



ONTARIO WOMEN'S HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

OFFICIAL PLAYOFF INFORMATION

2024 – 2025 SEASON

UPDATE FEBRUARY 27, 2025

PLEASE SEE PAGE 8



The OWHL Championship weekend on March 29 and March 30th, 2025, will consist of a League Championship game and a Tier II Championship game for each age group and level.

Teams that place first to fourth place in their division will be playing for the **League Playoff Championship**

- Team recategorization by the OWHA – If a team was recategorized “up”, the team will **NOT** be eligible for the OWHL playoffs. If a team was recategorized “down”, the team **WILL BE** eligible for playoffs in their regular season division **IF** your team finishes in the **1st – 4th place**.

Teams that place from fifth to 8th place in their division will be playing for the **Tier II Playoff Championships**.

- Team recategorization by the OWHA – If a team was recategorized “up”, the team will **NOT** be eligible for the OWHL playoffs. If a team was recategorized “down”, the team **WILL BE** eligible for playoffs in their regular season division **IF** your team finishes 5th – 8th.

The OWHA recognizes that there will be some loops that will have less than 8 teams in their division which means the remaining teams (not in the 1st – 4th place) would be eligible to be in the Tier II division.

The OWHA also recognizes that there will be more than 8 teams in a loop and those teams (not in 5th – 8th place) will **not** be eligible to play for the Tier II division.

Example:

Loops that have **more** than 8 teams (example 12 teams):

1st – 4th place will be competing in the League Championship Playoffs.

5th – 8th place will be competing in the Tier II Championship Playoffs.

9th – 12th place will not qualify for playoffs and their season will be complete and the end of regular season.

Loops that have **less** than 8 teams (example 7 teams):

1st – 4th place will be competing in the League Championship Playoffs.

5th – 7th place will be competing in the Tier II Championship Playoffs. (Teams will get a bye which will be reflected in the brackets)

Loops that have **less** than 8 teams (example 6 teams):

1st – 4th place will be competing in the League Championship Playoffs.

5th – 6th place will be competing in the Tier II Championship Playoffs. (Teams will get a bye which will be reflected in the brackets)

Loops that have **less** than 8 teams (example 5 teams):

1st – 4th place will be competing in the League Championship Playoffs.

5th – place will be competing in the Tier II Championship Playoffs. (Teams will get a bye which will be reflected in the brackets)



THERE ARE NO PICK-UPS PERMITTED DURING THE OWHL PLAYOFFS – Emergency exemption for goalies ONLY.

SHOULD THE HOME TEAM NEED TO CHANGE ANY DETAILS OF A SCHEDULED GAME, THEY ARE TO SECURE THE APPROVAL OF THE OPPOSING TEAM AND THE OWHA (LEAGUES@OWHA.ON.CA) AND UPDATE SAID INFORMATION ON LEAGUE WEBSITE.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- a) Eligibility for Playoffs and Championship: A Player must have been rostered with the specific team on or before December 31, 2024, to be eligible for the Playoffs and Championship Weekend. They must play at least 5 games before January 15th to be eligible for League Playoffs and Championship Weekend.
- b) Exceptions will be considered with extreme extenuating circumstances
- c) Pickup players are not eligible for Playoff games or Championship games. However, in certain circumstances, a team may be permitted to pick a goaltender. If a team's goaltender is injured or unavailable for a legitimate reason, that team must apply, with proper documentation, to the OWHA Office for permission to pick up a goaltender. The OWHA Registrar will decide whether to grant such permission. If permission is granted, the team's designated goaltenders will be ineligible to play. The pickup goaltender must be currently registered with an OWHA team, either in the same category or a lower one.
- d) Individuals under suspension are not permitted to participate.

MATCHUPS AND PLAYOFFS

Playoff Rounds Dates of completion (Southern League)

Age groups that have two divisions will adhere to the following playoff format:

- First round: Feb 17th to March 2nd, 2025
- Second round: March 3rd to March 26th, 2025
- Winners of the second round will advance to the championship game.

Age groups that have four divisions will adhere to the following playoff format:

- First round: February 17th to Feb 27th, 2025
- Second round: Feb 28th to March 9th, 2025
- Third round: March 10th to March 26th, 2025
- Winners of the third round will advance to the championship game.



Age groups that have five divisions will adhere to the following playoff format:

- First round: February 17th to February 27th, 2025
- Second round: February 28th to March 9th, 2025
- Third round: March 10th to March 26th, 2025
- Two Divisional Winners will advance to the championship game.

Age groups that have six divisions will adhere to the following playoff format:

- First round: February 17th to February 27th, 2025
- Second round: Feb 28th to March 9th, 2025
- Third round: March 12th to March 26th, 2025
- Two Divisional Winners will advance to the championship game.

Age groups that have seven divisions will adhere to the following playoff format:

- First round: February 17th to
- Second round: February 28th to March 9th, 2025
- Third round: March 10th to March 26th, 2025
- Two Divisional Winners will advance to the championship game.



Playoff Rounds Dates of completion (Eastern League)

Age groups that have one division will adhere to the following playoff format

- First round: February 17th to April 2nd
- Second round Winners advance to Championship Day April 5, 2025

Age groups U11HL, U13AA, U13HL, U15AA

- First Round February 17th to March 9th
- Second Round March 10th to April 2nd
- Second Round Winners advance to Championship Day April 5, 2025

The following divisions will have from Feb 17th to April 2nd to complete their round robin playoff series

- U11AA, U11A, U11BB, U13A, U13BB

TIE BREAKERS GAME POINTS

Applicable for round 3 only for divisions that have 5, 6 or 7 divisions. (Southern)

Applicable for EASTERN division U11AA,U11A,U13A, U13 BB

Win - 2 points Tie - 1 point Loss - 0 points.

If tied in points, the following tiebreakers will be followed:

- i. Number of wins.
- ii. Record against other tied teams.
- iii. Goals scored minus the goals against in series.
- iv. Fewest goals allowed in the series.
- v. Most periods won in series.
- vi. Fewest penalty minutes in series.
- vii. First goal scored in a series.
- viii. Flip of a coin.

In the case of more than two teams, tiebreakers will follow the numerical order until all ties are broken.



GAME RULES

- There will be a three (3) minute warm up prior to each game, starting as soon as the ice re-surfacer gates are closed, but no earlier than thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled start time.
- One 30 second timeout will be permitted per team/per game in all categories of OWHL League and Consolation Championships.
- Points will be awarded as follows: two (2) points for a win, one (1) point for a tie and no points for a loss.
- The home team will wear their light-colored sweaters. Goalies must dress in the same sweater color as the team is wearing. Any conflict in sweater color will result in the home team having to change.
- Playoff game length remains the same as regular season games.
 - **THERE ARE NO CURFEWS FOR PLAYOFF GAMES**
 - **No Protests**
 - **Any playoff games that are affected by curfews will be subject to review by the league. The league will have the authority to make a ruling based on the specific details of the game in question. This means that if a playoff game is interrupted or impacted by a curfew, the league will examine the circumstances and decide on the appropriate course of action**

THERE ARE NO EXTENSIONS TO ANY ROUNDS UNLESS BOTH TEAMS ARE AVAILABLE FOR AN EARLIER START.

GAME SHEETS/GAME REPORTING

- Rosters will be pulled from RAMP, remembering that any player signed after December 31st is NOT eligible. It is the responsibility of each team to ensure any players signed after December 31st do NOT participate in any playoff game. These players are not to show as playing on the electronic game sheet for any games.
- No players may be added, and no pick-up players are permitted for playoffs or League and Consolation Championship.
- Teams must schedule their playoff games on the RAMP Games Portal. These games are to be scheduled under the “League Games” tab. When scheduling a payoff game, you will be required to choose a game type, please select “Playoff”. ONLY your “HOME” games should be scheduled on the RAMP Games Portal.
- Teams may use a game that counts as both a playdown game and a playoff game, if both teams agree and send an email to both provincials@owha.on.ca and leagues@owha.on.ca. These games must follow OWHL Playoff eligibility requirements and protocols and have prior approval from the league.



GAME LENGTHS

Teams in the OWHL - SOUTHERN Divisions and Categories to follow:

- The following divisions will play 10-10-12. (3 Minute Warm Up)
 - All U9
 - All U11
 - U13 A, BB, B, C
 - U15 BB, B, C
 - U18 B, C
- The following divisions will play 15-15-15. (3 Minute Warm Up)
 - All U22
 - U18 AA, A, BB
 - U15 AA, A
 - U13 AA

RESCHEDULING DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER ONLY

- Both teams must agree to reschedule. Once the new date & time have been agreed upon, please email leagues@owha.on.ca with the details.

TIMEOUTS

- Playoff games MUST NOT be curfewed and no overtime.
- There will be one 30 second timeout per team per game as per Hockey Canada Playing Rules.

DISCIPLINE

- OWHA discipline is in place. All suspensions must be reported to stats@owha.on.ca as per the OWHA DISCIPLINE and PROCEDURES.
- Any participant under suspension is not permitted to participate with the team in any team related activities.
- OWHA will suspend and/or remove participants and/or teams for violations of OWHA requirements or for actions that are not consistent with the OWHA Values and Code of Conduct.
- Decisions of the OWHA are final and binding on all teams.

THERE IS NO RE-SEEDING – The higher seeded team in each series will have the first choice to host a second home game, if needed.

Playoff Series Winners

The winner of a round will be the **FIRST** team that gets to 4 points in their series. The OWHA will advance the series winner in the brackets on our website (owha.on.ca).



The first two games will end in a tie with no overtime; however, **ALL** teams should allow for an extra half an hour of ice for game three in the case that a tie must be broken by means of overtime and if needed, a shootout.

Game Length and Overtime

- Playoff game length remains the same as regular season games.
- **THERE ARE NO CURFEWS FOR PLAYOFF GAMES**
- **ALL** minor penalties, misconducts and suspensions carry into the overtime period AND shootout.
- **ONE 30 second** timeout is permitted per game; If not used in regulation time, the timeout can be used during overtime.
- Game one and game two will end in a tie.

- If a winner is not determined by the end of regulation time in the third game, a 10-minute overtime period will be played (stop time), (Four Skaters and a goalie) **FOUR ON FOUR**. If the game is still tied, the game will then go to a shootout.

UPDATE – FEBRUARY 27th, 2025

IMPORTANT CLARIFICATION:

Please be advised and disregard the overtime reference for the OWHL was posted on February 24th, as it was posted in error. If a fourth period is required, it is **NOT** a new game, it is an overtime period that is simply a continuation of a current game that is in place to determine the team to advance and win the series.

Below is the correct process to follow:

The 4th period of the game is simply a continuation of that game. This is a full 10-minute overtime to break the tie. This overtime is not considered sudden victory.

The 10-minute overtime period will be played (stop time), (four skaters and a goalie) 4 on 4. If necessary, and if the game is still tied, the game will then go into a shootout.

Any penalties that have not expired at the completion of the third period will carry over to the overtime. Any participant removed from the game or ineligible for participation in the game is not eligible to participate in the overtime or shootout.

Only participants who were in the original game are eligible for overtime.

There is only 1 time out per team in the game. The 1 time out per team may be used in regulation time or in the overtime period.

If a winner is not determined by the end of the regulation time in the 3rd game, a 10-minute overtime period will be played.

If overtime is required to determine who wins a series, the clock needs to be reset to a 0, 0 score at the beginning of the 10 minutes overtime.



Shootout Rules

1. If the game is still tied at the end of overtime, we will proceed with a 5-player shootout immediately after the overtime with no time out. Each team selects five different shooters to go for the five rounds of the shootout, each team shoots once per round. Players alternate shot attempts in the **five-round** shoot-out, skating alone down the ice in attempt to score on the opposing goalie, only one team shoots at a time. If teams score the same number of goals in the five rounds, then it goes round by round until one team scores and the other does not. The same player cannot take the shot until all players with the team with the shortest roster have shot. At that time can start new rotation. Excluding goaltenders.
2. A player serving a penalty at the end of overtime is **INELIGABLE** to partake in the shootout and a replacement player must be appointed in their place.
3. The home team will have the option of shooting first or second. The teams will then alternate the players shooting on the opposing goalie – They **DO NOT** shoot at the same time.
4. Once the player completes their shot, they are to proceed to the penalty box. It is the responsibility of the timekeeper to keep track of the players' numbers, and it will be the responsibility of the home team to ensure the timekeeper is aware of their responsibilities.
5. If still tied after the shootout, a sudden victory shootout will take place. Each team will send out one player at a time until one team scores and the other does not.

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP AND Tier II CHAMPIONSHIP INFORMATION

- The 2025 OWHL League Championships and Tier II Championships are currently scheduled for March 29-30th, 2025 (Southern) April 5th (Eastern)
- Ice is currently blocked at multiple facilities.

OWHA reserves the right to interpret and update the material above and make decisions as it deems appropriate for the OWHL Playoffs and the League and Tier II Championship games.



We thank everyone involved for their cooperation and support in providing a fair and supportive playoff series for all participants. We wish everyone well and are available to assist as required.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email leagues@owha.on.ca