



## 2019 NIHL-Blackhawks Tournament Format



**Elite and Gold teams:** Selected teams will participate in a three game series format. As many as 6 teams from each level will advance to the tournament as seeds #1 - #6. The #1 and #2 seeds will advance directly to the three game series to be played on Saturday 2/16 and Sunday, 2/17. Their opponents will be determined by two play-in games to be played on Friday, 2/15, consisting of seeds #3 vs. #6, and #4 vs. #5. The highest seed winning their play-in game will play the #2 seed in the three game series, while the lowest winning seed will play the #1 seed. The winners of each three game series will advance to the championship games on Saturday 2/23 or Sunday 2/24.

The winning teams of the three game series will be determined by game points (2 pts/win, 1 pt /tie). In the event that after the second game of the three game series the two teams remain tied in game points, a third game consisting of one period of the length for that level will be played immediately following the second game. This game will NOT be a sudden-death format. As this third game is a completely separate game, any penalties from the second game not carry over. If the third game ends in a tie, sudden death overtime period(s) will be played until a winner is determined.

**Silver A, Silver B, Silver, Bronze teams:** Selected teams will participate in a single game elimination format. These teams will be seeded and play their first round games at the home rink of the higher seed at a mutually agreed upon time and date from Tuesday 2/12 to Tuesday 2/19. Winners of those first round games will advance to play in their quarter-final games at a predetermined host site on Saturday 2/23. Winners of the quarter-final games will advance to the semi-final games played at the same site on Sunday 2/24. Winners of the semi-final games will advance to the championship games on Friday 3/1, Saturday 3/2 or Sunday 3/3, while losing teams will advance to the consolation games the same weekend.

**Girls Gold teams:** Selected teams will participate in a single game elimination format. These teams will be seeded and play their quarter-final games at a predetermined host site on Saturday 2/16. Winners of the quarter-final games will advance to the semi-final games played at the same site on Sunday 2/17. Winners of the semi-final games will advance to the championship games on Saturday 2/23, Sunday 2/24, or Friday 3/1, Saturday 3/2, or Sunday 3/3.

**8U teams:** Selected teams will participate in a single game elimination format. These teams will be seeded and play their semi-final games at a predetermined host site on either Saturday 2/16 or Sunday 2/17. Winners of the semi-final games will advance to the championship games on Saturday 2/23 or Sunday 2/24.

**8U Toews:** The top 4 teams from will advance as seeds #1 - #4.

**8U Kane:** The top 4 teams from will advance as seeds #1 - #4.

**10U Elite:** The top 6 teams will participate in the three game series format as seeds #1- #6.

**10U Gold:** The top 6 teams will participate in the three game series format as seeds #1- #6.

**10U Silver A:** 16 teams will advance to a single game elimination format as seeds #1 - #16. The top 7 teams from Tier 1 will advance as seeds #1 - #7, the top 6 teams from Tier 2 as seeds #8 - #13, and the top 3 teams from Tier 3 will advance as seeds #14 - #16.

**10U Silver B:** 11 teams will advance to a single game elimination format as seeds #1 - #11. The top 7 teams from Tier 1 will advance as seeds #1 - #7, the top 4 teams from Tier 2 as seeds #8 - #11. Seeds #1 - #5 will advance directly to the quarterfinal games, earning a first round bye.

**10U Bronze:** 15 teams will advance to a single game elimination format as seeds #1 - #15. The top 7 teams from Tier 1 will advance as seeds #1 - #7, the top 5 teams from Tier 2 as seeds #8 - #12, and the top 3 teams from Tier 3 will advance as seeds #13 - #15. The #1 seed will advance directly to the quarterfinal games, earning a first round bye.

**10U Girls' Gold:** 4 teams will advance to a single games elimination format. The top 4 teams will advance to the semifinals as seeds #1 - #4.

**12U Elite:** The top 6 teams will participate in the three game series format as seeds #1- #6.

**12U Gold:** The top 6 teams will participate in the three game series format as seeds #1- #6.

**12U Silver A:** 13 teams will advance to a single game elimination format as seeds #1 - #13. The top 6 teams from Tier 1 will advance as seeds #1 - #6, the top 4 teams from Tier 2 as seeds #7 - #10, and the top 3 teams from Tier 3 will advance as seeds #11 - #13. Seeds #1 - #3 will advance directly to the quarterfinal games, earning a first round bye.

**12U Silver B:** 16 teams will advance to the single game elimination format. The top 8 teams from Tier 1 will advance as seeds #1 - #8, and the top 5 teams from Tier 2 as seeds #9 - #13, and the top 3 teams from Tier 3 will advance as seeds #13 - #16.

**12U Bronze:** 15 teams will advance to a single game elimination format as seeds #1 - #15. The top 7 teams from Tier 1 will advance as seeds #1 - #7, the top 5 teams from Tier 2 as seeds #8 - #12, and the top 3 teams from Tier 3 will advance as seeds #13 - #15. The #1 seed will advance directly to the quarterfinal games, earning a first round bye.

**12U Girls' Gold:** 6 teams will advance to a single games elimination format as seeds #1 - #6. The top 4 teams from Tier 1 will advance as seeds #1 - #4, the top 2 teams from Tier 2 as seeds #5 and #6. Seeds #1 and #2 will advance directly to the semifinal games, earning a quarterfinal bye.

**14U Elite:** The top 6 teams will participate in the three game series format as seeds #1- #6.

**14U Gold:** The top 6 teams will participate in the three game series format as seeds #1- #6.

**14U Silver:** 16 teams will advance to a single game elimination format as seeds #1 - #16. The top 7 teams from Tier 1 will advance as seeds #1 - #7, the top 5 teams from Tier 2 as seeds #8 - #12, and the top 4 teams from Tier 3 will advance as seeds #13 - #16.

**14U Bronze:** 13 teams will advance to a single game elimination format as seeds #1 - #13. The top 7 teams from Tier 1 will advance as seeds #1 - #7, the top 6 teams from Tier 2 as seeds #8 - #13. Seeds #1 - #3 will advance directly to the quarterfinal games, earning a first round bye.

**14U Girls' Gold:** 7 teams will advance to a single game elimination format. The top 5 teams from Tier 1 will advance as seeds #1 - #5, and the top 2 teams from Tier 2 as seeds #6 and #7. The #1 seed will advance directly to the semifinal games, earning a first round bye.

**16U:** The top 6 teams will participate in the three game series format as seeds #1- #6.

**Girl's Gold 16U:** The top 5 teams will advance to the semifinals of a single game elimination format as seeds #1 - #5. The #1 seed will advance directly to the semifinal games, earning a quarterfinal round bye.

**18U:** The top 6 teams will participate in the three game series format as seeds #1- #6.

**Girl's Gold 19U:** The top 5 teams will advance to the semifinals of a single game elimination format as seeds #1 - #5. The #1 seed will advance directly to the semifinal games, earning a quarterfinal round bye.