



2026 AZYHL State Championship Tournament Guidelines

Game Format & Playing Rules

- All round robin games to be played as scheduled using AZYHL regular season playing rules, including: a runtime clock at a six-goal differential; and no overtime or shootout
 - For any 2-team division playing in a best-of-3 series tournament format, no games can end in a tie, and any game tied after regulation will utilize the championship tied game overtime and shootout rules listed below
- Championship Finals Tied Game:
 - If the championship final game in any division is tied after regulation time, there will be a 5-minute **“stop time”** sudden death overtime period played 4-on-4.
 - If, at the end of the 5-minute overtime period, the two teams are still tied, there will be a three-man shootout. If still tied it will then be a sudden death shootout. In the event of a shootout, the home team will get the option whether to shoot first or second.
 - Any players in the penalty box at the end of regulation time must finish serving their penalties. Any player still serving a penalty at the end of the overtime period is not eligible to participate in the shootout.
 - If a team should have two players serving penalties at the conclusion of regulation time, the overtime will begin 5-on-3 until both of those penalties have been served. At the first available whistle after the penalties have been served, the teams will go to 4-on-4.
 - If a shootout is necessary, the head coaches may choose any three players to shoot, but no player may shoot a second time until all available non-goalie skaters have had at least one chance to shoot.
- All teams must have a copy of their USA Hockey 1-T Roster, dated Dec 31st, 2025 available for roster verification. The Team Manager must have access to the 1-T roster at the rink. AAHA By-laws/playing rules do not allow a player rostered after Dec 31st, 2025 to participate in the AAHA House/Rec/Tavel (AZYHL) state tournament.
- The line-up on the scoresheet cannot include any player not on the team’s Dec 31st, 2025 1-T roster
- All game sheets must be signed by each respective team’s head coach, and the game signed, locked, and then uploaded on the iPad by referee and scorekeeper for the game to be official.

- Each team must provide a penalty box attendant for all tournament games at all Levels. The penalty box attendant must be an adult (18 years old or older). Injured or otherwise not playing members of a team may NOT act as a penalty box attendant.
- Only 1-T rostered USA Hockey certified coaches are allowed on the bench during the game, to a maximum of four (4) coaches. Other team parents, team photographers/videographers, or anyone else not on a team's 1-T Roster as a team official are NOT allowed on the bench under any circumstances.

Round Robin Division Standings & Tie Breaker Rules

Points in the standings will be awarded to each team in the following manner, with all points earned used to determine seeding for any semifinal, championship, or consolation games:

- Win = 2 points
- Regulation Ends in a Tie = 1 point
- Loss = 0 points

The following tie-breaker formula will be used to determine the order of finish after round robin play – a tie is reached when 2 or more teams all have the same number of points after round robin play:

- **Two-Way Tie:**
 1. **Head-to-Head** - the results of any games played head-to-head
 2. **Most Wins Overall** – between the tied teams' tournament games only
 3. **Goal Differential** – Overall goal differential (capped at 6 goals per game)
 4. **Least Number of Goals Given Up** - Combined in all tournament games (capped at 6 goals against per game)
 5. **Fewest Penalty Minutes** - the least number of total combined penalty minutes for all tournament games
 6. **Coin flip**
- **Three (or more)-Way Tie:**
 1. **Most Wins Overall** – between the tied teams' tournament games only
 2. **Goal Differential** - Overall goal differential (capped at 6 goals per game)
 3. **Least Overall Goals Allowed** – Combined in all tournament games (capped at 6 goals against per game)
 4. **Fewest Penalty Minutes** - the least number of total combined penalty minutes for all tournament games
 5. **Draw Straws**

**Note – At any point during the application of tie-breaker rules for three (or more) teams, if any teams can be eliminated, the tie-breaking process would begin again at Step 1 (Two-Way Tie or Three-Way Tie) for any remaining tied teams.*

Duties & Responsibilities of the Home Team Manager

- The team designated as the “HOME” team is responsible for having an iPad loaded with the Game Sheets app, and have the scheduled game uploaded for scoring, with the iPad connected to the internet to ensure completed game details and results are properly uploaded
- Ensure that the lineup for the game is properly filled out and signed by your head coach.
- Distribute the iPad to the visiting team's team manager at least 30 minutes prior to game time for their coach to properly fill out and sign
- Deliver the fully completed and signed (by both teams) iPad to the scorekeeper at least 15 minutes prior to game time. After the game, collect the iPad from the scorekeeper, ensuring that the game has been locked and uploaded by the referees and scorekeeper. If it has NOT been locked and uploaded, the iPad needs to be returned to the scorekeeping and/or referee, and request that he/she verify all game details and get the game properly uploaded and locked. Do NOT go to any referee room by yourself.
- Confirm that BOTH dressing rooms have been properly cleaned up. If not, please send a note to azyhlscoresheets@gmail.com. DO NOT clean the dressing rooms, as the rink will do that, but they also may charge us if the dressing rooms are not left in an unreasonable condition.
- Should you have any questions you can contact Charlie Knotts, Tournament Admin, by email at admin@azamateurhockey.org or by phone at (909) 744-7318