



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT 2023-2024 VARSITY DIVISION

1. Are there still going to be Division 1 and Division 2 Varsity Divisions?

No. All varsity teams will play in a single division, but teams will be divided into scheduling pods to facilitate games between teams with comparable skill. *Junior Varsity is unaffected and will be conducted as in prior seasons.*

2. How are the scheduling pods determined?

All varsity teams were ranked in descending order of the number of junior varsity ineligible players on the team. Last year, the teams were placed in one of three pods. This could, however, create matchups between Team 1 and Team 20, a range of 20 spaces. In the new flexible pod system, this problem is eliminated as each team will play teams ranging from 10 higher to 10 lower than it in the rankings.

3. How do the scheduling pods work?

Each team will play within a range of up to ten teams above it in the rankings and ten teams below. For instance, Team 11 will play games against Teams 1-10 and 12-21. Teams at the top and bottom of the rankings will have few games in one direction. For instance, Team 1 will play all games against Teams 2-11. Team 29 will play all games against teams 19-28. But there will be no more than a ten team range which should result in closer and more competitive games.

4. How will the playoffs be determined?

All varsity scores until the Wednesday before the playoffs will be entered into myhockeyrankings.com. At the end of the regular season, the top 16 teams based on the myhockeyrankings.com rankings will qualify for the playoffs. These rankings consider strength of schedule and so a team may be ranked higher than another team with a better win-loss record because of a stronger strength of schedule.

5. How will playoffs be structured?

The 16 teams qualifying for playoffs will be broken into affiliated and independent brackets as in prior years. For instance, if there are ten independent teams and six affiliated teams among the 16 qualifying for playoffs, the ten teams will participate in the independent bracket and the six affiliated teams in the affiliated bracket. *The winner of these two brackets each qualify for the national tournament.*

6. What happens to teams that do not make the playoffs?

Teams not qualifying for the playoffs will participate in a consolation double-elimination tournament.

7. Why did Utah High School Hockey abandon the Division 1/Division 2 format?

Division 2 was initially designed to be a developmental division. However, even among smaller teams, there was a broad range of talent with some very skilled players and some less experienced players. The Board of Trustees was unable to establish a method of dividing teams between Division 1 and Division 2 that was accurate, objective, and fair to all teams.

8. Will there be a preseason as in past years?

No. All games played by varsity teams will qualify for the standings.