



General Tournament Information

Start/End Times & Schedules

Tournaments may start as early as 10:00 AM on Friday and will run through the finals, which in most cases will not begin any later than 6:00 PM on Sunday. For events beginning on Saturday, our usual plan is just moved back a day, but game times can start as early as 8AM on that first day. Please be prepared to play at any of these time. We do always try to take into account those whom have to travel from farther distances while making the start times, however, building a tournament schedule is an imperfect science. We try to take care of all requests to the best of our abilities, but can make no promises. See the 2nd paragraph below for and explanation of special considerations.

Also, you may be subject to having a 6AM start time during the 2nd or 3rd day of the tournament. Although we do try to avoid these start times occasionally demand for the event does make it necessary. Please understand that these start times are always made out of necessity rather than desire. For this reason and many more, unfortunately we cannot change a start time purely because of it being early. More often than not, we are able to avoid them.

Schedules will be e-mailed to the team contact(s), no later than the Friday preceding the event. We do our best to have the schedule out before this but it is not guaranteed. Our experience indicates that having a single contact per team tends to avoid confusion. However, we prefer to have the e-mail address for both the manager and head coach in the event there is a problem with one e-mail. Parents should address their concerns to one of these contacts, who would then reach out to us to see if there is anything we could do. Special considerations, (i.e. coaches behind the bench for multiple teams, air travel, wishing to attend a pro game the weekend of your tournament, or any other request) for the tournament you plan to attend should be submitted via email after contact is made by a Travel Champs representative. That email provides us with a written verification of the request. Calling and telling a staff member is playing with fate. Any special requests should be discussed in detail at least six weeks prior to your tournament to ensure our understanding and your satisfaction.

Fees and Payment

Tournament Fees for Travel Champs tournaments in 2020-2021 are \$1395 (Mites \$650). This payment can be paid in 1 or 2 installments. The first installment of a \$600 (\$300) deposit is due at the time of registration, with the remainder of \$795 (\$350) due 30 days prior to the start of the tournament. Failure to meet either of these due dates may result in your removal from the tournament in favor of a team on our waiting list. In this situation, your deposit would not be refunded. Fees can be paid either via Credit Card over the phone to a representative at our office, or a physical check sent to our address. If a tournament division cannot be filled with 4 or more teams, the teams in said division will be contacted 3 weeks prior to the tournament to discuss alternate solutions. Any team which must withdraw for this reason will have the entirety of their balance refunded to them.

Division Placement/Levels of Competition

The biggest challenge in bringing together teams from all over North America to create a great, competitive tournament is the knowledge that few of the ranking systems used for youth hockey are even similar. Predicting results of opposing teams and therefore establishing competitive groups of teams from various areas requires a great deal of communication and a general understanding of how different USA Hockey affiliates manage their hockey programs. No 2 systems are truly alike. This is more often a question of location, population density, or the goals/teachings of a particular program trying to suit the needs of their kids.

Our goal is to determine, as best we can, where each team actually belongs for the best competition. We want every child to walk away from our tournaments with a positive experience. No one wants to travel great distances to either win or lose a game by 10 goals. These games are bad for the skill level of the kids on both teams. They can only prove to force home bad habits, or negatively affect the child's love of the game. Nothing is full proof, but we take our jobs seriously in that regard.

While it is extremely difficult to always create the perfect match-ups, we do pledge to each Travel Champs constituent that we will never knowingly put teams of different skill levels in a division just to fill a slot. We go through a lot of work to make sure that each team is playing at the level that USA Hockey has approved them at, and verify that will all of the information at our disposal. However, please also understand that the ranking systems differ wildly from state to state and even area to area. We will never intentionally place you in a division where you don't belong. However, when trying to determine how spread the games can be, just imagine the best team in your league playing the worst in your league, and that may give a fair determination as far as where the breadth of skill levels may be. As stated, our goal is to create nail-biters and exciting hockey, however often the best laid plans of mice and men go awry. More than anything else we want the kids to leave our tournaments with an ever burgeoning skill level and love for the game.

We do ask that every team register at the level which you play at during your season. Ergo, if you are a AA team, or play the majority of an AA schedule, please register at the AA level. If you are a house/rec team and do not travel, but still want to compete in our tournament, B might be the best spot for you. Unfortunately, at this time we do not have any tournaments, other than the International PeeWee Cup where we accept Tier I (AAA) teams or players. If you feel as if your team belongs in a division non-commensurate with their USA hockey roster, discuss the issue at hand with us and we can make a proper determination as to the placement of your program. Any and all information may be helpful (game sheets, past tournament results, etc.) We thank you for your cooperation!

