

FAQ

Schedules

Q: We're playing in a division of 5 teams and we have an early game each day. Why?

A: For player safety, USA Hockey recommends 4 hours between games. In a 5 team division only four teams can play at any given time during the time slot with one team sitting out. This causes a leap frog effect which in turn affects the schedule. Divisions where the team numbers are uneven also play 4 pool play games instead of 3, making scheduling slightly more difficult.

Q: How do I know if our team is home or away?

A: The home team is always listed first (or to the left on the schedule) and always wears white unless the away team only has one set of jerseys or the teams come to an agreement prior to the start of the game.

Q: What is your scoring system?

A: A team can gain a maximum of 10 points for any particular victory during our tournaments. A team will be given 6 points for a victory, as well as up to 3 additional bonus points for goal differential (1 for 1 goal win, 2 for 2 goal win, 3 for a win of 3 goals or more). An additional point can be garnered via shutout. Ties will result in the 6 points for the victory being split 3 and 3, while forfeitures would result in 6 points for the offended team. 0-0 ties will result in the teams garnering 4 points, as they will get the 3 points for the tie, as well as the bonus point for a shutout.

Q: How do I find the schedule and results online?

A: The schedule will be release directly to your manager for easy dissemination. Also, the complete and updated scores and schedules will be available on our website for your perusal. As we get the scores of the games from our multiple rinks, those scores will be updated on the website to give you a close to real time update on how the other teams in your division are faring. The schedule can be found on a tab on the bottom of the page of the particular event in which you are participating, or on the homepage as the first option that is on the scrolling events listing.

Q: What do I do if my division has completed the round robin portion of the event and I can't find the information online for the next round of games, semis, consolation, etc.

A: You can always contact the tournament director. However, we work hard to have that information up in real time. It's our experience that if you can be patient, the event director knows the situation and is working as fast as possible to update the information you're looking for. So the effect of lots of phone calls only slows down the result.

Q: Why is our team placed in the division in which they are currently registered?

A: We work hard to make a proper determination as far as skill level goes to be able to ensure that our tournaments have the most competitive experiences for our constituents.

Because of this procedure we frown upon the idea that teams try to “sandbag” into a division they don’t belong in which they will dominate. Sometimes it’s because of injuries or they’re going through a tough stretch in the season. Unfortunately, it’s our concern that all teams have a fair shot at reaching the final. Ergo, in most circumstances, just having a rough season is not justification for playing below the level at which you were placed via USA hockey. We always encourage the opportunity to discuss any concerns about team placement with the coach or manager prior to the event.

Arena & Game Procedures

Q: Once we arrive at the arena what do we need to do?

A: At the site of the first game, please have each of your players come to the registration table. Before they are allowed on the ice, each skater must sign the USA hockey roster they are on. If they are not on the roster, they are unable to compete in the tournament. Coaches do NOT need to sign. Manager should also check in and be provided with registration gift and check in materials for the team, as well as any pre-orders, tickets, or other specials Travel Champs may have offered.

Locker Room Assignments are always posted on the wall of the rink you are playing at. If you have any questions about this, don’t hesitate to ask our staff.

Check in with the Rink director and put the 3 stickers on the score sheet. They are to be placed vertically under the Home/Visitor designation for your team that game. If any of your other games are also at that rink, you may request the score sheets and put stickers on all of them.

If you have an updated roster you must present an official printed copy of the roster at least 2 hours prior to going on the ice to the rink director. This update must be approved and on the official USA hockey roster. Failure to do so could result in a forfeit.

There will also be a copy of the tournament rules posted near the standings that will be posted in the arena. There will also be a copy available online, at the scorer’s table, and at the registration table. Please check this schedule to be sure that it matches the one in your possession. The schedule online/and on the brackets is the official bracket.

Score keepers and announcers are scheduled for every tournament game. On occasion, a score keeper/announcer may either be late or sick. In this instance the tournament director may ask for assistance from one or both of the teams for scorekeeping duties only.

Either a coach or parent will need to work the penalty box door. Upon accepting this job, you’ve agreed to be an off-ice official. That does not mean you have the right to bark at the on ice officials if you don’t agree with their calls. Also, a representative must be in the box before the puck will be dropped.

Q: We have a game at an outdoor rink and it's going to be cold and we're concerned about frostbite. What should we do?

A: There are a few tips we'd like to share about this experience. All in attendance, including coaches should dress warm. Players on the other hand should not be overly warm or have too many layers of sub clothing. The trick is to not break into a sweat and if you do it's helpful to have self-wicking undergarments. Coaches should intentionally keep the shifts short so excessive sweating is minimal. Players on the bench will maintain their body heat from the last shift and be back on the ice for another shift before they get cold. Also, the outdoor rink we use does not have official locker rooms. There is a changing area, but there is no true locker room on site.

Yes, it's a whole different level of bench management but having personally watched many of these games each season, the thing I notice most is the number of smiles and excitement of the players leaving the ice after each game.

On Ice Officials (O.I.O.)

Q: How do I know if the officials are qualified to ref our game?

A. All officials that are used have been vetted prior to the event to ensure that they have registered and are in good standing with the governing body.

Q: What do I do if I don't agree with the call on the ice?

A: If you're not trained as an official, you can bring your issue to the attention of your coach or team manager. All complaints/issues must be heard from them, as we will not hear the complaints of someone who is not officially representing the team. We will discuss any issues that may be going on with that representative at time we both see fit.

We truly ask that if you have any issues with the officiating to go through the proper channels of filing the complaint with USA hockey. Although at times this may feel fruitless, the only way they, and then our tournaments, can improve is with the feedback of the dedicated individuals who will work to help us get better.

Any official game protests can be filed with the Tournament Director. A non-refundable \$200 cash fee must be presented along with the official written complaint. If this is your desire, please present the fee to one of our rink directors and ask them to help you with the process.

We adhere strictly to the USA Hockey Zero Tolerance policy when it comes to the way you engage with the officials. Abusive language, swearing, or threats will result in your removal either from the bench or the arena. Your behavior could also cause your team to be penalized.

We understand that hockey is a passionate game and sometimes emotions run high. We also understand that the officials are not always going to call a perfect game. They will make mistakes on occasion, as we are all human, and the kids are continually getting better, bigger, faster, stronger.

Everyone knows these things happen. It's at this moment as a coach you have the opportunity to teach your players what good sportsmanship looks like.... or not.

Q: What do I do if I don't agree with the way the game is being called?

A: The referees operate independently from our tournaments, and they do not take instruction from us as far as how to call games. All that we ask of them as officials is to call an impartial game and to show knowledge and professionalism while out on the ice. We do our best to have the best referees come and work our tournaments, but we know that it is always a work of progress and sometimes someone just had an "off" day. If there is truly an issue with the manner in which a game is being called, please have your coach go through the channels we discussed above to make sure that the feedback is heard in the right manner by the right people.

Q: What do I do if the refs lose control of the game?

A: The first thing that should be noted before you come to this conclusion is, "Are the referees calling penalties?"

If so, then you may want to reconsider your mindset. There are usually 3 to 4 coaches on each bench. They are all watching the game and will see what they believe are infractions committed by both teams. We rely on the coach whose job it is to notify the player(s) upon their return to the bench that that's not the way the game should be played. If the player exhibits similar behavior on any other shift, then the player should sit a shift or two to reinforce the standard or be removed from the game entirely.

So what we are looking for is a game that's called the same for each team but that doesn't mean the penalties are even. Refs will call what they see, and if they see one team that continues to commit infractions despite the fact that they've called penalty after penalty, that team will probably have more penalties at the game's end.

As long as the referees are calling the game in a consistent fashion, it's the job of the players and coaches to notice what's being called and adjust accordingly. Failure to adjust isn't the referees' concern. They are trained to maintain player safety and that standard doesn't change but player behavior can.

Q: We're used to 3 refs in our league games. Why do you only provide 2 at the high levels?

A: The dynamics of 3 officials (one referee & two linesmen) is that the single referee (the person with the orange bands) is now charged with skating from end line to end line to call all of the goals and at the same time call all of the penalties. In this situation, the linesmen are only supposed to call off sides, icing, too many men, and drop the puck.

It is our experience that a single referee charged with calling all penalties and to be in position to call all goals is not possible. Either the infractions or the goals will suffer. Our preference is to have two officials managing the entire game.

We have polled many teams in many events over the years about going with 4 OIO but the feedback has never been unanimous largely due to cost, and the 3-person system with 2 referees and 1 linesman has not yet caught on with USA Hockey.

Equipment

Q: We only have one set of jerseys. How can we be sure this won't be an issue?

A: First off, you should let us know about this early in the process so we can check with and notify your opponents, however notifying your opponent when you arrive at the rink always is more effective. Also, upon arrival to the rink you should notify the director and the other team so things can proceed without an issue.

Q: Do we need to wear mouthpieces in the tournament?

A: All players in division PeeWee and up are required to wear mouthpieces as required by USA Hockey.

Awards and Apparel

Q: Who receives medals, etc.?

A: Medals, candy, and trophies are awarded to the first and second place teams only for most of our events. At the International PeeWee Cup, the champions receive candy, medals, a trophy, hats, and a banner, while the runner up receives candy, medals, and a banner.

Q: How do I go about purchasing event apparel?

A: There will be a pre-order form sent out to every team manager who can disseminate that amongst the group in order to secure a group order. Mite orders with 10 or more items will get one non personalized cotton or performance garment for free, while the higher divisions will get one item for 15 purchased. Other than the pre-order, apparel is available at the site of most tournament games for purchase, although sizes and styles may be limited as we try to focus on the pre-orders and not leaving inventory.

Hotels

Q: How do I go about getting a comp room for the coach?

A: Comp rooms are handled on a hotel by hotel basis. Some of our partners are more amenable to giving out comp rooms for a team representative as they see the pickup numbers reflecting a high enough amount, or a high enough percentage of the total room block. However, we do not and cannot promise comps to anyone of the constituents.

Q: We're playing in a 3-day tournament and currently don't know if we need the hotel rooms for 2 nights or more.

A: It is our experience that you should always, initially, book your rooms for the number of nights you think worst case scenario would be. You should always presume that you will have games on all 3 days of the tournament unless something was worked out beforehand. Ergo you would at least need the rooms for the Friday and Saturday, or Saturday and Sunday nights depending on the tournament's start date. Bookings before or after this date could be necessary/preferred based upon your schedule.

General Questions

Q: Why don't you provide an EMT at your events?

A: After years of running ice hockey tournaments, it is our experience that while there have been injuries that have occurred at the arena, there has never been an incident that would have been avoided or handled better than the present system of calling 911.