

9. ICE HOCKEY

A. GENERAL REGULATIONS

1) Interscholastic Participation

- 1.1) Only school teams recognized by the local Board of Education are eligible to participate in the OHSAA-sponsored tournament.
- 1.2) An individual may participate in a subvarsity game and a varsity game in the same day. Participation in both counts as two games in the contest limitation of 35. (Penalty — See Sports Regulation 12)

Note: A team/Individual that exceeds the regular season participation limitation (maximum number of contests permitted) or participates in regular season contest(s) prior to the designated start date for contests may be removed from the OHSAA tournament.

- 1.3) PREVIEW — a maximum of one preview at which admission may be charged may be played according to the following schedule:

A preview may be scheduled and played only starting with the first day after four-day acclimatization period during the first four days of practice and ending with the date of the first regular season game of the teams involved. A preview may not exceed two periods for any one player or team and shall be played according to National Federation Ice Hockey Rules.

- 1.4) Any regular season game in ice hockey which is not started due to unforeseen circumstances, such as failure of team to arrive, strikes, school closings, etc., is considered a “No Contest.” Games not played are not included in won-lost statistics.
- 1.5) A member school, when instituting an interscholastic ice hockey program for its initial season, or renewing such a program after not having had an interscholastic ice hockey program the preceding school year, shall be permitted to conduct tryouts for such interscholastic ice hockey squad between April 15 and May 30 of the relevant year.

Said tryouts shall be conducted under the direction and supervision of the head and/or assistant coach for that interscholastic ice hockey squad, or if not yet retained, an adult familiar with interscholastic ice hockey who shall be selected by the principal and/or athletic administrator of such school.

Said tryouts shall be conducted so as to conflict as little as possible with spring sports sponsored by the member school. Sundays may be used for such tryouts if no other dates are conveniently available for the student athletes, due to academic, athletic or extracurricular activities.

Said school shall conduct no more than three (3) such tryout sessions.

The school shall also conduct a supplemental tryout at the beginning of the winter sports season for all student athletes who could not attend the earlier tryout or who have since enrolled at the member school.

Students qualifying for such squad at the initial April/May tryout shall not be removed from such squad at the winter sports tryout unless academically or otherwise ineligible for participation.

This set of procedures may likewise be used by a member school which is reestablishing an interscholastic ice hockey program so long as such school did not compete in the OHSAA Ice Hockey Tournament the preceding school year.

- 1.6) All teams must respect a four-day acclimatization period during the first four days of practice. All athletes joining the team for the first time at any point during the season after the first day permitted for coaching also must participate in a four-day acclimatization period prior to competing in a contest. All teams will utilize the first four days of preseason practice to acclimate players to safe body contact in high school hockey. Specific instructions for delivering and receiving a body check in a safe manner to promote safety and minimize injuries are required during this acclimatization period.

2) Non-Interscholastic Participation - See General Sports Regulation 7 For More Information

- 2.1) Ice Hockey Players Who Have Not Competed for Their School This Season:

An ice hockey athlete who has not participated for the school in the sport of ice hockey that season must cease participation in non-interscholastic ice hockey on December 30, 2023, in order to be eligible for OHSAA tournament competition.

In addition, an athlete who has participated for the school in ice hockey who violates this non-interscholastic participation date in ice hockey shall be ineligible for OHSAA tournament competition in ice hockey in addition to any other penalties that may be prescribed.

- 2.2) A member of an interscholastic ice hockey squad (any student who has played in a scrimmage, preview or regular season/tournament game as a substitute or starter) sponsored by the Board of Education shall not participate in a non-interscholastic program (tryouts, practice or contest) as an individual or a member of a team in the sport of ice hockey during the school’s season. This regulation is applicable for those invited to participate in a tryout, group training or practices at a college or in contests, tryouts, group training or practices with any non-school team such as a club.

2.3) A member of an interscholastic ice hockey squad (any student who has played in a scrimmage, preview or regular season/tournament game as a substitute or starter) sponsored by the Board of Education may participate in non-interscholastic ice hockey prior to and after the school season under the following conditions outlined in General Sports Regulation 7.

3) Instructional Programs

See *Regulations for Instructional Programs* under Section 7 of the General Sports Regulations and in the Ice Hockey Manual that is posted on the “Ice Hockey” section of the OHSAA website (OHSAA.org).

4) No Contact Period — Coaches

See *Regulations for No Contact Period — Coaches* under Section 11 of the General Sports Regulations and in the Ice Hockey Manual that is posted on the “Ice Hockey” section of the OHSAA website (OHSAA.org).

5) Transfer Bylaw

While all questions regarding the transfer bylaw should be addressed to the appropriate school administrator, information regarding the transfer bylaw can be found on the OHSAA website at this link, <https://www.ohsaa.org/Eligibility/Transfer>. Note that students who transfer and do not meet an exception to the transfer bylaw, and who participated in high school ice hockey within 12 months of the transfer date, are ineligible starting with varsity regular season contest #19 for any remaining regular season contests, scrimmages, and the OHSAA postseason tournament.

B. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — GRADES 9-12

1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — October 27, 2023

2) First game — November 17, 2023

3) Deadline date for OHSAA Tournament — January 22, 2024

4) Tournament draw/seeding meeting — February 7, 2024

5) Coaching and Season end — March 10, 2024

6) Scrimmages and Previews — Maximum of four scrimmages or three scrimmages and one preview. A preview shall be limited to a maximum of two 15 minute periods played according to National Federation Ice Hockey Rules

6.1) Scrimmages or previews scheduled against Special Olympics teams, or a team of similar designation, may be approved by the OHSAA to be played in addition to the maximum allowable number of scrimmages or previews. A waiver for approval of such contests can be found on the “Ice Hockey” section of the OHSAA website (OHSAA.org). This waiver must be submitted to, and approved by, the OHSAA Ice Hockey Administrator prior to the contest taking place.

7) Regular season games — Maximum of 35 regular season games plus OHSAA tournament. Each contest played counts in the maximum of 35 contests permitted

8) Rules — National Federation Ice Hockey

9) Officials

9.1) Varsity — OHSAA Class 1 officials required

9.2) Reserve/Junior Varsity — OHSAA Class 1 officials recommended

9.3) Freshman — OHSAA Class 1 officials recommended

C. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — GRADES 7 & 8

1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — October 27, 2023

2) First game — November 17, 2023

3) Coaching and Season end — March 10, 2024

4) Scrimmages — None permitted

5) Regular season games — 15 plus one postseason tournament not to exceed three games

6) Rules — National Federation Ice Hockey

7) Officials — OHSAA Class 1 officials recommended

ICE HOCKEY CALENDAR

Ice Hockey	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Coach-No Contact Period	8/1-8/31/23	8/1-8/31/24	8/1-8/31/25
Coaching and Tryouts Begin	10/27	10/25	10/27
Season Begins	11/17	11/15	11/17
District	2/12-3/2	2/10-3/1	2/16-3/7
State*	3/9-3/10	3/8-3/9	3/14-3/15
Season Ends	3/10	3/9	3/9
Coach-No Contact Period**	8/1-8/31/24	8/1-8/31/25	8/1-8/31/26
*The dates of the state semifinals and final is subject to change. Additionally, the end of the season corresponds with the date of the state final.			
**In addition to the no contact period in August, there is a 28-day no-contact period that commences directly after the end of the school's season.			