

# **2026 EAK- PLAYING RULES**

## **Team and Player Qualification**

1. Must be USA Hockey or CAHA registered.
2. The tournament fee has been paid.

## **Game Scheduling and Rules**

1. The official game schedule shall be provided to the coach or team manager no later than Thursday morning Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> at noon. **All preliminary game schedules are invalid.** The schedule marked "FINAL" will be the definitive schedule. All other previous schedules are void. Team managers and coaches are responsible for ensuring the team is at the rink at the correct time. Failure to do so results in the game being forfeited [score 1 to 0]. Each team is given three coaching passes for the weekend.
2. All teams must be ready to play [20] minutes before the starting time on the official game schedule. Delays in the first face-off shall be subtracted from the time of the first period and a Delay of game Penalty may be assessed to the team causing the delay.
3. Game timing commences with a 4:00 minute warm-up, which shall begin when the doors for the Zamboni close. The timekeeper shall determine the warm-up by sounding the buzzer. The time keeper will not wait for teams who are not ready to take the ice when the Zamboni doors close.
4. All rules established and published by USA Hockey shall apply except when modified by tournament committee.
5. All round robin games will be 45 minutes of total time. Each game will play as two 22.5 minute halves. Only 18U, 16U, and 15U games will have an ice cut after the first half. All other divisions will **NOT** cut the in-between halves. There is NO OVERTIME IN ROUND ROBIN. There are no TIME OUTS in round robin play.
6. The game clock will be "running time" in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the game if there is 7 goal differential.
7. Any rink whose start time is 30 minutes behind the scheduled start time will no longer cut ice at the half at the 15U-18U level until the rink has caught up to the scheduled start time.
8. **PLAYOFF GAMES:** One timeout per team is permitted in playoff games. Overtime shall be played only in the playoff games. *If the game is tied after regulation a five minute sudden death 3 on 3 will be played.* If no one scores during the overtime period there will be a three man shoot out to determine a winner. If it is still tied after 3 shooters then it will go to a sudden death shootout to determine a winner. You may only use a player once in the shoot out unless every one has shot once.
9. All suspended coaching staff / players are not allowed in the dressing rooms, on the bench or otherwise involved in the game.

**Game Points:** All preliminary games shall be scored as follows: **2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie and 0 points for a loss.**

**Penalties:** **Minor penalties** - 2 minutes, **Major penalties** - 5 minutes, **Misconducts** - 10 minutes.

**Team Ranking:** Teams shall be ranked based on the total game points acquired in the preliminary rounds of their division. If a tie occurs then the following shall determine the ranking:

1. Head to Head (only applies if all of the teams involved in the tie had played each other)
2. Number of wins
3. Difference between goals scored and goals against
4. Goals Against
5. Random Draw/Coin Flip

**Note:** If there is a tie between more than 2 teams, once a tie is broken, revert back to step 1