



2020 TOURNAMENT RULES

*The World Pond Hockey Championship is designed to provide participants with an invigorating and enjoyable experience. We do not use typical referees; instead we prefer to call them "game monitors". They along with the participants are there to ensure everyone's safety and enjoyment and as with "real" Pond Hockey, common sense, cooperation and the spirit of the game are paramount. **Teams that attempt to influence monitors decisions will be sanctioned.***

GAME PROCEDURES

- All games are 30 minutes in length consisting of two 15-minute halves with a 5-minute break in between.
- Teams are comprised of **a maximum of 5 players** (4 on 4, no goalies). The spare player may be utilized as a sub each game. Player changes allowed only during stoppages in play. (After a goal is scored). **Injuries, illness or other reasons do not allow the addition of more players to the roster during the tournament. Players may only play for one team.**
- Games are played on an ice surface measuring approximately 140' x 70'
- The nets or goals are reduced in size. They remain the standard 6 feet in width but are only 10 inches high.
- All players are required to wear hockey skates (**no figure skates, goalie skates or long bladed skates**). Helmets are optional, but highly recommended. Other types of equipment such as shin pads, elbow pads and hockey gloves are recommended also.
- No goalie sticks or goaltending equipment permitted.
- **Teams are required to have both home (white) and away (dark) jerseys**
- **Face-offs will be used to start games and second halves. All other instances (goals scored / penalties) will see the appropriate team taking "half". Both teams must move quickly so that the game is not delayed. The defending team returns to their side of center before the attacking team advances. Once the puck or the attacking team crosses center, the defending team may pressure or engage in play.**

PLAYING RULES

- Penalties will be called for rule infractions
 - Minor penalties will result in a goal being awarded to the opposing, non-penalized team as well as puck possession for taking half.
 - Major penalties or any action that jeopardizes the safety of players, volunteers or spectators will result in that player's ejection from the tournament with no substitution allowed for that player's team. In extreme instances or actions involving more than one player from a team, the entire team can be ejected from the tournament. That team or any of the individual players will never be granted entry into the tournament again.
 - General hockey infractions such as tripping, hooking, slashing, elbowing etc are considered infractions at this event as well (Minor penalty)
 - Any abuse of officials (monitors) will be considered a major penalty. This includes yelling / swearing and excessive arguing about calls.
 - No body checking
 - No slap shots. Stick blades must remain on the ice. (Minor penalty)
 - No contacting the puck with your stick above the waist (Minor penalty)
 - **No player can fall / lay / slide on the ice to protect the goal area or drop/lay your stick in a position to protect the goal area (goaltending) (Minor penalty)**
 - No intentional lifting of the puck. "Flip" or "saucer" passes are permitted if both teams agree; however, shots that are intentionally lifted into the air can cause injury to players and spectators alike. The resulting action without due care and attention = (Minor penalty)
 - All minor penalties can be upgraded to major infractions
 - There will be no off-side or icing calls
 - Goals must be scored from the **attacking side of center ice**. The maximum +/- awarded for any game, regardless of score will be a +10 or -10. (May become relevant in tie breaking purposes for play-offs)
 - Pucks that leave the playing area result in possession being awarded to the opposing team who in-bounds the puck at a point near to the location that the original puck left the surface. The defending team must give them **two stick lengths** to in-bound the puck. *(The assigned official will have extra pucks and will spot a puck at that location. Puck chasers are provided to retrieve errant pucks)*
 - The organizers reserve the right to prohibit any player from participating in a game should they be deemed a safety risk to themselves or anyone else.
 - The organizers reserve the right to add or delete rules as identified in this document. If changes are made, teams will be informed prior to any games being played.

PLAY OFF FORMAT

- The participating teams are divided into 16 equal numbered divisions. The top 2 teams in each division will identify the top 32 teams advance into Sunday's medal round (play-offs). Seeding determines your Sunday opponents and it is a single elimination format (1 vs 32; 2 vs 31 etc.). The top 2 teams in each ladies' division plus the next best 2 records will advance to the ladies' quarterfinals. Seeding determines schedule 1vs. 8; 2 vs 7 etc. Winners advance to the ladies' semifinal and then to finals

FINANCIAL

- Payments are required in full to secure your teams entry into the tournament. In the event of team cancellations 75% of the fee will be refunded up until 30 days prior to the event. Cancellations from 30 days to 15 days prior will be refunded 50% of their fee. After 15 days prior to the event each cancellation will be dealt with on an individual basis if injuries or compassionate reasons apply, otherwise no refund is guaranteed.