

2019-20

**OFFICIAL SLED HOCKEY
TOURNAMENT / EVENT
GUIDEBOOK**



SECTION 1

SLED CLASSIC

RULES & REGULATIONS



ELIGIBILITY RULES

Sled teams participating must be affiliated with a respective NHL Team and wear their NHL Team's jerseys. The jerseys are permitted to be replicas.

Sled teams participating must acquire and provide a letter from a respective NHL team on the NHL team's letterhead from the NHL team community outreach staff member indicating the NHL team's approval of the corresponding sled team's participation. Multiple teams representing an NHL team is permitted.

All participating teams must be properly registered with USA Hockey or Hockey Canada.

Roster rules and eligibility for the USA Hockey Sled Classic contained in this document supersede all rules as set forth in the USA Hockey Annual Guide (Rules and Regulations XIV. Disabled Hockey).

The roster limit is a maximum of eighteen (18) players. Three (3) able-bodied players will be allowed per team. Able-bodied players are not allowed to play the goalkeeper position. Players may only roster and play with one team.

All players must play with a sled team that represents the NHL team that is closest to their primary current residence. When determining which NHL team is closest, the address of the actual NHL team's game day stadium will be used (driving distance). Players that reside in the U.S. must play with an NHL team based in the U.S. Players that reside in Canada must play with an NHL based in Canada. If there are no teams participating in the USA Hockey Sled Classic that represents the NHL team that is closest to a player's primary current residence, such player would not be eligible to participate.

The USA Hockey Sled Hockey Waiver Committee may allow players with extenuating circumstances to play with an alternate team as long as they feel doing so is fair and would still maintain a competitive environment. Team can and must submit a waiver to request players to be allowed to participate for extenuating circumstances outside the above roster rules. Waivers are denied upon on a case-by-case basis. The process and guidelines for submitting a Sled Hockey Waiver will be determined by the Disabled Hockey Section and posted online at www.USAHockey.com/SledRules no later than August 1st each year.

This is a competitive adult tournament (no age limit).

GAME FORMAT

The games shall be three 15-minute stop time periods. Each team is allowed one 60-second timeout per game. Length of penalties shall be 2-minute Minor, 5-minute Major, and 10-minute Misconduct.

In the event a game is delayed for any reason, a time adjustment must take place. In the 3rd period, at the first stoppage of play, with roughly five (5)-minutes left in the allotted ice time, if the game time is not less than 3:00 minutes, the referee shall have the scorekeeper reduce the game clock to 2:00 minutes plus whatever seconds are remaining and continue the game with stop-time.

If the game is tied following regulation play there shall be a shootout per the official "Shootout Rules" as listed in the OFFICIAL RULES OF SLED HOCKEY.

Tie Breaking Rules to Determine Standings Position

The points received per game are as follows; three (3) points for a regular time win, two (2) points for a shootout win, one (1) point for a shootout loss, zero (0) points for a loss.

If two or more teams have an equal number of points, their position in the standings shall be determined by the following tie-breaking format. If one tie-breaker establishes a position for one or more teams, each team is placed

in the applicable position. Once a team is placed, the remaining tied teams shall start the tie-breaking process over again at step 1. If all tied teams have not played each other, then proceed to step 2. Note: a team may go into the tie-breaking process having defeated another of the tied teams and still not advance.

The tie-breaker formulas are as follows:

1. The results of the head-to-head games played between the tied teams in the following order:
 - a. Total Points
 - b. Head to Head Competition
 - c. Fewest Goals Allowed
 - d. Quickest First Goal Scored
2. If after applying the formulas of 1 a, b, c, and d the tie still exists, the results of all the games played by the teams tied in the following order.
 - a. Fewest Goals Allowed
 - b. Quickest First Goal Scored
3. If the above procedure does not break the tie, the teams shall use a shootout procedure as previously described.

Note: Forfeits - If a team forfeits any of its games, and becomes involved in any tie-breaking formula to determine its eligibility to advance to the next level of play, the team forfeits all games in the round robin play and the games are recorded as 1-0 victories for the non-offending team.

DISCIPLINE & RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

Any issues (discipline, protests, special considerations, request for deviation from any rule, reports of a broken rule) that arise during the USA Hockey Sled Classic should immediately be brought to the attention of the head tournament area/table. The issue will then be turned over to the Discipline and Resolution Committee (D&R).

The D&R Committee shall be composed of four (4) people and be appointed prior to the first game by the Tournament Director.

The D&R Committee shall be responsible for deciding any action, suspensions or otherwise, to be taken against a player or team official receiving a game misconduct or match penalty. The committee shall have full power to waive or increase the one (1) or two (2) game suspension imposed in Rule 404(b), Game Misconduct.

The committee shall have authority to initiate action involving supplementary discipline against a player or team official whether or not it involves the playing rules; provided, however, that no suspension shall occur without first giving notice of the intended action and providing the opportunity for a hearing.

The D&R Committee shall be responsible for deciding any action, suspensions or otherwise, to be taken against a team and/or player for a violation of any of the rules.

For any other decision including playing rules interpretation, with regard to the operation of the tournament (including conduct not in the best interest of hockey), the D&R shall have the final authority to make the appropriate decision. In the event there is a tie vote among the four committee members, the Tournament Director shall make the final decision.

SECTION 2

DISABLED HOCKEY FESTIVAL RULES & REGULATIONS



GENERAL INFORMATION

The USA Disabled Hockey Festival will include several Sled Hockey Division Champions, which includes the Adult Sled Hockey National Championship. Each year the exact number of divisions and teams within each division will be decided by the Disabled Hockey Festival Committee based on the request of each team, roster strength, previous year finish, and current season performance.

The typical Divisions will be as follows:

- National Championship Division
- Adult Tier I
- Adult Tier II
- Adult Tier III
- Adult Tier IV
- Adult Tier V
- Youth Tier I
- Youth Tier II
- Youth Tier III
- Youth Tier IV
- Youth Tier V

RULES THAT APPLY TO ALL SLED DIVISIONS

The Disabled Hockey Festival will use the Official Playing Rules of USA Hockey and the Official Sled Hockey Rules of USA Hockey.

All players, referees, coaches and pushers are required to be properly registered with USA Hockey for the current membership season.

Players may only play for one team during the USA Disabled Hockey Festival regardless of the division. A player must declare what team he/she is playing with at the beginning of the Festival and may not change teams once the Festival has started for any reason.

The roster limit is a maximum of eighteen (18) players. Rosters must be submitted by **February 15** of the current playing season and no additions are permitted after that date.

Pusher rules, as outlined in the Official Sled Hockey Rules of USA Hockey, shall apply to all divisions.

The USA Hockey Disabled Hockey Festival will follow all roster rules and eligibility as set forth in the USA Hockey Annual Guide (Rules and Regulations XIV. Disabled Hockey). Any applicable waiver request must be submitted no later than **January 31** of the current playing season.

Discipline & Resolution Committee

Any issues (discipline, protests, special considerations, request for deviation from any rule, reports of a broken rule) that arise during the Festival should immediately be brought to the attention of the head tournament area/table. The issue will then be turned over to the Discipline and Resolution Committee (D&R).

The D&R Committee shall be composed of four (4) people and be appointed prior to the first game by the Tournament Director.

The D&R Committee shall be responsible for deciding any action, suspensions or otherwise, to be taken against a player or team official receiving a game misconduct or match penalty. The committee shall have full power to waive or increase the one-or two-game suspension imposed in Rule 404(b), Game Misconduct.

The committee shall have authority to initiate action involving supplementary discipline against a player or team official whether or not it involves the playing rules; provided, however, that no suspension shall occur without first giving notice of the intended action and providing the opportunity for a hearing.

The D&R Committee shall be responsible for deciding any action, suspensions or otherwise, to be taken against a team and/or player for any violation of any of the rules.

For any other decision including playing rules interpretation, with regard to the operation of the tournament (including conduct not in the best interest of hockey), the D&R shall have the final authority to make the appropriate decision. In the event there is a tie vote among the 4 committee members, the Tournament Director shall make the final decision.

Tie Breaking Rules to Determine Standings Position

The points received per game are as follows; three (3) points for a regular time win, two (2) points for an overtime/shootout win, one (1) point for a overtime/shootout loss, zero (0) points for a loss.

If two or more teams have an equal number of points, their position in the standings shall be determined by the following tie-breaking format. If one tie-breaker establishes a position for one or more teams, each team is placed in the applicable position. Once a team is placed, the remaining tied teams shall start the tie-breaking process over again at step 1. (If all tied teams have not played each other, then proceed to step 2. Note: a team may go into the tie-breaking process having defeated another of the tied teams and still not advance).

The tie-breaker formulas are as follows:

1. The results of the head-to-head games played between the tied teams in the following order:
 - a. Total Points
 - b. Head to Head Competition
 - c. Fewest Goals Allowed
 - d. Quickest First Goal Scored
2. If after applying the formulas of 1 a, b, c, and d the tie still exists, the results of all the games played by the teams tied in the following order.
 - a. Fewest Goals Allowed
 - b. Quickest First Goal Scored
3. If the above procedure does not break the tie, the teams shall use a shootout procedure as previously described.

Note: Forfeits - If a team forfeits any of its games, and becomes involved in any tie-breaking formula to determine its eligibility to advance to the next level of play, the team forfeits all games in the round robin play and the games are recorded as 1-0 victories for the non-offending team.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION

There will be one (1) National Championship Division consisting of the top four (4) to ten (10) teams that meet the National Championship Team requirements.

The top two (2) teams from each of the two (2) sled hockey leagues are awarded a position in the National Championship division (unless they chose not to participate in this division or did not meet the team requirements). Those two leagues identified are the Northeast Sled Hockey League top division and the Midwest Sled Hockey League. The additional two (2) to four (4) at-large teams will be chosen by the Adult Sled National Championship Committee from the remaining U.S. teams. The at-large teams must also meet the National Championship requirements.

In the event one or more of the top two (2) teams from any league chooses not to participate in the National Championship, the Adult Sled National Championship Committee will choose additional at-large team(s).

The teams are determined by their respective league play during the current playing season and their team ranking profile. At-Large teams are ranked according to team ranking profile and any other USA Hockey sanctioned games played throughout the current playing season.

The Adult Sled National Championship Committee makes the final determination on the teams entering the National Championship division. The Adult Sled National Championship Committee also makes the final determination on whether waivers were accepted or denied.

Eligibility

Team must have completed a minimum of ten (10) USA Hockey sanctioned games.

All players must have played in a minimum of six (6) games with that team (unless player waiver was received and approved). The Roster Change Waiver Request Form can be found at: www.USAHockey.com/SledRules.

Game Format

The games shall be three 15-minute stop time periods. Each team is allowed one 60-second timeout per game. Length of penalties shall be 2-minute Minor, 5-minute Major, and 10-minute Misconduct.

In Round robin games, if the game is tied at the end of regulation time, there shall be a shootout per the official "Shootout Rules" as listed in the OFFICIAL RULES OF SLED HOCKEY.

In playoff games, if game is tied at the end of regulation time, there will be one – 5-minute, stopped time, sudden death overtime period. If the game is still tied after the sudden death overtime, there shall be a shootout per the official "Shootout Rules" as listed in the OFFICIAL RULES OF SLED HOCKEY.

After Pool Play, teams will be seeded per the official "Tie Breaking Rules to Determine Standings Position" as listed in this section of this document.

YOUTH SLED DIVISION

Typically there will be five separate Youth Sled Divisions (Tier I, Tier II, Tier III, Tier IV, Tier V). Tier I is the higher skill level. The teams are placed in these divisions per the team's request and based on this season's performance, last year's performance, and player performance. Each division will have a round robin and a playoff to determine the champions.

Checking is not allowed and will result in a penalty consistent with USA Hockey rules. Body contact is allowed.

Game Format

The games shall be three 13-minute stop time periods. Each team is allowed one 60-second timeout per game. Length of penalties shall be 1.5-minute Minor, 4-minute Major, and 8-minute Misconduct.

In the event a game is delayed for any reason, a time adjustment must take place. In the 3rd period, at the first stoppage of play, with roughly five (5)-minutes left in the allotted ice time, if the game time is not less than 3:00 minutes, the referee shall have the scorekeeper reduce the game clock to 2:00 minutes plus whatever seconds are remaining and continue the game with stop-time.

If the game is tied following regulation play there shall be a shootout per the official "Shootout Rules" as listed in the OFFICIAL RULES OF SLED HOCKEY.

After Pool Play, teams will be seeded per the official "Tie Breaking Rules to Determine Standings Position" as listed in this section of this document.

ADULT SLED DIVISION

Typically there will be five separate Adult Sled Divisions (Tier I, Tier II, Tier III, Tier IV, Tier V). Tier I is the higher skill level. The teams are placed in these divisions per the team's request and based on this season's performance, last year's performance, and player performance. Each division will have a round robin and a playoff to determine the champions.

Game Format

The games shall be three 15-minute stop time periods. Each team is allowed one 60-second timeout per game. Length of penalties shall be 2-minute Minor, 5-minute Major, and 10-minute Misconduct.

In the event a game is delayed for any reason, a time adjustment must take place. In the 3rd period, at the first stoppage of play, with roughly five (5)-minutes left in the allotted ice time, if the game time is not less than 3:00 minutes, the referee shall have the scorekeeper reduce the game clock to 2:00 minutes plus whatever seconds are remaining and continue the game with stop-time.

If the game is tied following regulation play there shall be a shootout per the official "Shootout Rules" as listed in the OFFICIAL RULES OF SLED HOCKEY

After Pool Play, teams will be seeded per the official "Tie Breaking Rules to Determine Standings Position" as listed in this section of this document.

PUSHERS RULES

Pusher rules as outlined in the Officials of Sled Hockey will be strictly enforced. USA Hockey will provide ALL pushers for the Disabled Hockey Festival. Teams will not be allowed to bring their own pushers. Only those approved, trained and assigned by USA Hockey will be allowed to be on the ice and pushing a player. Teams with players that need to be pushed, must notify USA Hockey of such no later than February 28, 2020.