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TCSHOCKEY.COM

TCSH SANCTIONED

TCS HOCKEY TOURNAMENT RULES

(2026 TCS HOCKEY SANCTIONED APRIL-AUGUST)

This is a Non-Sanctioned Tournament in which USA Hockey rules and penalties will apply to all games with a few in-house changes noted below.

• Tag-up offsidess will be used for all divisions.

• Teams playing shorthanded will **NOT** be called for icing.

- All teams must fill out our TCS Roster/Waiver form and submit at the rink prior to the first game of the tournament. Only players that are listed on your team's roster are eligible to participate. Any team found using a non-rostered player in any game will forfeit all games in which the non-rostered player is used.
- Rosters will be locked at the start of your first game & you will not be able to add players or make changes.
- All teams must be able to provide a proof of DOB (Birth Certificate/Passport/State ID) for all players if needed.
- All teams must fill out the scoresheet with stickers or handwritten before each game. We will need 1 sticker for each game, so please bring at least 6 stickers. Please send one coach or manager to the TCS table before your game to verify your lineup and to make appropriate changes or notations to the score sheet. After the conclusion of each game, please stop by our tournament headquarters to take a photo of your score sheet.
- NO PARENTS OR MANAGERS ARE ALLOWED ON THE ICE!!!! THIS INCLUDES CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES
- No player is allowed to participate on more than one team in his/her respective age division.
 - EX: Player is not allowed to play in 10u A & 10u B. Player can play in 10u and play up in 12u.

• 2026-27 season age classification divisions:

8U = 2018/2019

9U=2017

10U = 2016/2017

11U= 2015

12U = 2014/2015

13U=2013

14U = 2012/2013

15U= 2011

16U = 2010/2011

18U = 2008/2009

GIRLS 16U/19U= 2010-2007

Game Rules

- Games will start up to 15 minutes early. Please have your team ready to play 15 minutes before your scheduled time to avoid starting the game with a delay of game penalty. The warm up clock WILL start 15 minutes before the scheduled start time. Teams will be issued a delay of game penalty if they are not ready to go once the warm up has concluded. **It is your team's responsibility to gauge the amount of time left in the game on the ice before yours! a.k.a We will not come get you!** Each game will feature an 8-10 minute ice cut before YOUR game, so please factor in the time. **This excludes all 7am and earlier games.*
- Tag-up offsides will be used for all divisions.
- Teams playing shorthanded will NOT be called for icing
- **NECK GUARDS ARE REQUIRED IN ALL DIVISIONS**
- Hockey Canada equipment rules are those recognized and subject to/by your governing body &/or as required by their own league or associations (i.e. mouth guards, neck guards, and all other equipment). Hockey Canada requires a BNQ Certified Throat Protector (neck guard) for all Youth Divisions. Hockey Canada rules do not mandate the wearing of a mouthpiece at any age division where a full mask is required.
- All players, including goalies in the 12u through 18U age divisions are required to wear a colored (non-clear) internal mouthpiece that covers all the remaining teeth of one jaw, customarily the upper. For the first violation of this mouthpiece rule, the team will be issued a warning. A misconduct penalty will be assessed to any player or goalie of that team for a second violation during that game.
- A maximum of four team officials may be on the player's bench at one time.
- Permits body checking in Boys 13U level and older
- Each team will need to provide a penalty box official for each game. This person becomes an off ice official & must remain neutral during the game & help the on ice officials, if needed. The tournament will provide the scorekeepers.
- For all games, the home team will wear a light/white colored jersey and the away team will wear a dark/colored jersey. All players must wear numbered jerseys in the proper team colors. Teams that have only one set of jerseys must notify their opponent at least 15 minutes prior to their scheduled game time. *TCS will have the final say if there is a conflict with jersey colors.*

Game Format

- (3) minute warm up for all levels. Teams must bring their own pucks.
 - Boys 8u-12u, & Girls 12U = (3) 12 minute stop-time periods
 - Boys 13u, 14u & Girls 14U = (3) 13 minute stop-time periods
 - Boys 15U-18U, Girls 16U/19U, & High School = (3) 14 minute stop-time periods
- A running clock will be used in the third period when a team is ahead by 5 or more goals. If the gap is closed to 4 goals, then stop time will resume.
- There will be no timeouts for Round Robin Games. Only Championship Games teams are allowed one timeout per game. Timeouts in overtime ARE allowed if the team has yet to use theirs.

Penalties

- 8u-12u = 1:00 minute minor penalties
 - 13u & Above = 1:30 minute minor penalties
 - ALL DIVISIONS = 5:00 Major Penalties | 10:00 Misconducts
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- Any player receiving 4 or more penalties in one game is ejected & must sit the following game.
 - If a team receives 12 or more penalties in one game, the head coach is allowed to stay in that game, but must sit the following game with the same team/division.
 - 5 minute major penalties are converted to Game Misconducts.
 - Any players or coaches receiving a 5 minute Major or Game Misconduct must sit the following game.
 - Any players or coaches receiving a Match Penalty is disqualified from further play and will be ejected from the tournament
 - Fighting will not be tolerated and will result in 1 game suspension minimum, with a possible tournament ejection.
 - Any player who receives 2 (10) minute misconducts in the same game will be ejected from the remainder of that game and will sit the following game. The second ten minute misconduct is converted to a game misconduct.
 - Spitting will NOT be tolerated and may result in a tournament ejection.
 - **Suspensions resulting from Game Misconducts, Match or Fighting Penalties will not be overturned by the tournament director under any circumstances.** No tournament official has the right to change a score sheet or reverse a call from a referee. Video will not be reviewed to overturn or make calls. **Once the game is over, the score sheet is final.**
 - Any player who receives a major penalty, or a game misconduct of any kind, in a game, shall

automatically be suspended from the balance of that game and their game. USA Hockey Official Playing Rules shall govern the assessment of penalties.

- If a player or coach receives a game misconduct in their last game of the tournament, the game suspension will carry over to the next TCS Tournament they are participating in, TCSH Sanctioned or USA Sanctioned.
- Players & Coaches must serve their suspension with the same team & division they were assessed in.

Tournament Format

- Round-Robin Point System: 2 points for WIN & 1 point for TIE, & 0 for LOSS
- **Maximum goal differential attainable per game is +/-5.**
 - **Our website does NOT factor in the max GD per game. We manually adjust standings after a team has played all of their round robin games. Once division is complete, all seeds will be updated. Please see the "TCS Goal Differential" on our rules page for more information.*
- Tie game system – a tie will remain a tie in round-robin play and all consolation games.
- Any forfeited games will be recorded as a 3-0 score. Any forfeited games affecting other teams in terms of playoff status, may be reviewed by the tournament committee to determine which teams advance beyond robin play.
- **No player is allowed to participate on more than one team in his/her respective age division.**
 - EX: Player is not allowed to play in 10u A & 10u B. Player can play in 10u B and play up in 12u B
- At the conclusion of each game, the coach of each team shall be responsible for reviewing the score sheet to determine whether any player or team official has been suspended or disqualified from participating in any future game.
- Games can be stopped and ended at any time if our officials or tournament directors feel that continuing play is considered to be not in the best interest of the tournament and everyone involved.
- Officials will be informed to be very strict regarding our zero tolerance policy. TCS Hockey &/or rink management reserves the right to remove from the rink – players, coaches, or spectators who violate our zero tolerance policies. Any coach or spectator that gets removed in a game will receive a full tournament suspension.
- Protests will not be accepted based on the judgements or calls made by an on-ice official. However, a game may be protested based on the opponent's use of an ineligible player, with valid proof, or on a violation of rules or protocol that clearly has an impact on the game and that inures to the detriment of youth hockey. Any such protest must be filed by the protesting team as soon as possible by referring to our tournament director for their consideration done by the Coaches & Manager. If the tournament director determines that the circumstances warrant it, he may uphold the protest and assess the appropriate penalties against the offending team. Video will not be watched to overturn or make calls. The tournament director's decision in any such matters will be final.

SEEDING TIE BREAKERS

Tie breaker system – Teams ending up with the same amount of points in round-robin play, final standings will be determined by the following criteria:

- Head to Head competition*
 - Most Wins
 - Best Goal Differential
 - Fewest Goals Against
 - Most Goals For
 - Fewest Penalty Minutes (*Game Misconducts=10 Minutes*)
 - Coin Flip
- **In the event of 3 or more teams tied; All teams that are tied must ALL have played each other to determine a clear head to head winner. If not applicable, we will move past Head to Head and continue the tie-breaker criteria. We will NOT restart the tie-breaker criteria from the top again. Please see TCS Tie Breakers on our Rules Page for more information.*

PLAYOFF & CHAMPIONSHIP OVERTIME

COACHES MUST KNOW THE OVERTIME RULES. Referees will NOT explain the rules after regulation.

There will be NO INTERMISSION after regulation. Coaches asking for the rules may result in delay of game penalty to start the overtime!

- A tie will remain a tie in round-robin play and all consolation games.
- **For all Playoff & Championship games if tied after regulation play:**
 - NO INTERMISSION and meeting at the bench. OT starts right away.
 - **3 on 3** (*new for 2026!*)
 - One (5) five minute running sudden death overtime. The last minute is STOP time.
 - The teams will stay on the same side as they were in the 3rd Period
 - If a penalty occurs, we will go to 4 on 3.
 - After the penalty expires it will go to 4-4 until the next stoppage (NHL overtime rules)

For all playoff & championship games If tied after the overtime period:

- 3 Player Shootout in which most goals wins
- Home team will decide who shoots first

- If tied after the 3 player shootout, then go to a sudden death shootout until the winner is decided.
- “Shortest Bench Rule” The players in the first group of three may not shoot again until all other eligible players on their team have had a turn or the opposing team has used all of their shooters. *Ex: If Team B has 12 Players and Team A has 14, Team A can repeat players after the 12th shooter.*
- *Players who are currently serving a penalty when the overtime ends will NOT be allowed to shoot.*

CHAMPIONSHIP CELEBRATION/PHOTO

NO PARENTS OR MANAGERS ARE ALLOWED ON THE ICE DURING CHAMPIONSHIP CELEBRATIONS/PHOTOS!!!

Following our championship games, TCS staff will come onto the ice to hand out the 1st & 2nd Place Cups & Medals. The cup will be placed on the teams respective blue line. Please have your players line up for a photo, THEN we will pass the medals out.

Players may take helmets/gloves/sticks off, but must put them back on immediately after the photo as we need to get the Zamboni back on the ice. Unfortunately, there will be NO skating around the ice with the cup.

Anything not covered here shall be directed to the tournament directors.
TCS will have the final say on any and all matters.