

TEXAS AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION (TAHA)
TIER I & II STATE TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES (REVISED 2-7-08)

A Tier I or Tier II team is any team that is properly registered as such based on criteria established by TAHA, the Rocky Mountain District and USA Hockey. For reference, the State Tournament in this document refers to all teams who compete for the opportunity to play in the Championship Tournament, which refers to the final championship weekend.

1. Eligibility/Registration

- a. The team shall be certified by the Texas Registrar [USA Hockey Team Membership Application,] to have complied with all eligibility requirements. An Eligibility Grid should be completed for each team.
- b. Copies of government issued birth certificate or, if birth certificate is not available, copy of passport ID page for each rostered player.
- c. The team's certified player roster [USA Hockey Official Team Roster, Form 1-T] and credential documents must be submitted to the Tournament Committee at the Credentials Check-in in advance of the Championship Tournament.
- d. A player(s) and any Registered Team Member (e.g. coaches) must be eligible to compete in the Championship Tournament in order to participate in the District and National Championships.
- e. Each team must have competed as a team unit at least twenty (20) games.
- f. Each player must have played on the team at least ten (10) games before the Championship Tournament.
- g. For scoresheets to count in meeting the 20/10 requirements, the Team Membership Application and Official Team Roster must be certified by the Texas Registrar prior to December 31. Roster changes after December 31st will not be accepted. Copies of scoresheets for all games listed on the Eligibility Grid should be available at the Credentials Check-in prior to the Championship Tournament.
- h. A game is a match played against another team that is registered with a member organization of the IIHF at the same competitive level and officiated by registered officials. A game shall consist of at least three periods, all of which last a minimum of sixty (60) minutes. A Game Record Summary should be completed for each team.
- i. All Coaches (head and assistants) must have the required minimum certification as specified by USA Hockey to participate in the Championship Tournament.

2. Tournament Committee

- a. TAHA shall designate a Tournament Committee to preside over the State Tournament and Championship Tournament.

3. Number and Qualification of Teams

- a. The Championship Tournament shall consist of two teams per age division for Tier I and four teams per age division for Tier II that will be decided by a series of playdown games.
- b. The Tournament Committee shall determine the final pairings of the teams for the playdown games based on the number of team applications submitted and accepted per age division, as well as the information provided by each team.

4. Notification of Intent to Enter Team(s)

- a. Member associations shall signify their intentions of entering a team(s) in the State Tournament by doing so in writing no later than **Mon, Nov. 26, 2007**, to the TAHA Travel Section President, Mark Servaes, at mrsvae@dreyers.com or 3203 Castlewind Dr., Katy, Texas 77450. Each team must submit an Application, a list of games played, opponents (tier, level, & scores included), and Eligibility Grid in their application. Teams shall also submit copies of their signed 1-T Official Team Roster.

TEXAS AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION (TAHA)
TIER I & II STATE TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES (REVISED 2-7-08)

- b. Applications must be accompanied with a non-refundable deposit of \$500 per team. If a team withdraws prior to competing in any region playdowns, the association shall be subject to a one-year suspension from State Tournament play.
- c. No USA Hockey member team shall play in any league that prohibits that team from entering and fully participating in the State Tournament.

5. Process to Determine Sectional Team Representatives

- a. Beginning Nov 26th, the Tournament Committee shall rank all eligible teams in each age division and determine all State Tournament game pairings for each division. Pairings for playdown games shall be published by the Tournament Committee by **Mon, Dec. 3, 2007.**
- b. Playdown game format shall be a best-of-3 series with the winner advancing to the Championship Tournament. The higher ranked team will host and be home team for games 1 and 3 (if needed), and the lower ranked team will host and be home team for game 2.
- c. If more than eight (8) teams apply for any Tier II age division, the lowest ranked teams shall play a single game elimination with the winner advancing to the next round.
- d. **The cost of each playdown game series shall be paid 75% by the losing team, and 25% by the winning team.**
- e. The host team will be home team and shall be responsible for securing ice and officials for the game. On and off-ice officials shall be requested through the local officials association.
- f. The schedule of each playdown game to be played must be emailed in advance. Results of each playdown game must also be emailed and the scoresheet faxed to Mark Servaes at (713) 329-8304. Email address is mrservae@dreyers.com. Playdown game results will be posted on TAHA website at www.tahahockey.org.
- g. A playdown game shall **NOT** be a league game because of different overtime rules.
- h. If an uneven number of teams apply for an age division, the Tournament Committee shall determine the final format for the playdown pairings.
- i. Game suspensions incurred in any playdown or state tournament game for teams advancing must be served in subsequent playdown or state tournament games.
- j. In the event of any conflicts in scheduling of games, the Tournament Committee shall arbitrate, and their decision shall be final.
- k. All playdown games shall be completed by **January 28, 2008.**

6. Format for Sectional Playdown Games

- a. Period length in playdown games is the same as Section 15.b for each age division.
- b. Should a playdown game end in a tie at the end of regulation time, the following steps should be followed until the game is decided:
 - i. A 3-minute rest with no ice cut shall follow the 3rd period.
 - ii. The teams shall not switch ends for the overtime period.
 - iii. A 5-minute, sudden death overtime shall be played.
 - iv. A 5-person shootout shall be played.
 - v. A sudden-death shootout shall be played until the game is decided.
 - vi. In the event that a prolonged regulation game ends in a tie with insufficient ice time available, steps i-iii above shall be ignored at the direction of the game referee and the game shall be decided by shootout according to steps iv-vi above.

7. State Tournament Fees

- a. Entry fee of \$500.00 for each team participating in the State Tournament. The \$500 is payable to TAHA at the time the Application is due.
- b. Entry fee of \$500.00 for each team participating in the Championship Tournament, which is payable to TAHA at credentials check-in.

TEXAS AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION (TAHA)
TIER I & II STATE TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES (REVISED 2-7-08)

8. Number of Players

- a. A maximum of twenty (20) players, including goalkeepers, shall be permitted to play in a game. All teams are requested to arrive with two goaltenders.
- b. Teams unable to arrive with two goaltenders shall be permitted with the approval of the TAHA President to use a substitute goaltender from a lower level team within the same organization. Any exceptions shall be determined by the Tournament Committee.

9. Playing Rules

- a. Only official USA Hockey Playing Rules currently in effect shall be used.

10. Merchandise and Awards

- a. Team championship and runner-up awards will be given.

11. Uniforms

- a. All teams entered must be properly uniformed including home and away jerseys and matching socks.
- b. Home teams shall wear light colored jerseys while the visiting team shall wear dark colored jerseys in all games.

12. State Tournament Dates

- a. TAHA sets the tournament dates during their Annual meeting in the summer.
- b. All playdown games should be played between December 12, 2007, and January 28, 2008, or nearly two weeks before the Championship Tournament begins.
- c. The Championship Tournament shall be completed no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the start of the Rocky Mountain District Championships.

13. Time Between Games

- a. No team shall be required to play a second game in one day against a team playing its first game on that day.
- b. All games shall be scheduled to allow for a minimum of four (4) hours between games played on the same day and twelve (12) hours between games played on consecutive days, unless extenuating circumstances preclude it (between games means from the end of one game to the start of next game).

14. Age Classifications

- a. 18 or under -- To be eligible to compete during the 2007-08 season, a player must be born January 1, 1989 or later.
- b. 16 or under -- To be eligible to compete during the 2007-08 season, a player must be born during 1991 or later.
- c. 14 or under -- To be eligible to compete during the 2007-08 season, a player must be born during 1993 or later.
- d. 12 or under -- To be eligible to compete during the 2007-08 season, a player must be born during 1995 or later.

15. Time of Periods

- a. All Championship Tournament games will be played with stop time to their completion.
- b. Period times are as follows:
 - i. 18 or Under three (3) period of seventeen (17) minutes
 - ii. 16 or Under three (3) period of seventeen (17) minutes
 - iii. 14 or Under three (3) period of sixteen (16) minutes
 - iv. 12 or Under three (3) period of fifteen (15) minutes
- c. The ice shall be cleaned at least every two periods of each game.
- d. It is recommended that the following ice be allotted for each age division:

TEXAS AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION (TAHA)
TIER I & II STATE TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES (REVISED 2-7-08)

<u>Age Division</u>	<u>Round Robin</u>	<u>Championship</u>
Midget 18&U	2hrs	2 hrs
Midget 16&U	2hrs	2 hrs
Bantam 14&U	1hr45min	2 hrs
Pewee 12&U	1hr45min	2 hrs

16. Tier I and Tier II Championship Tournament Game Format

- a. Should any round robin game be tied at the end of regulation time, then sudden death overtime will be played until the game is decided. The format is as follows:
 - i. A 3-minute rest shall follow the third period.
 - ii. The teams shall not switch ends for the overtime period.
 - iii. The overtime period will consist of a 5-minute, stop-time period.
 - iv. If no goal is scored in the overtime period, then the game will be decided by a shootout. A coin toss will determine the team that goes first. All goalies and players listed on the 1-T Official Team Rosters will be eligible to participate in the shootout provided they were not serving a penalty at the conclusion of the overtime period. If they were serving a penalty, they will not be eligible for the shootout. The shootout will begin with five different alternating shooters from each team. Players do not need to be named beforehand. The goalkeepers for each team may be changed after every shot. The players from each team will take shots alternately until a decisive goal is scored in this five-player shootout.
 - v. If the score remains tied after the five-player shootout, a sudden death shootout will occur. Shooters in the sudden death shootout can be the same as the previous shootout. However, a player may not shoot again in the sudden death shootout until at least four other shooters from his team have attempted a shot. A sudden death shootout is defined as each team attempting one shot each. Should one team be successful and the other team not, then the successful team is the game winner.
- b. Should any championship final or best-of-3 series game be tied at the end of regulation time, then sudden death overtime will be played until the game is decided. The format is as follows:
 - i. A 5-minute rest shall follow the third period.
 - ii. The teams shall not switch ends throughout all overtime periods.
 - iii. Each overtime period shall be a 10-minute, stop-time, sudden death period (5-on-5).
 - iv. If teams are still tied after the first overtime period, then both teams shall leave the ice while it is cleaned. A second overtime shall begin immediately after the ice is cleaned.
 - v. If teams are still tied after the second overtime period, a 5-minute rest shall follow.
 - vi. If teams remain tied after the third overtime period, teams shall leave the ice while it is cleaned.
 - vii. Thereafter, the foregoing process in steps i-vi immediately above shall be repeated until such time a winner is determined by the competition.

17. Tier II Championship Tournament Pairings/Format

- a. The Tier II Championship Tournament format shall be a three-game round robin. The pairings shall be determined by a blind draw by the Tournament Committee.
- b. The top two teams from round robin based on points shall play for the State Championship.
- c. The schedule of games, including home and visiting team designations, shall be set by the Tournament Committee, approved by TAHA, and sent to all qualifying teams no less than 10days before the first game of the Championship Tournament.

TEXAS AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION (TAHA)
TIER I & II STATE TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES (REVISED 2-7-08)

18. Process to Determine Tier I and Tier II Championship Tournament Finalists

- a. During round robin play, each team will play each other.
- b. During round robin play, each team will be awarded 3 points for a win in regulation, 2 points for a win in overtime or shootout, one point for a loss in overtime or shootout, and 0 points for a loss in regulation. All games will be played until a winner is determined using the format in Section 16 above.
- c. The two teams accumulating the most points in the round robin will advance to the Championship game.
- d. If two or more teams have an equal number of points, their positions in the standings shall be determined by the following tie-breaking format. If one tie-breaker establishes a position for one or more teams, each team is placed in the applicable position. Once a team is placed, the remaining tied teams shall start the tie-breaking process over again at step 1a. The tie-breaker formulas are as follows:
 - i. The results of the head-to-head games played between the tied teams in the following order:
 1. Standings – most points.
 2. Most wins (**regulation, overtime, and shootout**).
 3. Differential - Subtracting goals scored against from goals scored in these games, the positions determined in order of the greatest surplus. **Only the shootout game winning goal counts in the goal differential determination.**
 4. Quotient - Dividing the goals scored in these games by the goals scored against, the positions determined in order of the greatest quotient. A quotient involving dividing by zero (0) has a higher standing than a quotient of dividing by any other number.
 5. Most periods won – In the games played by each tied team, points will be awarded for each regulation period won (2 points) and for each regulation period tied (1 point). Positions shall be in the order of highest point total.
 6. Quickest first goal – The team that scored the quickest goal in their applicable round robin games shall be ranked highest.
 - ii. If after applying the formulas of (i) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 the tie still exists, (i) 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 shall be applied using all of the games played by the teams tied.
 - iii. If the above procedure does not break the tie, the tied teams shall use a shootout procedure as described in Section 16.a.iv-v above.

19. On-Ice Officials

- a. All efforts will be made to procure a three-man system for all Championship Tournament games. All on-ice officials must meet the minimum certification level pursuant to USA Hockey's guidelines for the age group they are assigned to.
- b. Referees will be assigned by the TAHA Referee in Chief or his designee.

20. Discipline Committee

- a. The Tournament Committee shall serve as the Discipline Committee, which shall be responsible for deciding any action, suspensions or otherwise to be taken against a player or team official receiving a match penalty. This includes all State Tournament playdown and Championship Tournament games.
- b. The Discipline Committee shall have the authority to initiate action involving supplementary discipline against a player or team official whether or not it involves the playing rules, provided however that the player or official is given notice of intended action and has an opportunity for a hearing.

TEXAS AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION (TAHA)
TIER I & II STATE TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES (REVISED 2-7-08)

21. TAHA shall Host the Championship Tournament

- a. TAHA is responsible for providing the following:
 - i. All financial aspects of running the Championship Tournament.
 1. A sufficient amount of ice and associated fees.
 2. On-ice officials and associated fees.
 3. Scorekeepers and associated fees.
 4. Team awards for the championship team and runners-up team.
 - ii. Sufficient accommodations for out of town teams at a reasonable price and in relative close proximity to the arena.
 - iii. Space for any TAHA officials attending disciplinary hearings and any other off-ice officials as needed.
 - iv. A gate fee may be assessed by TAHA for spectators at a maximum of \$5 per game or \$10 for a weekend tournament pass (Note - team officials and players listed on the USA Hockey Roster shall not be charged).
 - v. Title sponsor for the tournament subject to the approval of the Tournament Committee and the arena management.