‘A’ (U10, U14&UP) PLAYOFF FORMAT – 2025-2026

In accordance with Rule 22.01, the Mississauga Hockey League has adopted the following format for ‘A’ playoffs this season:

1. GENERAL PLAYOFF RULES

a) Teams are scheduled according to their final standings. Ties in standings will be determined according to Rule 31.

b) Playoffs are set up according to the number of teams involved in the Category. ALL TEAMS QUALIFY FOR THE PLAYOFFS.

c) Teams must be ready to play ten (10) minutes prior to game time in the event the previous game ends early.

d) Teams must stand ready to play on EIGHTEEN (18) HOURS NOTICE.

e) Home ice does not apply during playoffs.

f) Any player who is guilty of any offence that warrants suspension beyond his team's remaining games will serve the balance thereof at the start of the following season.

g) A team involved in the playoffs may be granted permission to enter GTHL, OMHA and Minor Hockey Alliance sanctioned tournaments only, conditional on keeping their MHL playoff schedule commitments.

h) **In any Playoff game** each team will be permitted one 30-second time out.

i) If at the end of a potential series-ending game, the series doesn’t end, the team designated as the Home team for that game will be required to carry the MHL Series Trophy, plus the gold and silver medals, to the next game scheduled for this series.

2. PLAYOFF START DATES

The start date(s) for playoffs will be after the season has concluded. Please check the website for your teams’ games.

3. FORMAT

a) The U10 A group will play a Round Robin (RR) to determine the top 4 teams. Each team will play 5 RR games; The top 4 teams from the preliminary RR will then play a second Round Robin and will play 3 RR games to determine the final top 2 teams. The Finals will be the top 2 teams from the 2nd RR and will play a 4-point final series, with 1 Bronze game for the 3rd and 4th place teams from the 2nd RR.

b) The U14 – U18 'A' team playoff format will consist of three or four rounds & bronze medal game up to and including U14A. No Bronze game for U15A through U18A.
   - Elimination Rounds & Quarterfinals
   - Semi-Finals
   - Bronze Game (up to and including U14A)
   - Final

b) The number of games played/points to be attained in each round will be the following:
   - In each Elimination Round series, the team that first reaches four (4) points will be declared the winner.
   - In each Quarter-Final series, the team that first reaches four (4) points will be declared the winner.
   - In each Semi-Final series, the team that first reaches six (6) points will be declared the winner.
   - In each Bronze Game, defeated Semi-Finalists will play a one-game playoff whose results will determine the single winner of a bronze medal.
   - In each Final series, the team that reaches 6 (six) points will be declared the Champion.

The pairing format per round is as follows.

No. of teams in Category	Elimination Round	Quarter-Final	Semi-Final	Bronze Game*	Finals
3	Double Round Robin	n/a	n/a	n/a	1st Place RR vs 2nd place RR
5	Not Applicable	4 vs. 5	1 vs. 4/5 2 vs. 3	DSF1 vs. DSF2	1/4/5 vs. 2/3
6	Not Applicable	3 vs. 6 4 vs. 5	1 vs. 4/5 2 vs. 3/6	DSF1 vs. DSF2	1/4/5 vs. 2/3/6
7	Not Applicable	3 vs. 6 4 vs. 5 2 vs. 7	1 vs. 4/5 2/7 vs. 3/6	DSF1 vs. DSF2	1/4/5 vs. 2/3/6/7
8	Not Applicable	1 vs. 8 2 vs. 7 3 vs. 6 4 vs. 5	1/8 vs. 4/5 2/7 vs. 3/6	DSF1 vs. DSF2	1/4/5/8 vs. 2/3/6/7
9	8 vs. 9	1 vs. 8/9 2 vs. 7 3 vs. 6 4 vs. 5	1/8/9 vs. 4/5 2/7 vs. 3/6	DSF1 vs. DSF2	1/4/5/8/9 vs. 2/3/6/7
10	7 vs. 10 8 vs. 9	1 vs. 8/9 2 vs. 7/10 3 vs. 6 4 vs. 5	1/8/9 vs. 4/5 2/7/10 vs. 3/6	DSF1 vs. DSF2	1/4/5/8/9 Vs. 2/3/6/7/10

*DSF denotes "Defeated Semi-Finalist".

As per 3.a) Bronze Game applies up to and including U14A only

4. OVERTIME

- Overtime is governed by MHL Rule 21.

- ALL "A" Playoff games that are tied at the end of regulation time will result in sudden victory overtime periods being played until the game is decided.

  - The format shall be one 5-minute period of 4-on-4 followed by successive 5-minute periods of 3-on-3 until a winner is declared.
  - Teams shall not change ends after regulation time.
  - Teams shall change ends only after the first overtime period is completed and rotational changes each period after that.
  - The League Official or MHL Representative present at the game will be considered the "MHL Playoff Committee" for purposes of this rule and will have discretion as to the number of successive overtime periods to be played and whether floods should take place between overtime periods.

- Refusal of any team to continue overtime as required by the MHL Playoff Committee will result in that team being withdrawn from further playoff competition.