



OWHA Provincial Championships – 2025-2026

Playing Rules and Regulations - Playdowns

Playing Rules and Regulations for Regional Playdowns

1. Teams, local associations, or groups of associations may submit bids to host a “tournament-style” Regional Playdown in one or more categories. Bids should be submitted to the OWHA Office by February 1st of the playing season. The OWHA designate will either approve a bid or announce that Regional Playdowns for a specific category and region will be determined per the rules. Regional Playdowns may be held as part of a sanctioned tournament but must follow all rules governing Regional Playdowns.
2. Regional Playdown game(s) will be allowed to be played during regularly scheduled and playoff league association games(s) if mutually agreed upon by both participating teams and the OWHA designate and all playing Rules and Regulations for Regional Playdowns are followed.
3. The OWHA office is responsible for coordinating Regional Playdowns, held for the purpose of determining a Regional Champion in each division and category. Period lengths in each series will be of the same duration for ALL games. If unanimous agreement on period length cannot be reached, the final and binding decision for period lengths will be determined by the OWHA designate. The minimum period/game length is 10/10/10, with no overtime except for RULE THREE (B)(9)(b). **There will be no curfew.**
4. It is mandatory to use minimum Level II HCOP currently registered referees.
5. Gate fees shall not be charged for OWHA Regional Playdown games.
6. Commencing at Bantam, all categories A and higher (Bantam A, Bantam AA, Midget A, Midget AA, Intermediate A, Intermediate AA, Senior A, Senior AA,) must use the three-official system in Regional Playdowns. Referees in a three official system must be a minimum Level III. Under exceptional circumstances and with the approval of the OWHA designate(s), other arrangements may be made.
7. **One 30 second timeout will be permitted per team/per game in all categories of OWHA Regional Playdowns.**
8. Games that must be ended due to a serious injury that requires an ambulance to be called or due to a serious mechanical equipment failure in the arena that makes playing dangerous or impossible are permitted to be ended despite there being no curfew. Any Playdown games ended after the start of the third period due to the previously noted reasons will be considered a complete game at the point of curfew. Games ended prior to the end of the Second Period will be null and void and must be rescheduled and replayed in their entirety.
9. **FOR TWO TEAMS:** Upon mutual agreement, two teams involved in a regional playdown may select either a three game format with the first team to reach 4 points advancing or a five game format with the first team to reach 6 points advancing.

If agreement cannot be reached then the three game format will be used. Prior to the series beginning, the home ice advantage for the third game may be determined by a coin toss or ice availability.

Win - 2 points

Tie - 1 point

Loss - 0 points

Prior to the series starting, the decision will be made by the OWHA designate and the teams involved whether they will follow RULE THREE (B)(9)(a) or RULE THREE (B)(9)(b) format. If the teams cannot agree with the format, RULE THREE (B) (9) (a) will be used.

- (a) If the series is tied in points after three (or five) games, the following tie-breakers will be used:
 - i. Goals scored minus goals against in three (or five) games;
 - ii. Fewest goals allowed in three (or five) games;
 - iii. Most periods won in three (or five) games; 9
 - iv. Fewest penalty minutes in three (or five) games;
 - v. First goal scored in series; vi. Flip of a coin.