



2025-26 SCHEDULING & HOST WEEKEND GUIDELINES

During the THL ("League") scheduling meeting ("Scheduling Meeting"), the following procedures will be used:

1. No teams are permitted to enter into **any** scheduling agreements **whatsoever** prior to the Scheduling Meeting.
2. The League will designate a Room Facilitator for each age division level to manage the scheduling process for that age division level at the Scheduling Meeting.
3. Each Member Association will designate experienced schedulers ("Association Schedulers") to schedule on behalf of **ALL** the Member Association's teams. Association Schedulers must be available to schedule the entire weekend and prepared to stay for the duration of any given age division for which he/she is scheduling. The number of pre-determined Association Schedulers, respectively, shall be specified by the League and equal to one (1) more than the maximum number of Member Association teams that are scheduling at any given age division.
4. Only one (1) Association Scheduler will be permitted to participate in a team's division Scheduling Meeting ("Team Representative").
5. Each Team Representative must bring to the Scheduling Meeting a copy of the team's designated host ice slots, or "Host Weekend" schedule, as the case may be, for use in scheduling, including specific dates, times, and rinks.
6. The **ONLY** weekends/periods during which a team will NOT be forced to schedule games are:
 - a. Thanksgiving - Nov 27-30;
 - b. Christmas - Dec 19-Jan 2;
 - c. Texas High School State Tournament - **Jan 30 - Feb 1** (16U and 18U **ONLY**); (the dates set forth in a., b., and c., collectively, "**LEAGUE** Blackout Date"); and
 - d. During three (3) team blackout weekends ("**TEAM** Blackout Dates"), which will be posted at the Scheduling Meeting and which will have been provided to the League (via electronic means as directed by the League) prior to the Scheduling Meeting.

Teams **MAY**, however, upon mutual agreement, schedule games on a **LEAGUE** Blackout Date.

Teams will be expected to be available for League play, if necessary, on **all** other weekends (including Columbus Day, MLK weekend, Super Bowl, Presidents' Day weekend, etc., as the case may be).

Should a team's availability, during a given weekend, to play League games be limited in any way (eg: can only play home games; can only play Saturday and not Sunday, etc.), the team should consider that weekend as one (1) of its three (3) **TEAM** Blackout Dates.

7. The minimum rest period ("Minimum Rest Period") shall be as follows:
 - a. 10U - 2 hours in between League games
 - b. 12U - 2.5 hours in between League games
 - c. 14U, 16U, 18U - 3 hours in between League games
 - d. Between evening games and games the following morning, there shall be a minimum rest period of nine (9) hours from the end of the evening game to the beginning of the morning game.

Minimum rest periods may be waived for any particular game; provided, however, that before such Team Representatives leave the Scheduling Meeting room:

- a. both Team Representatives are in agreement
- b. the same is documented/signed by both Team Representatives on the Master Division Schedule or a copy of these Guidelines
- c. the same is approved by a League Board representative.

At the conclusion of the Scheduling Meeting, agreed-upon duration or waiver of rest times will be considered approved and finalized by both Team Representatives.

8. DFW teams will be required to travel up to two (2) times during the season for League games; provided, however, that:
 - a. DFW teams may choose to travel in addition to the required number of times
 - b. the League may, in rare instances, mandate a third (3rd) travel weekend depending upon the geographical make-up of a division level.
9. Before any DFW v DFW matchup scheduling takes place, non-DFW teams will be permitted to (in the following order):
 - a. Complete their host game schedules, respectively;
 - b. Schedule all required non-DFW v non-DFW games;
 - c. Schedule the balance of all games v DFW teams to be played on DFW ice.
10. In the event any division provides for host weekend opportunity ("Host Weekend"):
 - a. Host Weekends for non-AA divisions will follow these procedures:
 - i. 10U / 12U – four (4) games per team maximum during the weekend.
 - ii. 14U / 16U – three (3) games maximum per team during the weekend for traveling teams; host team may play four (4) games over the weekend.
 - b. Host Weekends for AA divisions will follow these procedures:
 - i. 10U / 12U – four (4) games per team maximum during the weekend.
 - ii. 14U – three (3) games maximum per team during the weekend for traveling teams; host team may play four (4) games over the weekend.
 - iii. 16U / 18U – three (3) games maximum per team during the weekend for traveling teams; League recommends only two (2) games per weekend.

During any given Host Weekend, DFW teams may be required to play one (1) game against another DFW team, but the League recommends that non-DFW Team Representatives attempt to avoid such games unless otherwise agreed to by both DFW teams.

If any team agrees to play more than the recommended/max number of games:

- a. both Team Representatives must be in agreement
 - b. the same is documented/signed by both Team Representatives on the Master Division Schedule or a copy of these Guidelines
 - c. the same is approved by a League Board representative.
11. Scheduling Meetings will continue at each division until game dates, times, and locations have been agreed upon, scheduled, and finalized. **No TBD's will be permitted.**

12. The Room Facilitator will compile a master division schedule ("Master Division Schedule") that must be acknowledged by each Team Representative's signature on a copy of these Guidelines before such Team Representative leaves the Scheduling Meeting room.
13. Changes to the Master Division Schedule shall be made as follows:
 - a. Errors to the schedule must be reported to the League within forty-eight (48) hours of completion of the Scheduling Meeting weekend.
 - b. The host team or rink may make schedule changes of 15-30 minutes from the originally scheduled game time without the consent of the participating teams; provided, however, that the host team or rink, as the case may be, reports the change to the League **and** communicates the change to the participating team(s) no less than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the new scheduled game time.
 - c. Similarly, any reasonable changes to a single game (a team's only game on any given day) to accommodate subsequent scheduling may be made without consent within the context and timeframe of the Scheduling Meeting; provided, however, that all Minimum Rest Periods are adhered to.
 - d. Any/all further changes to the schedule may be made only upon written agreement by both teams.
 - e. It is the responsibility of each participating team to check Hockey Shift, and Hockey Shift will ultimately be the determining game time in any event barring any unforeseen circumstances.
14. When traveling for regular season or playoff League play, teams may choose whatever accommodations they desire.

