

ART LIGHTFOOT MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT RULES 2026

- No delay in games because of late arrival. We ask that all teams be in the arena and **prepared to play 20 minutes prior to game time** in case of an early start due to being ahead in the schedule. (**Home Team wears Light Jerseys & Away Teams wear Dark Jerseys**)
- All teams are permitted one 30 second time-out per game.
- The coaching staff and manager of each team shall be responsible for the actions of their team in the dressing room, in the arena and on the ice.
- A team that does not show up for a game on time will default that game by a score of 5-0. The tournament committee will decide how the point system will work in this situation. Some options may be; award the winning team 5 points, allow every team in the tournament to take their top two games and add the sum of those points, or possible change in the tournament schedule if time allows.
- All games will consist of three 15-minute stop time periods with a flood every two periods.
- **MERCY RULE:** If there is a spread of FIVE (5) goals at any time in the 3rd period, the clock will run STRAIGHT TIME. If the goal spread becomes FOUR (4) OR LESS, then revert back to STOP TIME on ONE (1) occasion.
- There will be a 5 minute warm-up before each game.
- Teams will be awarded points in the following manner for each game:
 - 2 points for a win
 - 1 point for a tie
 - 1 point for each period won
 - 0.5 point for each period tied

* Maximum of 5 points between both teams per game *
- **The top 'SIX' teams** based on total points will **advance** to the playoff round. Teams will be ranked (1,2,3,4,5,6) based on point totals accumulated in their first 3 games. Teams (1,2) will receive a berth into the semi-finals while teams (3 vs 6) and (4 vs 5) will play in a wild card game to determine the other two semi-final opponents. The home team for the championship game will be decided by the team with the most points.

If teams are tied on points, ties will be broken as follows:

Two Team Tie Breaker

Refer to the game played between the teams (if these teams played) – the team that won the game will be awarded 1st place. If still tied,

- 1) Win/Tie/Loss Record. The team with the best record will advance. For example a team with 2 wins & 1 tie will advance over a team with the same # of points that have a record of 2 wins & 1 loss. If still tied,
- 2) Goal Differential. There will be a maximum of a 5 goal spread that will be considered when using the goal differential tie breaker. For example, if a team wins by a score of 10 – 1 in the round robin the 'goal differential' ruling of this game will be considered to be won by a score of 6 – 1.(a 5 goal margin)

The formula used will be Goals For (GF) divided by Goals Against (GA).

Example: Team A: Goal Differential is 7(GF) & 5 (GA): $7/5 = 1.4$

Example: Team B: Goal Differential is 5(GF) & 3 (GA): $5/3 = 1.66$

Therefore Team B has the best goal differential. The team with the best goal differential will advance. If still tied –

- 3) The team with the least goals against will be awarded 1st place. If still tied –
- 4) The team with the least penalty minutes will be awarded 1st place. If still tied –
- 5) Refer to the game played between the two teams. The team that scored the first goal will be awarded 1st place. If these two teams did not play against each other, the team that scored the first goal(time) in their opening game of the tournament would be awarded 1st place. If still tied
- 6) In the event that two teams are still tied, then a coin toss will determine 1st place due to lack of available ice time.

If three teams or more are tied

- Once the ruling goes to the three team tie breaker, the ruling will not revert back to the two team ruling at any time. All three team positioning will be based on the rulings below!
 - Once the 1st place team has been decided, that same ruling can decide the 2nd and 3rd place teams as well. If still tied the two remaining teams will move onto the next ruling
- 1) Win/Tie/Loss Record. The team with the best record will advance. For example a team with 2 wins & 1 tie will advance over teams with the same points that have a record of 2 wins & 1 loss or a team with 3 ties) If still tied,
 - 2) Goal Differential. There will be a maximum of a 5 goal spread that will be considered when using the goal differential tie breaker. For example, if a team wins by a score of 10 – 1 in the round robin the 'goal differential' ruling of this game will be considered to be won by a score of 6 – 1.(a 5 goal margin)
The formula used will be Goals For (GF) divided by Goals Against (GA).
Example: Team A: Goal Differential is 7(GF) & 5 (GA): $7/5 = 1.4$
Example: Team B: Goal Differential is 5(GF) & 3 (GA): $5/3 = 1.66$
Therefore Team B has the best goal differential. The team with the best goal differential will advance. All three teams will be ranked first, second & third by goal differential! If still tied –
 - 3) The team with the least goals against will be awarded 1st place. If still tied –
 - 4) The team with the least penalty minutes will be awarded 1st place. If still tied –
 - 5) The team that scored the first goal(time) in their opening game of the tournament will be awarded 1st place. If still tied –
 - 6) In the event that three teams are still tied, then a coin toss will determine 1st place due to lack of available ice time.

Overtime Rules

- Overtime will only be played in Wildcard, Semi-final and Final games
- Wildcard, Semi-final & the Final Game will be sudden death overtime if tied after regulation play.
 - 3 on 3 overtime for 5 minutes (Running time)
 - If the game is still tied, another 5 minutes will be put on the clock and 3 on 3 play will continue. (Running time)
 - During overtime, all play will be running time.
 - Line changes can only occur during play **(MUST CHANGE ON THE FLY)**
 - Penalties during overtime are 3:00 minutes in duration.
 - If, because of penalties, one team cannot ice two players, the other team will add a player until the penalty has been served.
 - If the game is still tied, a penalty shoot-out will be used to decide the winner. Each team will choose (3) players to decide a winner. If still tied after these three shooters, teams will choose one player that has not already shot to shoot in a sudden death shoot-out. Teams must use all players before a player who has already shot is chosen again.
- No protest will be entertained.
- Hockey Nova Scotia, School Sport Nova Scotia Rules will be observed and tournament rules will be in addition to these.
- Any coach or team official who, in the opinion of the tournament committee, displays poor sportsmanship or a bad example shall be suspended from the tournament.
- The coach and team will vacate the dressing room 20 minutes after the game and leave it in a clean state. If a problem exists with a team not keeping a dressing room clean, an invitation to attend will not be extended next year.
- If for any reason a team leaves/ends a game early, the opposing team will receive their points for the time not being played. For example, due to an injury team (A) decides not to play the third period, Team (B) will receive the third period point. The remaining points will have already been decided in the previous periods.

