



2025-2026 Playoff Rules

Semi-Finals: Sunday March 22

- **Semi-Finals:** top 4 teams of each division*
 - ***Division 3** will be split into 3A and 3B (4 teams in each) based on regular season standings. All Division 3 teams play a semi-final within their group
- **Exhibition games:** remaining teams

Finals: Sunday March 29

- **Finals:** Winners of semi-final games
 - **Exhibition games:** all other teams
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Playoff Game Rules

- **Eligibility:** Players must have participated in at least **five regular season** games to be eligible for Semi-Final and Final games.
- **Time-Outs:** Each team is allowed one **1-minute time-out** during Semi-Final and Final games.
- **Spare Players:** **No spare players** are allowed in Semi-Final and Final games. Goalies may be substituted with goalies from the same or lower division.
- **Shoot-out procedure:** **Before the game**, teams must submit their shooting order in the case the one occurs.
- **All other HWHL and CARHA rules apply.**

Game Tiebreaker Procedure

- If tied after 32-minute regulation time, a 5-minute stop-time, 4-on-4 sudden-victory overtime is played.
 - If still tied, the game proceeds to a shoot-out
 - Players serving penalties at the end of overtime are ineligible for the shoot-out; the next eligible player in the order will be used.
 - The first three players from each team will alternate shots, **starting with the visiting team.**
 - If still tied, teams continue shooting one-for-one until there is an unanswered goal.
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Exhibition Games:

- Follow regular season rules
- Teams may pick up spare players
- No overtime or shoot-out

Standings Tiebreaker:

The following order will be used to determine standings of teams tied by points at the end of the regular season. If there are more than 2 teams tied, after the first tie is broken, this order will be repeated for remaining teams.

1. Fewer forfeited games
2. Head-to-Head – better record against other tied teams
3. Fewer goals against
4. Higher goal differential
5. Fewer penalty minutes
6. Coin toss by Executive committee