

STEP LEAGUE 2026 PLAYOFF DATES

U9 – Each game will be 2 – 24 Minute periods with 2-minute shifts and the clock being stopped for shift change. Every team will use the “big nets” for playoffs.

Round 1 – Modified best of 3. March 5 – 8 (4 Days)

Finals & Consolation Finals - Modified best of 3. March 12 – 15 (4 Days)

U11

Round 1 – Modified best of 3. March 4 – 11 (8 Days)

U11 ‘B’ Championship, ‘A’ division are seeded higher than ‘B’ side teams.

U11 ‘D’ Championship will be 1 round of modified best of 3.

Finals & Consolation Finals - Modified best of 3. March 12 – 18 (7 Days)

U13

‘A’ Side

Round 1 – Modified best of 3. February 18 – 25 (8 Days)

Round 2 – Modified best of 3. February 26 – March 9 (12 Days)

Finals – Best of 3. March 10 – March 24 (15 Days)

‘B’ Side

Round 1 – Modified best of 3. February 18 – 25 (8 Days)

Finals – Modified best of 3. February 26 – March 9 (12 Days)

2**When determining home ice advantage, higher seeds will have home ice**

** NOTE** In U13, teams are reseeded for round 2 based on points. The highest remaining seed will play the lowest remaining seed. Round 2 matchups are not set until round 1 is complete, despite what may show on the brackets as series are complete.

NOTE “Home Team” has the choice if they want game 1 at home or game 2 and possible game 3 mini game at home.

MODIFIED BEST OF 3

The Modified Best of 3 is first team to 3 points with the winning team of each game getting 2 points. If a game ends in a tie each team will receive 1 point.

Game 1 ➡ Full regular game (3 – 20 minutes periods). Winning team gets 2 points.
If game is tied after 60 minutes, it will remain tied and each team will receive 1 point.

Game 2 ➡ Full regular game (3 – 20 minutes periods). Winning team gets 2 points.
If the series is tied after 2 games, there will be a 2-min break, then the teams will play a full 10-minute mini game. Whoever wins this “game” will win the series. If the series is still tied, we will go to regular overtime rules. There will be a flood, followed by a 20-min sudden death period, flood, 20-minute period, etc.

Example:

1. Team A wins game 1; they receive 2 points
Team A wins game 2; they receive 2 points and win the series.
2. Team A wins game 1; they receive 2 points
Team B wins game 2; they receive 2 points
The teams now play a full 10-minute game and whoever has more goals after 10-minute game receives 2 points and wins the series.
3. Teams tie game 1; they both receive 1 point
Whoever wins game 2 wins the series.
If tied after game 2; 2-minute break, followed by a 10-minute game, whoever has more goals receives 2 points and wins the series.
If still tied after the 10-minute game, there will be a flood followed by 20-minute sudden death period.

Mini-Game Rules:

- When it is necessary to decide a series by virtue of the mini-game, the teams will take a 2-minute break at their respective benches.
- The teams will play a 10-minute period, stop time. This will not be sudden victory, the full 10-minute period will be played.
- The teams will not change ends after game 2. The mini game will be played using the same ends as period 3 of game 2.
- If the teams remain tied at the end of the mini game, there will be a flood, and the teams will continue to play 20-minute stop time sudden victory periods. The teams will change ends for every sudden victory period.
- **A separate game sheet must be completed for the mini game.**

Penalty / Suspension Procedures for Mini Game:

- A time penalty from the end of game 2 will not be carried over to the mini game and possibly subsequent overtime is viewed as a separate game.
- Suspensions – Any player or coach who committed an infraction in game 2 of the series would sit the mini game and subsequent possible overtime. The mini game, although separate, is not considered a full game so missing the mini game would not count towards that player or coach's suspension.
- If a player and / or coach was suspended before the series or after the first game of the series, and his/her suspension was up or served in its entirety after the second game of the series, that player and / or coach would be eligible to participate in the mini game as it is deemed a separate game.
- As per Hockey Sask handbook, it is the coach / managers responsibility to ensure that team member(s) sit out their appropriate suspension. If you are unsure if someone is suspended, you may contact the league. When in doubt or unable to contact the league, sit the appropriate team member(s).
 - If a suspended team member(s) participates in a game they should have been suspended, they may be deemed ineligible, and their team will forfeit the game in which they played.