



USA • CANADA CUP TOURNAMENT RULES

December 5-7, 2025

OWHA Permit #2526057



TOURNAMENT FORMAT: The USA-CANADA CUP includes 80 Teams, each with a 5-game guarantee. Each team plays 4 round robin games on Friday and Saturday and either a medal or placement game on Sunday. Games are 15-15-15 minutes with a 3 minute overtime in round robin play. There are 2 divisions: U18AA/16U and U22AA-JR/ 19U.

DIVISIONAL BREAKDOWN AND PLAYOFF FORMAT

Division	Breakdown	Sunday Playoff Format
U18AA/16U	40 teams are divided into 4 pools of 10 teams - After round robin play, teams are ranked 1-10 within their pool	Gold Medal Game: 1 st seed vs 2nd seed Silver Medal: Awarded to loser of Gold Medal Game Bronze Medal Game: 3 rd seed vs 4th seed Placement Games: teams ranked equally in each pool play a crossover game
U22AA-JR/19U	1st place teams in each pool are seeded 1-4 for medal games	

Sunday Medal and Placement Game Scheduling Process

- The last round robin game finishes Saturday about 8:45 pm. Then, we need 90 minutes to create the Sunday schedule.
- On Saturday evening, please watch the website for updates - Sunday game details should be there by 10:30 pm.
- Teams receiving earlier game times are those that have earliest flight arrangements, or have the farthest to travel.
- The Tournament Chairperson makes the final decisions on the Sunday schedule and matchups.

ROUND ROBIN RANKINGS

- Points awarded:**
 - Regulation - Win: 3 points, Loss: 0 points
 - Overtime - Win: 2 points, Tie: 1 point, Loss: 1 point
- Tiebreaker to determine ranking position after round robin games:**

Rules Applied Until Tie is Broken:	Examples / Notes
1) Most wins (Overtime Win is a Win)	The team with the most wins in all games played is ranked highest
2) Average Differential	Total Goals Scored For divided by (Goals Scored For + Goals Scored Against)
3) Total goals against	Team with fewest goals allowed in Round Robin is ranked highest
4) Goal differential	Team with higher differential (goals scored for - goals scored against) is ranked highest
5) Flip of a coin	Team winning the coin toss is ranked highest



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ALL GAMES

- Roster Rules:** Hockey Canada, USA Hockey, OWHA roster rules apply
- Playing Rules:** Hockey Canada and OWHA playing rules apply
- Early Start:** Be prepared to start 15 minutes before scheduled game time, except first game of the day
- Colours:** home team wears white, visiting team wears dark
- Regulation Game Length:** 15-15-15 minutes stop time
- Mouth Guards:** USA Teams must wear mouth guards and neck guards
- Warm Up:** 3 minutes (time permitting)
- No Hybrid Icing**
- Ice Resurfacing** is done after every second period played on the ice surface. Teams are notified before their games of their game flood. The ice is not resurfaced prior to overtime nor shootouts.
- Decisions:** The Tournament Chairperson may alter any rule/regulation/decision, and all their decisions are final with no appeal.

TIMEOUT AND OVERTIME BY TYPE OF GAME

	<u>ROUND ROBIN</u>	<u>PLACEMENT</u>	<u>MEDAL (GOLD, SILVER, BRONZE)</u>
Day	Friday & Saturday	Sunday	
Timeout	None		One-30-second timeout permitted per team
Overtime Length	3 minutes		5 minutes
Overtime	Stop time, sudden victory period is played with 3 players plus a goalie (3 on 3)		
Overtime Penalties	If a penalty is called, the teams play 4 on 3. If a second penalty is called against the same team, the teams play 5 on 3 and could play 5 on 5, or, 5 on 4 if penalties expire during play. If this occurs the teams play 5 on 5, or, 5 on 4 until the next whistle, then revert to 3 on 3, or, 4 on 3.		
Overtime ends with no scoring	The game ends and is considered an overtime tie.		A shootout is required. See rules below.
Overtime Ice	Teams do not switch ends. The ice is not resurfaced prior to overtime nor shootouts.		

SHOOTOUT FOR MEDAL GAMES (GOLD, SILVER, BRONZE) ON SUNDAY

- Coaches do not name shooters in advance.
- Timekeeper:** records each shooter's player number on the game sheet.
- Process:**
 - A 3-player shootout is carried out
 - Shots are taken one at a time, from centre ice, with the visiting team going first
 - If still tied after the 3-player shootout, then each team plays 1 shooter at a time until a winner is determined, where a team scores and the opposing team does not score
 - No player may take a second shot until all their players (excluding the goalies) have taken a shot. (i.e. If team 'A' has 14 skaters eligible to shoot and team 'B' has 15 skaters eligible to shoot, then team 'A' may start again after their 14th shooter, and team 'B' after their 15th shooter.)
 - A player who is in the penalty box at the end of the overtime period for any reason or has been ejected may not participate in the shootout.