



TEXAS AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION  
2025-26 TIER II STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES (GIRLS)



**GIRLS**

**1. Tournament**

- a. The Texas Amateur Hockey Association (“TAHA”) shall designate a committee of individuals (“Tournament Committee”) to preside over the 2025-26 TAHA **GIRLS** 14U and 16U Tier II State Tournament (“Tournament”).
- b. The Tournament will be held **Thursday, January 29, through Sunday, February 1, 2026**, per the schedule posted on the [TAHA website](#).

**2. Teams**

- a. The Tournament shall consist of the following teams:
  - i. 14U Tier II: Dallas Stars Elite 13O, Dallas Stars Elite 14T2, and Houston Storm
  - ii. 16U Tier II: Houston Storm (“Host Team”) and Dallas Stars Elite (“Visiting Team”).

**3. Tournament Fees**

- a. The Tournament entry fee per team shall be \$1,600.
- b. **No invoice shall be issued. Tournament fees are due pursuant to these Guidelines** via check (payable to TAHA) hand delivered to the TAHA Travel Section President on the day of, but prior to, the team’s first State game.

**4. Eligibility/Registration**

- a. General:
  - i. Each team shall be certified by the TAHA Registrar to have complied with all eligibility requirements.
  - ii. Any non-US citizen player must have an approved transfer from USA Hockey (“USAH”).
  - iii. All team players shall be community-based, as defined by USAH and TAHA or, if not community-based, shall have been granted the appropriate out-of-community waiver by TAHA for the 2025-26 season.
- b. Credentials:
  - i. Each team’s official USAH Certified 1T Roster (“Official Roster”) and credentials documents (“Credentials”) must be submitted to the TAHA Registrar for verification and certification in advance of the Tournament.
  - ii. **Credentials are due in accordance with the Credentials Guideline as distributed by TAHA Registrars.**
  - iii. All players, and any registered team member (e.g., coaches), must be eligible to compete in the Tournament to be eligible to participate in the Tier II USAH District and National Championships should that team advance.
  - iv. A Credentials Verification Sheet (“CVS”) must be completed for each team and included with the Credentials.



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- v. 14/10 Requirement:
  - 1. Each team must have competed as a team unit in at least fourteen (14) Games.
  - 2. Each player must have played on her team at least ten (10) Games prior to the Tournament.
  - 3. Originals or printouts of score sheets for all Games listed on the CVS are required to be included with the Team's Credentials.
  - 4. Games before Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> will not count toward 14/10.
  - 5. Roster changes after December 31<sup>st</sup> will not be accepted.
  - 6. For score sheets to count towards meeting the within 14/10 requirement, the CVS, Official Roster, and applicable score sheets must be verified and certified by the TAHA Registrar.
  - 7. For purposes of this Section, "Game" is a match played against another team that is registered with a member organization of the IIHF at the same competitive level and that is officiated by registered officials. Such Game shall consist of at least three (3) periods, which, collectively, last a minimum of sixty (60) minutes.

**5. Number of Players**

- a. A maximum of twenty (20) players, including goalies, shall be permitted to play in a Tournament game.
- b. Each Team is requested to arrive with two (2) goalies unless mutually agreed upon by each team association's Hockey Director.

**6. Playing Rules**

- a. Only official USAH Playing Rules, currently in effect, shall be used.

**7. Merchandise and Awards**

- a. Championship 'team' and 'player' awards will be given.

**8. Uniforms**

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

**9. Time Between Games**

- a. Unless extenuating circumstances preclude same, all games shall be scheduled to allow for a minimum of:
  - i. four (4) hours between games played on the same day, and a minimum of
  - ii. twelve (12) hours between games played on consecutive days.
- b. Between games is defined as from the end of one game to the start of the team's next game on the schedule.



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**10. Age Classifications**

- a. To be eligible to compete during the 2025-26 season 14U players must be born January 1, 2011, or later, and 16U players must be born January 1, 2009, or later.
- b. Exceptions to Section 10.a. must be supported by the appropriate TAHA, Rocky Mountain District, or USAH waiver for the 2025-26 season.

**11. Warm-ups, Periods, Penalties, Time-Outs, & Ice Cleanings**

- a. All Tournament games will be played with stop time (regulation play) or run time (overtime) to completion.
- b. Warm-up, period, and penalty times:

Age						
<u>Division</u>	<u>Warmup</u>	<u>Periods</u>	<u>Overtime*</u>	<u>Minor</u>	<u>Major</u>	<u>Misconduct</u>
14U	5	15	10/15	1.5	4	8
16U	5	15	10/15	2	5	10

\*Games tied will follow overtime rules set forth in Section 14.

- c. Each Team is permitted one (1) time-out of sixty (60) seconds per game, whether in regulation or overtime.
- d. The ice shall be cleaned at the end of every game.

**12. Tournament Format – 14U**

- a. Tournament format shall be a four-game series wherein each team shall play each of the other teams once. (“Round Robin”). The two (2) teams accumulating the most points upon completion of Round Robin play will advance to compete for the championship game (“Championship”).
- b. All games will be played until a winner is determined using the format in Section 14 below.
- c. The Home and Away designations for the Round Robin play will be posted on the [TAHA website](#).
- d. During the Round Robin games, each team will be awarded:
  - i. three (3) points - regulation win
  - ii. two (2) points - overtime or shootout win
  - iii. one (1) point - overtime or shootout loss
  - iv. zero (0) points for a regulation loss.
- e. If, upon completion of Round Robin play, 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 a) as set forth in Section 12.e.i. below. The tie-breaker formulas are as follows:
  - i. The results of only the head-to-head games played between the tied teams in the following order:
    - a) Standings – Most points earned.
    - b) Most Total Wins – Regulation, overtime, and shootout.
    - c) Most Regulation Wins – Regulation wins only.
    - d) Differential - Subtracting goals scored against from goals scored in these games, the positions being determined in order of the greatest surplus. A maximum goal differential of plus or minus eight (8) per game will be used in tie-breaking rules.



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- e) Quotient - Dividing the goals scored in these games by the goals scored against, the positions being determined in order of the greatest quotient. If a game has a goal differential of more than eight (8) goals, the goals for will be decreased until there is a maximum of eight (8) more goals against in a given game prior to dividing (i.e. 10-1 game would use 9-1 for purposes of quotient). A quotient involving dividing by zero (0) has a higher standing than a quotient from dividing by any number other than zero (0). When two (2) or more teams have no goals against and the quotient tiebreaker is required, the teams shall be ranked high to low in descending order of “goals for”.
- f) 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.
- g) Lowest Number of Penalty Minutes — Calculate the number of penalty minutes accrued during all Round Robin games. The teams shall be ranked low to high in ascending order of “penalty minutes for.”
- h) Quickest First Goal – The team that scored the quickest goal in any of its Round Robin games shall be ranked highest.
- ii. If, after applying the formulas of i. a), b), c), d), e), f), g), or h), the tie still exists, i. b), c), d), e), f), g), or h) 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 below.
- f. The schedule of games shall be set by the Tournament Committee, approved by TAHA, and sent to both qualifying teams no less than five (5) days prior to the first game of the Tournament.

**13. Tournament Format – 16U**

- a. Tournament format shall be a three-game series wherein the team that successfully wins two (2) of the three (3) games shall be considered as the advancing team for purposes of USAH’s 2026 Tier II District and National Championships.
- b. All games will be played until a winner is determined using the format in Section 14 below.
- c. The Host Team shall be designated as the Home team for the first game, and the Visiting Team shall be designated as the Home team for the second game.
- d. During the first and the second game, each team will be awarded:
  - i. three (3) points - regulation win
  - ii. two (2) points - overtime or shootout win
  - iii. one (1) point - overtime or shootout loss
  - iv. zero (0) points for a regulation loss.



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The team with the most points shall be designated as Home team for the final/third game; provided, however, that if, upon completion of the first and the second games, each team has an equal number of points, a coin toss – called by the Host Team – shall determine the Home team designation for the final/third game.

- e. The schedule of games shall be set by the Tournament Committee, approved by TAHA, and sent to both qualifying teams no less than five (5) days prior to the first game of the Tournament.

#### **14. Tied Games**

- a. **Round Robin** – should any game be tied following regulation play, one (1) 3-on-3, 10-minute, **sudden death, RUN time overtime period** shall be played.  
**Championship** – should any game be tied, one (1) 5-on-5, **sudden death, STOP time overtime period** shall be played. The length of the overtime shall be equal to the length of the third period.
  - i. At the completion of the third period, the tied teams shall receive a 2-minute rest period.
  - ii. The teams will remain on the ice and **shall switch ends** at the end of the third period.
  - iii. If the score is tied at the end of the sudden death overtime period, there shall be a shootout (as hereinafter defined).
  - iv. The winner of the shootout will be credited with one (1) additional goal in the final score.
- b. **Shootout Procedures** - The shootout (“Shootout”) will be conducted as follows:
  - i. A shootout is defined as a player attempting to score a goal and the opposing goalkeeper attempting to stop the shooter from scoring the goal.
  - ii. The **home team** will have the choice whether the home team will shoot first or second.
  - iii. All goalkeepers and all players from both teams listed on the official game sheet shall be eligible to participate in the Shootout; provided, however, that any penalized player whose penalty had not been completed when the overtime period ended, or who receives a penalty during a Shootout, is not eligible to participate in any portion of the Shootout and must remain in the penalty box.
  - iv. **The goalkeepers will defend the net they were defending in the 3rd period.**
  - v. The Shootout shall begin with **three (3) different individual shooters** from each team taking alternate shots. The players do not need to be named beforehand.
  - vi. The goalkeepers from each team may be changed after each shot.
  - vii. The players of both teams will take the shots alternately until a decisive goal is scored. The remaining shots will not be taken.
  - viii. If the score remains tied after the Shootout, there will be a sudden-death shootout.
- c. **Sudden-Death Shootout Procedures** - The sudden-death shootout will be conducted as follows:
  - i. A sudden-death shootout is defined as each team attempting a shot. Should one team be successful and the other team not, the successful team shall win the shootout (“Sudden-Death Shootout”).
  - ii. Teams will select their shooters to participate in any order in the Sudden-Death Shootout, whether or not they shot in the previous round. The last player in the first round of the Shootout may be the first player in the Sudden-Death Shootout.



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- iii. Players in a Sudden-Death Shootout shall not be allowed to take another shot until **two (2)** additional shooters have completed their attempts.
- iv. All goalkeepers and all players from both teams listed on the official game sheet shall be eligible to participate in the Sudden-Death Shootout; provided, however, that any penalized player whose penalty had not been completed when the overtime period ended, or who receives a penalty during either shootout procedure, is not eligible to participate in any portion of the Sudden-Death Shootout and must remain in the penalty box.
- v. The goalkeepers from each team may be changed after each shot.
- vi. The official scorekeeper shall record all shots taken indicating the players, goalkeepers, and goals scored.

**15. On-Ice Officials**

- a. Officials will be assigned by the TAHA Referee-in-Chief or his designee.

**16. Noise-Making Devices**

- a. Noise-making devices are prohibited at any time during the Tournament.

**17. Discipline Committee**

- a. The Tournament Committee shall serve as the Discipline Committee, which shall be responsible for deciding any action, suspension, or otherwise to be taken against a player or team official receiving a match penalty. This includes all 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, however, that the player or team official is given notice of the intended action and has an opportunity for a hearing.

**18. TAHA as Host of the Tournament**

- a. TAHA is responsible for providing all financial aspects of running the Tournament, including the following:
  - i. A sufficient amount of ice and associated fees.
  - ii. On-ice officials and associated fees.
  - iii. Scorekeepers and associated fees.
  - iv. Team and player awards for the Championship team.
- b. The Tournament Committee may be reached at [travelsectionpresident@tahahockey.org](mailto:travelsectionpresident@tahahockey.org).

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