



## **DSTHL 2023-24 A Playoff Rules**

**JANUARY 18, 2024**

**NOTE: ALL DALLAS STARS TRAVEL HOCKEY LEAGUE ("DSTHL") POLICIES, GAME RULES & PROCEDURES (THE "DSTHL REGULAR SEASON RULES") SHALL REMAIN IN EFFECT FOR THE DURATION OF THE A PLAYOFFS. ANY EXCEPTIONS OR ADDITIONAL RULES ARE LISTED HEREIN.**

### **1. Purpose**

1.1 The purpose of the following is to ensure that all A participants within the DSTHL have a clear understanding of the policies, rules, and procedures governing the DSTHL A Championship games (the "Playoffs").

1.2 The Playoffs shall be governed by the:

- 1) applicable rules of USA Hockey;
- 2) DSTHL Regular Season Rules found at: <https://www.dsthl.com/rules-policies>;
- 3) additional policies, rules, and procedures specific to Playoffs as set forth herein (the "Playoff Rules").
- 4) DSTHL Tournament Directors and DSTHL Board Executives

### **2. Procedures**

2.1 It is the responsibility of each player, Head Coach, and Team Manager to review and be familiar with the Playoff Rules. The Head Coach AND Team Manager from each team must BOTH acknowledge the Playoff Rules electronically/online PRIOR to the team's participation in Playoffs, via the form/link provided. Failure to do so may result in discipline or suspension.

2.2 Any questions during the DSTHL A Playoffs regarding scheduling, Playoff events, directions, score sheet availability, and other matters pertinent to the Playoff operation may be directed to the following individuals (collectively, the "Tournament Directors"). For urgent matters, text messaging is preferred:

Paul Freudigman	(469) 363-1007 • <a href="mailto:pfreud@orthotraumadfw.com">pfreud@orthotraumadfw.com</a>
Lucas Reid	(214) 929-3683 • <a href="mailto:lreid@dallasstars.com">lreid@dallasstars.com</a>
Brad Buckland	(469) 604-5848 • <a href="mailto:bbuckland@dallasstars.com">bbuckland@dallasstars.com</a>
Jordan Jones	(214) 500-0502 • <a href="mailto:admin@dsthl.com">admin@dsthl.com</a>

2.3 The Tournament Directors will attempt to contact team representatives with time-critical information. However, each Team Manager and/or Head Coach is responsible for ensuring that all pertinent information is provided to his/her team on a timely basis.

2.4 Tournament Directors will also be available to answer any questions regarding specific hockey issues. They are responsible for all inquiries or disputes regarding off-ice rule application or interpretation, player eligibility, disciplinary action, and any other procedural disputes. The Tournament Directors will not overturn any dispute concerning either rules and/or the judgment applied by on-ice officials. All decisions of the Tournament Directors are final.

2.5 In support of USAH's Zero Tolerance Policy and the local officials' associations, any DSTHL team parent or legal guardian spectator who is removed or ejected from a DSTHL game/venue by a game official shall, in addition to such ejection, be suspended by the DSTHL from the team's next game. DSTHL staff will monitor Playoff games and rinks, and spectators who violate conduct policies will be asked to leave.

### **3. Playoff Format**

3.1 Seeding in each division will be determined by regular season standings.

3.2 The top four (4) teams in each of the 16U A, 14U A1, 14U A2, 12U A1, 12U A2, 10U A1 and 10U A2 divisions will be eligible for Playoffs ("Playoffs").

3.3 The Playoff format in each of the 16U A, 14U A1, 14U A2, 12U A1, 12U A2, 10U A1 and 10U A2 divisions shall be a three-game round robin as follows:

- 1) The pairings shall be determined in accordance with the regular season division seeding.
- 2) During round robin play, each team will play each other.
- 3) During round robin play, 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 (0) points for a loss in regulation. All games will be played until a winner is determined using the format in Section 4 below.
- 4) The two (2) teams accumulating the most points in the round robin will advance to the Championship Playoff game.
- 5) If two (2) or more teams have an equal number of points, their positions in the standings shall be determined by the following tie-breaking format. If one (1) tiebreaker establishes a position for one (1) or more teams, each team is placed in the applicable position. Once a team is placed, the remaining tied teams shall start the tie-breaking process over again at Step 1. The tie-breaker formulas are as follows:

- a. The results of the head-to-head games played between the tied teams in the following order:

- i. Standings – Most points
- ii. Most wins (regulation, overtime, and shootout).

- iii. Differential - Subtracting goals scored against from goals scored in these games, the positions determined in order of the greatest surplus. Only the shootout game-winning goal counts in the goal differential determination.
  - iv. Quotient - Dividing the goals scored in these games by the goals scored against, the positions being determined in order of the greatest quotient. A quotient involving dividing by zero (0) has a higher standing than a quotient from dividing by any other number. When two (2) or more teams have no goals against and the quotient tie-breaker is required, the teams shall be ranked high to low in descending order of "goals for."
  - v. Most periods won – In the games played by each tied team, points will be awarded for each regulation period won (2 points) and for each regulation period tied (1 point). Positions shall be in the order of highest point total.
  - vi. Quickest first goal – The team that scored the quickest goal in their applicable round robin games shall be ranked highest.
- b. If after applying the formulas of 5) a. i., ii., iii., iv., v., or vi. the tie still exists, 5) a. ii., iii., iv., v., or vi. shall be applied using all of the games played by the teams tied.
  - c. If the above procedure does not break the tie, the tied teams shall use a shootout procedure as described in Section 4.1 below.

#### 4. Playoff Game Rules

4.1 As set forth in Section 1.2 herein, the additional policies, rules, and procedures specific to Playoffs are as follows:

##### 1) Warm-ups, Periods & Penalties

- a. All Tournament games will be played with stop time to completion.

AGE DIVISION	WARMUP	PERIODS	MINOR	MAJOR	MISCONDUCT
16U	5	17	2	5	10
14U	5	16	1.5	4	8
12U	5	15	1.5	4	8
10U	3	13	1.5	4	8

- 2) Should any round robin game be tied at the end of regulation time, then sudden death overtime will be played until the game is decided. The format is as follows:
  - a. A 2-minute rest shall follow the third period.
  - b. The teams shall remain on the ice and not switch ends for the overtime period.
  - c. The overtime period will consist of a 5-minute, sudden death, stop-time period (4 on 4 plus goalie for 10U-12U Divisions or 3 on 3 plus goalie for 14U-18U Divisions).

- d. If no goal is scored in the overtime period, then the game will be decided by a shootout. A coin toss will determine the team that goes first. HOME TEAM SHALL CALL THE TOSS. Winner of the coin toss has choice of 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> shot. All goalies and players listed on the 1-T Official Team Rosters will be eligible to participate in the shootout provided they were not serving a penalty at the conclusion of the overtime period. If they were serving a penalty, they will not be eligible for the shootout. The shootout will begin with five (5) different alternating shooters from each team. Players do not need to be named beforehand. The goalkeepers for each team may be changed after every shot.
  - e. If after five (5) shooters from each team the game has not been decided, the teams will begin a sudden death shootout alternating shooters until one team wins the shootout round. All eligible rostered players (excluding goalies) must participate in the shootout before any player may take a second turn at the shootout.
- 3) Should any final Championship Playoff be tied at the end of regulation, sudden death overtime will be played until the game is decided. The format is as follows:
- a. A 2-minute rest shall follow the third period.
  - b. The teams shall not switch ends throughout all overtime periods.
  - c. Each overtime period shall be a 10-minute, sudden death, stop-time period (4 on 4 plus goalie for 10U-12U Divisions or 3 on 3 plus goalie for 14U-18U Divisions).
  - d. If teams remain tied after the first overtime period, then both teams shall leave the ice while it is cleaned. A second overtime shall begin immediately after cleaning.
  - e. If teams remain tied after the second overtime period, a 2-minute rest shall follow.
  - f. If teams remain tied after third overtime, teams shall leave the ice during cleaning.
  - g. Thereafter, the foregoing process in steps a.-f. immediately above shall be repeated until such time a winner is determined by competition.

4.2 DSTHL game suspensions earned prior to Playoffs during regular season play carry over and apply to the Playoffs.

4.3 Each team is responsible to provide its own penalty box monitor. A penalty box monitor is considered an off-ice official and must conduct him or herself as such. He/she must remain a neutral party and act accordingly. Penalty box monitors should not be visibly active in the penalty box, coach players, or become verbally or physically involved with players or on-ice officials in any way. In addition, any verbal or physical display of anger towards players, opposing team, coaches, or officials, will not be allowed. Penalty box monitors may not use cell phones, cameras, or other photographic equipment. Penalty box monitors who fail to follow this policy will be removed from the box and may be subject to further discipline and/or suspension.

4.4 With the exception of the final Championship Playoff game, all players shall exit the ice surface immediately after participating in a handshake at the conclusion of the game.

4.5 The DSTHL does not allow the use of any type of artificial noisemakers during any DSTHL league or Playoff games. These include but are not limited to: whistles, cowbells, horns, microphones, drums, sound blasters, etc. All rink staff, referees and DSTHL personnel will provide a warning first and if use of noisemaker continues, will kindly remove the person from the rink.

## **5. Waived and Forfeited Games**

5.1 In the event – upon completion of the first four (4) Round Robin games of any DSTHL A Playoffs age division (2 games played by each team) – two (2) teams have secured championship positions in the standings, those two (2) teams shall be permitted the option to mutually agree to waive the final Round Robin game; provided, however, that both teams have already played six (6) or more games against each other during the current season. The standings as they are, upon such mutual agreement, shall determine the Home/Away designation for the championship game.

5.2 All other teams shall be expected to play all Round Robin games regardless of the impact those games may have on the standings, extenuating circumstances excepted (e.g. weather, injuries, etc.).

5.3 An intentional forfeit of any game will result in that team's immediate removal from the tournament and may impact that team's association's eligibility to participate in future DSTHL A Playoff tournaments.

## **6. Merchandise and Awards**

6.1 For the Championship games, one (1) Championship trophy will be awarded to the winning team and one (1) Finalist trophy to the runner-up team in each division (10U A1, 10U A2, 12U A1, 12U A2, 14U A1, 14U A2 & 16U A). Individual Champion (Gold) and Finalist (Silver) medals will be awarded to all rostered players in each division (10U A1, 10U A2, 12U A1, 12U A2, 14U A1, 14U A2 & 16U A).

6.2 No banners shall be awarded to any teams: Championship, Consolation, or Regular Season Champions; provided, however, that any such teams will be provided an opportunity to order the appropriate banner at their own expense.

**NOTE: THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS RESERVE THE RIGHT TO ADD TO, AMEND, OR REMOVE, ANY DSTHL PLAYOFF POLICY, RULE, OR PROCEDURE AT ANY TIME.**