



2026 OWHA Provincial Championship Playing Rules

Celebrating Safe, Positive Hockey and Life Experiences for All Participants

- A. Game Length
- U9, U11, U13, U15, U18, U22A and Senior **Non-Medal** Games 12-12-12-Flood. No O/T in these games.
 - U11, U13, U15, U18, U22A and Senior **Medal** Games 12-12-Flood-15 (if tied see "D" below)
 - U18 AA **Non-Medal** Games 15-15-Flood-15-Flood (if tied in Qtr or Semi Finals, see "D" below)
 - U22 AA **Non-Medal** Games 15-15-Flood-20-Flood (if tied in Qtr or Semi Finals, see "D" below)
 - U18 AA **Medal** Games 15-Flood-15-Flood-20-Flood (if tied see "D" below)
 - U22 AA **Medal** Games 20-Flood-20-Flood-20-Flood (if tied see "D" below)
 - Note: Please reference rules for overtime games and times
- B. There will be a three (3) minute warm up prior to each game, starting as soon as the ice re-surfacer gates are closed, but no earlier than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled start time. Teams are responsible for supplying their own warm up pucks.
- C. There will be no overtime played in round robin series, unless otherwise noted on schedule. This includes U22 AA.
- D. In quarter finals, semi-finals, and championship games, if the game is tied at the end of regulation play then teams will play ten (10) minute stop time, 5 on 5 plus a goalie for the 1st overtime, 4 on 4 plus a goalie for the 2nd overtime, and 3 on 3 plus a goalie for the 3rd and any subsequent overtime periods (except U22 AA which is 3 on 3 plus a goalie for all overtime periods). All overtime is sudden victory. Teams will not switch ends for the first overtime period but will switch ends after each successive period until a winner is declared.
- E. One 30 second timeout will be permitted per team/per game in all categories of OWHA Provincial Championships. This one timeout may take place in regulation or overtime.
- F. Floods (addition or deletion) will be at the discretion of the OWHA and/or the referee on the ice if the need arises (i.e. overtime, weather conditions, etc.)
- G. Points will be awarded as follows: two (2) points for a win, one (1) point for a tie and no (0) points for a loss in all games.
- H. If there is a tie in points after round robin games, the following tiebreakers will be used to break the tie:
- Total points in round robin play;
 - Most Number of wins;
 - Record against other tied teams (win/loss record among other tied teams);
 - Goals scored minus the goals against in the full round robin play;
 - Fewest goals allowed in the full round robin play;
 - Most periods won in the full round robin play;
 - Fewest penalty minutes in the full round robin play;
 - First goal scored in the full round robin play;
 - Flip of a coin.
- I. In case of more than two teams, tiebreakers will follow the numerical order until all ties are broken.
- J. Pick up players are not permitted for Provincial Championship games. Special permission may be granted for Goaltenders only with pre-approval from the OWHA.

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- K. Only properly rostered players are permitted on the bench and in the dressing room. Only properly rostered and screening team staff are permitted on the bench and in the dressing room. Any injured players on the bench must be in full equipment. Suspended individuals are not permitted on the bench or in the dressing room. Team Staff are not permitted in the on-ice officials dressing rooms.
- L. All disciplinary matters will be dealt with by the Disciplinary Panel of the OWHA. Teams are responsible for reporting their penalties to stats@owha.on.ca immediately following the game in which it was issued. Suspensions served must also be reported to stats@owha.on.ca immediately following the game that was served.
- M. Teams are required to bring two sets of sweaters (light and dark) to the Provincial Championships. The home team will wear their light-coloured sweaters. Goalies must dress in the same sweater colour as the team is wearing. Any conflict in sweater colour will result in the home team having to change. In U22 AA the home team will wear dark coloured sweaters.
- N. All players of each team must wear the same-coloured hockey socks on both legs, goalies excepted. Goalies must have their legs covered.
- O. Any reported violation of (K) and (L) above will result in a warning for the first offence and a fine of \$500.00 for each subsequent offence. Reported violations must be made in writing immediately following the completion of the game.
- P. In U22 AA only, hybrid and No Change icing will be in effect. Hockey Canada Rules 6.7(d) and 6.7 (e) applies.
- Q. The winner of the U18 AA Provincial Championship qualifies to represent the OWHA at the 2026 Esso Cup.
- R. Protests will not be accepted for Provincial Championship Games.

Notes:

1. The OWHA Codes of Conduct are in place at all times.
2. The OWHA Dressing Room Policy is in effect.
3. The OWHA Positive Policy and all other Policies remain in effect throughout the Provincial Championship.
4. OWHA reserves the right to interpret the material above and make final and binding decisions as it deems appropriate.

Wishing Everyone a Positive and Memorable 2026 Provincial Championships

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