

SOUTH SHOWCAE SERIES MLK TOURNAMENT RULES & REGULATIONS

NYTEX SPORTS CENTRE

January 16 – 19, 2026| North Richland Hills, TX



RULES AND REGULATIONS

USA Hockey Sanction # 26TX13



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Divisions | Levels

- 14U | AA & A Travel/Select (Boys & Girls)

Show Series MLK Tournament is governed by USA Hockey and officially sanctioned by the appropriate registrar for the district where tournament event is held. All tournament games are played according to the rules and regulations of USA Hockey, except where noted. Any exceptions to the rules and regulations of USA Hockey are approved by the appropriate registrar and the host affiliate association.

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH PLAYER, COACH AND TEAM TO BE FAMILIAR WITH THE RULES, REGULATIONS, PROCEDURES AND

POLICIES ADDRESSED HEREIN. Violation of any of the rules herein will result in disciplinary procedures, up to including disqualification from the tournament, as set forth in Section C (21).

1. GAME RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Verification that all participating teams are properly registered with USA Hockey or their country's federation is required prior to the start of the tournament. A USA Hockey Official Team Roster Form (1-T) approved by the District or Associate Registrar or Hockey Canada Certified Player Roster approved by the governing Canadian federation is required for all participating teams and shall be proof that all participating teams are properly registered and all participants are playing in the appropriate age classification and level.

IMPORTANT SAFESPORT REQUIREMENTS: ALL PLAYERS 17 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31 OF THE PLAYING SEASON AND WHO PLAY ON A TEAM IN A CLASSIFICATION THAT ALLOWS MINOR-AGE PLAYERS, MUST HAVE COMPLETED SAFESPORT TRAINING. THIS APPLIES TO ALL TEAMS IN THE AGE CLASSIFICATIONS FOR YOUTH, GIRLS, HIGH SCHOOL, JUNIOR HOCKEY, FLEX HOCKEY AND DISABLED HOCKEY. ROSTERS WILL BE CHECKED TO ENSURE ALL TEAMS ARE IN COMPLIANCE.

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2. All teams must complete and submit the required online Tournament Roster and Team Information Form and any required waivers prior to the start of the tournament and on or before the requested deadline which includes information and official documentation needed to ensure all teams are properly registered and playing in the appropriate age classification and level, uploading of team roster details into HockeyShift (our stats and standings program) for visiting teams and submit any required waivers, or other tournament related information or documentation that may be required. No other methods of submission will be accepted unless approved (and/or directed) by the Tournament Series Director or Tournament Series Committee. Please DO NOT submit Tournament Roster or Team Information via email. Please DO NOT submit online Tournament Roster or Team Information Form multiple times.
 - a. A USA Hockey Official Team Roster (1-T) approved by the appropriate District or Associate Registrar or Official Team Roster approved by the country's federation or governing body is required for all teams.
 - i. All Official Team rosters must be designated as either "Tier II" or "House/Rec", as appropriate.
 - ii. All USA Hockey players must have a valid USA Hockey registration confirmation number for the current season that is verified on the approved USA Hockey Official Team Roster (1-T).
 - iii. All USA Hockey coaching staff and team personnel must have a valid USA Hockey registration confirmation number for the current season, a current/approved background screening, a current/approved USAH SafeSport certification, and current/valid Coaching certification at the level of play for the team they are coaching that is verified on the approved USA Hockey Official Team Roster (1-T).
 - iv. All non-USA Hockey players, coaching staff and team personnel must meet similar requirements as listed above and be certified according to the country's federation or governing body that is verified on the approved USA Hockey Official Team Roster (1-T) or Hockey Canada Certified Player Roster.
 - b. Travel Permits are required and will be verified for all Non-USA Hockey teams, and any team from an Affiliate requiring Travel Permits.
 - c. A Hockey Canada Travel permit must be submitted a minimum of 30 days prior to tournament and will be reviewed by TAHA and USAH prior to acceptance in the tournament.

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d. Rosters submitted for upload to HockeyShift must match the team's verified/approved USA Hockey Official Team Roster (1-T) or Hockey Canada Certified Player Roster.

e. Teams should have the above documentation and/or information available during all tournament games.

3. Unless otherwise approved by the Tournament Series Director and/or Tournament Series Committee, the following applies to all participating teams. All decisions for the following and/or any of the rules as defined herein, may be made at the sole discretion of the Tournament Series Director and/or Tournament Series Committee. All decisions of the Tournament Series Director and/or Tournament Committee are final.

a. All Youth teams must be comprised of players on their approved/USA Hockey 1-T team roster on file with their local association and/or league and/or state/district Registrar and/or as submitted to the Tournament Credentials Committee via the Tournament Online Roster submission process. In the event of a player injury, or other urgent need (e.g. emergency goalie), substitute player eligibility will be determined and reviewed for approval on a case-by-case basis.

b. Players can only be rostered on one (1) team and will NOT be allowed to play for multiple teams, regardless of what division the teams are in. Please note that NO players can be added to the roster at game time. No combining of teams/players or substitutions will be accepted. Exceptions may be made for goaltenders in extenuating circumstances or technical or clerical errors on HockeyShift, provided the team is in compliance with 3.a. above.

c. On a case-by-case basis, exception(s) for individual girl(s) and/or girl(s) teams, regardless of the individual player and/or team Classification (e.g. age/age group), Category (e.g. House/Rec or Travel/Select) and/or Division/Level (e.g. AA, A, Upper, Lower, etc.), may be made at the sole discretion of the Tournament Series Director and/or Tournament Series Committee, in an effort to provide an equal opportunity for girls to play individually and/or as a team at an appropriate classification, category, and/or division level as determined by the Tournament Series Director and/or Tournament Series Committee. All decisions of the Tournament Series Director and/or Tournament Committee are final.

4. All team representatives are responsible for checking the rink front desk and/or Pro Shop for any schedule changes, suspensions and other important information. All schedules, scores

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and standings will be updated via Hockey Shift (www.hockeyshift.com) throughout the tournament weekend. This online scoring system contains game schedules, game scores only and up to date placements for finals.

5. General Manager and/or Rink Staff on duty will be available at the facility to answer questions regarding scheduling, tournament events, directions, and other matters pertinent to the tournament operation. However, as stated, each team is responsible for ensuring pertinent information is communicated to all team members on a daily basis.

6. Tournament Series Director, members of the Tournament Organizing Committee, rink staff may also be available at various times during the tournament to answer any questions regarding specific hockey issues. The Tournament Series Director is responsible for all inquiries or disputes regarding application of rules, interpretation of rules, player eligibility, disciplinary action and any other procedural disputes. In some cases, a 24-hour rule may apply. The Tournament Series Director will not overturn any dispute concerning rules and / or the judgment applied by on-ice officials. All decisions of the Tournament Series Director are final.

B. GAME RULES AND REGULATIONS

Tournament Rules and Regulations are outlined below. If a situation arises that is not covered by these Tournament Rules, then USA Hockey Rules and Regulations apply. All decisions of the Tournament Series Director and/or Tournament Series Organizing Committee are final.

1. **General Rink:** Teams should observe marked entrance and exit doors and enter & exit the rink through separate doors whenever possible.
2. **Locker Rooms / Dressing Areas:** All teams must use assigned locker rooms or dressing areas posted at the front desk; on the rink TV monitors or at other locations throughout the rink. A combination of locker rooms & dressing areas may be used. In addition to the regular locker rooms, temporary locker rooms may be set up, when possible, so each team has a separate locker room. Access to the locker rooms and/or dressing areas will be managed per the discretion of each ice facility. Locker Rooms **MUST** be vacated and cleaned within FIFTEEN (15) minutes of the conclusion of each team's scheduled game/ice time. Each team needs to ensure that locker room or dressing area is clean (no remaining

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trash/tape/food/drink) prior to vacating it. Team representatives are responsible for all damage done to the locker room, dressing area or the facility. The Tournament and/or Ice Facilities will not be held responsible for any items lost or stolen during the tournament.

- a. **Monitoring:** It is the policy of USA Hockey that all teams have at least one responsible adult (head/assistant coach or other approved team personnel) directly monitoring the locker room during all tournament events to ensure that only participants (coaches and players), and other approved team personnel are permitted in the locker room to supervise the conduct in and around the locker rooms at all times while participants are present and also make sure the locker room is appropriately secured during times when minor participants are on the ice. All responsible adults serving as locker room monitors should be gender correct and the co-ed locker room policy must be followed. Monitors must be screened per USA Hockey screening standards and USA Hockey SafeSport certified. Unapproved, non-team personnel, including parents and family members are discouraged from entering locker rooms unless it is truly necessary.
 - b. **Cell Phones and Other Mobile Recording Devices:** Per USA Hockey policy, cell phones and other mobile devices with recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras and video cameras, are not permitted to be used in the locker rooms. If phones or other mobile devices must be used, they should be taken outside of the locker room.
3. **Rosters:** Only coaches and players and (including goalkeepers) listed on the Official Team Roster and USA Hockey 1-T Form or Hockey Canada Certified Player Roster may play in tournament games. A player's name may only appear on one (1) roster for the Tournament. Players may only play on one team in the tournament. Players cannot play for multiple teams in one or multiple divisions. Exceptions may be made for goaltenders in extenuating circumstances, please see below. Any team using a coach or player not properly listed on the team roster or having a player listed on more than one (1) roster will forfeit (1-0) any and all affected games. Any team using a coach or player suspended for any reason will forfeit that game (1-0) and the suspended coach or player will be ejected for the remainder of the tournament. Suspended coaches and players may attend tournament games but are not allowed on the player bench area. Game suspensions (prior to the tournament and/or not served from a previous tournament) carry over and still apply to the tournament games. All decisions of the Tournament Director and/or Tournament Series Committee are final.

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4. **Emergency Substitute Goaltenders:** 12U & 14U level, Goaltenders may be allowed to fill in on an emergency basis due to injury or illness to prevent cancellation of a game. Emergency goaltenders must come from a team at or below the level of play of the team borrowing the goaltender. All requests for the use of an emergency goaltender must be approved in advance by the Tournament Committee. The following information must be submitted to the Committee a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the game-time:

- Details on Game in Question (Game Date, Location, Time, Opponent)
- Previously Rostered Goaltender (Full Name and Number)
- Proposed Substitute Goaltender (Full Name, Number, Full-Time Team)

Requests can be sent to the Tournament Committee via email. No other method of requests will be accepted. Requests will be reviewed by the Committee, and once the request has been approved or denied, communication may be made to the opposing team as soon as practicable, if required.

5. **Supplemental Roster Verification:** Teams may be subject to supplemental Team roster and/or individual player verification at any time. If it is determined by the Tournament Staff during Official Team roster submission, or by the Tournament Series Director and/or Tournament Series Committee at any point during the tournament that a team in any tournament division is playing with ineligible players, in the Tournament Series Director and/or Tournament Series Committee's sole discretion, that team may be subject to supplemental discipline, including but not limited to, permitting the team to play the minimum number of games, but receiving a 1-0 forfeit loss for those games and not being permitted to advance to the championship round, forfeiture of games, suspension of individual players and/or coaches, or disqualification of the team from the tournament.
6. **Game/Score Sheet:** Coaches or Managers must check in before each game at the desk and mark any scratches from a game (player not dressing) that must be reported to the scorekeeper prior to the start of the game. A copy of the score sheet may only be obtained from the tournament website after the game concludes. Do not wait on the ice surface, or in/around the player's bench, penalty box or scorekeeping area for the score sheet. No hard copy game sheets will be handed out. No pictures of the game sheets will be allowed. Each

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team representative is responsible for checking the accuracy of the score sheet.

Discrepancies must satisfy one of the following criteria below:

- a. Changing of a goal scorer only if such change affects the goal scorer's qualification for a USAH hat trick patch.
- b. Changing of an assist (no additional assists will be allowed) only if such change affects the goal scorer's qualification for a playmaker patch.
- c. Correction of Goalie minutes played.
- d. Correction if a wrong player was assessed a penalty on the score sheet.
- e. Removing a player from the score sheet who did not participate in the game.
- f. Adding a player who participated in the game but was inadvertently omitted from the score sheet.

Discrepancies must be reported to the Tournament Series Staff in writing by either the Team Manager or Head Coach only via email for review prior to the start of the next scheduled game. Once verified and approved, scoresheets will be updated online as soon as practicable. In the event the tournament and/or a particular division format does not allow for tracking of individual player & goalie statistics, related discrepancies will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The Tournament Series Director and/or Tournament Series Committee will not overturn any dispute concerning rules and / or the judgment applied by on-ice officials. All decisions of the Tournament Series Director and/or Tournament Series Committee are final.

7. **Uniforms:** All teams must have two (2) sets of jerseys – one (1) light colored and one (1) dark. All Teams must indicate their light and dark jersey colors during online roster and team information form submission. Home and Visiting teams are indicated on the tournament schedule. Home teams shall wear LIGHT colored jerseys and matching socks. Visitors will wear DARK colored jerseys and matching socks. Teams may wear dark socks with light jerseys or vice-versa, but both socks must be the same. All jerseys must have a player number clearly displayed. Taped numbers or players without numbers will not be permitted to participate in the tournament games. Numbers worn must correspond to the numbers listed on the scorekeeper's roster.
8. **Protective Equipment:** The following protective equipment is required while on the players bench and on the ice surface.

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- a. USA Hockey Compliant Helmet: (HECC Certified) must be worn at all times during warm-ups, games, and in the bench area.
- b. Skates
- c. Stick
- d. Gloves
- e. Hockey Pants
- f. Elbow Pads
- g. Shin Pads
- h. Shoulder Pads
- i. Full-Facemask: All Youth players, in all age classifications below Adults, are required to wear a facemask certified by HECC, plus any chin protection that accompanies the facemask. Any helmet or facemask that is altered shall be deemed to be illegal equipment and shall not be allowed to be used in a game.
- j. Mouth Guards: All Youth players, including goalkeepers, are required to wear a non-clear mouthguard.
- k. Neck Guards: As of August 1, 2024, USA Hockey requires the use of neck laceration protection (sometimes referred to as neck guards) for players in all age classifications, other than adults, in games and practices -- as well as for on-ice officials under the age of 18. For clarity, this includes youth, girls and junior age classifications. USA Hockey continues to strongly recommend the use of neck laceration protectors for adult players.

**** EACH PLAYER MUST SUPPLY HIS/HER OWN WATER / WATER BOTTLE.**

**** WARM UP PUCKS ARE NOT PROVIDED.**

9. **Player's Bench:** Only players (including goalkeepers), coaches and/or team personnel listed on the USA Hockey Official Team Roster (1-T) and HockeyShift Roster are eligible to be on the players' bench during the games. Teams are limited to a maximum of 4 team officials and a maximum of 18 skaters and 2 goalies on the player's bench at any given time. Any player or coach listed on the Official Team Roster (1-T) who is unable to play due to suspension or other valid reason, may attend tournament games but is not allowed in the team locker room, on the players' bench or surrounding area. Any player listed on the official 1-T roster that is injured, or otherwise unable to participate in game play, is NOT eligible to be on the players' bench regardless of game apparel or protective equipment. All parents, visitors and spectators are to remain away from the player's bench and penalty box areas. Team photographers/photography is not permitted from the player's bench. All

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team coaches and/or team personnel may occupy the player's bench prior to the completion of the ice resurfacing.

NOTE: Individuals listed as Volunteers or Team Managers may not participate in on-ice activities or be on the Player's Bench during games.

- 10. Access to Ice Surface Pre-Post Game:** ALL PLAYERS SHALL REMAIN OFF THE ICE SURFACE UNTIL THE ZAMBONI DOORS HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY CLOSED, NETS ARE IN PLACE AND ON-ICE OFFICIALS ARE PRESENT. Failure to do so may result in a minor penalty assessment. Teams must exit and enter the ice through separate doors whenever possible. All players shall exit the ice surface immediately after the game concludes.
- 11. Penalty / Box Attendant:** Each team is responsible to provide its own penalty box monitor or attendant, although not required. Penalty box attendants should refrain from any physical contact with any player and distance from players and coaches whenever possible. Penalty box attendants are strictly there to assist the player and scorekeeper with opening and closing the door. They are not permitted to impact to the game and are strictly prohibited from becoming verbally active with any game official. Penalty box monitors may not use phones, cameras or any other photographic equipment or electronic devices while in the penalty box area. Any such activity will result in immediate removal from the penalty box area, and possibly the rink for the duration of the tournament. All parents, visitors and spectators are to remain away from the player's bench and penalty box areas.
- 12. Officials / Referees:** All on-ice officials that oversee tournament games are certified by USA Hockey. On-ice officials are the governing body on the ice. The Tournament Series Director and/or Tournament Series Committee will not overturn any dispute concerning rules and / or the judgment applied by on-ice officials. All decisions of the Tournament Series Director and/or Tournament Series Committee are final.
- 13. Penalties: Penalty duration is as follows:**

A. Minor 14U-18U	2:00 minutes
B. Major (All Divisions)	5:00 minutes
C. Misconduct	10:00 minutes

*Penalties during running or stop time are of the same duration.

*Any fighting and altercations that involve pushing and shoving are not permitted.

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*Officials will have the ability to assess misconduct penalties and or eject players who can't control themselves.

Team penalties in a game – Rule 401(B) 1 game suspension for Coach - Suspension is the next scheduled 1 game of that team currently appearing on the schedule at the time of the assessment.

2 Major penalties in a game – Rule 403(B) 2 game suspension for player - Suspension is the next scheduled 2 games of that team currently appearing on the schedule at the time of the assessment.

4 penalties to the same player in a game – Rule 401(B) 1 game suspension for player - Suspension is the next scheduled 1 game of that team currently appearing on the schedule at the time of the assessment.

Checking from Behind + 2 Minute Minor + Misconduct - Rule

608(A) 2-minute minor + misconduct - No suspension; penalty served in the box, and can resume play.

Abuse of Officials and Other Misconduct – Use of Hateful or Discriminatory Language - Rule 601(E.3) A Match Penalty shall be assessed to any player(s) or team official(s) who uses language that is offensive, hateful or discriminatory in nature anywhere in the rink before, during or after the game.

Checking from Behind + 5 Minute Major + Game Misconduct – Rule 608(B) or Match Penalty for Intent to Injure – Rule 608(C)/Rule 602(A) – which results in a Match Penalty (See below)

1 Game Suspension - Suspension is the next scheduled 1 game of that team currently appearing on the schedule at the time of the assessment (Major + GM) OR suspended from all USA Hockey activities pending a hearing by the governing body of that player.

Face-Off Locations 612(B) Calls for an end zone face-off in defending zone of penalized team except for when the stoppage of play is caused by the non-offending team

Fighting Major Rule 615(A-F) 5-minute major + game misconduct – 1 game suspension

Icing the Puck – Rule 624(B)&(C)

(B) Allows teams at the Youth 15-Only and above, and Girls 16U and above, to ice the puck while playing shorthanded.

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(C) Requires center-ice face-off location if game officials error in calling icing.

Removes automatic whistle for shooting the puck into the attacking end zone “on net” with attacking players still in the end zone.

Unnecessary Roughness 640(D) A minor penalty shall be assessed to any player who delivers a body check with no effort to gain possession of the puck and the blade of the player’s stick is above the knees.

Match Penalty Suspended from all USA Hockey activities pending hearing by the governing body of the player; Requires a TAHA Hearing, or according to the local rules (for non-TAHA teams).

- 14. Misconducts:** Game misconduct penalties will result in a minimum one game suspension. Players or team officials serving a suspension for a game misconduct violation or disciplinary suspension may not have any interaction with the team 45 minutes prior to the game, during the game and for 30 minutes after the game. Prohibited activities include any communication, being in the locker room or in the vicinity of the bench area. Violations may result in supplementary discipline. A player or Team Official incurring a match penalty shall be suspended from the tournament and from participating in all USA Hockey games and practices until their case has been dealt with by the proper authorities. Any Team Official or player who is assessed a match penalty may not remain near the bench of their team, nor in any way attempt to direct the play of their team for the balance of the game in which the match penalty has been issued or for the remainder of the tournament. The Tournament Series Director and/or Tournament Series Committee will not overturn any dispute concerning rules and / or the judgment applied by on-ice officials. The Tournament Series Director and/or Tournament Series Committee decisions regarding misconducts are final.

NOTE: Any players required to serve a suspension from a prior USA Hockey game must complete the suspension prior to playing in the first game of the tournament. By way of example, if a player incurred a suspension in his last game prior to the tournament, this suspension must be served even if the player must miss the first game of the tournament.

- 15. Abuse of Staff: ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY.** Facility Management, the Tournament Series Director and/or Tournament Series Committee has the right to refuse play of the upcoming game or for future games for any player(s) who threatens or using obscene/abusive

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language to any member of the Tournament and/or facility staff or that are not displaying appropriate behavior.

16. Abuse of Officials: USA Hockey Zero tolerance for abuse of officials is enforced. A minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be assessed to any player who commits the following actions:

- a. Challenges or disputes the rulings of any official.
- b. Taunts or incites an opponent.
- c. Creates a disturbance during the game.
- d. Shoots the puck after the whistle, if in the opinion of the Official such shot was avoidable.

A misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player who persists in such conduct and any further dispute by the same player shall result in a game misconduct penalty being assessed.

17. Body checking: While body contact is not prohibited, any player committing a hit on an opposing player that is deemed to be predatory, the call will be in the sole discretion of the on-ice official.

18. Game Time: Games will start at their scheduled time. All teams must be ready to begin play fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled start time of each game, except for the first game each day. If the on-ice officials are ready to begin the game at the scheduled start time and a team is not ready to begin at that time, it will be given a one (1) minute grace period. If a team is not ready to start at the conclusion of the grace period, the game will be forfeited (1 – 0). Otherwise, the game will start at the conclusion of the warm-up period. Locker rooms must be vacated within 15 minutes after the completion of each game.

19. Game (Period) Lengths: Tournament games are allotted as follows: 4 Game Minimum, subject to the rules and regulations herein. In the event that a game is being played in an unsafe manner, the referee, at his/her discretion, can end the game at any point. A full report must then be forwarded to the Tournament Series Director and/or Tournament Series Committee. All games will be played to completion. There is no curfew. Period length in tournament games will vary depending on division and level of teams as follows:

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TRAVEL/SELECT:

- 14U (Boys & Girls): Three (3), 15-minute, stop-time periods

All games will be played on a full-ice sheet.

Players may not be on the ice surface before the Zamboni is off the ice.

Any fighting and altercations that involve pushing and shoving are not permitted. Officials will have the ability to assess misconduct penalties and or eject players who can't control themselves.

20. **Warm-up period:** Three (3) minutes for 10U Divisions (Boys and Girls); Five (5) minutes for 12U, 14U, 16U, 18U Divisions (Boys and Girls). The scorekeeper will mark the official start time on the score sheet at the start of the warm-up period.

NOTE: Warm-up pucks are not provided.

21. **Rest Time:** There will be a one (1) minute break between each period. Immediately after the first and second periods, the timekeeper will begin the one-minute countdown on the game clock. The next period shall begin immediately after the break. Approximate minimum (recommended) rest period between games (end of first to start of second) for each division shall be as follows (unless both opposing coaches agree to forego):

- 14U - 3.0 hours

There shall be a minimum rest time of 9 hours (ex. 1 hr travel (if applicable); 8 hrs sleep) between games (end of first to start of second) at night and the following morning.

22. **Run Time:** If at any time during the third period the goal differential reaches six (6), the game clock will go to running time and will not stop for any reason other than at the direction of the on-ice officials until the game ends or the goal differential is reduced to less than six (6). The game clock will not be stopped for goals scored, penalties, or any other reason while the "mercy rule" is in effect, unless directed by the on-ice officials.

23. **Time Out:** One 30-second time out is permitted per team per game for 14U

24. **Game Results:** A maximum differential of six (6) goals per game will be used for standings / tiebreaker purposes only. ex. A score of 14-3 becomes 9-3; a score of 8-0 becomes 6-0. Standings / Tiebreaker determination will be made by Tournament Series Director and/or

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Tournament Series Committee. All decisions of the Tournament Series Director and/or Tournament Series Committee are final.

25. Standings: Points will be awarded in the following manner for all games (maximum points awarded for a win will be 3 points regardless of how it is achieved).

- | | |
|-------------|--------------------|
| a. 3 Points | Win in Regulation |
| b. 2 Point | Shootout Win |
| c. 1 Point | Shootout Loss |
| d. 0 Points | Loss in Regulation |

NOTE: Any forfeited games will be recorded as a 1-0 score. In the unlikely event of a game cancellation due to unforeseen circumstances, each participating team will be awarded 1 Point in the standings.

26. Tie Games: For round-robin and semi-final games, if the game ends in a tie at the end of regulation, each team will be awarded a point. A 3-player shootout will determine the winner of an extra point in the standings. Championship tie-breaker and shootout guidelines are outlined below.

27. Tie-breaker: The following tie-breaker formulas below will be used to determine the order of finish (seeding) after round robin play between teams with an equal number of points. Ties between 3 or more teams will default to tie-breaker two (b.) and proceed from there. If one (1) tie-breaker 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 proceed to the next tie-breaker until a position is established.

- Head-to-head record between teams with equal points.
- Teams that do not play “head-to-head” default to tie breaker two (b.), and so on.
- Goal Differential - There is a maximum goal differential of +/- 6 goals per game, regardless of how many goals teams win/lose by.
- Fewest Goals allowed overall
- Fewest Penalty Minutes
- Fastest Goal Scored in Round-Robin Play

28. Overtime Procedures: All games that end in a tie shall first use a five (5) minute (sudden-death) run-time, 3 on 3 (plus goalie), period to determine a winner. If the game remains tied

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after overtime a three (3) player shootout will be used to determine a winner as outlined below:

1. Each team will select three (3) players to participate in the shootout. If a player is injured or is serving a penalty and unable to participate in the shootout the next eligible player is entitled to participate. Once a player shoots he/she is no longer eligible to participate until every player on the bench (excluding goaltenders, players serving penalties or players that are injured) has participated at least once.
2. In the first round, one player from each team will alternate their shot, with the winner of a coin toss shooting first. HOME TEAM WILL CALL THE TOSS.
3. Players will start at center ice and will begin play at the direction of the referee. Goalkeepers must remain in their crease until the shooting player has started play by touching the puck.
4. Players are allowed one shot/shooting attempt only.
5. After all six (6) players have finished their attempts; the team with the most goals is declared the winner.
6. If, after all six (6) players have finished their attempts, the game remains tied; each team will start the second round by selecting one (1) player, who has not yet participated in the shootout, to take a turn. The shootout will proceed one player at a time with each team having an equal number of turns; the home team shoots last in each round. One turn for each team constitutes a round. Only after all players (not including goaltenders and players serving penalties) listed on the game score sheet have participated may a player take a second turn. During the second round and beyond, the team that scores first, with the other failing to score, is declared the winner.
7. Ensure you scratch all players (on the game score sheet given to the scorekeeper) who will not participate in the game. Any team listing a player on their game score sheet that is not dressed for the game will forfeit the game when that player becomes eligible to shoot during the shootout.

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8. Player(s) serving a penalty are not eligible to participate in the shootout.

29. Division Seeding for Semi-Final, Consolation & Championship Games: Seeding for individual Division SEMI-FINAL, CONSOLATION or CHAMPIONSHIP games will be completed/updated on HockeyShift as soon as practicable once all ROUND ROBIN games for an individual Division are concluded/finalized. Seeding for individual Division CHAMPIONSHIP or CONSOLATION games will be completed/updated on HockeyShift as soon as practicable once all SEMI-FINAL games (or once all ROUND ROBIN games for an individual Division are concluded/finalized, if no SEMI-FINAL games are played) for an individual Division are concluded/finalized. NOTE: Highest seeded team in round robin is home team throughout the semi-finals and finals. All decisions of the Tournament Series Director and/or Tournament Series Committee regarding seeding for Semi-Final, Consolation & Championship games are final.

30. Championship Awards: Championship and Finalist Team awards will be presented on ice immediately following the conclusion of the Championship game where Division Championship/Final games are played. Once the handshake line is completed, teams are to lineup on their respective Blue Line for the award presentation. Finalist Award will be presented first, followed by the Champion Trophy presentation and Champion Individual Division MVP Award. Tournaments Staff and/or Rink Staff will take photos of each team presentation. NO SPECTATORS ARE PERMITTED ON ICE, NOR ARE ANY PHOTOS TO BE TAKEN BY SPECTATORS FROM THE ICE SURFACE OR PLAYERS BENCH AREAS. Teams are to leave the ice surface immediately, once the Championship Award presentation concludes.

C. POLICIES

1. **Zero Tolerance Policy:** The Tournaments supports the USA Hockey zero tolerance initiatives for verbal abuse of any tournament official (on or off-ice), player, coach, parent or spectator. Team representatives and/or coaches are responsible for the actions and behaviors of their players, parents and fans. Parents & Spectators are expected to be a positive role model by treating all players, coaches, officials and fellow spectators with respect and support. The game officials reserve the right to assess penalties for abuse from players, coaches, or spectators. The Tournament Series Director, Tournament Series

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Committee and/or facility staff reserve the right to remove and prohibit further entrance to the facility, refuse play of the upcoming game or for future games, for any individual who threatens or uses obscene or abusive language toward any member of the Tournament Staff and/or facility staff or who may be deemed in their sole discretion, to display general unsportsmanlike behavior. All decisions of the Tournament Series Director and/or Tournament Series Committee are final.

2. **Communication Policy and Protocol:** Tournament information and updates for all Tournaments are communicated directly via email only to Team Managers and/or Head Coaches listed on the team's official registration. Team Representatives are responsible for cascading this information to their players & families. Communications directed to the Tournament Staff, Tournament Series Director or Tournament Series Committee will be accepted only from the Team Head Coach and/or Team Manager and must be sent via email to knute@nytexsports.com or be made via phone at 817-905-1994 for review, prior to determining/receiving a response. Text and/or alternate electronic communications will not be accepted, nor will they receive a response. Throughout the tournament weekend general tournament information and inquiries should be directed to the Rink Staff/Front Desk. Any/all communications (via email, phone or otherwise) directed to the Tournament Series Director and/or Tournament Series Committee that is not from the participating Team's Head Coach and/or Team Manager and/or does not follow the communication policy and protocol as defined within the Tournament Rules & Regulations, will not be accepted or acknowledged. All decisions of the Tournament Series Director and/or Tournament Committee are final.
3. **Team Placements:** Tournaments verifies the eligibility of each team to participate in the tournament as required per our Rules & Regulations and USA Hockey Tournament sanction. Tournaments uses its best efforts to place teams in competitive brackets based on a number of factors, which may include the number of teams registered in a particular age group and/or division, the team's registration, their registration with USA Hockey, placement in their local league, and the record of the team in league play (assuming a record exists). International teams, and tournament teams with no record of play are placed based on either knowledge of other teams in their local area or league, or from discussion with the respective coach and team manager to gain an understanding of their play, compared to those locally. The Tournament Series Committee and/or Tournament Series Director may, at their sole discretion, align teams or change teams in any particular

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division or skill level, and/or distribute teams equally to obtain a balanced division, schedule, format and/or competitive level of play. While the Tournaments uses its best effort to place teams in the appropriate competitive brackets, all teams are subject to supplemental roster verification at any time in accordance with Section B(3) - B(5) of these rules. All decisions of the Tournament Series Director and/or Tournament Series Committee are final.

4. **Division & Rink Game Locations:** Teams will play all games at the NYTEX Sports Centre. Additional rinks may be added as needed.
5. **Tournament Format:** Tournament Divisions, Participating Teams, Game Locations and Playoff Format are made available via the tournament scheduling committee. Quarter-Final, Semi-Final or Consolation games may be played, but are not guaranteed. Championship and/or consolation games may result in an additional game for some teams on the final day of the tournament. All decisions of the Tournament Series Director and or Tournament Series Committee are final.
6. **Tournament Schedule:** Tournament game schedules are made available via the tournament website as soon as practicable prior to the start of a tournament. However, there may be certain circumstances which may delay the release of the schedule. While changes to the schedule, divisions and/or tournament game format are not anticipated once the schedule is released, there may be occasions where modifications do occur, and team representatives are responsible for monitoring the tournament website and/or HockeyShift for potential changes and communicating with their teams accordingly. In the event that changes to the schedule, divisions and/or tournament game format should occur once the tournament has commenced, any modifications will be communicated to impacted team(s) and/or division(s) as soon as practicable once completed. All decisions of the Tournament Series Director and or Tournament Series Committee are final.
7. **Scheduling Requests:** As always, any requests scheduling/scheduling accommodation requests received by Tournaments cannot be guaranteed due to a number of factors. As with all Tournaments, the tournament game schedule must take priority. Should any request fall within a peak scheduling window and coupled with several other constraints, our ability to accommodate any requests for scheduling considerations during this timeframe is, as always, extremely limited. As is our normal practice, once registration is

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closed and divisions are finalized, the scheduling team will review any submitted requests on a first-come, first-served basis, and if able, will attempt to accommodate said requests provided there are no foreseeable impacts to the tournament division(s)/schedule(s). All decisions of the Tournament Series Director and or Tournament Series Committee are final.

8. **Video Review Policy:** Tournaments follows the Video Review Policy of our USA Hockey Affiliate, Texas Amateur Hockey Association. The Tournaments reserves the right to use video review at its sole discretion. The Tournament Committee will NOT accept requests for video review, nor will it use video review for the purpose of changing any on ice call, UNLESS the video clearly and unambiguously demonstrates MAJOR/GAME MISCONDUCT penalty assessments were made to the wrong player. (PLEASE NOTE: video must clearly show, without question, that the wrong player was identified and penalized by officials during the infraction). Unsolicited requests to review video for an infraction that either went uncalled, or where the penalty assessed was not appropriate (either too harsh or not harsh enough), will not be accepted. Video submitted for potential review by the Tournament, must satisfy the explicit criteria above and will only be accepted/considered if presented by the Team Manager or Head Coach via email to knute@nytexsports.com. No individual or parent submissions will be accepted. No other methods of submission will be accepted. All decisions of the Tournament Series Director and or Tournament Series Committee are final.
9. **Refunds:** The first \$500 of the registration fee is deemed a registration deposit fee and is non-refundable. However, in the event that the tournament should be cancelled, due to COVID-19 or other circumstances beyond our control, the payment of the tournament entry fee or registration deposit will be refunded in full or credit applied to a future event. Provided a team has paid in full, and request is made prior to registration closure, a full or partial refund may be granted/approved by the Tournament Series Director and/or Tournament Committee (less the registration deposit fee). In certain emergency situations such as: player injuries or other valid medical reasons or natural disaster or state of emergency in the player's home/home city, the Tournament Series Director and/or Tournament Committee may choose to waive the notice requirement. Provided the tournament is not cancelled, all refund requests must be made in writing (via email) and accompanied by valid documentation to support the refund request. No refunds will be given once the schedule is posted, unless the tournament is cancelled. Refunds may be

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issued using the original form of payment, by check or by credit applied to a future tournament.

10. **Photography:** The tournament may designate an official photographer for the event. Taking photos of players from the player's bench or above the glass by team photographers, parents or spectators is not allowed for safety and competitive reasons. The Tournament Photographer is an approved vendor of the Tournament Series and the facilities in which the tournament event(s) is being held, and all other unapproved vendors or persons will be asked to leave the facility. Individuals who do not comply may also be asked to leave.
11. **Noisemakers:** Noisemakers are not allowed in the viewpoint (upstairs enclosed area) between the rinks and the lobby area. Use of any type of artificial noisemakers in the on-ice seating area are strongly discouraged as a courtesy to nearby spectators. All spectators are asked to display good sportsmanship and recognize that it is just as important as players' conduct on ice. The primary purpose of this tournament is to provide a positive and fun atmosphere for all participants. Air horns are not permitted in any of the facilities. The Tournament Series Director or rink staff reserve the right to remove any spectator who they determine to be interfering with other spectators enjoyment of the game.
12. **Fundraising:** Hockey associations and other groups may not pursue fundraising opportunities at any of the tournament venues. Teams that attempt to do will be asked to stop, and if it continues will be subject to suspension from the tournament, and possibly future events.
13. **Damages:** After all games, players are responsible for cleaning up all trash in their respective locker room(s). Any person causing damage to tournament facility(s) and/or tournament or facility(s) property will be fined commensurate with the damage and will be removed from the premises and/or suspended from all tournament activities and/or venues until the fine is paid in full. All persons are subject to prosecution to the fullest extent of the law.
14. **Weapons:** Players, coaches, spectators and any other individuals are expressly prohibited from bringing, using, or exposing firearms, weapons, or explosives of any kind on tournament premises, except to the extent expressly permitted by applicable law.

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- 15. Alcohol, Containers and Smoking:** Alcoholic beverages and/or glass containers are prohibited on premises. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action against the offending individuals, including possible suspension from the tournament. This rules applies to the dressing rooms, player area, parking lot, grounds and restaurant/bar area. Smoking (traditional and e- cigarettes) is not permitted. Coaches and spectators are expected to comply with tournament facility rules at all times.
- 16. Scorekeepers:** The Tournament series may supply one or more scorekeepers at each facility for games during the tournament.
- 17. Athletic Trainers:** The Tournament series may supply one or more athletic trainers at each facility for the duration of the tournament.
- 18. Injury/Concussion/Return To Play Policy:** The on-site medical staff will have the over-riding authority to determine if a player's injury warrants removal from the game and/or referral to the local medical facility. If a player is referred to the local medical facility, and intends to return to play, the player must provide the on-site medical staff with a written release from the doctor who examined him/her and determined that the player was able to return to play. No coach, team doctor, team trainer, parent or guardian may take responsibility for the player returning to the ice without the approval of the Tournament host's on-site medical staff. There will be no exceptions, even if a player's parents happen to be a doctor or other medical professional. Only the on-site medical staff can approve the players return to the ice. Any medical treatment shall comply with USA Hockey's SafeSport requirements for one-on-one interactions.
- 19. Ambulance Service:** To insure the quickest response time, anyone may contact EMT Services (911) in the event of an emergency situation. You may contact the Tournament Series Director or the facility staff to call 911. Any trips to the hospital using the transportation of an ambulance service or any other means that requires payment of service fee is the responsibility of the transported.
- 20. Best Interest of the Tournament:** The Tournament Series Director and/or Tournament Series Committee is responsible for all inquiries or disputes regarding interpretation or application of rules, player eligibility, disciplinary action and any other procedural disputes. The Tournament Series Director and/or Tournament Series Committee is solely responsible

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for enforcement of the rules contained herein and determination of any disciplinary measures for any violation for any rule contained herein, which may include any action deemed appropriate by the Tournament Series Committee up to and including disqualification of a team from the tournament. While the majority of rules and policies needed to ensure smooth operation of the tournament are addressed herein, there may be issues, circumstances or situations arise that may not have been addressed or may appear ambiguous to one or more participants (teams, players, coaches, parents, etc.). In all cases the Tournament Series Director and/or Tournament Series Committee reserves the right to interpret policies and rules, or add, amend or remove any Tournament procedure, policy, rule or regulation, including, but not limited to, playing rules, roster or eligibility rules, game schedules or format, select or permit qualified teams to participate in the tournament or to align or change teams in any particular skill level or division at any time, in the best interest of the tournament. Should an issue, situation or circumstance arise that is not explicitly addressed herein, the Tournament Series Director and/or Tournament Series Committee, at its discretion may rule on the issue, circumstance or situation and act accordingly. The Tournament Series Director will not overturn any dispute concerning rules and /or the judgment applied by on-ice officials. All decisions of the Tournament Series Director and or Tournament Series Committee are final.

21. ARBITRATION AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION. ALL DECISIONS OF THE TOURNAMENT SERIES DIRECTOR AND/OR TOURNAMENT SERIES COMMITTEE ARE FINAL. THESE TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS ARE TO BE INTERPRETED BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF TEXAS WITHOUT REGARDING TO CONFLICT OF LAWS POLICIES. TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY APPLICABLE LAW, ALL CLAIMS, DISPUTES OR CONTROVERSIES ARISING UNDER OR RELATING TO THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS OR THE TOURNAMENT THAT ARE NOT SUBJECT TO USA HOCKEY BYLAW 10, SHALL BE RESOLVED BY BINDING ARBITRATION WITH THE AMERICAN ARBITRATION ASSOCIATION (“AAA”), PURSUANT TO ITS CURRENT RULES. THE EXCLUSIVE VENUE FOR ANY SUCH ARBITRATION SHALL BE IN TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS.