



2023 HOCKEY - QUALIFYING TEAM SEMIFINAL & FINAL INFORMATION



[MHSAA Hockey Participating Schools Tournament Information](#)

[MHSAA Hockey Managers Manual](#)

ATHLETIC DIRECTORS & COACHES OF TEAMS QUALIFYING FOR THE MHSAA SEMIFINAL AND FINAL GAMES AT USA HOCKEY ARENA SHOULD REVIEW ALL INFORMATION WITH PLAYERS, PARENTS AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

******PLEASE REVIEW THE POLICY THAT PROHIBITS FAN TAILGATING AND PENALTIES FOR THROWING OBJECTS ON THE ICE******

MHSAA HOCKEY SEMIFINALS & FINALS

General Tournament Information

For Participating Teams, Athletic Directors, Coaches & Spectators

CROWD MANAGEMENT - By Representative Council action, schools participating in MHSAA Ice Hockey Tournaments are required to have the school principal, athletic director, or other non-coaching faculty member of the school with a letter of authorization from the school principal meet with the tournament manager before the game begins. In addition, teams playing in Semifinal and Final Games are expected to bring at least six persons to help with crowd management. **Chaperones will be expected to actively cooperate with MHSAA tournament staff in supervising student spectators!!!**

FACILITY - The MHSAA Semifinal and Final games will be played at USA Hockey Arena (formerly Compuware Arena) in Plymouth at the intersection of Beck Road and HWY 14. (14900 Beck Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170) Athletic Director Don Watchowski of Novi HS with hosts Mike Henry and Tony Noble of USA Hockey Arena will act as tournament managers for the event with Cody Inglis of the MHSAA, the tournament coordinator. Members of the Livonia Hockey Officials Association and Northeast Hockey Referees Association will be serving as team hosts and handle all participating team coordination in the lower arena areas coordinated by Jim Gagleard and Dan DiCristofaro.

INJUNCTION/RESTRAINING ORDER - In the interest of fairness to all participants, if an injunction or restraining order is served or presented at an MHSAA tournament site and requires the eligibility of or participation by a student or team which a school and/or the MHSAA has ruled to be ineligible under MHSAA regulations, the on-site Tournament Manager is to suspend the entire competition (team competition) or events in which that student is intending to participate. If the game has begun, it shall be completed.

COMPETING SCHOOL EXPENSES - Mileage Reimbursement - Participating teams at the Quarterfinal, Semifinal and Finals will receive mileage reimbursement directly from the MHSAA office after conclusion of the tournament series according to the following schedule for one-way miles. There is no form for schools to submit, it will be calculated and sent by the MHSAA.

0-75 miles – No payment (deductible)
76-100 miles – \$1.00 per mile
101-150 miles – \$1.50 per mile
151-250 miles – \$2.00 per mile
251-350 miles – \$2.50 per mile
351 miles & over – \$3.00 per mile

Lodging - The maximum allowance is the current hotel rate secured for a maximum of twenty-three (23) individuals. Allowance for expenses of competing schools at the final rounds will continue twenty-four hours after their elimination, provided they remain at the tournament center city. Schools eliminated in the Quarterfinal games will not receive expenses to attend final games. All competing teams in Semis and Finals who plan to stay overnight in the Plymouth area must make their own arrangements. The MHSAA office will be willing to assist where needed.

Additional Per Diem Allowance - In addition to meal and lodging allowances, schools competing in Quarters, Semis and Finals will be paid one hundred dollars (\$100) for each day of competition. Teams unable to return home after winning Quarterfinal contests will be paid the additional per diem and expenses for Thursday travel.

Above payments for allowable expenses and one-way mileage will be computed by the MHSAA and sent to competing schools at the conclusion of the tournament. There are no forms for schools to file.

TEAM ADMISSION, ROSTER LIMIT - Each competing school will be allowed up to thirty (30) admissions for entry to the arena on their game date. This will allow for players, coaches and managers. Arrangements for

entry are to be made with the tournament manager. For each game, teams are limited to a maximum of 23 players in uniform on the bench, if the 23rd player is a goalie. 20 skaters and 3 goaltenders. Teams should enter at the lower east gate door and must arrive together. (See time schedule section). If teams will be arriving via cars separately, they should park in the main parking lot and then proceed to the main entrance and downstairs to the skate rental area where once all team members have arrived along with the coach, they will be escorted to their locker room. **ALL TEAM MEMBERS AND COACHING STAFFS MUST ENTER TOGETHER in the back (lower east gate door). When a team arrives and is ready to enter, they should call either Cody Inglis at 517-899-2656 or Don Watchowski at 586-739-0999 to have MHSAA staff meet them at the lower east door.**

CHAPERONES - It is required that each school provides at least six staff members for supervision at all tournament games. Those serving as Chaperones will be allowed admittance with a supplied MHSAA Chaperone pass. The six chaperones shall meet with Managers Don Watchowski 30 minutes prior to the game. **Chaperones will be expected to actively cooperate with MHSAA tournament staff in supervising student spectators!**

TICKETS – All Semifinals and Finals tickets will be sold digitally through GoFan – no paper tickets will be through the USA Hockey ticket office. **Semifinals** - Semifinal games will be 2 games, 1 ticket. The arena will be cleared after each 2-game Semifinal session. General admission tickets at \$13 (includes parking) each may be purchased through GoFan and are good for both games of the session. **Finals** - The Final games will be 1 game, 1 ticket. General admission tickets at \$13 (includes parking) each may be purchased through GoFan. The arena will be cleared after each Championship game. **All-Session Tickets** - All-Session tickets will NOT be sold for 2023. **Entering/Exiting Arena** – Once a spectator has entered the arena if they choose to leave they must purchase a ticket to re-enter. There are no exit/re-enter privileges. There are no smoking areas at USA Hockey Arena. Please notify spectators and parents. If a spectator chooses to leave, then they will have to purchase a ticket to reenter.

SPECTATOR REGULATIONS & EXPECTATIONS - Each student section and adult spectator seating area will be determined in advance and assigned by the MHSAA. School crowd control chaperones are asked to cooperate with the MHSAA supervisory personnel regarding assigned seating areas. **The first row of student section seating areas will be roped off and kept vacant. In addition, red tape on chairs indicate that a seat CANNOT be sat in at USA Hockey Arena.**

1. Standing at the boards and pounding on the glass is unacceptable behavior and not allowed.
2. Throwing anything on the ice will result in immediate removal from the arena.
3. Standing on seats at any time will not be permitted.
4. Spectators are not allowed on the playing surface before or after the game.
5. Helmets worn by spectators will not be allowed.
6. Hand held signs on sticks or flags will not be permitted.
7. Whistles, air horns and cowbells or noisemakers of any kind are prohibited.
8. Shirts are required at all indoor MHSAA tournament venues; body paint is not allowed.
9. There is no smoking allowed inside or outside of USA Hockey Arena.
10. Large bags and backpacks are not allowed inside USA Hockey Arena.

SPECIAL NOTE - Any spectator, adult or student that throws any object on the ice will be immediately ejected. The MHSAA and USA Hockey Arena reserve the right to check spectators for foreign objects prior to entrance and to refuse entrance to spectators with such objects.

TEAM CONDUCT – Competing teams will be held to an appropriate standard of conduct before, during and after games while in and around the locker room area. Locker room areas should be left as found, clean of tape and trash. Activity such as dumping water coolers on coaches/players should not occur.

TOURNAMENT PAIRINGS/TIME SCHEDULE – Please check the MHSAA Web site for team pairings. A coin flip to determine home teams was conducted by MHSAA staff. For 2023, a seed committee will meet after Quarterfinal games to reseed the brackets in each division. Teams will be assigned game times.

Division 2 - Thursday, March 9

5:00 p.m. – Semifinal

7:30 p.m. – Semifinal

Division 3 - Friday, March 10

11:00 a.m. – Semifinal

1:30 p.m. – Semifinal

Division 1 - Friday, March 10

5:00 p.m. – Semifinal

7:30 p.m. – Semifinal

CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES – Saturday, March 11

11:05 a.m. – Division 2 Championship

3:05 p.m. – Division 3 Championship

7:05 p.m. – Division 1 Championship

OVERTIME PROCEDURES - For all MHSAA tournament games that finish regulation tied, a sudden victory overtime will take place beginning with a maximum of four 8-minute periods, after which if the game is still tied a series of 4 on 4 sudden victory overtime periods will be played to determine a winner in accordance with the following procedures:

- At the end of regulation play, the two teams go to their locker room. The ice is to be resurfaced prior to the beginning of overtime play.
- The overtime period shall be eight minutes sudden victory.
- **Teams will change goals for first overtime period.**
- If the game remains tied at the end of the first overtime period, there shall be a two-minute rest Period (with teams remaining at their bench), change goals and continue with the second overtime.
- At the end of two eight-minute periods of overtime play, the ice shall be resurfaced. Teams may go to their locker rooms. This cycle repeats for an additional two overtime periods.
- At the end of four eight-minute periods of overtime play the ice shall be resurfaced, each team shall return to their locker rooms.
- After four overtime periods if the score remains tied, teams will begin with additional eight-minute periods of 4-on-4 hockey until a winner is determined. Carry-over penalties will apply, i.e., one team may be short two players if they have a carryover penalty. The previous cycle of rest periods and ice resurfacing will continue.

HOME TEAM DESIGNATION/GAME JERSEYS - Home team (white jerseys) and visiting team (dark jerseys) will be determined by a random coin flip for each game in advance by MHSAA tournament management. (see Schedule above) **Teams are reminded to bring both sets of jerseys to USA Hockey Arena.**

PEP BANDS - School pep bands will be allowed to play at Semifinal and Final Tournament games only through **prior arrangement with tournament management**. Schools with pep bands must purchase admission for each band member and coordinate in advance with the MHSAA.

BANNERS, HAND HELD SIGNS and NOISEMAKERS - Hand held signs on sticks are not allowed at MHSAA tournaments. Banners must be inspected by tournament management and placed only in specified areas. Per MHSAA rules there are no artificial noisemakers allowed at any indoor MHSAA tournament venues.

AWARDS PRESENTATION – After the Championship game, the MHSAA will conduct an awards ceremony with individual medals and team trophies given to the Champion and Runner-up teams. The MHSAA photographer will take team pictures after the awards ceremony. **No parents/spectators or media will be allowed on the ice for the awards ceremony.**

LOCKER ROOMS & EQUIPMENT - Teams will dress in locker rooms assigned by tournament management. Cell phones and cameras of any kind are not allowed in locker rooms at MHSAA tournaments. Teams will enter a cleaned locker room and are expected to leave it the same way when exiting. There will no warmups allowed inside of USA Hockey Arena. Warmups must be done outside. A team liaison will answer all questions regarding your locker room area and timeline for pregame preparation.

BUS PARKING - Team buses may enter from Beck Road and proceed to the east side of the arena. Buses should unload at the east side of the building near the lower-level team entrances. Buses should park in the main USA Hockey Arena Parking lot and be prepared to pick up teams after games at the east entrance door. The east entrance doors are for bus and team pick up and drop off only. Teams **MUST** enter together and must call Cody Inglis or Don Watchowski for entry procedures when ALL team members and coaches are on site.

ARENA ENTRY FOR DEFEATED TEAMS – Teams defeated in Semifinal games on Thursday or Friday will be admitted without charge at the main arena entrance as a group. A school representative must accompany the team for free admission. Teams interested in this option should connect immediately with tournament management to allow for this option.

INTRODUCTIONS/NATIONAL ANTHEM – Teams (all players dressed, max of 23, 20 skaters and 3 goaltenders) must line up at the goal line prior to all introductions. Starting players will be announced at Semifinal games and all players and coaches for Finals games. Players will skate to the blue line with their helmets on when announced and must remain on the blue line for the duration of the National Anthem. Team members will take off their helmets for the playing of the National Anthem while on the blue line. Teams will face the other team while opposing team and player introductions are occurring. **Teams whose players do not comply are subject to a 2-minute minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct.**

POINT DIFFERENTIAL RULE - A running clock will be used when a team leads by 8 or more goals during the first or second period. After two periods of play or any time during the third period, the game will be terminated when a team leads by 8 goals.

PRACTICE ICE – If schools wish to arrange practice ice prior to the tournament on the adjacent Olympic size rink at USA Hockey Arena contact Mike Henry at 734-453-6400. No practice will be allowed on the MHSAA main rink.

POST-GAME PARENT / FAN INSTRUCTIONS - At the conclusion of each game, the teams will return to the locker rooms where they will shower and change. Once the entire team has completed this process, they will be escorted out of the building to the back east entrance area. No teams will be able to go upstairs to the spectator area after their game. Spectators will be asked to leave the arena and building after each game. As a result, we would ask that all parents and fans wishing to greet the players and coaches after the game please exit the building in a timely fashion so we may begin preparation for the following contest. To maintain a safe and orderly environment for the players and coaches we also ask that parents and fans refrain from entering the east parking lot where the teams load and unload their busses but meet their teams in the main front parking lot of USA Hockey Arena.

TRAINER - An MHSAA trainer will be on-site during the tournament. Teams that are accompanied by a trainer or physician are asked to coordinate and communicate with the MHSAA trainer.

TAILGATING PROHIBITED - There is no tailgating allowed by spectators in the USA Hockey Arena parking lot. **No grills or alcohol consumption is allowed.** Violators will be subject to open intoxicant fines & penalties. The lot will be controlled and fans who are grilling or where alcohol is present will be asked to leave and/or law enforcement will take further action. The arena and the MHSAA will not tolerate such activity and we ask for your cooperation in letting fans know about these policies. Thanks in advance for your help in communicating this to your fans.

TV/INTERNET COVERAGE – The Saturday championship games will be streamed live via the Internet on mhsaa.tv - Semifinal game video will be streamed live on mhsaa.tv. Audio of all games will be available on mhsaanetwork.com. For the 2023 Semifinals and Finals, fans will be able to follow live, in-game statistical data via the Michigan Hockey Hub. Special thanks to the Michigan High School Hockey Coaches Association for their support during the MHSAA tournament. Links will be provided on MHSAA.com during the event. Local radio broadcasts must be approved through the MHSAA office by contacting Jon Ross.

PARTICIPATING TEAM/SPECTATOR INTERNET STREAMING – The broadcast and streaming rights of MHSAA post-season tournament events belong exclusively to the NFHS Network, which will be televising this event. Teams participating in MHSAA Tournaments are prohibited from streaming live video of any portion of an event over the Internet - including using social media platforms like YouTube and Facebook – or any other method. Likewise, individual spectators are also prohibited from streaming video through any means. Participating schools are responsible for informing their students, parents and other fans of this policy and to assist the MHSAA upon request in enforcing it. Participating schools are asked to help promote the viewing of their game on the NFHS Network.

VIDEO REPLAY - At the MHSAA Semifinal and Final games video replay will be used to review goals when the on-ice official deems necessary. The policies and procedures regarding use of video replay are attached.

WARM-UP/PRACTICE PUCKS - A 10-minute warm-up period will be provided prior to the scheduled starting time of the contest. Practice pucks will be provided. Teams do not need to bring their own pucks.

MEDIA RESPONSIBILITIES – Following the return to locker rooms after the game, head coaches and two or three player representatives will be escorted by MHSAA staff to the postgame interview room. This room is located upstairs off of the main arena and will require players to take off their skates in order to access. These sessions should take no more than 15 minutes.

TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT CONTACTS

- Cody Inglis, Assistant Director, MHSAA (517-332-5046; cell 517-899-2656) cody@mhsaa.com
- Don Watchowski, Tournament Manager, Novi High School, 586-739-0999
donald.watchowski@novik12.org
- Mike Henry, USA Hockey Arena Manager, 734-453-6400



MHSAA 2023 HOCKEY FINALS ARRIVAL PROCEDURES - TIME SCHEDULE

ARRIVAL/TEAM HOSTS – Each team will be assigned host personnel to assist them when arriving at USA Hockey Arena. Host personnel will direct teams to locker rooms and notify them when to take ice for warm-ups, introductions and resumption of play. Arrival time for teams in the MHSAA Hockey Semifinals & Finals is 90 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the game. Should teams arrive earlier than 90 minutes prior to game time, they will be asked to wait in the parking lot prior to gaining access to the facility their assigned locker rooms. If there is a desire to see a game ahead of their assigned game, entry must be coordinated by MHSAA staff ahead of time. Teams will be asked to immediately leave USA Hockey Arena at the conclusion of the game and will not be allowed to access the main spectator area. The following time schedule will be used for the 2023 MHSAA Semifinals & Finals. Times listed for the second game of a session are approximate. A ten-minute pre-game warm-up period is scheduled, but teams may use less if they prefer. For 2023, a seed committee will meet after Quarterfinal games to reseed the brackets in each division. Teams will be assigned game times.

Time Schedule – Thursday, March 9 - Division 2 Semifinals

D-2 Semifinal

4:30 p.m. – Warm-up
 4:40 p.m. – Make ice
 4:55 p.m. – Teams return to ice
 Introductions, National Anthem
 5:00 p.m. – Faceoff – D-2 Semifinal #1

D-2 Semifinal

7:00 p.m. – Warm-up (approx.)
 7:10 p.m. – Make ice
 7:25 p.m. – Teams return to ice
 Introductions, National Anthem
 7:30 p.m. – Faceoff – D-2 Semifinal #2 (approx.)

Time Schedule – Friday, March 10 - Division 3 Semifinals

D-3 Semifinal

10:30 a.m. – Warm-up
 10:40 a.m. – Make ice
 10:55 a.m. – Teams return to ice
 Introductions, National Anthem
 11:00 a.m. – Faceoff – D-3 Semifinal #1

D-3 Semifinal

1:00 p.m. – Warm-up (approx.)
 1:10 p.m. – Make ice
 1:25 p.m. – Teams return to ice
 Introductions, National Anthem
 1:30 p.m. – Faceoff – D-3 Semifinal #2 (approx.)

Time Schedule – Friday, March 10 - Division 1 Semifinals

D-1 Semifinal

4:30 p.m. – Warm-up
 4:40 p.m. – Make ice
 4:55 p.m. – Teams return to ice
 Introductions, National Anthem
 5:00 p.m. – Faceoff – D-1 Semifinal #1

D-1 Semifinal

7:00 p.m. – Warm-up (approx.)
 7:10 p.m. – Make ice
 7:25 p.m. – Teams return to ice
 Introductions, National Anthem
 7:30 p.m. – Faceoff – D-1 Semifinal #2 (approx.)

Time Schedule – Saturday, March 11 – Championship Games

D-2 Championship

10:35 a.m. – Warm-up
 10:45 a.m. – Take Team Photos
 10:50 a.m. – Make ice
 11:00 a.m. – Teams return to ice
 Introductions
 National Anthem
 11:05 a.m. – Faceoff – D-2 Final
Awards immediately following game

D-3 Championship

2:35 p.m. – Warm-up
 2:45 p.m. – Take Team Photos
 2:50 p.m. – Make ice
 3:00 p.m. – Teams return to ice
 Introductions
 National Anthem
 3:05 p.m. – Faceoff – D-3 Final
Awards immediately following game

D-1 Championship

6:35 p.m. – Warm-up
 6:45 p.m. – Take Team Photos
 6:50 p.m. – Make ice
 7:00 p.m. – Teams return to ice
 Introductions
 National Anthem
 7:05 p.m. – Faceoff – D-1 Final
Awards immediately following game



MHSAA Hockey Semifinal and Final Tournament Games

Video Replay Procedures

Video replay will be used only in the following situations:

1. To determine if the puck crossed the goal line.
2. To determine if the puck crossed the goal line prior to time expiring at the end of a period or game.
3. To correct time on the game as part of a goal/no goal review.
4. To determine if the net was on or off the moorings when a goal is scored.
5. Only the in-house overhead video replay system will be used to determine goals.
6. Correct identification of an ejected penalized player. (NFHS rule 9-13)

Procedures

1. Only the on-ice referee will determine if there will be video review. An on-ice decision will be made on each situation.
2. There will not be a coach challenge system used.
3. Players will be allowed to go to their bench during the video review.
4. The replay official will inform the on-ice official of the result of the video review. If the video review is inconclusive, the on-ice decision will stand.
5. The referee will signal goal and point to the center faceoff spot, or wave off the goal and initiate the appropriate faceoff. If communication is needed with the coach that will occur at this point in the process.
6. If a video review does not take place until the next whistle after a goal/no goal that needs review and is subsequently ruled a goal, all playing action that took place is voided, including goals, and the clock will be reset accordingly. Any and all penalties including minor and major penalties, unsportsmanlike/flagrant conduct penalties will not be voided.

