



**TEXAS AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION (TAHA)**  
**HIGH SCHOOL STATE TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES D1 (PURE) & D2 (BLENDED)**



A Pure or Blended high school team is any team that is properly registered as such based on criteria established by TAHA, the Rocky Mountain District and USA Hockey. For reference, the State Tournament in this document refers to the process whereby all high school teams compete for the opportunity to play in the High School State Championship Tournament, which refers to the final championship weekend. All teams from the AT&T MSHSL in DFW and the ISHL in Houston are eligible. No DFW or Houston Area All-Star or “assembled” teams other than normal rostered teams are eligible for the State Tournament. Other geographically based teams from TX or OK will be admitted on a case by case basis provided the team and players meet all USAH and TAHA eligibility rules.

**1. Eligibility/Registration**

- a. The team shall be certified by the TAHA Registrar to have complied with all eligibility requirements. An Eligibility Grid should be completed for each team.
- b. The team’s certified player roster [USA Hockey Official Team Roster, Form 1-T] and credential documents must be submitted to the Tournament Committee at the Credentials Check-in in advance of the Championship Tournament.
- c. Any non-US Citizen player must have an approved transfer from USAH.
- d. A player(s) and any Registered Team Member (e.g. coaches) must be eligible to compete in the Championship Tournament to participate in the National Championships.
- e. Each team must have competed as a team unit at least ten (10) games before Championship Tournament.
- f. Each player must play on the team at least five (5) games before the Championship Tournament.
- g. For scoresheets to count in meeting the above 10/5 requirements, the Team Membership Application and final Official Team Roster must be certified by the Texas Registrar prior to December 31. Roster changes after December 31<sup>st</sup> of players will not be accepted. Printouts of scoresheets for all games listed on the Eligibility Grid are required at Credentials Check-in prior to the Championship Tournament. Games before Sept. 1 will not count toward 10/5.
- h. A game is a match played against another team that is registered at the same competitive level and officiated by registered officials. A game shall consist of at least three periods, all of which last a minimum of thirty-nine (39) minutes. A Game Record Summary should be completed for each team.
- i. Credential books are due **Sunday, Jan. 10, 2021** for all Pure and Blended teams that have qualified for the final Championship Tournament. If playdown games remain after Jan. 10, 2021, then credential books are due 48-hrs after qualifying for Championship Tournament.
- j. In addition to credential books, the student’s latest report card (grading period report) must also be submitted to TAHA by January 15, 2021. Players will not be eligible to participate in the State Tournament if they are not eligible pursuant to UIL and school grading requirements. If report cards are not provided, then the player will be assumed to be ineligible.
- k. All teams that intend to compete in the State Tournament must submit an initial High School Roster [USA Hockey Official Team Roster, Form 1-T] for approval by the State Registrar by November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020. (in DFW this was completed by the League)

**2. Tournament Committee**

- a. TAHA shall designate a Tournament Committee to preside over the State Tournament and Championship Tournament.



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**3. Number and Qualification of Teams**

- a. The Championship Tournament shall consist of up to four teams in the Pure division and four teams in the Blended division that will be decided by a series of playdown games. In the case where less than four teams apply, the Tournament Committee shall decide and schedule the appropriate round-robin series of games.
- b. The Tournament Committee shall determine game pairings of the teams for the playdown games based on the number of team applications submitted and accepted per division, as well as the information provided by each team.

**4. Notification of Intent to Enter Team(s)**

- a. High School teams shall signify their intentions of entering the State Tournament by doing so in writing no later than **5PM CST Friday, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020**, to the TAHA High School Section President, Keith Andresen, at [highschoolsectionpresident@tahahockey.org](mailto:highschoolsectionpresident@tahahockey.org). By that date, an On-Line Application, Eligibility Grid, copy of their approved & signed 1-T Official Team Roster, including all approved supplemental rosters, must be submitted for each team entered. 1-T Roster may be obtained from your local league contact.
- b. Applications must be accompanied with a non-refundable fee of \$1,400 for each Pure and Blended team. If a team withdraws prior to competing in any playdown games, the association may be subject to a fine of \$700—in addition to the non-refundable fee—and a one-year suspension from all State Tournament play.
- c. No USA Hockey member team shall play in any league that prohibits that team from entering and fully participating in the State Tournament.

**5. Process to Determine Sectional Team Representatives**

- a. The Tournament Committee shall rank all eligible teams and determine all State Tournament game pairings for each division. The Tournament Committee shall publish Pairings for playdown games by **Friday, Nov. 15, 2018**.
- b. Playdown game format shall be a best-of-3 series with the winner advancing to the Championship Tournament unless both teams agree to a single game elimination. The higher ranked team will host and be home team for games 1 and 3 (if needed), and the lower ranked team will be home team for game 2. If teams from different cities compete in a playdown series, all games shall be played in the city of the higher ranked team and be hosted by the higher ranked team. The losing team of the first playdown game has the option to forfeit the remaining two playdown games by notification to their opponent, however costs that cannot be avoided will still be subject to the provisions of d. below.
- c. If more than eight (8) teams apply for any division, the lowest ranked teams shall play a single game elimination with the winner advancing to the next round.
- d. **Playdown series costs shall be paid 75% by the losing team, 25% by the winning team.**
- e. The host team will be home team and shall be responsible for securing ice and officials for the game. On and off-ice officials shall be requested through the local officials association.
- f. The schedule of each playdown game to be played must be emailed in advance to Keith Andresen. A scoresheet with the results of each playdown game must also be emailed to Keith Andresen at [highschoolsectionpresident@tahahockey.org](mailto:highschoolsectionpresident@tahahockey.org). Playdown game results will be posted on the TAHA website at [www.tahahockey.org](http://www.tahahockey.org) and on Hockey Shift.
- g. A playdown game shall **NOT** be a league game because of different rules unless agreed to by the teams AND the Tournament Director.



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- h. If an uneven number of teams apply for a division, the Tournament Committee shall determine the final format for the playdown pairings.
- i. Game suspensions incurred in any playdown or state tournament game for teams advancing must be served in subsequent playdown or state tournament games.
- j. If any conflict occurs in scheduling of games, the Tournament Committee shall decide final schedule.
- k. All playdown games shall be completed by **Friday, January 8, 2021**, although it is recommended that they be completed prior to January 11<sup>th</sup> when the credential books are due.

**6. Format for Division Playdown Games**

- a. Period length in playdown games shall be 15 minutes for each division.
- b. Should a playdown game end in a tie at the end of regulation time, the following steps should be followed until the game is decided:
  - i. A 3-minute rest with no ice cut shall follow the 3<sup>rd</sup> period.
  - ii. The teams shall not switch ends for the overtime period.
  - iii. A 5-minute, five-on-five sudden death overtime shall be played.
  - iv. A 5-person shootout shall be played.
  - v. A sudden-death shootout shall be played until the game is decided.
- c. Playdown games **shall not have an ice cut** between periods.

**7. State Tournament Fees**

- a. For the Pure and Blended Divisions, the team entry fee is \$1400 payable to TAHA when the team application is due.

**8. Number of Players**

- a. A maximum of twenty (20) players, including goalies, shall be permitted to play in a game. All teams are requested to arrive with two goalies.
- b. Teams unable to arrive with two goalies may use a substitute goalie from a lower level team of the same association. Substitute goalies shall be declared to all teams before first game of State Tournament. The Tournament Committee shall decide any exceptions.

**9. Playing Rules**

- a. Only official USA Hockey Playing Rules currently in effect shall be used.

**10. Awards**

- a. Team championship and runner-up awards will be given.

**11. Uniforms**

- a. All teams entered must be properly uniformed with matching home and away jerseys/socks.
- b. Home teams shall wear dark jerseys and visiting teams shall wear light jerseys in all games.



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**12. State Tournament Dates**

- a. TAHA publishes Championship Tournament dates on their website. This year games will be played on January 22-24. If a division has three teams, one tournament game will be played prior to January 22.
- b. All playdown games should be played between **November 15, 2020 and January 8, 2021.**

**13. Time Between Games**

- a. No team shall play a second game in a day against a team playing its first game on that day.
- b. All games shall be scheduled to allow for a minimum of three (3) hours between games played on the same day and eleven (11) hours between games played on consecutive days, unless extenuating circumstances preclude it (between games means from the end of one game to the start of next game).

**14. Divisions and Player Eligibility**

- a. Pure -- To be eligible to compete in the Pure division, all players on the team must be attending and graduating from the same high school or be home schooled but zoned to attend that same high school. A player on the team who attends another school—public or private—will prevent the team from competing in the Pure division even if he or she is zoned for the same school as the rest of the team’s players. **Only 9-12 grade players are eligible**
- b. Blended -- To be eligible to compete in the Blended division, the team must consist of players attending or zoned for more than one high school--Pure teams are not eligible to participate in the Blended division--but who mostly attend or are zoned for the same school district or local geographic area, *i.e.*, adjoining district that have combined to make a team. Players from outside of the team’s school district (or combined districts) may compete in the Blended division so long as they were properly assigned to the team by the local high school league and do not attend and are not zoned for a school that has its own high school hockey team. **Only 9-12 grade players are eligible**
- c. Players who attend a school with its own high school hockey team, but play for a different team will not be eligible to play in the Championship Tournament unless they obtain a waiver from the TAHA High School Section President. The High School Section President is not required to grant a waiver even if the high school league approved the player playing for the team and the player was granted a release by his school’s team. The player or team requesting a waiver will be required to submit detailed information regarding why the player is not playing for his own high school team. If a waiver is denied for the player, the player’s team may still compete in the Championship tournament even though the player may not.

**15. Time of Periods**

- a. All Championship Tournament games will be played with stop time to their completion.
- b. Period times are three (3) periods of seventeen (17) minutes.
- c. The ice for all Championship Tournament games shall be cleaned at least every two periods of each game.

**16. Championship Tournament Game Format**

- a. 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:
  - i. A 3-minute rest shall follow the third period.



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- ii. The teams shall remain on the ice, and WILL SWITCH ENDS for the overtime period.
  - iii. The 1<sup>st</sup> overtime period will consist of a four on four, 5-minute, sudden-death, stop-time period.
  - iv. If the game remains tied, the teams will switch ends and a three on three, 5-minute, stop-time, sudden-death overtime will be played.
  - v. If no goal is scored in the second overtime period, then the game will be decided by a shootout. A coin toss will determine the team that goes first. 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 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. The players from each team will take shots alternately until a decisive goal is scored in this five-player shootout.
  - vi. If the score remains tied after the five-player shootout, a sudden death shootout will occur. Shooters in the sudden death shootout can be the same as the previous shootout. However, a player may not shoot again in the sudden death shootout until at least four other shooters from his team have attempted a shot. A sudden death shootout is defined as each team attempting one shot each. Should one team be successful and the other team not, then the successful team is the game winner.
- b. Should any championship final be tied at the end of regulation, then sudden death overtime will be played until the game is decided. The format is as follows:
- i. A 5-minute rest shall follow the third period.
  - ii. The teams shall not switch ends throughout all overtime periods.
  - iii. Each overtime period shall be a 10-minute, stop-time, sudden-death period (5-on-5).
  - iv. If teams remain tied after the first overtime period, then a second overtime shall begin immediately.
  - v. If teams remain tied after the second overtime period, a 3-minute rest shall follow.
  - vi. Thereafter, the foregoing process in steps ii-v immediately above shall be repeated until such time a winner is determined by competition.

**17. Championship Tournament Pairings/Format**

- a. The Championship Tournament format shall be a three-game round robin for 4 team divisions and a two-game round robin for 3 team divisions. The pairings shall be determined by a blind draw by the Tournament Committee.
- b. The top two teams from round robin based on points shall play for the State Championship.
- c. The Championship Tournament format shall be a best of three series for 2 team divisions.
- d. The schedule of games, including home and visiting team designations, shall be set by the Tournament Committee, approved by TAHA, and sent to all qualifying teams no less than seven (7) days before the first game of the Championship Tournament.

**18. Process to Determine Championship Tournament Finalists**

- a. During round robin play, each team will play each other.
- b. During round robin play, each team will be awarded 3 points for a win in regulation, 2 points for a win in overtime or shootout, one point for a loss in overtime or shootout, and 0 points for a loss in regulation. All games will be played until a winner is determined using the format in Section 16 above.



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- c. The two teams accumulating the most points in the round robin will advance to the Championship game.
- d. If two 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 tie-breaker establishes a position for one 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:
  - i. The results of the head-to-head games played between the tied teams in the following order:
    - 1. Standings – most points.
    - 2. Most wins (regulation, overtime, and shootout).
    - 3. 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.
    - 4. 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 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.”
    - 5. 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.
    - 6. Quickest first goal – The team that scored the quickest goal in their applicable round robin games shall be ranked highest.
  - ii. If after applying the formulas of (i) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 the tie still exists, (i) 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 shall be applied using all of the games played by the teams tied.
  - iii. If the above procedure does not break the tie, the tied teams shall use a shootout procedure as described in Section 16.a.iv-v above.

**19. On-Ice Officials**

- a. All efforts will be made to procure a three-man system for all Championship Tournament games. All on-ice officials must meet the minimum certification level pursuant to USA Hockey’s guidelines for the age group they are assigned to.
- b. Referees will be assigned by the TAHA Referee in Chief or his designee.

**20. Discipline Committee**

- a. The Tournament Committee shall serve as the Discipline Committee, which shall be responsible for deciding any action, suspensions or otherwise to be taken against a player or team official receiving a match penalty. This includes all State Tournament playdown and Championship Tournament games.
- b. The Discipline Committee shall have authority to initiate action for supplemental discipline against a player or team official whether or not it involves playing rules, provided that the player or official is given notice of intended action and has an opportunity for a hearing.

**21. TAHA shall Host the Championship Tournament**

- a. TAHA is responsible for providing the following:
  - i. All financial aspects of running the Championship Tournament.





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1. A sufficient amount of ice and associated fees.
  2. On-ice officials and associated fees.
  3. Scorekeepers and associated fees.
  4. Team awards for the championship team and runners-up team.
- ii. Space for any TAHA officials attending disciplinary hearings and any other off-ice officials as needed.
  - iii. A gate fee **may** be assessed by TAHA for spectators at a maximum of \$5 per game or \$10 for a weekend tournament pass (Note - team officials and players listed on the USA Hockey Roster shall not be charged).
  - iv. Title sponsor for the tournament subject to the approval of the Tournament Committee and the host arena management.