



TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

**Host Manual
Rules & Regulations**

2025-2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TIMELINES & CONTACT	3
OVERVIEW	4
HOST RESPONSIBILITIES	5
HOST SELECTION	6
SCHEDULES	6
NOHA RESPONSIBILITIES	7
OFFICIALS	7
OHF CHAMPIONSHIPS	8
TEAM APPLICATION	9
RULES & REGULATIONS	10
TIE-BREAKING PROCEDURES	11



TIMELINES

October 3rd	Deadline for Host Applications
November 15th	Host Confirmation
December 1st	Deadline for Team Applications
December 15th	Team List Posted
January 30th	Schedule Templates Due
February 11th	Team Rosters Due to Hosts

DATES

March 20-22, 2026	U11 AA, A, B-C, House League U15 AA, A, House League
March 27-29, 2026	U13 AA, A, B-C, House League U18 AA, A, House League
April 10-12, 2026	U10 AA, A U12 AA, A U14 AA, A U16 AA

NOHA CONTACT

Playoff Committee Chairperson
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NOHA TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

NOHA Tournament of Champions Overview

The Championship of each series in all Divisions and Categories will be contested for annually and decided by a series of games arranged by the NOHA Board of Directors called the NOHA Tournament of Champions.

In applicable age divisions, the winning Team from the NOHA Tournament of Champions will represent the NOHA at the OHF Championships.

Host Selection

1. The NOHA Tournament of Champions will be held in the months of March and April, with dates determined by the NOHA Board of Directors each season.
2. Host Applications will open August 1st of each season and will be accepted until October 3rd.
3. All Associations/Single-Entry Teams will be eligible to host the Tournament of Champions, and may apply for a higher category than they are registered.
4. All Playoffs will be in a Tournament of Champions format where sufficient entries permit. Participating teams will be guaranteed a minimum of four games in the tournament.
5. If there are fewer than two teams registered for a Tournament of Champions, it will not be held unless a winner must be declared for the OHF Championships. The winning team may be declared in a method determined by the NOHA Board of Directors.
6. If there are not enough Minor teams to host a Tournament of Champions, Minor teams may apply to participate in a Major division.
7. No team may apply to host the OHF Championships if they have not participated in the NOHA Tournament of Champions during the last three years.

Team Selection

1. Teams must apply to participate by December 1st along with their registration fee. If the registration fee is not received by December 1st, the Association will be invoiced the fee plus a \$250 late fee. Entries will only be accepted after the deadline in consultation with the Host.
2. Associations who field more than one team per division may apply, but if there are not enough team positions available, they may be asked to determine one team by December 31st.
3. Teams must apply for Change of Category by December 1st along with their application and registration fee. They may be moved to another Category at the discretion of the Playoff Committee.

Fees and Withdrawal

1. The NOHA Board of Directors will determine the registration fee for the Tournament of Champions.
2. Any team withdrawing from the Tournament of Champions after the deadline will forfeit their fees to the NOHA.
3. In the opinion of the NOHA Board of Directors, any team which fails to fulfill its obligation in any league playoffs or NOHA Tournament of Champions during any season will be refused entry in the NOHA for the following season and all players registered with said team will be declared free agents



HOSTING A TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

Hosting an NOHA Tournament of Champions is a prestigious and important event, and serves as the culmination of the season. NOHA Tournament of Champions are held March and April.

Host applications will be open until October 3rd, and Hosts will be selected at the October NOHA Board of Directors meeting. Associations must be in good standing with the NOHA.

HOST RESPONSIBILITIES

The Tournament Host Must:

1. Provide a table and chair for the NOHA Representative, along with an outlet and an Internet Connection. This table will be for registration, electronic gamesheet management, trophy display, and any other NOHA information.
2. Secure appropriate ice time, change rooms, on and off-ice Officials, and volunteers to run the tournament. The Host must book an extra hour of ice in case of delays, or have an agreement with the facility. A minimum of two volunteers must be available at all times during the Tournament.
3. Secure hotel accommodations/room blocks for participating Teams. Hotel information is to be included in the Host Information Package. The Host is not responsible for any accommodation charges.
4. Complete the Tournament Schedule as per the NOHA Schedule Template. Ensure adequate flooding is arranged.
5. Ensure there are two iPads and chargers available for electronic gamesheets.
6. Provide warmup and game pucks.
7. Create a plan to present MVP Awards, Medals, and the winning Trophy. The NOHA Representative will assist in handing out the Championship Medals and Trophy, but the ceremony is to be completed by the Tournament Host.
8. Provide a **large**, physical scoreboard to be displayed and updated by the Host volunteers.
9. **Uphold the Tournament to NOHA Tournament of Champions standards. Successful tournaments include healthy snacks for players, local promotions, and good organization.**



HOSTING A TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

HOST SELECTION

Once Hosts are selected, there will be a Host Zoom Call with the NOHA to discuss timelines and best practices. This is a good time to begin partnerships within your community for sponsorships, apparel, etc.

SCHEDULES

1. After **December 1st**, Hosts will be forwarded the final Team List, a Schedule Template, and Scheduling Guidelines. Schedule Templates will be completed based on travel and available standings. Every effort must be made to accommodate travel and diversity of play. Any requested time or position changes must be forwarded to the Playoffs Chairperson and NOHA Office for approval.
2. Completed schedules must be forwarded to the Playoffs Chairperson, NOHA Council Director, and NOHA Office by **January 30th**. If Hosting more than one Tournament, an overall schedule must accompany individual schedules.
3. Schedules will be approved by the Playoff Committee within 7 days of receipt. If schedules are not received by **January 30th**, the Playoff Committee will complete them.
4. Upon approval, Schedules will be sent to Teams and posted on the NOHA website. **No changes may be made without approval.**
5. Opening Ceremonies, if held, must be included on the schedule and Teams must be advised. They will not exceed 15 minutes, and Teams are not obligated to participate.
6. During Daylight Savings Time, games cannot begin until 9:00am.

OFFICIALS & TIMEKEEPERS

Hosts must work with the Referee-in-Chief to ensure on-ice Officials are booked before February 15th.

Hosts must ensure properly trained Timekeepers are booked for each game. Timekeepers must be able to properly complete a game sheet and be able to make announcements on the public address system (if available) and be of an appropriate age according to the division being played. A schedule of Timekeepers must be provided.



HOSTING A TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

NOHA RESPONSIBILITIES

The NOHA will:

1. Collect all registration fees.
2. Approve all tournament schedules prior to sending.
3. Send the Host portion of the fee for each entry in the tournament to the Host Centre at least one week prior to the tournament as follows:
 - **U10 & U11 | U11 House League - \$1180.00**
 - **U12 & 13 | U13, U15, U18 House League - \$1267.00**
 - **U14 & U15 - \$1356.00**
 - **U18 - \$1455.00**
4. Provide Championship and Finalist medallions for presentation at the conclusion of the Tournament of Champions.
5. Provide Championship trophy to winning team for presentation and allow the team to keep the trophy until they leave the ice after the Championship game.
6. Supply the winning team with Championship Hats.
7. Ensure that a Council Director or their Appointee will be present at all Tournament games to confirm rosters and update scores.
8. Ensure that the Referee-In-Chief or their Appointee will be available should any problems arise.

OFFICIALS

1. The NOHA District Referee-in-Chief will oversee the Tournament of Champions.
2. Should the Referee-in-Chief not be available, they shall appoint a qualified person with the approval of the NOHA Council Director.
3. The Officiating system must be as follows:
 - U11 - Two Officials
 - U13 - U15 - One Referee and Two Linespersons
 - U18 - Four Officials
 - Any changes must be requested and approved by the Playoff Committee.
4. Officiating rates will be as listed on the NOHA website.

OHF CHAMPIONSHIPS

The winner of the NOHA Tournament of Champions in the Divisions of U13 AA, U13 A, U15 AA, U15 A, U18 AA, and U18 A will represent the NOHA at the OHF Championships.

If the NOHA is hosting the OHF Championship and the Host Team qualifies for the Tournament of Champions Finals, then the Winner and Finalist will both represent the NOHA.



TEAM APPLICATION

1. Teams may apply to participate in the NOHA Tournament of Champions by completing the Team Application form on the NOHA website.

Applications and fees must be received at the NOHA Office by December 1st. This includes the Host Team. After December 1st, if applying Teams have not paid, the Association will be invoiced the fee plus a \$250.00 late fee.

The fees for the 2025-2026 season are as follows:

- **U10 & U11** \$930.00 plus \$120 HST plus \$250 Team Fee, plus \$150 NOHA fee – **\$1450.00**
- **U12 & U13** \$1017 plus \$133 HST plus \$250 Team Fee, plus \$150 NOHA fee – **\$1550.00**
- **U14 & U15** \$1105.00 plus \$144 HST plus \$250 Team Fee, plus \$150 NOHA fee – **\$1650.00**
- **U18** \$1195.00 plus \$155 HST plus \$250 Team Fee, plus \$150 NOHA fee – **\$1750.00**

2. Change of Category requests must be received with the application by December 1st. Criteria for Change of Category can be found on the NOHA Website.

3. Associations with multiple teams in any one category may apply; however, where additional entries cannot be accepted, the Playoff Committee will notify the Association by December 31st, and the participating Team will need to be identified by **January 30th**.

4. A complete Team List/Roster with Player Numbers must be sent to the Host Contact by **February 11th**.

7. The NOHA Tournament of Champions takes precedence over any other tournaments or league games.

8. The NOHA Tournament of Champions is optional. Please refer to the NOHA Constitution Regulation 11 for all regulations related to the Tournament of Champions.

9. NOHA AA League Playoffs will be the NOHA Tournament of Champions.

HOUSE LEAGUE

The first ten teams to apply and pay will be selected for the House League Tournament of Champions. 2025-2026 fees:

- **U11 House League** \$930.00 plus \$120 HST plus \$250 Team Fee, plus \$150 NOHA fee – **\$1450.00**
- **U13, U15, U18 House League** \$1017 plus \$133 HST plus \$250 Team Fee, plus \$150 NOHA fee – **\$1550.00**



RULES & REGULATIONS

1. GAMEPLAY

- Teams are guaranteed a minimum of 4 games in a Preliminary Series format leading up to the Semi-Final and Final Games on Sunday.
- During the Preliminary Series, Teams will be given 2 points for a win, and 1 for a tie.
- There will be no overtime in Preliminary Series games.

2. GAME SCHEDULING

- At least 3 hours must lapse between games in any series (the end of the 1st game and start of 2nd game for each team).
- No games are to be scheduled before 8:00 a.m. or after 9:00 p.m. For U11, the Preliminary Series games must be ended by 8:45 p.m.
- Teams will not play more than two games per day.

3. SWEATERS

- Home Teams should wear light-coloured sweaters and socks, and visiting Teams should wear dark-coloured sweaters and socks.
- In case of a sweaters conflict, the team with two sets of sweaters will wear the opposite colour, or the Host will provide the extra sweaters.

4. All games will be played as follows:

	Stop Time (3 Periods)	Scheduling Time
U11 U13/U15/U18 House League	13 minute stop time	1 hour & 15 minutes
U13	14 minute stop time	1 hour & 25 minutes
U15 & U18	15 minute stop time	1 hour & 45 minutes

The ice will be re-surfaced as follows:

- Warm-ups will be 5 minutes in length.
- No flood for U11 teams between the 2nd and 3rd period, but a 2-minute break at the bench.
- U13, U15, & U18 – flood between the 2nd and 3rd period and after the game OR every second period. This must be announced before the start of the Tournament.
- Overtime – after the first 10-minute overtime period in an elimination game, the ice will be resurfaced. It will then be resurfaced every second period.



RULES & REGULATIONS

5. NOHA Tournament of Champions will be played under Official Hockey Canada, OHF, and NOHA Rules and Regulations.
6. Time-outs are allowed for all divisions of hockey in the NOHA. Each team shall be permitted to take one 30-second time-out during the course of regular playing time or overtime.
7. Team Representatives must declare the NOHA Team Roster in front of NOHA Representative at registration. Once the roster has been declared, it cannot be changed.
8. Affiliated players will be allowed among the Team's 20 players and must be declared at registration and appear on the team's HCR Roster.
 - If two affiliated teams play the same weekend, the names should be included at registration on the Hockey Canada Approved Roster Sheet. The only time they can use these affiliated players is when the lower team has finished their series.
9. If any player or team official is ordered to the dressing room for the balance of the game, they shall be subject to further disciplinary action as deemed necessary by the NOHA Representative.
10. Game Forfeit (as per OHF Regulation A6) – When a game is declared forfeited due to the non-appearance of the Team (Hockey Canada Rule 10.14d), the Team in attendance shall be declared the winner and the score recorded as 5-0. The incident shall be reported to the League / Association President to take any further actions as may be authorized in the organization's by-laws and regulations.
11. TIE BREAKING – **See Tie-Breaking Document.**
12. In the Semi-Final and Championship games, the Home team will be determined by the following:

One Division	Home Team is the highest placed in Preliminary Series
Two Equal Divisions	If two first-place Teams win Semi-Finals, then the two-Team tie breaking rule is used.
	If one Team won their Division and the other came second, the Team that won will be Home Team.
	If the Teams come from the same Division, then the First-Place Team will be Home.
Seven or Nine Teams	Coin Toss by NOHA Representative in presence of a representative from both Teams.



RULES & REGULATIONS

13. The Semi-Final and Final games will be played until a Winner is declared. If at the end of regulation time the score is still tied, the teams shall take a two-minute rest at their benches and the following will then apply:

- 1.If the Referee feels it is necessary, they may order the ice to be cleaned at the end of the three regulation periods.
- 2.Teams shall not change ends.
- 3.The puck shall be faced off at centre ice and the play shall continue with a ten-minute sudden-victory overtime period.
- 4.If the score is still tied after the sudden-victory ten-minute period, the teams take normal break between periods and return to play sudden victory periods of normal length per division. They now change ends.
- 5.The ice will be resurfaced after the first 10-minute overtime period, then be resurfaced every second period.
- 6.Any overtime period is considered part of the game and all unexpired penalties remain in force.
- 7.If either team declines to play in the necessary overtime period(s), the game will be declared a loss for that team.
- 8.The NOHA Representative or their Appointee has the authority to render a decision under any emergency situation.

14. Teams will shake hands before the game.

15. Notwithstanding the provisions set forth in the NOHA, OHF, Hockey Canada Constitutions, By-Laws and Regulations, or the NOHA Tournament of Champions Rules and Regulations, the NOHA President or their designate may grant special dispensation from these Constitutions, By-Laws, and Regulations. Any decision as to what qualifies for special dispensation, shall rest solely with the NOHA President or their designate in its absolute unfettered discretion, and the decision based on its own merits of the situation on special dispensation shall be final and binding upon all parties.

16. Opening Ceremonies

1. Teams must be advised in advance and have the option of participating.
2. Participating players must be in full equipment.
3. Must be included on the approved schedule and should not exceed 15 minutes.

17. Closing Ceremonies

1. Officials remain on the ice.
2. Medals are presented to Teams.
3. The trophy is given to the winning Team and returned once they are finished.



TIE-BREAKING PROCEDURES

In the event of teams being tied at the end of the Round Robin series, for any position, the following procedure will be used to break a tie:

TWO TEAMS:

- **a)** The team with the most wins will take the higher position.
- **b)** If still tied, the winner of the game(s) between those two teams will take the higher position.
- **c)** If still tied, the team with the best goal average will take the higher position. All Round Robin games are included.
- **d)** If still tied, the team that scored the first goal in the game involving both teams will take the higher position.
- **e)** If still tied, the team with the lowest number of penalty minutes during the Round Robin will take the higher position. (GM= 10 minutes, MP=15 minutes, GRM=10 minutes, Misconduct =10 minutes).
- **f)** If still tied, a coin toss will determine the higher position. The coin toss will be done by the NOHA Representative in the presence of a representative from each team. The NOHA Rep will assign which team is Heads or Tails.

THREE to FIVE TEAMS:

- **aa)** The team with the most wins will take the higher position.
- **bb)** If still tied, the team with the higher percentage will take first, the rest placing in order.
- **cc)** If still tied, the team with the lowest number of penalty minutes during the Round Robin will take the higher position.
- **dd)** If still tied, a coin toss will determine the higher position. The coin toss will be done by the NOHA Representative in the presence of a representative from each team. The NOHA Rep will assign which team is Heads or Tails.
- **ee)** If 3 or more teams are still tied, then the NOHA Representative will place each team's name in a hat. The first team's name pulled will be the higher-placed team and so on.

SIX TEAMS:

- **aaa)** The team with the most wins will take the higher position.
- **bbb)** If any of the tied teams have played each other the winner of the game will take the higher position. If they did not play each other then go to (ccc).
- **ccc)** The team with the higher percentage (1.0 being the highest attainable) will take the higher position as first place.
- **ddd)** The team with the second best goal average will take the higher position-as second place.
- **eee)** The team with the third best goal average will take the higher position-as third place.
- **fff)** The team with the fourth best goal average will take the higher position-as fourth place.
- **ggg)** If still tied, the team who received the least number of penalty minutes during the Round Robin would take the higher position (GM=10 minutes, M= 10 minutes, MP=15 minutes, GRM= 15 minutes.)
- **hhh)** If 2 teams are still tied, have been applied, a coin toss will determine the higher position. The coin toss will be done by the NOHA Representative in the presence of a Representative from each Team. The NOHA Representative will assign which team is Heads or Tails.
- **iii)** If 3 or more teams are still tied, then the NOHA Representative will place the teams' names into a hat. The first team's name pulled will be the higher placed team and so on.

