



AMATEUR ATHLETIC UNION
COLLEGE HOCKEY
DIVISION I DIVISION II DIVISION III WOMENS
HANDBOOK & PROTOCOL GUIDE

AAU COLLEGE HOCKEY NATIONAL TOURNAMENT DIRECTORY

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AAU College Hockey Women's Commissioner

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2024 AAU College Hockey National Championship Tournament General Information

Mandatory Coach's Meeting

The AAU National Tournament Coaches Meeting will occur online on Monday, March 4, at 8:30 pm on Google Meet. All programs must have their head coach present.

Mandatory Media Staff Meeting

The AAU National Tournament Media Staff Meeting will occur online on Google Meet on Monday, March 4, at 7:00 pm. All programs must have their media representative present; failure to attend will result in credentials not being issued.

Tournament Format & Schedule

Division I

The DI National Tournament will divide the field into 4 pools of 4 teams, seeded by the Final National Ranking with a third-round reversal.

DI – POOL A	DI – POOL B	DI – POOL C	DI – POOL D
1	2	3	4
8	7	6	5
13*	11	10	9
16	15	14	12*

* Bracket Balanced in Conjunction with Conference Leadership

Pool Play Round will feature Day 1 matchups of the highest seed vs. the fourth highest seed and second highest seed vs. third highest seed. Day 2 matchups will feature the highest seed vs. the third highest seed and the second highest seed vs. the fourth highest seed. The final Day of Pool Play will feature the highest seed vs. the second-highest seed and the third-highest seed vs. the fourth-highest seed. The winners (determined by points and standard tiebreakers, i.e., wins, points, goals against, goal differential, goals for, least penalties, fastest goal scored.) of each pool will advance to the National Championship Semi-Final.

The National Semi-Final will feature a field of 4 teams, each winner of their respective pools. Teams will be re-seeded by the Final National Ranking, and compete in single-game elimination, with the two winners advancing to the AAU College Hockey National Championship Game.



Division II

The DII National Tournament will divide the field into 5 pools of 4 teams, seeded by the Final National Ranking with a third-round reversal.

DII – POOL A	DII – POOL B	DII – POOL C	DII – POOL D	DII – POOL E
1	2	3	4	5
10	9	8	7	6
15	14	13	12	11
20	19	18	17	16

Pool Play Round will feature Day 1 matchups of the highest seed vs. the fourth highest seed and second highest seed vs. third highest seed. Day 2 matchups will feature the highest seed vs. the third highest seed, and the second highest seed vs. the fourth highest seed. The final Day of Pool Play will feature the highest seed vs. the second-highest seed and the third-highest seed vs. the fourth-highest seed. The five pool winners, (determined by points and standard tiebreakers) of each pool will advance to the National Championship Quarterfinal. Pool Play will also see 3 teams earn a “Wild Card” bid to compete in the Quarter-Final Pool. The selection of the 3 Wild Card teams will be determined by standard tiebreakers, i.e. wins, points, goals against, goal differential, goals for, least penalties, and fastest goal scored, after the Pool Play Round.

The National Quarterfinal will feature a field of 8 teams, made up of the winners of the 5 pools, and the 3 Wild Card teams. Teams will be re-seeded by the Final National Ranking, and compete in single-game elimination, with the four winners advancing to the AAU College Hockey National Semi-Final Round. The National Semi-Final will feature a field of 4 teams, each winner of their respective pools. Teams will be re-seeded by the Final National Ranking, and compete in single-game elimination, with the two winners advancing to the AAU College Hockey National Championship Game.

Division III

The DIII National Tournament will divide the field into 2 pools of 4 teams, seeded by the Final National Ranking with a third-round reversal.

DIII – POOL A	DIII – POOL B
1	2
4	3
6	5
8	7



Pool Play Round will feature Day 1 matchups of the highest seed vs. the fourth highest seed and second highest seed vs. third highest seed. Day 2 matchups will feature the highest seed vs. the third highest seed, and the second highest seed vs. the fourth highest seed. The final Day of Pool Play will feature the highest seed vs. the second-highest seed and the third-highest seed vs. the fourth-highest seed. The winners of each pool and the second-best team in each pool (determined by points and standard tiebreakers) of each pool will advance to the National Championship Semi-Final.

The National Semi-Final will feature a field of 4 teams, each winner of their respective pools. Teams will be re-seeded by the Final National Ranking, and compete in single-game elimination, with the two winners advancing to the AAU College Hockey National Championship Game.

Women's Division

The Women's Division National Tournament will divide the field into 1 pool of 4 teams, seeded by the Final National Ranking with a third-round reversal.

W – POOL A

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

Pool Play Round will feature Day 1 matchups of the highest seed vs. the fourth highest seed and second highest seed vs. third highest seed. Day 2 matchups will feature the highest seed vs. the third highest seed, and the second highest seed vs. the fourth highest seed. The final Day of Pool Play will feature the highest seed vs. the second-highest seed and the third-highest seed vs. the fourth-highest seed. The winner of the pool and the second-best team in the pool (determined by points and standard tiebreakers i.e. wins, points, goals against, goal differential, goals for, least penalties, fastest goal scored) of each pool will advance to the National Championship Final.

To ensure that games start on time, there will be AAU College Hockey Supervisors and Tournament Staff throughout the rink to keep things moving. The Game Protocols are in this document. Please review them with your players and staff and know the expectations. The schedules have two times for every game: the warm-up and game times.

Coaches, players, and officials must stay focused on the game clock on the rink. Before your game and between each period, the game clock will be counted down to the start of the next period.

IT IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED THAT TEAMS arrive 90 minutes before all posted game times. Arriving earlier than 90 minutes may result in locker assignments not being ready.



Access: Ice Line from the Parking lot

All players, coaches, etc., should only enter through the main doors. Players and coaches can only access locker room hallways and the trainers' area. All spectators and guests are restricted to the lobby/snack bar area and viewing around the rink and the concourse.

All players, coaches, etc., should enter through the front doors only. This rink has more "open" access to locker room areas, and we ask that the coaches keep all non-playing personnel away from the locker room areas.

Athletic Training & Recovery Room

AAU College Hockey's Medical Director, Dr. Jeff Poplarski, will again staff and operate the Official Tournament Training and Recovery Room to assist all players with all athletic training, medical support, and recovery. The Training and Recovery room will be in the hallway between rinks 2 and 3, next to the Hospitality Room and across from the snack bar.

Closest Local Hospital

Chester County Hospital
701 E. Marshall St., West Chester, PA 19380
610-431-5000

Bus Parking & Drop Off

The arena has a front driveway for drop-off, but if it is blocked due to traffic, the buses can also drop off on the side of the building. Once the drop-off is complete, please park the bus in the side lot or designated bus parking lot spaces.

Tournament Hospitality Room

The Hospitality Room (Jr. Flyers Lounge) has been reserved for all coaches and staff. It is located on the lower level between rinks 2 and 3, down the hallway just past Method Hockey.

National Tournament Operations Center

The AAU College Hockey will establish the Official Tournament Operations Center in the banquet room, underneath the restaurant outside Rink 1. The entrance to the room is off the corridor leading to the entrance by the marquee. An AAU College Hockey Divisional Commissioner, the Director of Hockey Operations, or Official AAU Personnel will always be available at the Operations Center. The Operations Center will house GameSheet iPads and be a location for AAU College Hockey's Official Partners (AAU, Verbero, Black Dog Hockey, Hockey House, and Zawyer) to stage and work with members.

Tournament Tickets

Passes for all games will be \$65 at the door and \$60 online. Daily tickets are available for \$25 at the door. Youth admission (12 and under) will be \$15 per day or \$10 per day if they are wearing a hockey jersey or a 2024 AAU National Tournament shirt.



Live Streaming of Games

Games will be available through Black Dog Hockey. Due to the exclusivity rights granted to Black Dog Hockey by AAU College Hockey for the National Championship, the streaming of games will not be permitted by individuals or on behalf of any team via an alternative medium (e.g., YouTube, Hockey TV, Facebook Live, etc.).

Media Requests

All media requests must be in **advance** of the tournament and must go through the Director of Hockey Operations, Jon LaRochester. Any abuse of an issued press pass may result in the revocation of press privileges.

Tournament Media Guide

Are created in digital format and accessible on the AAU College Hockey's Official website (www.AAUcollegehockeyhockey.org) as well as via a QR code on the back of all Team Access, All Access, and Staff Access Passes or by visiting Tournament.

Hotel Information

Hotel information can be found at: <https://www.aaucollegehockey.org/page/show/6900897-partner-hotels>

Locker Room Assignments

Each team will be assigned a locker room for their designated games and must clear that locker room following the game. The front desk personnel will handle locker room assignments, and all rink rules must be followed.

Spectators and family members are not permitted in the hallways leading to the locker rooms at any time. This area is reserved for teams, accompanying staff (coaches, managers, athletic trainers, sports medicine, sports information), and tournament personnel. Access to locker rooms will be by credential only. Lockers are not available in any locker room. Keep all valuables in your respective hotel rooms for safekeeping.

Please be courteous and leave your locker rooms cleaner than you found and ready for the next team to use. The commissioners are very expensive locker room attendants. Fines will be assessed if they need to be cleaned between games. If you are issued a locker game and, upon arrival notice, it is not cleaned, you need to contact an AAU College Hockey Supervisor immediately, or you will be liable.

Team Credentials & Team Registration

Unless otherwise arranged, all team check-ins will occur at the Ice Line facility in the Tournament Operations Center by the AAU College Hockey Divisional Commissioner or Association Designee. Teams can be checked in **the day before their division begins competition, by appointment off-site, or two hours before a team's scheduled game time.** During the time of registration, each player must present their **school ID as well as a government ID.**



Teams registering are to leave all equipment outside the rink and enter the Tournament Center from the doors under the Marquee. Only players, coaches, and staff with appropriate credentials will be allowed in the building.

All AAU Registered Members of the official team, players, coaches, trainers, and team staff (up to 35 members) will be issued credentials. The request must go through The Director of Hockey Operations if a team is looking for additional credentials.

Only coaches and AAU College Hockey-approved media are permitted in the bench area during competition. When teams and staff are not participating in their scheduled games, they can attend any other games. All players must enter through the main gate and present their credentials. Players without proper credentials will not be allowed into the facility. This policy will be strictly enforced.

Any abuse of the team credentials will not be taken lightly and may result in the pass revocation and/or other disciplinary actions enforced by AAU College Hockey.

Team Uniforms

In National Tournament play, student-athletes, coaches, and staff must adhere to the on-ice and off-ice attire and uniform standards. This includes appropriate attire for entering and leaving the arena and while on the bench (coaches/staff). All competing student-athletes on a team must have identical jerseys and socks, with each player having a unique number prominently displayed on the back of the jersey. Helmets and gloves are required to be the same color. Any coach or player not in compliance with the above-stated attire and uniform standards at this year's National Tournament will be excluded from all official media, video, and created content posted live and for future promotional projects.

Pucks

Pucks will be provided for all practices, pre-game warm-ups, and games.

Game Officiating

The on-ice officiating system will be the four-man system, consisting of 2 referees and 2 linesmen. AAU College Hockey Officials will be in attendance for all games. Any abuse of on or off-ice officials during any portion of the tournament, verbal or physical, will not be tolerated and will result in supplemental consequences, including suspension and disqualification.

Coaches & Team Staff Expectations

It is our expectation that all coaches and team staff will be knowledgeable of the National Tournament format and structures, as well as all rules of play and the protocols that govern the tournament, so that they may communicate them to their players and supporters. Coaches and team staff are also expected to assist in the operation of the tournament, by adhering to all schedules and protocol elements, ensuring that games start on time, locker rooms and tournament facilities are maintained and that any questions, concerns, issues, or circumstances that may arise are communicated to AAU Officials in a professional and timely manner.



Expectations

We hope and expect this will be the finest run tournament you and your players have ever experienced. For this to occur, all parties must work together with understanding and flexibility. Games will not be moved up if they finish early. Games may be delayed for several reasons, but we will do all we can to keep things moving as expected.

The times listed are the game times, not the warm-up times. We have allotted 3 hours for each game. Please plan to arrive at the Ice Line facility at least 90 minutes before your game time. This will give the players plenty of time to stretch and go through their pre-game routines and coaches time to drop by the AAU College Hockey Tournament Operations Center to discuss any developments during previous games that may affect their game.





2024 AAU College Hockey National Tournament – Official Rules of Play

Under the Official Rules of Play established by the NCAA, all official AAU College Hockey Games will be played with three 20-minute stop-time periods.

All games played during the National Tournament will feature a 10-minute warm-up period before the start of each contest and ice resurfacing between each period.

In all sanctioned AAU College Hockey Games, AAU member teams may dress up to 22 players, provided the dress roster consists of a minimum of 2 goaltenders. Teams may not Dress 21 position players and 1 goaltender.

All official games during the National Tournament’s Pool Play Round, which end regulation ending in a tie, will commence a 20-minute 3v3 overtime. Goaltenders will switch ends at the start of OT, and each team will receive 1 timeout. Teams will play until there is a winner. During the Quarterfinal, Semi-Final, and Championship rounds, OT will be 20-minute 5v5 Overtime Periods until a winner is determined. Goaltenders will switch ends at the start of OT, and each team will receive 1 timeout.

Teams will be awarded 2 points for a win, 0 points for a loss, and 1 point for the losing team in overtime.

In the event of a tie in the standings during the Pool Play Round in Division I, II, and III and the Women’s Division, and the selection of the Division II Wild Card Qualification, the higher standings will be determined by:

1. Head-to-Head Competition
2. Number of Wins
3. Fewest Goals Against in all Tournament Games
4. Goal Differential in all Tournament Games.
5. Fewest Penalty Minutes.
6. Most periods won in Pool Play are determined by +/- in goals.
7. The quickest goal recorded on the score sheet in pool play.
8. Single coin flip by the Divisional Commissioner.



In cases where multiple teams are tied at the end of Pool Play within a single Pool or across multiple pools during the DII Wild Card Qualification, all teams will proceed through the standard tiebreakers. The calculation of tiebreakers does not restart as teams are eliminated.

Player Disqualification Penalties – Should a player receive a disqualification penalty, he/she may be disqualified for the remainder of the tournament, pending a review by the AAU Commissioner and Tournament Director. If a player should get a disqualification penalty in his/her final game of the tournament, he/she will serve the disqualification (s) from his/her first game (s) at the start of the next season. If it is his/her last game before graduation, the team will be fined \$500, and the coach will be suspended for 2 games.

All-Tournament Recognition

The first and second All-Tournament Teams will be recognized following the Championship Game.



AAU Men's National Championships Pregame and Intermission Protocols

**** The Home Team is expected to wear white or light-colored jerseys in all games unless both teams mutually agree to wear jerseys of the opposite color. **Casilio Clause-2023****

The time posted on the game clock will be counting down to the start of the game. If 45 minutes are placed on the clock, The game will start in exactly 45 minutes.

****45 minutes before the start of the game**, the Visiting Team Head Coach or Designee must report to the Tournament Operations Center to enter the starting lineup on the GameSheet iPad designated for their scheduled game.

**** 30 minutes before the start of the game**, the Home Team Head Coach or Designee must report to the Tournament Operations Center to enter the starting lineup on the GameSheet iPad designated for their scheduled game.

- 40:00 – Zamboni cleans ice if not cleaned already.
- 31:00 – The clock operator will sound the horn to indicate 1 minute before teams take the ice.
- 30:00 – Officials take the ice for warm-up.
- 29:00 – The Home Team takes the ice for warm-up.
- 28:50 – The Visiting Team takes the ice for warm-up.
- 18:00 – Horn sounds signaling 1-minute remaining warm-up; team captains meet with the officials.
- 17:00 – Both teams go off the ice; ice is resurfaced.
- 6:00 – Officials take the ice.
- 5:00 – The Home Team takes the ice and assembles on their goal line.
- 4:50 – The Visiting Team takes the ice and assembles on their goal line.
- 4:00 – The Visiting Team is announced – starters line up on the blue line.
(The remaining Players will remain on the bench)
- 3:00 – Home Team is announced – starters line up on the blue line.
(The remaining Players will remain on the bench)
- 2:00 – The National Anthem is played.
- 0:00 – The Timekeeper puts 20:00 on the clock, and the game starts.

Before each Period

The timekeeper puts 15:00 on the clock and starts once all players have exited the ice.

- 4:00 – Team and officials are notified that three minutes remain before teams take the ice.
- 2:00 – Officials take the ice
- 1:00 – The Home team takes the ice.
- 0:50 – The Visiting team takes the ice.
- 0:00 – Period starts.

Any infractions or violations of this protocol may result in a Bench Minor for Delay of Game.

