



HEO 'AAA' Hockey League 2025 Playoff Structure

The revised playoff format aims to ensure that all U12 - U15 teams playing within the HEO 'AAA' Hockey League play to a common end of the season, including playoffs.

Starting with the 2024-2025 season, the following playoff structure will be implemented at the U12 to U15 age divisions. Upon completing the 28-game regular season, the teams will be ranked based on their final standings.

All five (5) teams will move to a tournament-style preliminary first-round playoff, with teams allotted a "starting point handicap" based on their regular season standings. The following will be the handicap:

- Regular Season First Place Team will receive four (4) points
- Regular Season Second Place Team will receive three (3) points
- Regular Season Third Place Team will receive two (2) points
- Regular Season Fourth Place Team will receive one (1) point
- Regular Season Fifth Place Team will receive zero (0) points

Preliminary First-Round playoff tournament-style format will start with a round robin, with each team playing the opposing teams in 1 game, valued at 2 points for a win and 0 points for a loss. Upon completing the round robin, the points accumulated during play are added to the starting point handicap. The top four (4) teams move on to the Semi-Final Round.

Semi-Final Round will be a Best-of-3 Series consisting of 1 vs. 4 and 2 vs. 3. The ranking will be based on the standings of the Preliminary First Round.

Championship Round will be a seven-point series between the winners of the semi-final series.

Overtime & Shootout

For all Preliminary First-Round and Semi-Final-Round games, a 10-minute 3-on-3 overtime will be played, with the winner receiving two (2) points and the loser receiving zero (0) points. If the game is still tied at the end of OT, a best-of-five shootout will occur. If, at the end of five (5) shooters, it is still tied, a sudden-death shootout will be played until a winner is determined*. No Overtime and Shootout will be played in the Championship Round, except for Game 7. Game 7 must be played with additional time allotted for sudden-victory overtime. The first overtime will consist of a ten (10) minute stop time period of 5 on 5 hockey. If no winner is declared, a flood will take place, followed by a continuous twenty (20) minute stop time period of 5 on 5 hockey until a winner is declared.

*All players must participate in the Shootout before any player shoots a second time. At the end of regulation, the teams' complete player roster shootout list must be provided to the game's referee. The referee must then provide both lists to the timekeeper and/or scorekeeper. The Head Coach of each team is responsible for ensuring their list is being followed during the shootout.

Preliminary First-Round Tie Breakers

- First Tie Breaker: Most wins in the first round (round robin)
- Second Tie Breaker: Head-to-Head record of the first round (round robin)
- Third Tie Breaker: Team with best +/- record [Goals For / (Goals For + Goals Against)]
- Fourth Tie Breaker: Team with the least PIMs
- Fifth Tie Breaker: Coin Flip

The U16 and U18 Playoff Formats will remain the same, as per the League's Rules and Regulations.

Lucas Cacciotti

President of the HEO 'AAA' Hockey League

HEO 'AAA' Hockey League 2025 Playoff Timelines

Divisions	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U18
Regular Season Concludes	Wed, Feb 19, 2025	Wed, Feb 19, 2025	Wed, Feb 19, 2025	Wed, Feb 19, 2025	Mon, Feb 17, 2025	Wed, Feb 19, 2025
Playoff Commences	Fri, Feb 21, 2025	Fri, Feb 21, 2025	Fri, Feb 21, 2025	Fri, Feb 21, 2025	Wed, Feb 19, 2025	Fri, Feb 21, 2025
PLAYOFF SEMI-FINALS: Top 4 teams from regular season advance to SEMI-FINALS	Fri, Feb 21, 2025	Fri, Feb 21, 2025	Fri, Feb 21, 2025	Fri, Feb 21, 2025	Wed, Feb 19, 2025	Fri, Feb 21, 2025
	Thurs, Mar 6, 2025	Thurs, Mar 6, 2025	Thurs, Mar 6, 2025	Thurs, Mar 6, 2025	Sun, Mar 2, 2025	Thurs, Mar 6, 2025
March Break	Friday, March 7, 2024 to Monday, March 17, 2024					
	Teams will NOT PLAY during March Break.	Teams will NOT PLAY during March Break.	Teams will NOT PLAY during March Break.	Teams will NOT PLAY during March Break.	Teams will PLAY during March Break.	Teams will PLAY during March Break.
PLAYOFF FINALS: Winners from Semi-Finals advance to FINALS	Tues, Mar 18, 2025	Tues, Mar 18, 2025	Tues, Mar 18, 2025	Tues, Mar 18, 2025	Wed, Mar 5, 2025	Sun, Mar 9, 2025
	Thurs, Mar 27, 2025	Thurs, Mar 27, 2025	Thurs, Mar 27, 2025	Thurs, Mar 27, 2025	Sun, Mar 16, 2025	Sun, Mar 23, 2025

Lucas Cacciotti

President of the HEO 'AAA' Hockey League