

2022 BIG NICKEL RULES

1. ELIGIBILITY >

Hockey Canada, Northern Ontario Hockey Association and Big Nickel Tournament Rules will be in effect. Players that meet the eligibility requirements of their respective branch will be considered eligible to participate in the tournament in the age group involved.

2. REGISTRATION >

Only those players registered with the Tournament Committee before the Tournament BEGINS are eligible to play for their respective teams. Player cards must be available at all games. Affiliated players from teams at a lower division of play may play for the higher division team, after the team at the lower level has been eliminated.

3. LENGTH OF GAMES >

- U12 AND U15 round robin, quarter final (where applicable) and semi final games > 3 x 13 stop time
- U18 round robin, quarter and semi final, U12, U15 and U18 Championship Finals > 3 x 15 stop time
- Warm up duration (all games) > 4 minutes
- Flood schedule > every two periods. Championship games will begin with clean ice.

4. OVERTIME >

All games that end in a tie after regulation will play a 5-minute, **3-on-3** sudden victory overtime period after a two minute rest at the bench (teams do not change ends for the overtime period). Teams with leftover penalty time going into the 3x3 or incurring penalties during the 3x3 will see opponents adding a player. If still tied, teams will participate in a 3-player shoot-out to determine a winner. The visiting team on the schedule will shoot first. If still tied after three shooters, a single-player sudden victory shoot-out will take place, with a different player than three selected in round one of the shoot-out. The visiting team on the schedule will shoot first. If still tied after the first round of shots, a different player than those selected above will shoot and so on, until a winner has been declared.

5. POINT SYSTEM >

- Regulation time win = 3 points
- Overtime win = 2 points
- Overtime loss = 1 point

6. Round Robin Format - Play Off Structure >

U18 - All teams are guaranteed a four game series during the round robin portion of the tournament against selected opponents. Following the pool play portion of the tournament, teams are ranked first through eighth according to their records. The semi final round will be as follows: (a) Lowest surviving seed from pool play vs First, second lowest surviving seed vs Second, second highest surviving seed vs Third and Highest seed vs Fourth. Winners of the semi finals will advance to championship final.

U12 and U15 – Round robin (four games) with top two advancing to the championship final.

Home ice advantage in all playoff games will go to the highest seed (team with the better pool play record).

7. *NEW* TEAM JERSEYS – the home team as indicated on the schedule is expected to wear lights, the visiting team darks.

8. All teams must be prepared to play at least 15 minutes prior to game time.

9. MERCY RULE >

The third period will revert to straight time if one team is winning by six goals or more at that point. If at any point during the third period the spread is reduced to three goals, game timing shall return to stop time at the subsequent drop of the puck.

10. TIED POSITIONS > Two teams

In the event that two teams are tied for a playoff position after the round robin series is completed, the following will apply in order of priority:

- (a) The winner of the round robin game involving the two tied teams will qualify.
- (b) Teams with the most wins will qualify (no distinction is made between a regulation-time and overtime win).
- (c) The team with the best goal average will qualify. The goal average is determined by dividing the total number of "goals for" by the total goals scored, with the team having the highest percentage advancing (ie. 10 goals for, 4 goals against; goal average is $10/14 = 0.714$).
- (d) The team that scored the first goal in the game between the two teams qualifies.
- (e) If still tied, the team that received the least number of penalty minutes during round robin play will advance. All misconducts, including game and gross misconducts, carry a ten (10) minute recording of time.
- (f) Single coin toss.

TIED POSITIONS > Three or more teams

- (a) The team with the most wins will take the higher position (no distinction is made between a regulation-time and overtime win).
- (b) If still tied, the team with the best goal average (defined above) will take the higher position – as first place.
- (c) The team with the next highest goal average will take the next highest position – as second place.
- (d) The team with the next highest goal average will take the next highest position – as third place.
- (e) The team with the next highest goal average will take the next highest position – as fourth place.
- (f) If there is still a tie after (a) through (e), the team who received the least number of penalty minutes during the round robin portion of the tournament would take the higher position (GM or M = 10 mins, MP or GRM = 15 mins)
- (g) If two teams are still tied after (a) through (f) have been applied, a coin toss will determine the higher position. The coin toss will be performed by the Tournament Chairman in the presence of a representative from each team. The Chairman will assign which team is heads and which is tails.
- (h) If three of more teams are still tied after (a) through (f) have been applied, then the Chairman will place each team's name in a hat. The first team's name pulled will be the higher placed team and so on.

11. DISPUTES AND PROTESTS >

All disputes, protests or misunderstandings will be reviewed by the Tournament Committee. The Committee's decisions are FINAL. The Committee reserves the right to take further disciplinary action if deemed necessary. All suspensions will be levied in accordance with the 2022-2023 O.H.F. Minimum Suspension List.