligible to enter the Combined Varsity Tournament. The final eight teams for the Red Division Varsity Tournament, Combined Division Varsity Division and the Junior Varsity Division will be held at the AHAI Hockey Center located in Bensenville, Illinois.

You are also reminded that only legally rostered and registered AHAI Teams may participate in the Illinois State High School Hockey Championships Tournament. Please make certain that their rosters have been approved by the AHAI Registrar, and that they are correct in every regard and comply with all AHAI/USA Hockey Rules and Regulations.



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Let us also remind you of the player eligibility requirements, especially pertaining to players playing for teams other than their High School team only. It is the responsibility of AHAI and the AHAI Tournament Committee to investigate violations of the rules. Your League or Division Officials will be asked to verify the eligibility of your players. Please refer to the “AHAI 2023-24 Official Guide, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations available on the AHAI website at www.ahai.org.

It must be clearly understood that a High School Team must have played a minimum of 20 games and any Player must have played a minimum of 15 games as part of that High School Team to be eligible for the Illinois State High School Hockey Championships Tournament, and satisfy the requirements from the AHAI Official Guide, “Player eligibility is defined as 75% participation of total games played above the minimum of 20 games required to be a High School Team”. This rule applies only to double rostered players.

If there is a question of player eligibility, you, as the coach, must be able to prove eligibility beyond any doubt. The request as to a player’s eligibility can come from any source. If there is any violation of the rule, your team will be suspended from Tournament play and the matter turned over to the Rules and Ethics Committee of AHAI for appropriate disciplinary action.

H. High School: It is the responsibility of the student, parent(s) of the student, coach and high school organization to raise any eligibility issues which may be in question and bring them to the High School Committee for resolution before the Playing Season begins. Wherever appropriate, Executive Director within IHSA shall mean AHAI High School Committee Chairperson, or in his/her absence, the individual so designated by the Chairperson. Failure to comply with these Rules may result in disciplinary action by the AHAI High School Committee and the AHAI Rules & Ethics Committee.

I. COACHES CERTIFICATION/PERSONS ON BENCH: All coaches and other persons on the bench (*including managers and door openers*), other than rostered players playing in the particular game then on the ice, shall be certified coaches by USA Hockey at the appropriate level. At least one certified coach must be on the bench for each game. No more than four (4) persons, other than rostered players, in uniform, may be on the bench.

The Head coach on the AHAI roster shall normally be on the bench; if not, then the assistant coach on the AHAI Roster. Any deviation shall be brought to the attention of the Tournament Coordinator prior to the team taking the ice for each AHAI Blackhawk Cup State Tournament Game. When bringing the matter to the attention of the Tournament Coordinator, it should be done with as much factual information as possible and as much time as possible to permit the Tournament Coordinator to take appropriate action. Violation(s) of this rule shall be referred to the Tournament Rules/Protest Committee and the AHAI Rules & Ethics Committee for appropriate action, including, but not limited to, forfeiture, inability of your team to take the ice and suspension.

NOTE: *All players, including injured players, must wear at least their jersey and helmet at all times, including warm-ups, if they are going to be on the bench.*



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We will notify each organizational President if we do not receive a ranking form. Whether or not you participate in the State Tournament, you, as a Head Coach owe it to the hockey community to participate in the rankings because it adds to the validity of the rankings.

Please Participate in the Ranking Process!!!!

Also be advised, any “Senior Misbehavior” upon players, officials or fans will cause an immediate appearance of the Club President and the entire Coaching Staff before the AHAI Suspension Review Committee and the forfeiture of a five hundred dollar (\$500.00) bond charged to your credit card. Failure to pay the fine will result in the inability for the origination to register for the following season (*See Senior letter enclosed*).

We are looking forward to a great Illinois State High School Hockey Championships Tournament culminating with the Championship games. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Tournament Chairperson, Bob Wagner.

Thank you for your cooperation and good luck!

Bob Wagner

High School Tournament Chairperson

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