1161 Route 130 North | Robbinsville, NJ 08691
609.259.2776 | www.njsiaa.org

2026–2027 Officiating Priorities and Procedures

All NJSIAA points of emphasis shall apply to all member school's sponsoring ice hockey programs at all high school levels.

The Pregame Sportsmanship Statement must be read before each game to each team and coaching staff.

Prior to the start of the game, each head coach will certify that all participants are properly equipped. It shall be the responsibility of coaches and officials to strictly enforce all player-safety rules. Player safety equipment shall not be modified from its original manufactured state and shall be worn in the manner the manufacturer intended it to be worn. No captain or coach shall delay the game by challenging any players use of dental guards or neck guards.

Point of emphasis

1. Players must refrain from sitting on the top of the boards of the players bench while play is ongoing for safety concerns.
2. While reasonable celebrations will be tolerated by officials, Excessive celebrations after goals, specifically banging or jumping into the glass will not and may result in a delay-of-game penalty.
3. Taunting the opposing bench will be a two-minute minor penalty - no warning.

Ice Cuts

1. **Regular season** – The home team or the home teams facility will determine when the ice cut will take place. The home team must communicate to both the officials and the visiting team upon their arrival as to when the ice cut will take place. If there is overtime, there will be NO ice cut after the third period.
2. **NJSIAA tournament** – The ice cut will take place after the first period at all NJSIAA tournament games. If there is overtime, there will be an ice cut after the third period.
3. **NJSIAA Finals** (Prudential Center) – The ice cut will take place after every period. If there is overtime, the ice cut will take place after the third period, after the first 15-minute overtime period, and after two 7 ½ minute overtime periods.

Warm-ups/Period Breaks

1. 8-Minute Warm-Up
   - An official must be on the ice for the start of the warm-up period.
   - A coach must be on the bench during warm-ups.
2. If there is no ice cut after the completion of a period
   - A Maximum of 5-minute break between periods.
3. If there is an ice cut after the completion of a period
   - A Maximum of 15-minute break between periods.
4. After an ice-cut, teams must warm-up/skate in front of **THEIR** team's goalie.
5. Warm-up time will be put on the clock and start running down immediately after the end of the period.
6. There will be a mandatory 2-minute break between the third period and the 5-minute overtime.

Coaches Helmets

In accordance with the 2026-27 USA Hockey requirements and with the approval of the NJSIAA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee, NJSIAA expects all ice hockey coaches to properly wear an approved ice hockey helmet whenever they are on the ice during practices and other on-ice activities.

USA Hockey requires coaches and instructors participating in registered USA Hockey programs to properly wear an approved ice hockey helmet during all on-ice sessions, including practices, controlled scrimmages, and Coaching Education Program clinics and/or workshops.

NJSIAA strongly supports this requirement and expects member schools and ice hockey programs to make every effort to ensure that coaches comply with the USA Hockey helmet requirement whenever they are on the ice.

NJSIAA Overtime Procedure (For games that require teams to advance - not championship):

1. At the end of the third period, there will be a 15-minute intermission which includes an ice cut.
2. The overtime will start with One 15-minute sudden victory overtime period.
3. Teams shall change ends prior to the overtime period.
4. Each team will be awarded a single timeout for this overtime period. There will be no carryover of unused timeouts from the end of regulation.
5. If the score remains tied after the 15-minute overtime period, a shootout will take place after a 5-minute rest period with no ice cut
6. The choice to shoot first shall be determined by the higher seeded team.
7. The first five (5) players from each team alternate attempts at a penalty shot. No list needs to be obtained by the referee. Referees will keep track of who shoots for each team.
8. The team scoring the most goals at the end of the five (5) player shootout will win the game.
9. If score is tied after the five (5) player shootout, then it becomes a sudden victory shootout.
10. The next five (5) players will attempt a sudden victory shootout on a paired basis. This will continue until a team has won.
    - Example 1 - If player #6 on team A scores and player #6 on team B does not score, game is over and team A wins.
    - Example 2 - If player #6 on team A does not score and player #6 on team B scores, game is over and team B wins.
    - Example 3 - If player #6 on team A scores and player #6 on team B scores, the shootout will continue to player #7.
    - Example 4 - If player #6 on team A does not score and player #6 on team B does not score, the shootout will continue to player #7.
    - A player cannot shoot a second time until ten (10) different players from their team have attempted a shot.
    - No player may shoot a third time until (10) more players from their team have attempted a shot.
11. During the shoot-out, both teams shall remain at their benches and defend their goal.
12. Penalized players, whose penalty does not expire by the end of the overtime, cannot shoot, and shall be replaced prior to the start of the shoot-out.
13. Any injured player may be replaced prior to the start of the shoot-out.

NJSIAA State Final Overtime Period Procedure (For games that require a team champion):

1. At the end of the third period, there will be a 15-minute intermission which includes an ice cut.
2. The overtime will start with One 15-minute sudden victory overtime period.
3. Teams shall change ends prior to the overtime period.
4. Each team will be awarded a single timeout for this overtime period. There will be no carryover of unused timeouts from the end of regulation.
5. If the score is tied after the first overtime period, there will be a 15-minute intermission which includes an ice cut.
6. Then a 7 ½ minute sudden victory overtime period will be played with each team playing 4 v 4 (plus the goaltender).
7. If the score remains tied after the first 7 ½ minute overtime period, then a 5-minute rest period will take place.
8. The game shall continue with subsequent 7 ½ minute sudden victory overtime periods and 5-minute rest periods until a goal is scored.
9. Teams shall change ends prior to each overtime period.
10. After every two 7 ½ minute OT periods, there will be a 15-minute intermission which includes an ice cut.