



## 2020 NIHL-Blackhawks Tournament Format



**Elite and Gold teams:** Selected teams will participate in the Gold-Elite format. 6 teams from each level will advance to the tournament as seeds #1 - #6. The #1 and #2 seeds will advance directly to the Gold-Elite two-game series to be played on Saturday 2/15 and Sunday, 2/16. Their opponents will be determined by two play-in games to be played on Friday, 2/14, 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 Gold-Elite two-game series, while the lowest winning seed will play the #1 seed. The winners of each Gold-Elite two-game series will advance to the championship games on Saturday 2/22 or Sunday 2/34.

The winning teams of the Gold-Elite two-game series will be determined by game points (2 pts/win, 1 pt /tie). If after the second game of the Gold-Elite two-game series the two teams remain tied in game points, a third game, consisting of only one period of typical time, will be played immediately following the second game. This additional game will NOT be a sudden-death format. As this additional game is a separate game, any penalties from the second game do not carry over. If the additional 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 2/11 to Tuesday 2/18. Winners of those first-round games will advance to play in their quarter-final games at a predetermined host site on Saturday 2/22. Winners of the quarter-final games will advance to the semi-final games played at the same site on Sunday 2/23. Winners of the semi-final games will advance to the championship games on Saturday 2/29 or Sunday 3/1, 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 2/15. Winners of the quarter-final games will advance to the semi-final games played at the same site on Sunday 2/16. Winners of the semi-final games will advance to the championship games on Saturday 2/22, Sunday 2/24, or Friday 2/28.

**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 2/15 or Sunday 2/16. Winners of the semi-final games will advance to the championship games on Saturday 2/29 or Sunday 3/1.

**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 Gold-Elite format as seeds #1- #6.

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

**10U Silver A:** 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 4 teams from Tier 2 as seeds #8 - #11, and the top 4 teams from Tier 3 will advance as seeds #12 - #15. Seed #1 will advance directly to the quarterfinal games, earning a first-round bye.

**10U Silver B:** 14 teams will advance to a single game elimination format as seeds #1 - #14. The top 7 teams from Tier 1 will advance as seeds #1 - #7, the top 4 teams from Tier 2 as seeds #8 - #11, and the top 3 teams from Tier 3 will advance as seeds #12 - #14. Seeds #1 and #2 will advance directly to the quarterfinal games, earning a first-round bye.

**10U Bronze:** 14 teams will advance to a single game elimination format as seeds #1 - #14. The top 7 teams from Tier 1 will advance as seeds #1 - #7, the top 4 teams from Tier 2 as seeds #8 - #11, and the top 3 teams from Tier 3 will advance as seeds #12 - #14. Seeds #1 and #2 will advance directly to the quarterfinal games, earning a first-round bye.

**10U Girls' Gold:** 4 teams will advance to a single game elimination format as seeds #1 - #4.

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

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

**12U Silver A:** 16 teams will advance to a single game elimination format as seeds #1 - #16. The top 8 teams from Tier 1 will advance as seeds #1 - #8, the top 5 teams from Tier 2 as seeds #9 - #13, and the top 3 teams from Tier 3 will advance as seeds #14 - #16.

**12U Silver B:** 15 teams will advance to the single game elimination format. The top 11 teams from Tier 1 will advance as seeds #1 - #11, and the top 4 teams from Tier 2 as seeds #12 - #15. Seed #1 will advance directly to the quarterfinal games, earning a first-round bye.

**12U Bronze:** 12 teams will advance to a single game elimination format as seeds #1 - #12. The top 8 teams from Tier 1 will advance as seeds #1 - #8, the top 4 teams from Tier 2 as seeds #9 - #12. The #1 - #4 seeds will advance directly to the quarterfinal games, earning a first-round bye.

**12U Girls' Gold:** 6 teams will advance to a single game elimination format as see#1 - #6. The top 5 teams from Tier 1 will advance as seeds #1 - #5, and the top team from Tier 2 as seed #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 Gold-Elite format as seeds #1- #6.

**14U Gold:** The top 6 teams will participate in the Gold-Elite 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 6 teams from Tier 2 as seeds #8 - #13, and the top 3 teams from Tier 3 will advance as seeds #14 - #16.

**14U Bronze:** 12 teams will advance to a single game elimination format as seeds #1 - #12. The top 8 teams from Tier 1 will advance as seeds #1 - #8, the top 4 teams from Tier 2 as seeds #9 - #12. Seeds #1 - #4 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 quarterfinal bye.

**16U Elite:** The top 8 teams will participate in the Gold-Elite format as seeds #1- #8. On Thursday, 2/13/20, two play-in games will be played. These two games will match #5 vs. #8 and #6 vs. #7. The winners of these two games will advance to the second set of play-in games held on Friday, 2/14/20, which will match the lowest seed winning the Thursday games to play #3, while the higher seed winning the Thursday games will play #4. The winners of the two Friday play-in games will then advance to the two-game series played on Saturday and Sunday.

**18U Elite:** The top 6 teams will participate in the Gold-Elite format as seeds #1- #6.

**Girl's Gold 16/19U:** 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 quarterfinal bye.