

Riverside Minor Hockey Association International Christmas Tournament

Rules and Regulations Governing Tournament Play

1. Play will be governed by the rules of Hockey Canada, the Ontario Minor Hockey Association (O.M.H.A.) and O.M.H.A. Tournament Regulations with the additional provisions that follow.
2. The Tournament will consist of U13AA, U14AA, U15AA, U16A and U18AA Divisions.
3. Divisional play will be made up of the following:
 - a. U13AA - 6 teams play a three game Round Robin schedule for seeding. The top four teams advance to the Semi Finals while the 5th and 6th place teams will play each other to fulfill their fourth game of the Tournament. The 5th and 6th place teams are not eligible for Semi Finals or Grand Championships.
 - b. U14AA - 7 teams play a four game, Round Robin schedule with the top four teams advancing to the Semi Finals. The remaining bottom three teams are eliminated.
 - c. U15AA - 8 teams play a four game, Round Robin schedule with the top four teams advancing to the Semi Finals. The remaining bottom four teams are eliminated.
 - d. U16A - 5 teams play a four game, Round Robin schedule with the top two teams advancing directly to the Grand Championship Game
 - e. U18AA - 4 teams play a three game, Round Robin schedule for seeding. All teams advance to the Semi Finals.
4. For the Semi Final games (in applicable divisions), Fourth Place (Visitors) will play First Place (Home) and Third Place (Visitors) will play Second Place (Home).
5. The winners of the Semi-Final games (in applicable divisions) will advance to their respective Grand Championship Game and the losers of the Semi Final games will be eliminated. The home team for the **Grand Championship Game** will be the team that finished with the highest point total during the Round Robin portion of the Tournament. If the competing teams had the same point total, the tie breaking formula will be used to determine the home team (see below).
6. The following point system for the Round Robin portion of the Tournament will be as follows: a win earns two (2) points, a tie earns one (1) point and a loss earns zero (0) points. There is no overtime/shootout in Round Robin games.
7. All Tournament Round Robin games and any applicable Semi Final games will consist of one, ten-minute stop-time period and two, fifteen-minute stop-time periods.
8. **Flooding for Round Robin and applicable Semi Final games:** U13 and U14 will not have a flood during any of these games. U15 thru U18 will have a flood after every two (2) periods of play.
9. **Grand Championship Games: U 13** will be one ten-minute and two fifteen-minute stop-time periods with no flood occurring during the game. All other divisions shall be three, fifteen-minute stop-time periods with a flood both before the game and after the 2nd period of the game.
10. One, thirty second time-out per team, per game, is allowed in **Semi Final (in applicable divisions) and Grand Championship Games only.**
11. **Mercy Rule: A mercy rule will be in effect for all Round-Robin, Semi Final (in applicable divisions) and Grand Championship Games. In accordance with the OMHA Manual of Operations,** if the difference in score becomes FIVE GOALS OR MORE at any time in the third period, the game clock will revert to a continuously running clock. The clock will not become a stop-time clock again until the trailing team brings the difference in score BACK TO WITHIN THREE GOALS OR LESS and it will not become a running clock again after that until the difference is again five goals or more. During a running clock, Minor Penalties will be three minutes (3:00) in length, Major Penalties will be seven-and-a-half minutes (7:30) in length and Misconduct Penalties will be fifteen minutes (15:00) in length. The only time the clock would stop during running time is for an on-ice injury and it would re-start immediately upon the injured player and training staff vacating the ice.
12. In the event a team forfeits a game, it shall be recorded as a 1-0 loss in the standings.
13. For all divisions, ties in **the Round Robin standings (or to determine the home team in a Grand Championship Game, if necessary)** will be broken using the formula below, IN SEQUENCE, FROM THE BEGINNING and EACH TIME, until all ties have been broken. In the event more than two teams are tied, once the highest place in the standings is determined, the remaining tied teams will start the tiebreaker again, in sequence, from the beginning. This will occur each time until all ties have been broken:
 - a. Head to head between all tied teams (all the tied teams MUST have played each other during the Round Robin to use this each step of the tiebreaker process. If one or more did not, proceed directly to (b))
 - b. Most Wins
 - c. Least Goals Against
 - d. Points per period (one point for period won, ½ point for period tied)
 - e. Least penalty minutes (for the purposes of this rule, Game Misconduct and Gross Misconduct penalties count as ten minutes penalty time and Match penalties count as five minutes penalty time. Penalties called against Team Officials count for the purposes of this rule)
 - f. Coin Flip

14. If at the end of regulation time in a **Semi Final or Grand Championship Game** the score is tied, overtime will take place as follows:
 - a. The teams will not change ends and there will be no flood.
 - b. The teams will play one, five-minute, stop-time, sudden death overtime period with a goalie and **FOUR** skaters.
 - c. If the score is still tied after the overtime period, a **five-player shootout** will take place with the team scoring the most goals during the shootout being declared the winner.
 - d. If the score is still tied at the end of the five-player shootout, a sudden death shootout will take place until a winner is declared. See shootout rules below.
15. **Shootout rules** shall be as follows:
 - a. Five players from each team shall participate in the shootout and they shall proceed in such order as the coaching staff selects. Players serving **THEIR OWN** Major Penalty, Misconduct Penalty, Game Misconduct Penalty, Gross Misconduct Penalty or Match Penalty at the end of playing time **ARE NOT** eligible to participate in the shootout. Players serving Minor Penalties or penalties **on behalf of other players or team officials ARE** eligible to participate.
 - b. The teams will not change ends. The visiting team shall shoot first. Teams shall take alternating shots, one at a time.
 - c. Once the shootout begins, the goalkeeper cannot be replaced in the shootout unless he/she is injured. No warm up shall be permitted for a substitute goalkeeper.
 - d. Each team will be given five shots, unless the outcome is determined earlier in the shootout. If after each team has taken five shots and the score remains tied, the shootout will proceed to a sudden death format. Players may **not** participate again during a shootout until all eligible players have participated, which includes the players from the original shootout. If, however, one team has fewer players eligible for the shootout than its opponent, both teams may select from among the players who have already shot. This procedure would continue until the team with fewer players has again used all eligible shooters.
 - e. Shootouts shall be governed by the Hockey Canada rules regarding the taking of Penalty Shots.
 - f. The coaching staff shall select their shooters as the shootout progresses. The Official Scorer shall keep track of shooters.
16. All players must use and properly wear the required protective equipment as prescribed by their own governing body's rules and regulations.
17. All teams must be prepared to start their games fifteen minutes ahead of the scheduled start time.
18. Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) minimum suspensions apply to all tournament games. Automatic suspension lists are available online in the OMHA Manual of Operations or from the Tournament Chair. A player or team official who incurs a Match Penalty during the tournament shall be suspended for the balance of the tournament. ALL suspension reports are reported back to each region / district upon completion of the tournament.
19. The Tournament Rules Committee reserves the right to make any and all decisions in the interpretation of Tournament rules, objections and protests. All decisions by the Tournament Rules Committee will be final.
20. The Riverside Minor Hockey Association, its sponsors or the Tournament Committee will not be held liable for any injuries, damages or thefts that take place before, during or after the Tournament.
21. All participants in Grand Championship Games will receive medallions. As well, each of these teams will receive a take home team trophy.