

Hudson Cup

Tournament Rules - 2026

The Hudson Cup tournament is a recreational and charitable event. It is of paramount importance that participants play safely and respectfully, personifying the highest standards of sportsmanship. Any overly aggressive, violent, or offensive play or acts will result in participant's immediate removal from the tournament.

General

The Hudson Cup tournament (the Tournament) is hosted and organized by the Hudson Sullivan Memorial Association, an Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporation, devoted to continuing the legacy of Hudson Sullivan through supporting initiatives that reflect the values he personified, including generosity, inclusivity, creativity, mentorship, opportunity, competition, and sportsmanship.

The Officers of the Hudson Sullivan Memorial Association (the Organizers) are leading the organization of the Hudson Cup to support these causes. Any decisions made by the Organizers on matters concerning the Tournament will be final.

Rules of Play

- The Hudson Cup will be officiated with certified Hockey Canada referees with [Hockey Canada rules](#), unless noted differently herein.
- Games will consist of two (2) 20-minute periods. The 1st period will be running-time, and the 2nd period will be running time except for stop-time for its last 2 minutes.
 - Following a ~5 minute warm up period, the clock for each game will start at puck-drop or 10 minutes after a game's scheduled start-time, whichever is sooner.
 - If one team is unable/unwilling to start the game, the other team will receive one goal every two minutes, until regular game play commences.
- For the Championship Finals only, the game will consist of three (3) 12-minute periods.
 - The first 2 periods will be running time, and the 3rd period will be stop-time.
 - If regulation time ends in a tie, there will then be a 'sudden death' overtime of 5-minutes with 3-on-3 play, followed by a shootout.
 - A shootout will include a minimum of 3 shooters per team, followed by 1-for-1 shootout rounds. Penalized or ejected players are ineligible to participate in the shootout.

- RULES SPECIFIC TO THE HUDSON CUP:
 - Standard “non-contact” rules apply.
 - Icing: no center/red-line icing is in effect, instead defensive blue-line icing will apply. Automatic icing enforcement in effect.
 - Two-line passes *are* allowed.
- Timeouts: one 30-second timeout per team per game.
- GROUNDS FOR EXPULSION FROM TOURNAMENT:
 - Certain major penalties, including fighting, head butting, kneeing, spearing, abuse of Officials or Organizers, spitting, and any intent to injure, will result in a game misconduct. Any further action will be decided by officials after the game.
 - Sexual, racial or ethnic slurs are to be deemed a “match” penalty. Any player being assessed a match penalty will be permanently barred from the tournament.
 - Persistent lack of control exhibited by a team will result in ejection from the tournament.

Scoring:

- During the round robin portion of the tournament, there will be no overtime / extra play; a tie game will end as such.
- ROUND ROBIN GROUPINGS:
 - The tournament teams will be pooled in a single group of 10 teams.
 - The 2 teams finishing with the most points of the Round Robin stage will play in the Championship Finals.
- ROUND ROBIN SCORING FORMAT:
 - 4 points to be awarded for a regulation win
 - 2 points to be awarded for a tie
 - 1 point to be awarded for a game without any or only 1 minor penalty
 - 1 point to be deducted from a team with 4 or more minor penalties in a game
 - 1 point to be deducted from a team with 1 or more major penalties incurred, in addition to any points awarded or deducted for minor penalties
- ROUND ROBIN POINT TIE-BREAKERS will be applied in the following order:
 - Fewest penalties
 - Goal differential
 - Fewest goals against
 - Coin toss
- Any forfeited games will be tabulated as a 3-0 winning score.

Rosters:

- Each team must submit its final roster to the tournament organizer prior to midnight, Thursday April 30, including player names and corresponding jersey numbers.
 - Tournament organizers may ask players for identification at their discretion. Any participation by unregistered players will result in that team automatically forfeiting affected games.
- Team rosters may include a maximum of 20 players and a minimum of 10 players. For each game, teams may have a maximum of 17 players (including goalies) and need a minimum of 6 players.
- All players must be a minimum of 16 years of age.
- All players must complete and sign/execute the tournament's waiver (PARTICIPANT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, RELEASE AND WAIVER), prior to participating in the tournament. Any player that has not completed the form will not be permitted to participate.
- Players may only play for one team, unless previously approved by an Organizer.
- Team 'Captains' must have completed their team's registration payment by April 25, 2026.

Equipment:

- Every player MUST wear a HECC-certified helmet and dress in full regulation hockey equipment, with a full facial protector or partial face/eye protector (e.g. visor), except for any players younger than 18 years of age, for whom a full facial protector is required. Any player not doing so is not permitted to play.
- Jerseys to be provided by the Hudson Cup, and must be returned at the end of the day.
- In the event of a color conflict between two teams, the visiting team will wear pinnies, provided by the Organizer.

Miscellaneous:

- Consumption of alcohol or drugs prior to or during tournament play is expressly prohibited. Any player determined to have violated this rule will not be permitted to play, at the sole discretion of game referees and Tournament Organizers.