



## APPENDIX D: APPROVED PLAYOFF FORMATS

The following are approved playoff formats for use by Hockey Alberta Minor Leagues to be chosen at the discretion of each league.

Leagues can submit a new playoff format for use in the current playing season for approval by the Minor Leagues Committee. All submissions must be received by no later than December 1st of the current playing season.

All teams shall participate in playoffs and will not be eliminated after the conclusion of the Regular Season. Leagues are required to schedule all teams to participate in playoffs until the first week of March.

### Knockout

- **Double Elimination** – Teams must lose either two games or series (at the discretion of the League) to be eliminated. There is a winner’s bracket and a loser’s bracket. Each team starts in the winner’s bracket. If a team loses, they move to the loser’s bracket. If a team loses again in the loser’s bracket, they are eliminated. The last remaining team from each bracket will play for the championship. The team from the loser’s bracket must beat the team from the winner’s bracket twice to be the champion.

### Round Robin

- **Traditional Round Robin** – All teams in the Round Robin or specific pool (at the discretion of the League) will play each other an equal number of times in the Round Robin. The League will then determine the number of teams that will move onto a single elimination playoff after the conclusion of the round robin.
- **Semi Round Robin** - When round robin pools have a different number of teams. All pools will play the same number of games as the pool with the least number of teams. Pools with more teams will determine opponents based on the results of each round robin games (ex. Winner’s play each other). Tie breaking procedures need to be used in the pools where not all teams play each other.
- **Consolation/ Multi-Level Traditional** - Teams will play in a play-in round to determine a split between which teams will proceed into a winner’s round, and which teams will proceed into a consolation round. The number of consolation rounds can vary.

### Round Robin Tie Breaking Procedures

- In the event that teams are tied for a playoff position, the following procedure will apply:

#### If two (2) teams are tied:

- The team with the most wins in the round-robin gains the highest position.
- If the two (2) teams are still tied after Regulation 9.3(i)(i)(A) above, the winner of the round-robin game between the two tied teams gains the highest position.
- If the two (2) teams are still tied after (i)(i)(A) and (B) have been applied, then the team with the best goal average gains the highest position. The goal average of a team is to be determined in the follow manner:

Total number of goals for divided by the total number of goals for and against.

NOTE: **All** round-robin games are included.

Example: For = 10 goals      Against = 4 goals

$$\text{Percentage: } \frac{10}{10+4} = \frac{10}{14} = .714$$



NOTE: The highest percentage gains the highest position.

- iv. If the two (2) teams are still tied after (i)(i)(A), (B) and (C) have been applied, the team with the least number of minutes in penalties throughout all of the round-robin games gains the highest position.
- v. If the two (2) teams are still tied after (i)(i)(A), (B), (C) and (D) have been applied, then the team that scored the first goal in the game between the two (2) tied teams gains the highest position.
- vi. If the two teams are still tied after (i)(i)(A), (B), (C), (D) and (E) have been applied, a single coin toss will determine which team gains the highest position.
  - For the coin toss for two (2) teams tied, a single coin will be tossed with one of the teams declaring either "heads" or "tails". The team that declares the toss and is successful would then be declared the first (1<sup>st</sup>) placed team. If the team that declared the toss is unsuccessful, that team places second (2<sup>nd</sup>).

**If three (3) teams are tied:**

- i. If three (3) teams or more are tied, the point record established in the games AMONG THE TIED TEAMS ONLY will be used as the first tie breaking formula in deciding which team(s) will advance.
- ii. The team with the most wins would gain the highest position.
- iii. If teams are still tied after (i)(ii)(A) above has been applied, then the team with the best goal average gains the highest position. The goal average of a team is to be determined in the following manner:

Total number of goals for divided by total number of goals for and against.

NOTE: Games between the tied teams only will apply.

Example: For = 10 goals      Against = 4 goals

$$\text{Percentage: } \frac{10}{10+4} = \frac{10}{14} = .714$$

- iv. If all three percentages are different for the three (3) teams that are tied, then first (1<sup>st</sup>), second (2<sup>nd</sup>) and third (3<sup>rd</sup>) place is decided with the highest percentage gaining first (1<sup>st</sup>) place and the lowest percentage gaining third (3<sup>rd</sup>) place. The tie-breaking procedure will not go back to two teams tied.
- v. If two teams or more are still tied after (i)(ii)(A) and (B) have been applied, the team(s) to qualify would be the team(s) that receive the least number of minutes in penalties throughout all of the round-robin games.
- vi. If three teams are still tied after (i)(ii)(A), (B) and (C) have been applied, a coin toss will determine the highest positions.



- For the coin toss involving three (3) teams tied, all three teams will each toss a coin. The team that tosses the first odd coin is declared the first (1<sup>st</sup>) place position of the three tied teams.
- The two (2) remaining teams will now toss a single coin with one of the teams declaring either "heads" or tails." The team that declares the toss and is successful would then be declared the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) place team. If the team that declared the loss is unsuccessful, that team is placed third (3<sup>rd</sup>).

Following the round robin format of a Round Robin Playoff, Leagues are permitted to use a knockout structure (single or double elimination) to determine a champion

#### **Final Series**

Leagues may schedule the final two teams of a Knockout or Round Robin to play a series to determine the League Playoff Champion.