



2007 – 2008

# League Playoff Rules



**1. PURPOSE**

1. The purpose of the following is to ensure all participants within the NTXHL have a clear understanding of the rules and guidelines governing the playing of NTXHL playoff games.
2. The North Texas Hockey League Playoff Championship is governed by the rules of USA Hockey, and **it is the responsibility of each player, coach and team manager to be familiar with these rules.** In addition, there are specific procedures, policies, rules and regulations that apply to the North Texas Hockey League Playoff Championship. Please review and be familiar with these as well. **Team Manager and Coaches signatures are required on the attached document prior to your team's participation in tournament activities.**

**2. PROCEDURES**

1. All Team Representatives (manager or coach) must check in at least one (1) hour before their scheduled first game to have their team cleared to play. Check-ins will occur at each rink. All matters pertaining to team credentials, League payments and USA Hockey verification (1-T, 2-T) must be resolved at the check in desk. All team representatives are responsible for having the following documents available for all games, USA Hockey Registration, birth certificate and Consent to Treat. In addition, all coaches must have their USA Hockey Coaching Education Program card.
2. Venue Coordinators will be available at each facility to answer questions regarding scheduling, playoff events, directions, score sheet availability, and other matters pertinent to the playoff operation. They will attempt to contact team representatives with time critical information. However, you are responsible for ensuring that you have all pertinent information for your team on a daily basis.
3. Tournament Hockey Directors will also be available to answer any questions regarding specific hockey issues. They are responsible for all inquiries or disputes regarding off-ice rule application or interpretation, player eligibility, disciplinary action and any other procedural disputes. **The Tournament Hockey Directors will not overturn any dispute concerning rules and/or the judgment applied by on-ice officials. All decisions of the North Texas Hockey League Playoff Championship Hockey Directors are final.**
4. All teams will be assigned locker rooms posted at the front desk. Locker room keys are available from, and must be returned to, the rink staff at the front desk. Locker rooms must be vacated and cleaned, within twenty (20) minutes from the time a game ends. Keys may be picked up forty five (45) minutes prior to your game time. A team representative should be prepared to leave collateral (e.g. drivers license, car keys) when picking up locker room key. Each team needs to ensure that locker room is clean (no remaining trash/tape/food/drink) prior to vacating it. Team representatives are responsible for all damage done to the locker room or the facility.
5. Point Streak will be use for all playoff games. Copies of the scores sheets will be available from the venue coordinators prior to the start of the game. Any scratches from a game (player not dressing) must be reported on the score sheet and the Head Coach of each team must sign the score sheet approving

the changes. A copy of the completed score sheet may be obtained from the venue coordinator approximately 15 minutes after both teams have left the ice surface. Each team representative is responsible for checking the accuracy of the score sheet. Report all discrepancies to the venue coordinator prior to leaving the facility.

6. Home and Visiting teams are indicated on the playoff schedule. **Home teams shall wear light colored jerseys and matching socks. Visitors will wear dark jerseys and matching socks.** Teams may wear dark socks with light jerseys or vice-versa but both socks must be the same. All jerseys must have a player number clearly displayed. Taped numbers or players without numbers will not be permitted to participate in the NTXHL Playoff games. Numbers worn must correspond to the ones listed on the scorekeeper's roster. Home and Visitor benches are as indicated at the rink.

### **3 POLICIES**

1. Alcoholic products are prohibited at all rink facilities outside of the bar area, if provided. Anyone abusing or bringing alcoholic products into the building or parking lot will be asked to leave and the appropriate players/teams will be subject to suspension from the North Texas Hockey League Playoff Championship.
2. Any person causing damage to rink property will be charged commensurate with the damage and will be removed from the premises and/or suspended from all North Texas Hockey League activities until restitution is paid in full. The rinks can impose penalties up to and including banning persons for theft or damage to the facility. All persons are subject to prosecution to the fullest extent of the law.
3. The North Texas Hockey League supports USA Hockey Zero Tolerance initiatives and USA Hockey Code of Conducts will be enforced. There is zero tolerance for verbal abuse of any player, official, parent or spectator. North Texas Hockey League Playoff Championship Hockey Directors and/or Venue Coordinators or rink staff reserves the right to remove any violator from the premises for conduct they deem inappropriate. Team representatives and/or coaches are responsible for the actions and behaviors of their players, parents and fans ON and OFF the ice. Penalties/Suspensions may be assessed teams regarding this activity.
4. Noisemakers are not allowed in the viewpoint (upstairs enclosed area) between the rinks and the lobby area. Those using noisemakers at the on-ice seating area are asked to be courteous of nearby spectators. Air horns are prohibited. All spectators are asked to remember that good sportsmanship demonstrated by all spectators is just as important as players' conduct on ice. The primary purpose of this playoff is to provide a positive and fun atmosphere for all participants.

### **4. REGULAR SEASON STANDINGS**

1. League Standings shall be determined by awarding
  - Two (2) points for a win
  - One (1) point for a tie after regulation
  - Zero (0) points for a loss

- One (1) point for overtime or shootout win
- 2. Playoff seeding is determined by points earned in the regular season
- 3. All League games and stats will count in the standings. For divisions with exhibition teams (known teams that will not participate in playoffs) and teams that opt out of the playoffs, these teams will not be included in the final playoff seeding.
- 4. **January 31, 2008 is the final day to opt out of the playoffs. Any association that has not paid final NTXHL League fees by this date may be banned from the Playoffs.**

#### **5. END OF YEAR TIE BREAKER POLICY**

1. Head to Head record amongst tied teams (includes overtime and shootout wins)
2. Most wins in league play (includes overtime and shootout wins)
3. Fewest goals against in all league games (includes overtime and winning shootout goal)
4. Goal differential (Goals scored minus goals against) in all games (includes overtime and winning shootout goal), capped at a max of 5 goal differential per game
5. Coin Flip.
6. If more than 2 (two) teams are tied, same policy will be used until 1 (one) team is eliminated. Policy will begin again with remaining teams until only 1 (one) team remains.

#### **6. NTXHL PLAYOFF FORMAT**

1. Top 4 teams in each Division have a bye into the Semi-Final round.
2. All remaining teams in the Division will play in the Qualifying round of playoffs. If a total of 5 teams are in a Division then the 5<sup>th</sup> team will get an automatic bye into the semi-finals.
3. All teams will play a minimum of 2 games against assigned opponents in Qualifying round. Most teams will play 4 games. Seeding will be determined by regular season standings. The top team in each division will advance to the Semi-Final round. **If 2 teams in a division remain undefeated in the Qualifying round and they have not played each other, then a fifth game will be played to determine the winner.**
4. All Semi Final Division playoffs will consist of 5 teams. Each team will play each other once in a round robin playoff. The top two teams will advance to the Championship round. Playoff tie breaker rules apply to break any ties.
5. Championship round will consist of a 2 out of 3 series to determine the Champion.
6. **Any team forfeiting by refusing to play a game in any round of the playoffs will be disqualified from further playoff games. If two teams agree to not play a scheduled game each team will be disqualified from further playoff games.** The coaches of the team or teams will be banned from coaching in NTXHL for the 2008/2009 season. And the association will be fined \$500 per game not played. The fine is payable at the NTXHL annual meeting in June 2008. If the association does not pay the fine by the meeting date they will not be allowed continued membership in NTXHL.

**7. RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. Specific North Texas Hockey League Playoff Championship Rules and Regulations are outlined below. USA Hockey Rules and Regulations apply unless a specific NTXHL Playoff rule stated below applies. All decisions of the North Texas Hockey League Playoff Championship Hockey Directors are final.
2. Only players listed on the submitted North Texas Hockey League Playoff Championship Team roster may play in playoff games. **A player's name may only appear on one (1) roster for the League.** Any team using a player not properly listed on the team roster or listed on more than one (1) roster will forfeit (1-0) any and all affected games. Any team using a player suspended for any reason will forfeit that game (1-0) and the suspended player will be suspended for the remainder of the playoff. Suspended players may attend playoff games but are not allowed near the player bench area. **North Texas Hockey League game suspensions (prior to the playoff) carry over and still apply to the NTXHL Playoff games.**
3. Any match penalty will result in a playoff suspension. Game misconduct penalties will result in a minimum one game suspension. **North Texas Hockey League Playoff Championship Hockey Directors decisions are final.** Any players required to serve a suspension from prior USA Hockey game must complete suspension prior to playing first game, example: if a player has un-served suspension or incurred a suspension in their last game prior to the playoffs that player must serve the suspension before participating in the playoffs.
4. Any suspensions received during the Playoffs that can not be served will carry over with that player/coach to the following NTXHL season.
5. All players in The North Texas Hockey League Playoff Championship are required to wear mouth guards.
6. All Mite and Squirt teams are required to wear neck guards. There are no exceptions! A minor penalty may result from each infraction.
7. Helmets must be worn at all times during warm-ups, games, handshake line and in the penalty box and the bench area.
8. Each team is responsible to provide its own penalty box monitor or attendant. A penalty box attendant is considered an off-ice official and must conduct themselves as such. They must remain a neutral party and act accordingly. Verbal or physical display of anger towards players, opposing team, coaches, officials, will not be allowed and can result in a team penalty, removal from the box and/or suspensions.
9. Penalty times for all divisions will be as follows:

Minor	2:00 minutes
Major	5:00 minutes
Misconduct	10:00 minutes

Penalties during running or stop time are of the same duration.

**8. GAME TIMES, all periods are stop clock:**

<u>Division</u>	<u>Period Times</u>
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Mite	3 x 11 periods
Squirt	3 x 13 periods
PeeWee	3 x 15 periods
Bantam	3 x 15 periods
Midget	3 x 15 periods

1. If at any time during the **third period** the goal differential reaches **six (6)**, the game clock will go to running time and will not stop for any reason other than at the direction of the on-ice officials until the game ends or the goal differential is reduced to less than **six (6)**. The game clock will not be stopped for goals scored, penalties, or any other reason while the “mercy rule” is in effect, unless directed by the on-ice officials.
2. If tied after 3 regulation periods then there will be a 1 minute break and then a 5 minute sudden death overtime period played with **running clock**. Clock will not stop for any reason other than at the direction of the on-ice officials and for the assessment of a penalty. Clock resumes with the face-off. 5 Players and a Goalie will be used in the overtime. **Penalties will carry over from regulation into the overtime.**
3. If still tied after the overtime then a 3 player shootout will occur. Team must identify the 3 shooters to the on-ice officials before the shoot-out begins. Team scoring the most goals after each team’s 3 shooters have completed will be the winner. Teams will alternate shooters with the visiting team shooting first.
4. If still tied then the shootout will continue with a 4<sup>th</sup> shooter from each team, if still tied then the shootout continues until the tie is broken.
5. **Any player who is still in the penalty box at the end of overtime will not be allowed to participate in the shootout.**
6. All players listed on the score sheet (except those who are in the penalty box at the end of overtime and the backup goalie) must participate in the shootout before repeat players can be used. **If a player is listed on the score sheet and is not scratched then the game will be forfeited when that player becomes eligible to shoot during the shootout.**

**9. PLAYOFF GAME RULES**

1. All teams must be ready to begin play **fifteen (15) minutes** prior to the scheduled start time of each game. The scorekeeper will begin a three (3) minute warm-up period when the Zamboni doors are closed and the referees are present on the ice. The clock will begin regardless of whether skaters are on the ice. The game will start at the conclusion of the warm-up period. If a team is not ready to begin at that time, it will be given a one (1) minute grace period. If a team is not ready to start at the conclusion of the grace period, the game will be forfeited (1– 0).
2. **ALL PLAYERS SHALL REMAIN OFF THE ICE SURFACE UNTIL THE ZAMBONI DOORS HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY CLOSED AND ON-ICE OFFICIALS ARE PRESENT.** With the exception of the playoff final games, all players shall exit the ice surface immediately after the game. The only team officials allowed on the player’s bench during a game are those

registered with USA Hockey with appropriate Coaching Certificates. Anyone on the player's bench must be listed on the team's roster. Each team must provide a volunteer penalty box monitor. All parents, visitors and spectators other than the penalty box volunteer are to remain away from the player's bench and penalty box areas; which may be marked as "Players, Coaches, Volunteers and Officials Only Beyond This Point".

3. Rest time between periods shall be one (1) minute
4. Each team is permitted one (1) one minute time out per game. No timeouts during the overtime period or the shootout.
5. Penalty time will follow the game clock. (i.e.: stop time if stop time and running time if running time) Penalty shall follow the 2 / 5 / 10 minute format. Under running time, players must remain in the penalty box until the puck is dropped if the penalty expires during a stoppage of play.
6. Teams shall participate in a handshake at the conclusion of the game.

#### **10 POINTS WILL BE AWARDED AS FOLLOWS**

- Win 2 points
- Tie (after regulation) 1 point
- Loss 0 points
- Overtime win 1 point

#### **11. PLAYOFF TIE BREAKER POLICY**

1. Head to Head record amongst tied teams (includes overtime and shootout wins)
2. Most wins in this playoff round play (includes overtime and shootout wins)
3. Fewest goals against in all games in this playoff round (includes overtime and winning shootout goal)
4. Goal differential (Goals scored minus goals against) in all games in this playoff round (includes overtime and winning shootout goal), capped at a max of 5 goal differential per game
5. Coin Flip.

If more than 2 (two) teams are tied, same policy will be used until 1 (one) team is eliminated. Policy will begin again with remaining teams until only 1 (one) team remains.

**QUALIFYING ROUND ONLY** If two teams in a division remain undefeated in the qualifying round and they have not played each other, then a 5<sup>th</sup> game will be played to determine the winner.

NOTE: TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ADD TO, AMEND OR REMOVE, ANY NORTH TEXAS HOCKEY LEAGUE PLAYOFF CHAMPIONSHIP PROCEDURE, POLICY, RULE OR REGULATION PRIOR TO THE START OF THE TOURNAMENT.

# Team Signature Page

Team Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age Bracket \_\_\_\_\_

**By Signing Below I Acknowledge That I Have Read, Understand, And Will Ensure Compliance Of The North Texas Hockey League Procedures, Policies, Rules, And Regulations On Behalf Of My Team. I Agree To Abide By All Decisions Assessed By The North Texas Hockey League Playoff Director.**

Signatures Required Below

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**Team Representative / Manager Signature**

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Printed Name / Date

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**Team Head Coach Signature**

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Printed Name / Date

**This form must be completed and returned to the Playoff Director or Venue Director prior to your team beginning playoff competition. Failure to do so will result in suspension of all team activities including forfeiture of all games and earned points. Only this signature page must be returned. Please keep the copy of the rules, policies, procedures, and regulations for your reference during the playoffs.**