

MICHIGAN AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

District 4 Playoffs – 2023/2024 Season

Playoff Rules

Updated December 18, 2023

SCOPE

This document details all rules governing the Playoff format, team participation, and/or selection and play in the District 4 Playoff Tournament. The Playoff is conducted annually to determine the District 4 representative team for each division in the MAHA State Championship Tournament. This set of rules has been prepared and approved by the District 4 Council and will be the overriding rules employed during play in all Playoff games.

YOUTH DIVISIONS

Each Association within the District will be permitted to enter two (2) teams per division/classification.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

All teams are allowed to participate in District Playoffs. Teams entering must be “District Eligible.” Eligibility rules are described in the “MAHA Annual Guide” and the “2023-2024 District and State Championship Tournament Guidebook” and verified during a credentialing review. Teams will only be eligible for the division/classification for which the team is properly registered. Refer to the “MAHA Annual Guide” and the “2023-2024 District and State Championship Tournament Guidebook” for eligibility requirements (www.maha.org).

REQUESTS FOR EXCEPTION

Exception requests for teams or players must be submitted in writing through the MAHA website to the District 4 Chairperson no later than 12:00pm (EST) November 15. Late requests may or may not be acted upon. The District Council will act to recommend or deny the exception request. The request will be forwarded to the MAHA State Tournament Committee. Responses from that Committee (approval or denial) are final.

DISTRICT 4 PLAYOFF CREDENTIALS REVIEW

A review of all paperwork required for participation in the District 4 Playoffs and States will be conducted prior to the start of Round 1 District Playoffs. The location and time of credentialing will be posted on the www.mahad4.org website. The checklist for credentialing will be posted on the District 4 website (www.mahad4.org) when available from the State Playoff Committee.

NOTE: If you are unsure about how to prepare your paperwork to an acceptable standard, contact your Association Administrators or appropriate District Director.

All necessary forms should be filled in prior to arrival at the Credentials Review. Requirements for credentialing will be posted on the www.mahad4.org website when available from the State Playoff Committee. All teams will also have their credential book reviewed prior to Round 2 of the District Playoffs and prior to the State playoffs.

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DISTRICT 4 PLAYOFF SCHEDULING

The first Round of District 4 Playoff games will be scheduled during the credentialing meeting. The location and time of the credentialing meeting will be posted on the www.mahad4.org website. If a team misses the required credentialing time slot and scheduling they will not be allowed to participate in District or State Playoffs.

Two representatives from each team must be present at the credentialing meeting for all Youth Divisions unless otherwise notified.

BRACKETING OF TEAMS

District 4 will be seeding the teams for Districts for all travel age groups using the rankings from Myhockeyrankings on Wednesday December 27th, 2023 to place the travel teams in the various divisions for Round 1. For the teams that advance to the second Round, teams will be slotted based on a predefined schedule. See mahad4.org for additional information.

District 4 will follow the same procedure as previous seasons when scheduling Tier III (house) teams for 2024 District Playoffs. Each team will be placed using a blind draw of divisions for the first Round. The second Round will be predetermined by the division placement in Round 1. At the Playoff Scheduling Meeting and prior to the start of actual game scheduling, each team will be bracketed in a division, as necessary, based on a random drawing to be conducted at that time by the District 4 Representatives present at the meeting.

Swapping or trading of divisions following the random drawing will NOT be allowed. If it is learned that a team representative(s) has engaged in trading of their team's position, the team(s) will be disqualified from the District 4 Playoffs.

Once the first Round games are scheduled at the Scheduling Meeting, teams are NOT allowed to make changes (days/times) without the prior approval of District 4 Council person assigned to that division/classification.

GAME SUSPENSIONS DURING THE DISTRICT PLAYOFFS

Section 2 K. DISCIPLINE of the "2023-2024 District and State Championship Tournament Guidebook" applies.

In some situations, players would need to sit multiple games.

1. Any player or team official receiving a game(s) suspension during the District Championship Tournament (game misconduct, etc.) must serve the suspension during the next game(s) of that District Championship Tournament. Suspensions not served to completion during the District Championship Tournament will be carried over to the State Championship Tournament games. Note: the suspended player/team official must serve game suspension(s) in the next prescheduled game(s) of that team, and the next District Championship Tournament game(s) should they not coincide.
2. Should the District Council become aware of, and subsequently determine a player(s) to be ineligible before, during, or after the State Championship Tournament, said player(s) shall be ruled ineligible to participate in any remaining games and the team using the ineligible player(s) shall forfeit any games in which the player(s) participated. A score of 0-1 will be recorded on the official game sheet(s) for all games if any game is forfeited.

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PLAYING RULES

The Official USA Hockey playing rules shall apply for all games and as modified by the MAHA Annual Guide.

NATIONAL BOUND TEAMS

Tier 1 = All AAA 14U & Above; Girl's 14U and above.
Tier 2 = AA 14U, AA 16U, AA 18U; Girl's 14U and above.

NON-NATIONAL BOUND TEAMS

All 10U and 12U Divisions; 14U B, A; 16U B and BB; Non-National Girls; J.V.

AUTHORITY OF MAHA TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS AND REFEREES

In all District Playoffs, the qualified and designated referees shall have sole authority of, and responsibility for, the enforcement and interpretation of the playing rules ON THE ICE except as provided herein. The District 4 Council shall have sole authority and responsibility for ALL OFF-ICE rules and regulations enforcement and interpretation. The District shall have sole authority, with the advice of the referee, to terminate play, determine resurfacing as set forth in these rules, and to decide if the game must be replayed and the manner of replay.

PROTESTS

- 1) Referee calls and playing rules cannot be protested.
- 2) Must be written and contain all the facts and must be accompanied by a \$250 protest fee (check written to "District 4 Council"). If the protest is upheld, the \$250 will be refunded. All referees and team officials must be notified at the time of the protest.
- 3) The written protest must be delivered to the Tournament Director within one hour of the completion of the game.

GAME TIME

Round 2 Quarterfinals, Round 2 Semi-Finals, and Hockey Day Finals can begin up to 15 minutes early.

LOCKER ROOM MONITORS

Each team must have two locker room monitors who meet the MAHA and D4 requirements (completed SafeSport training and completed USA Hockey Background Screening) who will sign the game sign in sheet.

INDIVIDUALS ON THE ICE AFTER A CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

It is a policy of the Michigan Amateur Hockey Association (the MAHA) and USA Hockey, Inc. (USAH) that only those individuals registered as players or coaches are generally allowed on the ice surface either before, during, or, after a hockey game, specifically, but not limited to, after a Championship Game, whether that game is part of an Invitational Tournament, a League Playoff, a District Playoff, or a State Playoff. No one other than those rostered players and coaches are allowed on the ice after the game and before, during, or, after the award presentation. This does not apply to MAHA or USAH officials and credentialed members of the press.

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ROUND 1			PERIODS	ICE RESURFACE		OVERTIME	CURFEW	REFEREES	RUNNING	PENALTIES	ICE
DIVISION	Round 1		(mins)	Before Game	Every 2 Periods	(mins)			CLOCK/ MERCY RULE		Hours per Game
10U	B	X	13	X	no	none	none	2	yes	1:30, 4, 8	1.25
	A	X	13	X	no	none	none	2	yes	1:30, 4, 8	1.25
	AA	X	13	X	no	none	none	2	yes	1:30, 4, 8	1.25
12U	B	X	15	X	no	none	none	2	yes	1:30, 4, 8	1.5
	A	X	15	X	no	none	none	2	yes	1:30, 4, 8	1.5
	AA	X	15	X	no	none	none	2	yes	1:30, 4, 8	1.5
14U	B	X	15	X	no	none	none	2	yes	1:30, 4, 8	1.5
	A	X	15	X	X	none	none	2	yes	1:30, 4, 8	1.75
	AA	X	15	X	X	none	none	2	none	1:30, 4, 8	2.0
Notes:											
[A] Referees: Referees for Round 1 play will be scheduled by the home team. For Round 1, the Referee fee is split by the teams. The cost of the Referees for Round 1 is determined by the scheduling Referee/team.											
[B] Warmup times: All blocks of ice scheduled for two (2) hours will have a five (5) minute warm up. All blocks of ice scheduled for less than two (2) hours will have a three (3) minute warm up.											
[C] Running Clock: For non-National bound divisions ONLY – starting in the second period if the goal differential reaches six (6) goals, the game clock goes to a running clock. The game clock will stop for penalties only. If the goal differential drops to three (3) goals, the clock returns to stop clock.											
[D] Mercy Rule: For non-National bound divisions ONLY - if at any time during the third period, the goal differential reaches twelve (12) goals, the game will be stopped; not an option to continue.											
[E] Time-Outs: Each team is permitted one time-out of 60 seconds, whether in regulation or overtime, per USA Hockey Rules.											
[F] Puck drop: Five (5) second drop of puck rule in effect for all games - USA Hockey Rule 204.											
[G] Any tie break situations will follow the MAHA "2023-2024 District and State Championship Tournament Guidebook"											

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ROUND 2 ROUND ROBIN		PERIODS	ICE RESURFACE		OVERTIME	CURFEW	REFEREES	RUNNING CLOCK/ MERCY RULE	PENALTIES	ICE
DIVISION	Round 2 Round Robin		Before Game	Every 2 Periods						
10U	B	X	13	X	no	none	2 \$80 (\$40 each)	yes	1:30, 4, 8	1.25
	A	X	13	X	no	none	2 \$80 (\$40 each)	yes	1:30, 4, 8	1.25

Notes:

[A] Referees: Referees for Round 2 Round Robin play will be scheduled by District 4. The cost of the referees is included in the tournament fee.

[B] Warmup times: All blocks of ice scheduled for two (2) hours will have a five (5) minute warm up. All blocks of ice scheduled for less than two (2) hours will have a three (3) minute warm up.

[C] Running Clock: For non-National bound divisions ONLY – starting in the second period if the goal differential reaches six (6) goals, the game clock goes to a running clock. The game clock will stop for penalties only. If the goal differential drops to three (3) goals, the clock returns to stop clock.

[D] Mercy Rule: For non-National bound divisions ONLY - if at any time during the third period, the goal differential reaches twelve (12) goals, the game will be stopped; not an option to continue.

[E] Time-Outs: Each team is permitted one time-out of 60 seconds, whether in regulation or overtime, per USA Hockey Rules.

[F] Puck drop: Five (5) second drop of puck rule in effect for all games - USA Hockey Rule 204.

[G] Any tie break situations will follow the MAHA "2023-2024 District and State Championship Tournament Guidebook"

ROUND 2 SEMIS		PERIODS	ICE RESURFACE		OVERTIME [G] [H]	CURFEW	REFEREES	RUNNING CLOCK/ MERCY RULE	PENALTIES	ICE
DIVISION	Round 2 Semis		Before Game	Every 2 Periods						
10U	B	X	13	X	no	5 min	2 \$80 (\$40 each)	yes	1:30, 4, 8	1.25
	A	X	13	X	no	5 min	2 \$80 (\$40 each)	yes	1:30, 4, 8	1.25
12U	B	X	15	X	no	5 min	2 \$110 (\$55 each)	yes	1:30, 4, 8	1.5
14U	A	X	15	X	X	5 min	2 \$130 (\$65 each)	yes	1:30, 4, 8	1.75

Notes:

[A] Referees: Referees for Round 2 semi-finals play will be scheduled by District 4. The cost of the referees is included in the tournament fee.

[B] Warmup times: All blocks of ice scheduled for two (2) hours will have a five (5) minute warm up. All blocks of ice scheduled for less than two (2) hours will have a three (3) minute warm up.

[C] Running Clock: For non-National bound divisions ONLY – starting in the second period if the goal differential reaches six (6) goals, the game clock goes to a running clock. The game clock will stop for penalties only. If the goal differential drops to three (3) goals, the clock returns to stop clock.

[D] Mercy Rule: For non-National bound divisions ONLY - if at any time during the third period, the goal differential reaches twelve (12) goals, the game will be stopped; not an option to continue.

[E] Time-Outs: Each team is permitted one time-out of 60 seconds, whether in regulation or overtime, per USA Hockey Rules.

[F] Puck drop: Five (5) second drop of puck rule in effect for all games - USA Hockey Rule 204.

[G] Additional resurfacing will be at the discretion of the MAHA District 4 Representative(s) with the advice of the referee(s).

[H] Sudden victory overtime periods are stop time. Teams do not switch ends after the 3rd period, but will switch ends after the 1st overtime period. Teams will remain in that end until the game is concluded.

[I] Any tie break situations will follow the MAHA "2023-2024 District and State Championship Tournament Guidebook"

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HOCKEY DAY			ICE CUTS		OVERTIME	CURFEW	REFEREES	RUNNING	PENALTIES	ICE	
DIVISION	Hockey Day	Periods (mins)	Before Game	Every 2 Periods	Hockey Day			CLOCK/ MERCY RULE		Hours per game	
10U	B	X	13	X	no	5 min	none	2 \$80 (\$40 each)	yes	1:30, 4, 8	1.25
	A	X	13	X	no	5 min	none	2 \$80 (\$40 each)	yes	1:30, 4, 8	1.25
	AA	X	13	X	no	5 min	none	2 \$80 (\$40 each)	yes	1:30, 4, 8	1.25
12U	B	X	15	X	no	5 min	none	2 \$110 (\$55 each)	yes	1:30, 4, 8	1.5
	A	X	15	X	no	5 min	none	2 \$110 (\$55 each)	yes	1:30, 4, 8	1.5
	AA	X	15	X	no	5 min	none	2 \$110 (\$55 each)	yes	1:30, 4, 8	1.5
14U	B	X	15	X	no	5 min	none	2 \$130 (\$65 each)	yes	1:30, 4, 8	1.5
	A	X	15	X	X	5 min	none	2 \$130 (\$65 each)	yes	1:30, 4, 8	1.75
	AA	X	15	X	X	15 min	none	2 \$130 (\$65 each)	no	1:30, 4, 8	2.0
16U	A	X	17	X	X	17 min	none	2 \$170 (\$85 each)	no	2, 5, 10	2.0

Notes:

[A] Referees: Referees for Round 2 semi-finals play will be scheduled by District 4. The cost of the referees is included in the tournament fee.

[B] Warmup times: All blocks of ice scheduled for two (2) hours will have a five (5) minute warm up. All blocks of ice scheduled for less than two (2) hours will have a three (3) minute warm up.

[C] Running Clock: For non-National bound divisions ONLY – starting in the second period if the goal differential reaches six (6) goals, the game clock goes to a running clock. The game clock will stop for penalties only. If the goal differential drops to three (3) goals, the clock returns to stop clock.

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