



2021/2022 NIHL-Blackhawks Tournament Format



Premier Select Levels in which 8 teams advance (12U PSL): The 8 teams be divided into two brackets, bracket A will consist of seeds #1, #4, #5, and #8, while bracket B will consist of seeds #2, #3, #6, and #7. These 8 teams will play a double elimination format. As all games of this format must produce a winner, in the event of a tie at the end of regulation of any game, the standard NIHL overtime sudden death overtime procedure will take place.

On Thursday, 2/3, the four teams from each bracket will play one game: The highest seed from each bracket will play the lowest seed from each bracket, and the remaining two seeds will play each other.

On Friday, 2/4, Thursday's winning teams from each bracket will play each other, while the losing teams will play each other. The teams which lose both Thursday and Friday will be eliminated from tournament play.

On Saturday, 2/5, the two teams with one loss from each bracket will play each other. The winner of that game will advance to the Sunday game. The loser of the Saturday game, having two losses, will be eliminated.

On Sunday, 2/6, the two viable teams remaining from each bracket will play each other. Should the team having no losses entering the Sunday game win, that team will advance to the championship, thus making the scheduled Monday game unnecessary. Should the team entering Sunday's game lose this game, both teams, now each having one loss, will play each other again in the Monday game.

On Monday, 2/7, the winner of the Sunday game will advance to the championship game the following weekend. The losing team, now having two losses, will be eliminated.

Premier Select Levels in which 6 teams advance (18U PSL): The 6 teams will be seeded as seeds #1 - #6. These 6 teams will play a double elimination format. As all games of this format must produce a winner, in the event of a tie at the end of regulation, the standard NIHL sudden death overtime procedure will take place.

On Thursday, 2/3, two games will be played: Game A will consist of #3 vs. #6; Game B will consist of #4 vs. #5.

On Friday, 2/4, two games will be played: Game C will consist of #1 vs. the LOWEST winning seed from games A and B; Game D will consist of #2 vs. the HIGHEST winning seed from games A and B.

On Saturday, 2/5, two games will be played: Game E will consist of the two losing teams from games C and D; Game F will consist of the two losing teams from Game A and B.

On Sunday, 2/6, two games will be played: Game G will consist of the HIGHEST winning seed from games C and D vs. the LOWEST of the winning seeds from games E and F. Game H will consist of the LOWEST winning seed from games C and D vs. the HIGHEST of the winning seeds from games E and F. In the event a losing team from either Games G or H has lost their second game of the tournament, they will be

eliminated, and the winning team will advance to the championship. If, on the other hand, a winning team from either Games G or H has only one loss from the tournament, the same two teams will play again on Monday, 2/7, with the winner of that game advancing to the championship.

Premier Select Levels in which 4 teams advance (10U, 14U, and 16U PSL): The four teams will be seeded #1 - #4. The #1 seed will be paired with #4, and the #2 seed paired with #3. These pairings will play a game on Friday 2/4, another on Saturday 2/5, and another (if needed) on Sunday 2/5. Once a team loses its second game, it is eliminated from the tournament, while the remaining team advances to the championship.

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 2/12 and Sunday, 2/13. Their opponents will be determined by two play-in games to be played on Friday, 2/11, 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 2/19 or Sunday 2/20.

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 and 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 2/8 to Tuesday 2/15. Winners of those first-round games will advance to play in their quarter-final games at a predetermined host site on Saturday 2/19. Winners of the quarter-final games will advance to the semi-final games played at the same site on Sunday 2/20. Winners of the semi-final games will advance to the championship games on Friday, 2/25, Saturday 2/26 or Sunday 2/27. The Silver and Bronze U10 and U12 semifinal losing teams will advance to the consolation games the same weekend.

Girls Gold teams: Selected teams will participate in a single game elimination format. Teams will be seeded and play their quarter-final games at a predetermined host site on Saturday 2/12. Winners of the quarter-final games will advance to the semi-final games played at the same site the next day. Winners of the semi-final games will advance to the championship games on Saturday 2/19 or Sunday 2/20 for the 16/19U level, and Friday 2/25, Saturday 2/26, or Sunday 2/27 for the remaining levels.

10U levels:

10U Premier Select: The top 4 teams will participate in the PSL format 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: 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.

10U Bronze: 12 teams will advance to a single game elimination format as seeds #1 - #12. The top 6 teams from Tier 1 will advance as seeds #1 - #6, the top 3 teams from Tier 2 as seeds #7 - #9, and the top 3 teams from Tier 3 will advance as seeds #10 - #12. Seeds #1 - #4 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 levels:

12U Premier Select: The top 8 teams will participate in the PSL format as seeds #1 - #8.

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: 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 and the top 8 teams from Tier 2 as seeds #9 - #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 and the top 8 teams from Tier 2 as seeds #8 - #15. The #1 seed will advance directly to the quarterfinal games, earning a first-round bye.

12U Girls' Gold: 7 teams will advance to a single game elimination format as see#1 - #7. The top 4 teams from Tier 1 will advance as seeds #1 - #4 and the top 3 teams from Tier 2 as seed #5 - #7. Seed #1 will advance directly to the semifinal games, earning a quarterfinal bye.

14U levels:

14U Premier Select: The top 4 teams will participate in the PSL format as seeds #1 - #4.

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: 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.

14U levels (cont.)

14U Bronze: 7 teams will advance to a single game elimination format as seeds #1 - #7. The top 4 teams from Tier 1 will advance as seeds #1 - #4 and the top 3 teams from Tier 2 as seeds #5 - #7. Seed #1 will advance directly to the semifinal games, earning a quarterfinal bye.

14U Girls' Gold: 7 teams will advance to a single game elimination format as see#1 - #7. The top 4 teams from Tier 1 will advance as seeds #1 - #4 and the top 3 teams from Tier 2 as seed #5 - #7. Seed #1 will advance directly to the semifinal games, earning a quarterfinal bye.

16U levels:

16U Premier Select: The top 4 teams will participate in the PSL format as seeds #1 - #4.

16U Elite: The top 2 teams will advance directly to the 16U Elite championship.

18U level:

18U Premier Select: The top 6 teams will participate in the PSL format as seeds #1 - #6.

16/19U level:

Girl's Gold 16/19U: 6 teams will advance to a single game elimination format as seeds #1 - #6. The top 4 teams from Tier 1 will advance as seeds #1 - #4, and the top 2 teams from Tier 2 as seeds #5 and #6. The #1 and #2 seeds will advance directly to the semifinal games, earning a quarterfinal bye.