



2026 RHL PLAYOFF RULES

1. FAIR PLAY

- All teams please remember that the RHL is fair play and it is the expectation that during playoffs fair play will continue to be used. All players should see equal ice time and have equal opportunity to play in all situations.
- All playoff games will be governed with the same rules we followed in league play with the exception that there will not be any Fair Play Points calculated in games. Individual player penalty minutes accumulation will not carry forward into playoff games.

2. DISCIPLINE/SUSPENSIONS

- All write ups must be submitted immediately following the game via the game sheet app and the divisional governor notified immediately following the game.
- Managers are required to stay at the arena until write ups are confirmed and completed. (when applicable)
- Any player or coach receiving a referee write up report is not eligible to play in another game until a ruling has been issued from League Discipline on the write up.

3. GAME REPORTING

- The same rules apply as during regular season -HOME teams will provide a scorekeeper, timekeeper and penalty person and all VISITOR teams will provide a scorekeeper (to verify in real time the digital gamesheets) AND a person to open the penalty box door.

4. GAME PLAY

- The home team is required to ensure a copy of the playoff rules and format are in the time box at each game.
- Please remember you are considered to be an official when you are in the time box and are to be unbiased.
- All playoff games will be stop time.
- Game formats are as follows:
 - U11/U13 games will be a minimum of 90 minutes. U15/U18 games will be a minimum of 120 minutes.
 - All games will consist of 3 – 20 minute periods. There will be a 5 minute warm up time and 1 minute between periods. 1 flood between the 2nd and 3rd period will occur on all games where 2 hours of ice is allotted and 2 floods, 1 after each period where more than 2 hours of ice is allotted– there will be no floods on games when less than 2 hrs of ice is allotted.
- Each team will be allowed 1 - 30 second timeout in each game.
- There is no drop clock in playoff games and all games must be played out.
- In U13/U15/U18 in a 2-game series games can end in a tie and in a 3-game series each game must have a winner.
- For the U11 playoff games prior to the final weekend games can end in a tie.
- In U11 if there is a tie in playoff standings after all teams have played each other the tie breaking formula for league standings will be used.

5. PLAYOFF STRUCTURE

- <https://cloud.rampinteractive.com/rockieshockeyleague/files/2026%20RHL%20Playoff%20Structure.pdf>

6. OVERTIME FORMAT

- Overtime will be played in all games in the best two out of three series if needed.
- In a two game total goal series, overtime will only be played at the end of the second game. Overtime will take place ONLY if both teams have an equal number of goals in the two games at the end of regulation time in the second game.
- If overtime is required it shall be played as follows.
 - The teams will not change ends and play a five minute stop time sudden death period. First team to score wins the game.
 - If at the end of the overtime period, the teams are still tied, each team shall select five players for shoot-out. The team scoring the most goals after each team has shot five times will be declared the winner. Any player serving a minor penalty at the end of the game will be eligible to participate in the shoot-out. Players receiving Game Misconduct(s) or Game Ejection will not be eligible. The home team shall have the choice of shooting first or second, once they make that decision they will follow that order throughout the entire shootout procedure.
 - If the teams are still tied, then each team will select five additional shooters. The five shooters selected may not include the five previous shooters. This will now be a sudden death shoot-out. The team scoring the most goals after each team has shot one time will be declared the winner. This process continues until a winner is declared.
 - If teams are still tied after both rounds of shoot-out, teams will continue to select individual shooters. After each team has shot one time, the team scoring the most goals wins. If teams are tied this process will continue until a winner is declared.

All playoff schedules will be posted as soon as possible after each weekend but will be posted by Wednesday night.

Good Luck to all teams in playoffs and we hope you have enjoyed your season

Rockies Hockey League