

2025-26 OHSAA ICE HOCKEY

REGULATIONS FOR REGIONAL & STATE ICE HOCKEY TOURNAMENTS

The following regulations apply to all levels of tournament competition unless otherwise specified. These regulations have been adopted by the Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors on September 26th, 2025. The Executive Director is authorized to modify these regulations when it is deemed necessary, subject to ratification by the Board of Directors.

1. MANAGEMENT

The Board of Directors of the OHSAA will administer the Ice Hockey Tournament through the Executive Director's office.

The OHSAA maintains the authority to change the site, date or time of any REGIONAL or State Tournament assignment.

2. ICE HOCKEY TOURNAMENT PARTICIPANTS

Only recognized school teams sponsored by member schools are eligible to participate.

3. VIDEO REPLAY

Video replay, as approved by the NFHS Rules, will only be permitted at the State Semi-Finals and Finals held at Nationwide Arena. NFHS Rule 6-43: "By state association adoption, state association-authorized video replay may be used in game for reviewing goals and undetected goals, and for determining correct time on the clock. Procedures for video replay shall be determined by state association policy and procedures."

4. ELIGIBILITY

All participants must be eligible under the OHSAA Bylaws and Sports Regulations. A student who uses anabolic steroids or other performance-enhancing drugs is ineligible for interscholastic competition until such time as medical evidence can be presented that the student's system is free of anabolic steroids. Only one school team sponsored by a member school is eligible to participate.

5. RULES

2025-26 National Federation Ice Hockey Rules.

6. TIME OF GAMES AND TIME OUTS

There shall be three periods, each consisting of 17 minutes of actual play, with intermissions of 12 minutes each between periods.

At the discretion of the site manager, resurfacing of the ice may be forgone between periods one and two, resulting in a reduction of the first intermission to 10 minutes. **During the REGIONAL semi-finals and finals, the ice must be resurfaced during each intermission.**

Each team will be permitted to take one time-out of one-minute during the game as outlined in NFHS Ice Hockey Rule 9-9, Section 12, art.4.

Games will be terminated after two periods, or during the third period, when a team leads another team by 10 or more goals.

A running clock will be implemented after a 6-goal differential is reached in the second period and beyond.

7. VIEWING OF STATE RULES MEETING

The head coach or athletic administrator from each school, and contest officials must view the state sponsored rules presentation to be eligible to participate in the OHSAA sponsored Ice Hockey Tournament.

8. SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

No team or individual shall be allowed to compete in the State Qualifying or State Ice Hockey Tournaments unless accompanied by a coach or person authorized by the Board of Education. The school representative shall be present throughout the tournament contest. Teams unaccompanied by such school representative or coach will be disqualified.

9. REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS

All participating schools will be assigned to a REGIONAL site by the OHSAA Office

10. SCHOOL ASSIGNMENTS

Kent State University: Jim Underwood, Associate Director, KSU Ice Arena, Kent, 44242. B: 330.672.2415; Email: junderw3@kent.edu

Schools: Aurora, Canfield, Chagrin Falls, Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy, Gilmour Academy, Hudson, Kenston, Mayfield, Mentor, Nardon, Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin, Orange, Shaker Heights, Solon, Stow-Munroe Falls, Theodore Roosevelt, Twinsburg, University School, Walsh Jesuit (19)

State Qualifiers: One team to the State Tournament at **Nationwide Arena, Columbus.**

Brooklyn Recreation Center: Dan Victor, Manager, 1714 Hunters Point., Westlake, 44145; C: 216-849-4782; Email: stoshvictor@gmail.com

Schools: Avon, Avon Lake, Bay, Benedictine, Brooklyn, Cleveland Heights, Holy Name, Lakewood, Normandy, North Olmsted, Olmsted Falls, Padua Franciscan, Rocky River, St Edward, St Ignatius, Strongsville, Westlake (17)

State Qualifiers: One team to the State Tournament at **Nationwide Arena, Columbus.**

Bowling Green State University: Dr. Jamie Baringer, 1535 East Wooster St., Bowling Green, 43403; P: 419-509-1417; Email: jbaring@bgsu.edu

Schools: Archbishop Alter, Anthony Wayne, Beaver Creek, Bowling Green, Clay, Elyria Catholic, Findlay, Perrysburg, St. Francis de Sales, St. John's Jesuit, Springboro, Steele, Sylvania Northview, Sylvania Southview, Troy, Whitmer (16)

State Qualifiers: One team to the State Tournament at **Nationwide Arena, Columbus.**

Ohio Health Ice Haus: 200 W. Nationwide Blvd., Columbus, 43215; Jeremy Rogers, Manager, Chiller LCC, 7001 Dublin Park Dr., Dublin, 43016 P: 614-791-9999 Ext. 123; Email: jrogers@thechiller.com

Schools: Archbishop Moeller, Bishop Watterson, Columbus Academy, Dublin Coffman, Dublin Jerome, Elder, Gahanna Lincoln, New Albany, Olentangy, Olentangy Berlin, Olentangy Liberty, Olentangy Orange, St. Charles, St. Xavier, Thomas Worthington, Upper Arlington, Worthington Kilbourne (17)

State Qualifiers: One team to the State Tournament at **Nationwide Arena, Columbus.**

11. REGIONAL TOURNAMENT AND STATE TOURNAMENT DATES

REGIONAL Competition – Sunday, February 15 to Sunday, March 8, 2026.

Regional Finals must be completed by Sunday, March 8, 2026.

State Semifinals and Finals – March 14-15, 2026, Nationwide Arena, Columbus.

12. BRACKETS

The OHSAA constructs and publishes on its website ice hockey tournament brackets for the entire state.

- a. Regional Brackets will be posted on February 12, 2026. If you have questions, please email John Kronour, Ph.D. **immediately after reviewing your placement of teams on the bracket** (jkronour@ohsaa.org).
- b. **In order to maintain the accuracy of the brackets throughout the tournament, please be sure to follow the enclosed information regarding the reporting of results.**

13. MANAGER INSTRUCTIONS: SEEDING AND DRAW PROCEDURES

Regional Placements

The OHSAA will be using Max Preps Rankings to place teams on the specific line of the bracket for each regional. The rankings will be reviewed on February 11th and teams will be placed accordingly. A double bye will be instituted for the highest four ranked teams in each regional. A single bye will be in place for teams ranked five thru eight. All teams ranked above number eight will compete in the first round of the tournament for the opportunity to play numbers five thru eight.

The better seeded team will be the home team and will wear light colors.

State Final Four Placements

The OHSAA will use the Max Prep Ranking to place the final four teams. The rating will be reviewed after March 9nd which will allow for the inclusion of the regional games.

The games will be:

Max Prep #1 vs. Max Prep #4

Max Prep #3 vs. Max Prep #2

The better seeded team will be the home team and will wear light colors.

14. RESULTS

- a. After each REGIONAL game prior to the REGIONAL Final, contact **John Kronour** at the OHSAA via email – jkronour@ohsaa.org - to report the results. It is also necessary to report any games that have been postponed.
- b. IMMEDIATELY following the completion of the REGIONAL Final Game, please notify **John Kronour** at the OHSAA office no later than Sunday evening, in the event of a postponement. Please send an email to jkronour@ohsaa.org or call 937 581.5275. If calling, please identify your tournament site, the final score and the name of the winning school.

15. PLAYERS IN UNIFORM

Twenty minutes prior to game time the coach of each team shall submit a list of a maximum of 23 players, including goalkeepers, that may dress for and play in a game. It is recommended that a minimum of two goalkeepers be among the 23 players dressed.

16. TEAM BENCH

Only players in uniform, two coaches, one faculty representative, one doctor, one manager and one trainer shall be permitted on the player's bench. In total, only **29 individuals** may be on the player's bench.

17. LOCKER ROOM

Each team shall be assigned a locker room and bench by the site manager.

18. UNIFORM

The higher seeded team will be the home team and wear the light color uniform.

19. EXTRA EQUIPMENT

Schools shall be responsible for bringing extra equipment

20. TEAM ADMITTANCE AND PASSES

Twenty-three players, two coaches, one faculty representative, one doctor, one manager and one trainer will be admitted at the pass gate by a typewritten list certified by the principal of the school. All other individuals must purchase a ticket for entry.

21. AWARDS

No awards will be presented at the site of the REGIONAL Tournament except those furnished by the OHSAA. Team trophies will be presented to the championship and runner-up teams. Individual members of championship and runner-up teams and the coach will be presented with medals by the OHSAA.

22. ADMISSION PRICES

Regional Tickets:

Student - \$5

Adult - \$12

PASS-OUTS

No pass-outs shall be given out at any game site.

23. OVERTIME

If a contest is tied after regulation play, the following shall apply: There shall be a maximum of five 8-minute overtimes, with any goal resulting in sudden victory for the team that scores. The first overtime shall consist of all five skaters per team, while overtimes two through five shall consist of four skaters per team. Should the contest remain tied after the fifth overtime, a shootout will take place to determine a winning team.

Accordingly, the OHSAA adopts the following overtime rules that shall govern play if the game is tied at the conclusion of regulation. Unless otherwise noted in these Overtime Rules, NFHS playing rules for the sport of hockey shall be in effect during all overtime periods.

Overtimes/Shootout Ice Cuts and Changing Ends

The ice shall only be cut, after the 1st, and 3rd Overtimes. Officials may order additional ice cuts in the event the ice is unplayable per NFHS Rule 6-39, Article 2. Teams will change ends after each period, during regulation and after all Overtimes.

Length of Periods and First Goal (Sudden Victory)

In all overtimes, the scoring of a goal concludes the contest and the scoring team is the winner.

Number of Players

Play during the 2nd and following overtimes shall consist of 4 skaters per team, with penalties assessed in normal fashion. When a penalty is assessed, the teams shall play 4-on-3. When a team already playing with 3 skaters is assessed an additional penalty/penalties, the non-offending team shall be permitted to add an additional skater (maximum of 5 skaters per team) per each penalty until such time as each penalty expires, at which point the additional skater shall leave the ice at the next stoppage of play. No team shall ever have less than 3 or more than 5 skaters on the ice (unless removing its goalie).

1st OT – 8:00 Minutes of play. 3:00 Minute Intermission prior to start of OT. Teams Change Ends of ice. 5 skaters per team. If still tied, 15:00 Minute Ice Cut prior to start of 2nd OT.

2nd OT– 8:00 Minutes of play. Teams Change Ends of ice. 4 skaters per team (4 on 4, subject to remaining penalty minutes from previous period and the Number of Players rules set forth above). If still tied, 3:00

Minute Intermission before start of 3rd overtime.

3rd OT– 8:00 Minutes of play. Teams Change Ends of ice. 4 skaters per team (4 on 4, subject to remaining penalty minutes from previous period and the Number of Players rules set forth above). If still tied, 15:00 Minute Ice Cut before start of 4th OT.

4th OT – 8:00 Minutes of play. Teams Change Ends of ice. 4 skaters per team (4 on 4, subject to remaining penalty minutes from previous period and the Number of Players rules set forth above). If still tied 3:00 Minute Intermission prior to start of 5th OT.

5th OT – 8:00 Minutes of play. Teams Change Ends of ice. 4 skaters per team (4 on 4, subject to remaining penalty minutes from previous period and the Number of Players rules set forth above).

If still tied, SHOOTOUT. 3:00 Minute Intermission prior to start of Shootout.

PLAYER SHOOTOUT PROCEDURES

- The teams will not change ends for the shootout.
- The visiting team will shoot first. The teams shall alternate shots. Three (3) players from each team shall participate in the shootout.
- All players are eligible to participate in the shootout unless they are serving a minor penalty, a major penalty, a ten- minute misconduct or have been assessed a game disqualification penalty.
- Each team will be given three shots, unless the outcome is determined earlier in the shootout. After each team has taken three shots, if the score remains tied, the shootout will proceed to a "Sudden Victory" format until one team scores, and the other team fails to score.
- Regardless of the number of goals scored during the shootout portion of overtime, the final score recorded for the game will give the winning team one more goal than its opponent, based on the score at the end of overtime.
- If a team declines to participate in the shootout procedure, the game will be declared as a shootout loss for that Team.

Player Shootout Eligibility

Rules governing the shootout shall be the same as listed under NFHS Rule 4-5 Section 7 - Penalty Shot.

Player Shootout Eligibility:

- At the beginning of the shootout, the head official shall count the number of eligible shooters (non- goalies) on each bench (excluding injured players or players serving penalties).
- The head official and the official scorekeeper shall be responsible for recording, using player's uniform numbers, and which players participate in the shootout.
- When the teams have the same number of shooters, no player may shoot a second time until all other players on that team have shot once. The same rule shall apply throughout all subsequent rounds of any shootout.
- When the teams have a different number of shooters, no player may shoot twice until the team with the lesser number of players has used all its players in the shootout. At that point, both teams may use players who have already shot, or the team with the larger roster may use players who have not yet shot. This process shall continue until the team with the lesser number of players has had all players shoot a second (2nd) time, at which point the process shall repeat. *(For example: Team A has 15 eligible shooters. Team B has 20 eligible shooters. When Team A has used all 15 of its shooters, Team A may start over and select any of its 15 shooters to shoot. Team B may likewise use a player who has already shot or may use any of the 5 players who did not shoot in the first round.)*

- The goal of this rule is that no player may shoot a subsequent time until all other players on that team have also shot, and the team with larger roster shall be permitted to use “repeat shooters” at the same time as the team with the smaller roster.

24. RADIO, PRESS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

All requests for space shall be directed to the game manager. Proper credentials must be presented for admission at pass gate.

25. TV

All requests for TV shall be directed to Tim Stried (tstried@ohsaa.org), OHSAA Director of Communications.

26. INTRODUCTION OF PLAYERS

Players listed in starting line-up shall be introduced.

27. NOISEMAKERS AND BANDS

Shakers, mechanical noisemakers such as horns, bells sirens, drums, etc., are **NOT PERMITTED**.

SCHOOL OFFICIALS ARE REMINDED TO EMPHASIZE THIS AT SCHOOL PEP RALLIES, ASSEMBLIES, BULLETINS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

REGIONAL Tournament managers will determine if there is adequate space for bands. Each band member must present a ticket for admission.

28. SPECTATOR ATTIRE

Shirts/appropriate attire must be worn by all spectators at all OHSAA indoor tournaments.

29. TEAM EXPENSES

REGIONAL: None.

30. OFFICIALS

Officials will be assigned by the OHSAA office.

31. VIDEOTAPING OR FILMING

a) Videotaping or filming by participating schools.

Videotaping or filming of tournament contests by one or both schools playing the game is permitted provided the permission of the tournament manager is secured, it is done at the expense of the school involved, and a maximum of one individual per school is permitted. **Videotaping or filming of a potential opponent's tournament game is prohibited.**

b) Videotaping or filming by spectators.

1. Shall be for personal use.
2. Shall not be used for the purpose of scouting or coaching.
3. Shall not interfere with the view of the athletic contest by other spectators.
4. The tournament site shall not permit the use of more than the seating space for which the spectator has paid when seating is needed for paid fans.
5. The tournament site accepts no liability for damage or theft of spectator's equipment or injury because of privately owned equipment
6. Equipment will not be permitted in any playing area – only in the spectator seating area.
7. The tournament site will not provide sources of power for video equipment.
8. Violation of this regulation may result in the removal of offender from the premises.

32. UNSPORTING CONDUCT PENALTY

During participation in OHSAA tournaments, any student or coach ejected for unsporting conduct shall be

ineligible for all contests for the remainder of that day. In addition, the player or coach shall be ineligible for all contests at all levels in ice hockey until two regular season/tournament contests are competed at the same level as the ejection. Individuals ejected for unsporting conduct shall be reported to the OHSAA Office by the tournament manager. The OHSAA Office will investigate the situation and may impose additional penalties in accordance with Bylaw 12 if the situation warrants it.

Participation in an athletic contest is a privilege. Everyone is expected to conduct himself or herself in an exemplary manner while participating.

33. PROPERTY DAMAGE

There is no insurance covering property damage. If property is damaged at a tournament site by competing school teams, student body or spectators, the school from which the students and/or spectators come shall be liable and pay the cost of repair or replacement. The tournament manager is authorized to deduct from the school's share the cost of any damages caused by competing schools. Other damages to facilities not attributed to a competing school could be a legitimate tournament expense and may be deducted from tournament receipts. If damage is extensive, the Board of Directors will become involved. Student crowd control at state sponsored tournaments is the responsibility of the administrative heads of the competing schools.

34. SPONSORSHIP AND RIGHTS

The Ohio High School Athletic Association is the sponsoring organization for the Boys State Ice Hockey and REGIONAL Tournaments. The OHSAA reserves all rights regarding the management of this tournament and the sale of any items at the tournament sites. Any sale of food, clothing, souvenirs or other items is strictly prohibited without permission of the OHSAA Executive Director. The videotaping of any or all portions of the tournament for resale purposes is prohibited without permission.

35. PROHIBITED ADVERTISING

There shall be no advertising through printed media, billboards, radio or television that includes beer, wine, liquor, tobacco, political parties or candidates or any other advertising contrary to the philosophy of the high school athletic program.

36. RAFFLES PROHIBITED

There shall be no raffles or any type of games of chance permitted at the site of tournament contests during the period beginning one hour prior to the tournaments and ending one hour after the tournaments have ended.

37. PROHIBITED SALES

The sale of the distribution of, or the consumption of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs is not permitted at the site of any contest involving OHSAA member schools.

46th ANNUAL BOYS STATE ICE HOCKEY TOURNAMENT
NATIONWIDE ARENA, COLUMBUS, OHIO

1. TOURNAMENT MANAGER

The State Ice Hockey Tournament is under the supervision and sponsorship of the OHSAA. The State Tournament manager will be **Tommy Trowell, Nationwide Ice Arena, 200 W Nationwide Arena Columbus, OH 43215. ttrowell@bluejackets.com.**

2. REGULATIONS

The same regulations and administration for REGIONAL Ice Hockey Games shall apply to the State Ice Hockey Tournament in addition to those listed below.

3. MEETING OF STATE FINALISTS

A meeting with representatives from schools that qualified for the State Tournament will be held online Monday, March 9, 2026, at 4:00 PM to receive final instructions regarding the state tournament.

4. TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

REGIONAL winners from: Brooklyn, Columbus, Kent and BGSU.

2026 – March 14 & 15

Max Preps #1

vs.

Max Preps #4

Max Preps #3

vs.

Max Preps #2

The better seeded team will be the home team and will wear light colors.

5. ADMISSION

State Tickets

Student - \$15

Adult - \$20

6. PRACTICE SESSIONS

There shall be no practice sessions permitted at the tournament site other than pre-game practice.

7. AWARDS

Team trophies will be presented to the State Champion and Runner-up. Individual members of both teams will be presented with gold or silver medals. Medals will be presented to the coach of the State Championship and State Runner-Up teams.

8. TEAM EXPENSES

No team expenses will be reimbursed for the 2025-26 school year.

9. MEDIA CREDENTIALS

Media credential request forms can be found under "Media Information" on the OHSAA web site (www.ohsaa.org). Submit the request form to Tim Stried at the OHSAA office (fax: 614-267-1677) no later than **Tuesday, March 10, 2026**. Proper credentials must be presented for admission at the media pass gate.

10. TELEVISION

Requests to televise any State Tournament games should be submitted, in writing, to the OHSAA, 4080 Rocka Place, Columbus, Ohio 43214. The fax number is 614.267.1677. Requests should be sent to the attention of Tim Stried, Director of Communication. The deadline for submitting requests is Tuesday, March 10, 2026.

11. OFFICIALS

Officials will be assigned by the OHSAA Office. Representation number assigned:

Central/East	2
Southwest/Southeast	1
Northeast	4
Northwest	2

12. PHYSICIAN

A physician will be present during the tournament.