



# DVHL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

## ARTICLE 7 – RULES FOR DVHL PLAYOFFS

- A. DVHL rules will be followed for playoff games.
- B. All games are to be played at one facility unless circumstances dictate otherwise.
- C. All ice slots will be 1.5 hours in length with no curfew.
- D. The highest seed will be the home team during all rounds.
- E. A two-person officiating system will be used at all levels or as changed by membership vote.
- F. Any unexpired penalty incurred in the third period will carry over into the overtime period and on ice strength will be adjusted accordingly, i.e., four on three; five on three, etc. After a whistle, the on-ice strength will be adjusted accordingly until three on three is resumed.
- G. Any player assessed a penalty in the overtime period will not be allowed to participate in the shootout. Major penalties will be served by any other member of the penalized team, excluding a goaltender.
- H. Overtime – one ten (10) minute three-on-three sudden death overtime period will be used.
  - 1. There will be a sixty (60) second break prior to the start of the sudden death overtime period.
  - 2. Time-outs will not be permitted during the sudden death overtime period.
  - 3. Goaltenders will change ends prior to the start of the overtime period and shootout.
  - 4. USA Hockey playing rules are in effect during the overtime periods.
- I. Should the game remain tied after the sudden death overtime period there will be a five-skater shootout except for Championship (1<sup>st</sup> Place at Playoffs) games that will be played to a conclusion.
  - 1. There will be a sixty (60) second break prior to the start of the sudden death overtime period and five skater shootout.
  - 2. Any skater on the roster may be used.
  - 3. The visiting team will shoot first in the shootout.
  - 4. Winner is based on total goals scored once all five players have had their turn.
  - 5. If still tied after the first round, there shall be a sudden death shootout. Teams can use the same shooters as the first round, or any eligible player in successive rounds.
- J. No protest of playing rules or official(s) calls shall be permitted.
- K. Each team must present an Approved USA Hockey Roster prior to their first game.
- L. The total cost of the playoffs including referee fees, scorekeeper fees, trainer fees and ice time will be billed to all clubs based on the number of teams they have participating in the league (including petitioned teams).
- M. In the DVHL Playoffs (Championships) all games will be played until there is a winner as described above.
- N. In Round Robins: three (3) points for a win; one (1) point for a period win and point five (.5) points for a period tie. Maximum six (6) points. Tie breaker is the earliest goal in the Round Robin.
- O. Use of noise makers, including cow bells, is prohibited at DVHL Playoffs.
- P. At the conclusion of a game and after the handshake, the away team shall exit the playing surface and return to their locker room while the home team is held at their bench.
- Q. A running clock will be in effect in all levels except 8U in games where a team is leading by a minimum of six (6) goals going into or at any point in the third period. If the margin decreases to four (4) goals, play shall resume as stop time. The clock will be stopped at the start of any penalty assessed.  
At the 16U & 18U at any time in the 3<sup>rd</sup> period, a team shall reach a ten (10) goal lead, the game shall be considered final and ended.
- R. In the B American divisions, no player may score more than three (3) goals in a single game. Any player that violates this rule will receive a 2-minute minor for unsportsmanlike conduct and the goal will not count.

# ARTICLE 4 – GAME RULES

## SECTION 1 – GOVERNING RULES

- 1 - The rules governed by USA Hockey will be the playing rules for the DVHL
- 2 – The use of noise makers by a spectator of any kind in a league game or playoffs is strictly prohibited.

## SECTION 4 - TIME DURATIONS

Age Group	Periods	Minor Penalty	Major Penalty	Misconduct
10U	15 minutes	1.5 minute	4 minutes	8 minutes
12U	15 minutes	1.5 minutes	4 minutes	8 minutes
13P	16 minutes	1.5 minutes	4 minutes	8 minutes
14U	16 minutes	1.5 minutes	4 minutes	8 minutes
16 & 18U	17 minutes	2.0 minutes	5 minutes	10 minutes

*DVHL RULES & REGULATION PAGES 12 & 13, Adopted for 2025-2026 Season*

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NOT AVAILABLE.***

