

Rules regarding the Gold-Elite format

At playing levels of the NIHL-Blackhawks tournament that involve the Gold-Elite format, six teams will advance.

The #1 and #2 seeds will advance directly to the Gold-Elite two-game series. The remaining seeds will participate in a single elimination play-in game scheduled for Friday evening. The first game will consist of #3 vs. #6, the second #4 vs. #5. Should a play-in game be tied at the end of regulation, it will immediately proceed to a 5 on 5 sudden death overtime format as described by the Section 5.13.2.1 of the NIHL rules.

The winning teams of the play-in games will advance to the Gold-Elite two-game series on Saturday and Sunday, with the #1 seed playing the lower of the two winning seeds of the two play-in games, and the #2 seed playing the highest. If the two games are to be played consecutively, the #2 vs. the highest seed game will be the first of the two games on Saturday, and the second game on Sunday. Both the Saturday and Sunday games may end in a tie.

The winners of each of the Gold-Elite two-game series will be determined by the usual game point scoring, with 2 points awarded for each game win, and one point for a tie. The two teams winning the Gold-Elite two-game series will advance to the championships the next weekend.

In the event the two games of the Gold-Elite two-game series fail to produce a winning team (either due to one team winning on Saturday and losing on Sunday, or both games ending in a tie), an additional game will be played immediately following the second game. This additional game will consist of only one period of typical period length. Should the additional game end in a tie it will immediately proceed to a 5 on 5 sudden death overtime format as described by the Section 5.13.2.1 of the NIHL rules.

The additional game and, if necessary, its overtime period(s), are completely distinct from the second game. Therefore, any penalty time remaining at the end of the second game of the Gold-Elite two-game series will be erased. No time-outs are available during this additional game. Should a suspension be issued during the second game, it will be served during the additional game (and any overtime periods). Similarly, if a player serves a suspension during the second game, and this game represents the last remaining game of his suspension, that player is then eligible to play in the additional game and any overtime periods.