

# 2025 Keystone State Games

## July 25 – July 27

### Ice Hockey Handbook



**Hosted By:**

Pegula Ice Arena

**Competition Site:**

Pegula Ice Arena

**Sport Director:**

Kathy Santora

**Region Coordinators:**

Central Region  
Ken Wolfarth

East Region  
TJ Plaughner

South Region  
Sam Gallen &  
William Weil

West Region  
Will Miller

Female Coordinator (All Regions): Rena Leone



## TRYOUT/TRIAL PROCEDURES

1. The intent of the format for any team sport in the Keystone State Games is to involve the most participants while building competitive teams to represent the region at the Finals. Ice hockey has chosen the format of registration as individuals and tryout as individuals for selection to a roster for the Finals competition. Ice Hockey has also chosen to consolidate the regions into four areas.
2. Eligibility- Age will be determined by the players' age on December 31, 2024.  
19U Female players will be age 19 and under, with birth dates in the calendar years of 2005 and 2011.  
18U players will be 18 and 17 years old, with birth dates in the calendar years of 2006 and 2007.  
16U players will be 16 and 15 years old, with birth dates in the calendar years of 2008 and 2009.  
14U players will be 14 and 13 years old, with birth dates in the calendar years of 2010 and 2011.  
12U players will be 12 and 11 years old,, with birth dates in the calendar years of 2012 and 2013.  
Only the 12U Division may include both male and female players on the same team.
3. Players, in all divisions, must tryout for his/her region based on their county of residence. If a player is temporarily residing in another area at the time of the tryout, permission must be obtained from the Competition Committee prior to the tryout, to allow the athlete to tryout in their area of temporary residence.
4. Non-Region Players: All regions will work together to ensure each region has teams at all age levels for that year's event. Players that attended a tryout in their own region, but not selected for a team, shall be given the first opportunity to help another region that has low tryout numbers. No other "non-region" players shall be used unless both Region Coordinators involved (the region of the player's residence and the region with low numbers) work with the Sport Director. This "lending" of players to ensure healthy rosters for all age levels and regions shall be for one year only. These players must "return" to and attend a tryout for their region based on residence for the following year.
5. Each Region Coordinator is responsible for developing a comprehensive and fair Player Evaluation Form, well in advance of the first tryout, to be used for evaluation of players and selection to rosters in all divisions in their area. The exact format may vary between regions/areas. A blank evaluation form must be available for inspection by players prior to the tryout.
6. The selection of players to the Finals roster will be made by a competent panel of evaluators. If none of the team coaches are on the panel then the Selection Panel will contain a minimum of three people, with five being the recommended size. If one, two or all three of the team coaches are on the panel, then the Selection Panel must contain at least five selectors. Members of the Selection Panel will be representative of the entire region/area, not just the coaching staff or a limited portion of the region/area. The Region Coordinator will chair the Selection Panel.
7. To be eligible for selection to the Finals roster an athlete must attend at least one tryout/trial and be properly evaluated. When there are large turnouts of athletes it is recommended that any athlete considered for selection attend one tryout, be invited to the final trial, and attend the final trial.  
NOTE: It is understood that at this time some ice hockey areas conduct one or more tryouts for a division to make the roster selection, and do not have a final trial.

8. Prior to the first tryout, the person conducting the tryout will receive the link to verify any pre-registered athletes from their region. An email will be sent with updated registered athletes about 3 days before the second tryout.
9. At each athlete's initial tryout all the data for the Team Roster Form will be recorded (position, birth year, current team, grade, USA Hockey number, etc).
10. The tryout will be conducted in a professional manner, ensuring that each attendee is given a fair and proper opportunity for selection to the Finals roster. The pre-published Player Evaluation Form will be used and followed closely.
11. For those areas using the tryout-final trial format each attendee should be told that they are "invited" or "not invited" to the final trial. They **MUST** be informed before they leave the tryout venue.
12. Prior to the final tryout in their area, each Region Coordinator will receive a blank copy of the Team Roster Form that must be completed after the final tryout and submitted to the Sport Director and the KSG office. The Team Roster Form may also be available on the KSG website. The properly completed Team Roster Form should be submitted one week after the final tryout, with July 15 being the deadline for submitting the roster and/or any roster changes to the office. The July 15 date is set to allow the athlete to be entered into the registration system, and for completing the Finals ice hockey program. **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO SUBMIT ANY ROSTER CHANGES TO THE KSG OFFICE AFTER THE JULY 15 DATE.**
13. It is **STRONGLY** recommended that the Selection Panel meet at the trial site immediately after the conclusion of the final tryout/trial, make their roster selections, and announce them before the athletes leave the venue. Be sure to notify any athletes not in attendance at the final tryout/trial.
14. If the roster announcement is not made at the venue, then phone or email contact **MUST** be done for each athlete that participated at the tryout/final trial. Communication should be made as quickly as possible. **EVERY ATHLETE WILL BE CONTACTED!**
15. Twenty players will be selected for each roster, and **ONLY 20** players will go to the Finals. **THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS "ALTERNATES"**. The coach will know the next player or two from the evaluations, but he/she should keep this to themselves. If one of the first 20 players selected drops out, then the coach is ready with a replacement.
16. A full 20 players must be selected for the roster if at least 20 players tried out. The KSG has advertised a roster of 20 players for ice hockey. The athletes have paid their money and tried out with the understanding 20 players will be on the roster.
17. The normal KSG policy regarding selection of players to an IH roster when 20 or less players attend the tryouts, in a region for one division of play, is that all attendees must be taken on the roster before going outside the tryouts to fill the roster. Recently, in a team sport there was an instance where a player who was properly registered attended a tryout, but whose skill level was so far below the other athletes trying out that allowing this person to compete would create a safety factor during the competition and/or travesty in the quality of competition. If the Selection Panel (not just one person or just the coaching staff) determines this to be the case for a player, then after notifying the Sport Director and the KSG Office of the situation the RC may inform the player and their parents of the Selection Panel decision not to place him/her on a roster. **REMEMBER**, this will only occur when there are 20 or less players trying out in a division in one region.

18. The KSG Ice Hockey Finalist Information letter can be found on the website and should be given to each athlete selected for the roster. It congratulates the player and provides basic information about the Finals.
19. Dual-Rostering: Players are permitted to be rostered on only one roster each year. If a concern arises, due to extremely low roster size, consideration for dual-rostering of age-eligible players may be given for safety reason only, not to increase competitiveness. These players shall be approved on a case-by-case basis by the KSG Ice Hockey committee at the pre-competition meeting. Players may only be moved up, never down and may not appear on a roster until committee approval has been received.
20. The KSG does not have a “must play” rule, and ice hockey has not implemented one. Each coach should ensure that every player and their parents are fully aware of this at or before the time of selection. Although there is not a “must play” rule every effort should be made to involve each athlete on the roster. There should be several opportunities for players to enter the game. Bringing a player to the Finals and then having him/her sit on the bench for these games is unacceptable.
21. A maximum of four (4) coaches in accordance with USA Hockey playing rules, or three (3) coaches and a general manager are authorized and recognized for each ice hockey team. The KSG policy authorizes a maximum of 20 players on an ice hockey team. General Managers shall be required to assist with game operations as needed, such as scorekeeping, timekeeping and/or penalty box.
22. When listing players on the roster sheet the “Shirt #” column is for the shirt number the player will wear at the Finals. Players shall be assigned numbers 2-19 and goaltenders 1 & 30. Both 18U & 16U/Midget players will receive 18-XXL & 2-XXXL; 14U/Bantam and 19U Female 18-XL & 2XXL; 12U/Pee Wee players 18-L and 2-XL. Letting players wear numbers other than what is listed in the program is very confusing to anyone in attendance. If the players are listed on the Team Roster Form without a number shown when the roster is submitted, then players will be assigned shirt numbers in order from top to bottom as listed on the form. If goaltenders are indicated, they will be assigned shirt numbers 1 & 30. If a different shirt size is needed the KSG office must be informed by June 15.
23. The Team Roster Form should be filled out with complete information for each player and each coach. The Team Roster Forms are due into the KSG office within one week after the final tryout, with July 15<sup>th</sup> being the absolute final date.
24. Roster changes may not be submitted after the July 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. Any changes after this date shall be made at the pre-competition meeting at the Finals site. The latest Team Roster Forms shall be submitted to the Sport Director and will be available at the pre-competition meetings for each coach to verify.
25. No refund of the Finals Fee will be made when a roster change is made. If the athlete is not replaced he/she forfeits the fee. If the athlete is replaced the two athletes involved must work out the exchange on their own.

NOTE: Ice Hockey tryouts will be limited to two sessions for each division of play, with a session being approximately one hour in length. Exception, if the total ice time cost for an area can be kept at or below \$1,600 then additional sessions may be scheduled.

## FINALS PROCEDURES

1. There will be one pre-competition meeting to cover all five (5) age divisions. Each team must have a coach, coordinator, or person representing their team, at the meeting. The meeting location and time shall be part of the game schedule completed each year.
2. Playing rules, outlined in the current year's USA Hockey Official Rules of Ice Hockey book, along with the USAH District & National Championship Tournament Guidebook, will be used for 12U, 14U, 16U, 18U and 19U Female, without modification. Fighting will not be tolerated at any level. The current USA Hockey Annual Guide will be used for other administrative items and discipline. Clarification of any questions will be handled at the pre-competition meeting.
  - a. KSG ice hockey games will use the three-official system, using one referee and two linesmen and may use the four-official system.
  - b. A volunteer staff will perform the scorekeeping, timing and game announcing functions. Please be cooperative, respectful, and appreciative of their efforts.
  - c. Teams shall provide a locker room monitor as required by USA Hockey.
  - d. Players that are assessed a match penalty will be disqualified from the remainder of the tournament. USA Hockey's Standard of Play and Rule Emphasis will be followed by the officials.. The Discipline Committee set forth by the Sport Director will take a hard line on matters brought before it.
  - e. All games will be played to conclusion (winner determined). Games are scheduled every 1.5-2 hours on a rink - game duration approximately 1.15 – 1.75 hours, with appropriate ice cuts and brief warm-up time.
3. 12U Division games shall be three (3) thirteen (13) minute stop-clock periods, with no ice cuts during the game.  
14U, 16U and 19U Divisions shall play three (3) fifteen (15) minute stop-clock periods with no ice cuts during the game.  
18U Division games shall be three (3) seventeen (17) minute stop-clock periods with an ice cut after the 2<sup>nd</sup> period.
4. OVERTIME: In the event of a tie game, there will be a sudden death overtime period of five (5) minutes. Sudden Death is defined as the team scoring first wins and the game ends. USAH rules found in the District and National Tournament Guidebook, Section 2, U. Method of Determining Champion will apply with the following exceptions: overtime shall be 5 on 5 play for five (5) minutes. Points shall be awarded as outlined under Pool Play in these procedures.
5. SHOOTOUT: At the conclusion of the five (5) minute overtime, if no goal has been scored, the game shall be decided in a shootout as outlined in the USA Hockey District and National Championship Tournament Guidebook, Section 2, U. Method of Determining Champion, (1) (c) Shootout Procedure, along with the following found in USAH Playing Rule 406 (c) "Penalty Shot":
  - The puck shall be placed on the center ice face-off spot
  - On the instruction of the referee, the player taking the shot will play the puck from there

- Once the player has touched the puck, it must be kept in motion toward the goal line
- No goal can be scored on a rebound of any kind
- Any time the puck crosses the goal line the shot shall be considered complete
- The goalkeeper must remain in the crease until the player has touched the puck
- All players, except the current shooter, shall remain on their respective team bench.

If after the shootout, the score remains tied, new skaters shall be chosen in sudden death format, one for each team until only one of the two scores, as outlined in the USA Hockey District and National Championship Tournament Guidebook, Section 2, U.1.(d) Sudden Death Shootout, with the following exceptions:

- All skaters on the game score sheet must participate in sudden death before a player shall be given a second opportunity to participate, except if one bench is shorter (less players) than the other. In that case, when the shortest bench reaches their last shooter both teams may choose to return to the beginning of their line up.
  - Goalkeepers shall not change ends
6. No roster changes are allowed after the pre-competition meeting. After this time, regardless of the reason for losing a player the team must continue with the roster as submitted. Remember, no roster changes can be made with the KSG office after July 15. Beyond that date any roster change must be made at the Finals site and declared at the pre-competition meeting. A REPLACEMENT PLAYER MUST HAVE ATTENDED A TRYOUT AND BE PROPERLY REGISTERED AT THE FINALS BEFORE HE/SHE WILL BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE.
  7. Rosters will be verified at the pre-competition meeting for each division. Any roster changes made at the meeting will be indicated on a copy of the Team Roster Form. Those changes will be submitted to the Sport Director and sent to Registration.
  8. Lineups will be submitted as prescribed by the Game Day Protocol.
  9. The team bench alignment will be prescribed by the rules, and/or at the direction of the Sport Director.
  10. Games will start on the scheduled time. In the event of unforeseen difficulties, games may start prior to the scheduled start time or may be delayed. It is vitally important that the Sport Director have a local phone number for each team contact.
  11. All practice opportunities must be completed prior to the beginning of the tournament. Teams will not be allowed to practice at the tournament venue. Any breach of these rules will result in disciplinary action.
  12. Warm-up time on ice will be brief, so players should do stretching exercises before going on the ice. All coaches are asked to cooperate in maintaining the schedule.
  13. The locker rooms will be locked while the teams are on the ice; nevertheless, teams should use caution by turning in their valuables to the team manager or another designated person. Neither the Keystone State Games nor the tournament venue will be responsible for lost or stolen items.
  14. All players regardless of age must comply with USA Hockey equipment rules, this shall include neck

guards/laceration protectors. They shall wear HECC facemasks and helmets. Helmets must have the ear protection in place. There will be NO EXCEPTIONS! All players, including the goalkeepers, must wear a colored internal mouthpiece. Socks will not be provided, so players should be reminded to bring their own.

15. No protests on judgment calls or rules interpretations are allowed. Any disagreements must be resolved before the puck is next put into play. The referee's decision is final.
16. The only protest allowed is for an ineligible player—an older division player participating in a younger division, AND/OR, participation by a non-Pennsylvania resident. A younger division player playing in an older division is not cause for a protest.
17. The Competition Committee set forth by the Sport Director is the final authority on all protests.
18. Each team will be provided with uniform shirts corresponding to one of the region's color within the area. These shirts must be worn during competition.
19. Regional Colors: Central- Blue/White East-White/Burgundy South-Red/White West- Black/Gold
20. Prior to the first game for each team, each player on the roster will be asked to show their ID to the Site Coordinator. For ice hockey, this responsibility may be delegated to each Region Coordinator for the teams from their area.
21. Pool Play
  - a. The standings in pool play will determine medalists, and standings are based upon win-loss-OT/SO win/loss points.
  - b. Points are awarded as such:
    - i. 3 points will be awarded for a win in regulation.
    - ii. 2 points will be awarded for a win in overtime/shootout
    - iii. 1 point will be awarded for a loss in overtime/shootout
    - iv. 0 points will be awarded for a loss in regulation.
  - c. If two or more teams have an equal number of points, the following criteria will be used to determine pool position and medal positions. If at any point during the application of the tie-breakers, any or all of the teams can be given a higher or lower position than the other teams, that team or teams will be placed in their position in the standings and the tie-breaking process will begin at step 1 for any teams that remain tied.

The tie-breakers shall be as follows:

The results of only the head-to-head games played between the tied teams in the following order:

1. Most points earned (head-to-head winner)
2. Most total wins (whether in regulation, overtime and shootout)
3. Most regulation wins
4. Goal Differential – subtracting goals against from goals for in these games, the positions being determined in order of the greatest surplus. A maximum goal differential of plus or minus eight (8) per game will be used in tie-breakers.
5. Most periods won – in the games played by each tied team, points will be awarded for each



regulation period won (2 points) and for each regulation period tied (1 point). Positions shall be in the order of highest point total.

**NOTE:** A team may go into the tie-breaking process having defeated another of the tied teams and still not be positioned higher.

22. Due to occurrences that can delay the schedule, teams must be prepared to play well beyond the original printed schedule. Failure of a team to be ready to play according to these guidelines may result in a forfeiture of that game.

23. All divisions—must be available for a start time as late as 5:00 pm the final day of competition.

#### 24. Game Day Protocol

- 1 hour prior to game time, all staff and players report to rink. Team staff member to get locker room key and check for any damage prior to players entering.
- All players and staff should be ready to take the ice 15 minutes prior to scheduled game time. On Ice Officials to notify both teams when ice is ready for warm-ups.
- There will be a four (4) minute warm-up. When the horn sounds, all players should pick up pucks and return them to bench.
- FOR POOL PLAY GAMES: the PA announcer will introduce each starting player by name and number while players are warming up. Players should not stop their warm-up for this announcement.
- Intermission between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> periods shall be one minute for all age levels.
- All 12U, 14U, 16U and 19U games shall have a two-minute intermission/rest period between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> periods with no ice cut.
- During 18U games, at end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> period, the team closest to their locker room will exit the ice first, followed by the other team. The referees will notify both teams when ice is ready. Starters will immediately line up for face off, with all non-starters going directly to their respective bench.
- FOR ALL MEDAL GAMES: All players should line up on their respective goal lines. The PA announcer will introduce each starting player by number and name. When announced, each player will skate to his/her respective Blue Lines and face their opponent. All non-starters will then be asked to skate to Blue Line to join starters. The only time you may turn your back to your opponent is during the playing of the National Anthem.
- When the PA announcer asks everyone to rise for the National Anthem, all players will turn and face the Flag. Referees are asked to line up at Center Ice. Players and referees must remove their helmet.
- When anthem is over, all non-starters are to go directly to their bench. Starters will line up for face off.
- Intermission for all medal games shall follow the same procedures as above for each age level.

## SHARRER CUP CRITERIA

Ice Hockey implemented a Cup Award in 2005. It is called the Sharrer Cup. The teams in each division will earn points based upon their standings from pool play and medal game wins along with medal points listed below. The points for all five division teams in a region will be added together, and the region with the greatest point total wins the Cup. The Cup will be etched with the year and winning region's name and will be presented prior to the first game for that region in the following year's games.

### SCORING

When play is completed, as scheduled

- Points will be awarded after the medals and positions are determined in each division as follows:
  - Gold medal team 10
  - Silver medal team 7
  - Bronze medal team 4
  - 4th place team 2
- No points are awarded if a team fails to show or fails to complete play on their own volition.
- Three points will be added for each victory in regulation time, two points added for a win in overtime/shootout and one point added for a loss in overtime.

When play cannot be completed in a division, or divisions, the following will be used to award points for that division(s).

- If pool play cannot be completed but medals are awarded on partial play then points in that division(s) will be awarded on medals/position, and pool play win points will only be added if all four teams play an equal number of games.
- If pool play cannot be completed, and no medals are awarded based upon partial play in division(s), then that division (those divisions) will not contribute points toward the region's total.
- If pool play cannot be completed and no medals are awarded in any division, then the Sport Leader will convene and chair a panel consisting of themselves, all Assistant Sport Leaders, the Sport Host, and the Officials Assignor. The panel will determine the region most worthy of meriting the Cup Award. The intent of this option is to present the Cup when the normal scoring options cannot be applied.

There will be one, and only one, Cup winner each year. There will be no duplicate awards presented, or ties for the Cup award.

### TIE BREAKERS

If a tie exists in total points after scoring all divisions, the following will be used to resolve the tie (proceed in order until the tie is broken).

- The area with the most gold medals.
- The area with the most silver medals.
- The area with the most bronze medals.
- The area with the most pool play wins.
- The area with the least goals allowed.
- The panel method