



2024 Guardian's Cup Information & Rules:

GENERAL INFORMATION

- All games will be played in accordance with USA Hockey rules.
- The home team will wear white/light jerseys and visitors wear dark.
- Teams / Officials must be ready to start games up to 15 minutes early.
- Sunday championship games will be complete by 1:00 pm.
- Schedule will be released at tournament director discretion.

OFFICIALS

- A zero-tolerance for verbal abuse is in effect and will be enforced for all team officials, players, and spectators.
- 2-person officiating system

TOURNAMENT RULES

- No body checking will be permitted.
- NO TOURNAMENT OFFICIAL has the right to change a score sheet or reverse a call from a referee. Once the game is over the score sheet is FINAL.
- Please refer to the USA Hockey playing rule book for all rules for 2021-2025.

- Players will be allowed to ice the puck during a penalty kill. Delayed offside's will be in effect for the tournament. Please refer to USAH Rules 624 (b1) and 630 (d) for clarification.
- Minor penalties - 1:30 minutes
- Major penalties - 4:00 minutes
- Misconduct penalties - 8:00 minutes
- Game misconduct - Player will be ejected for the remainder of that game (suspensions are subject to tournament director and staff discretion)
- Running time will be in effect during the 3rd period, only when a team is winning by 6 goals. Stop-time will resume once the score is within 2 goals.
- Teams are permitted **one** 60-second timeout per game, including any overtime periods.
- Players and coaches should report to the arena at least one hour prior to each game.
- A maximum of four team officials may be on the player's bench at one time.
- Team personnel are any non-playing persons not in uniform on the players' bench. A player or goalkeeper on the roster who is unable to play, other than through suspension, may be on the players' bench without being considered a team personnel if he is wearing the team jersey and all required head and face protective equipment.

SCORING

- All divisions will be scored; 3 points for a regulation win, 2 points for a shootout win, 1 point for a shootout loss, and 0 points for a regulation loss.
- For tiebreaker purposes, shootout goals for and shootout goals against will not count

- Any forfeited games will be recorded as a 1-0 score. Any forfeited games affecting another team's playoff status, may be reviewed by the Tournament Director to determine which teams advance beyond preliminary round play. Use of ineligible players will disqualify a team from the tournament.
- All games played by a disqualified team will be forfeited. No money will be refunded.
- Scores will be posted with a goal differential no greater than 7.

TIEBREAKERS

To determine teams advancing to the semi and final rounds. If more than 2 teams are tied, as soon as the tie is broken, the tiebreaker is reapplied to any remaining ties (ex. If three teams are tied, the goal quotient is applied. Then, if applicable, revert back to head-to-head for the remaining two teams). For tiebreaker purposes, shootout goals for and shootout goals against will not count.

1. Total Team Points
2. Head-to-Head (two-team tiebreaker only)
3. Goal Quotient = Goals For / (Goals For + Goals Against)
4. Least Goals Allowed
5. Goals For
6. Fewest Penalty Minutes
7. See Tournament Director for additional Tiebreakers if needed

GAME FORMAT

- 3-minute warm-up.
- 13-13-13 minute periods
- If the game is tied at the end of regulation in round-robin play, a 3v3 overtime period will take place. If the game is still tied at the end of the first overtime period, a 3-player shootout will take place.

SHOOTOUT FORMAT

Home team will decide who will shoot first. Designated shooters for both teams will alternate shots. If the score remains tied after 3 rounds, new players will participate in a sudden-death shootout. Teams may repeat players only after the first three players have shot. (Think of TJ Oshie in the 2014 Olympics.) Players with time remaining on their penalty are not eligible for the shootout. Goalies are not eligible.

CHAMPIONSHIP

Please refer to tournament scoreboards or speak to a tournament official in order to determine the playoff format for each division. It is incumbent upon the team officials/captains to confirm with a tournament representative whether or not their team has advanced beyond preliminary round play prior to leaving the arena following their final preliminary round game.

In the event a quarter, semi or final game should end in a tie, the tie will be broken in the following manner:

1. 5-minute sudden-death (3-on-3) stopped time (switch ends).
2. 5-player shootout. (Same rules apply as in prelim shootout)
3. Sudden-death shootout (both teams get to shoot each round).
4. There is no OT or shootout in consolation games.