



AAU COLLEGE HOCKEY

# NATIONAL TOURNAMENT HANDBOOK

JACKSONVILLE, FL – MARCH 5-9 | 18-25, 2025



**Welcome to the 2025 AAU College Hockey National Tournament!**

We are excited to have you join us at the Community First Igloo in Jacksonville, Florida. Whether you're a player, coach, staff member, or spectator, we aim to provide an unforgettable experience. Our venue, home to the Jacksonville Icemen and other ice sports, ensures a safe and dynamic environment suitable for a memorable national tournament.

We ask for your cooperation in maintaining tournament flow, adhering to tournament protocols, and ensuring sportsmanship. Please review the event schedule, familiarize yourself with the venue access and policies, and prepare for an action-packed tournament. We're committed to making this the best tournament yet!

Let's make it a memorable event filled with competition, camaraderie, and fun!





## COMMUNITY FIRST IGLOO

3605 Philips Highway  
Jacksonville, FL 32207

The **Community First Igloo** is Jacksonville, Florida's premier destination for ice sports, proudly serving as the practice facility of the **Jacksonville Icemen** which is one of the top teams in the **ECHL**. The Igloo serves as the corporate headquarters of **Zawyer Sports**, owners of the Icemen along with 6 other professional hockey teams in the ECHL as well as the Charlotte Checkers in the AHL. There are two **USPHL** elite and premier junior teams from the **Bold City Battalion** which also call the Igloo home.

In addition to skating lessons, figure skating teams, and recreational ice hockey, Community First Igloo also supports indoor football, serving as the home of the Southern Steam. The rink has a rich history in professional minor league hockey, having been home to the **Jacksonville Bullets** and the **Jacksonville Barracudas** of the Southern Professional Hockey League (SPHL). The **Barracudas**, owned by Jacksonville Ice founder **Bob Sabourin**, trained and played at the facility when scheduling conflicts arose at their primary venue, the Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena. During the 2007–2008 season, the team made the rink their official home.

Beyond professional hockey, the facility is a hub for amateur hockey leagues, ice skating clubs, and university-level competition, including the **University of Florida Gators club hockey team**. Whether you're learning to skate, training at a competitive level, or just looking for a fun and exciting environment, Community First Igloo is the epicenter of ice sports in Northeast Florida.

### ENTERING THE COMMUNITY FIRST IGLOO

All spectators, players, coaches, media, and team and event staff should enter through the arena's main doors. Once in the arena, Official Tournament Passes will be required to access the main tournament concourse, spectator areas, and the two rinks. Players, coaches, and team staff with Team Access Passes will have access to locker room hallways, the trainers' area, and all spectator areas.

All spectators and guests with All-Access Passes or Daily Passes are restricted to the tournament concourse and viewing around the rink and the main concourse.

### IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

#### Memorial Hospital

3625 University Blvd. South  
Jacksonville, FL 32216

**\*\* Approximately 3.5 miles from the Community First Igloo**

### BUS PARKING & DROPOFF

The Community First Igloo has a long front driveway designated for team drop-offs. To avoid delays or blocked access, teams traveling by bus or van must vacate the front drop-off area and either wait or park in the designated bus area on the east side of the parking lot (I95 side).

### EVENT TICKETS

All-Access passes, which are suitable for all games through all rounds, will be \$65 at the door and \$60 if purchased online. Daily tickets are available for \$25 at the door. Youth admission (12 and under) will be \$15 per day or \$10 per day if they are wearing a hockey jersey or a 2025 AAU National Tournament shirt.



## **LIVE STREAMING OF GAMES**

All games of the AAU College Hockey National Championship Tournament will be broadcast free of charge on the AAU College Hockey YouTube channel, hosted by Long Island SportsNet. The national championship streaming schedule and links will be posted on AAU College Hockey tournament central ([www.aaucollegehockey.org](http://www.aaucollegehockey.org)), as well as on the AAU College Hockey App. Due to exclusivity rights granted to Long Island SportsNet by AAU College Hockey for the National Championship, the streaming of games will not be permitted by any individual or on behalf of any team via an alternative medium (e.g. another YouTube channel, HockeyTV, Facebook, Instagram, etc.).

## **MEDIA PASS REQUESTS**

All Media Pass requests must be submitted via email to the Director of Hockey Operations, Jon LaRochester, before the tournament begins. Media Passes are for official and independent media members who are unaffiliated with a member program. The team and conference media personnel will be issued official AAU College Hockey credentials within the team allotment. All media, whether team affiliated or independent, must adhere to the established Media Protocols. Any abuse of issued press passes or protocols may result in the revocation of press privileges.

## **OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT MEDIA & INFORMATION**

The AAU College Hockey National Tournament Center, hosted on our website ([www.aaucollegehockey.org](http://www.aaucollegehockey.org)), provides all tournament information, stats, standings, and team information.

Tournament Central is also accessible by scanning the QR code on the back of all Team Access, All Access, and Staff Access Passes or by downloading and using the official AAU College Hockey App.

## **ALL-ACCESS TOURNAMENT PASSES**

Spectators, family members, and fans who have All-Access Passes or Daily Passes are not permitted in the hallways leading to the locker rooms or Team Only areas at any time. These areas are reserved for teams, accompanying staff (coaches, managers, athletic trainers, sports medicine, sports information), and tournament personnel. Access to locker rooms will be by credential only.

## **TOURNAMENT GUEST & PARTICIPANT EXPECTATIONS**

We are committed to delivering an exceptional tournament experience that stands out as the best for our players, coaches, member programs, and fans. Achieving this requires cooperation, understanding, and flexibility from all involved. Please be aware that games will not be moved up if they finish early. However, unforeseen circumstances may result in delays for certain games. While we strive to maintain the scheduled flow of events, we appreciate your patience and support in ensuring a smooth and enjoyable tournament for everyone.

## **LOCKER ROOM ASSIGNMENTS**

Each team will be assigned a locker room for their designated games and must clear that locker room following the game. The front desk personnel will handle locker room assignments, and all rink rules and procedures must be followed.

Spectators and family members are not permitted in the hallways leading to the locker rooms at any time. This area is reserved for teams, accompanying staff (coaches, managers, athletic trainers, sports medicine, sports information), and tournament personnel. Access to locker rooms will be by credential only. Lockers are not available in any locker room. Keep all valuables in your respective hotel rooms for safekeeping.



Please be courteous and leave your locker rooms cleaner than you found them and ready for the next team to use. If you are issued a locker game and, upon arrival, notice that it is not cleaned, you need to contact an AAU College Hockey Supervisor immediately, or you will be held responsible.

### **TEAM CREDENTIALS & OFFICIAL CHECK-IN**

Unless otherwise arranged, all team check-ins will occur at the Community First Igloo in the Tournament Operations Center by the AAU College Hockey Divisional Commissioner or Association Designee. Teams can be checked in the day before their division begins competition, by appointment off-site, or two hours before a team's scheduled game time. During registration, each player must present their school ID and a government ID.

Teams registering are to leave all equipment outside the rink and enter the building through the main entrance. At the Welcome desk, only players, coaches, and team staff will be allowed in the building to register.

All AAU Registered Members of the official team, players, coaches, trainers, and team staff (up to 35 members) will be issued credentials. The request must go through the Director of Hockey Operations if a team is looking for additional credentials.

Only coaches, AAU College Hockey-approved media, and medical personnel are permitted in the bench area during competition. When teams and staff are not participating in their scheduled games, they can attend any other games. All players must enter through the main gate and present their credentials. Players without proper credentials will not be allowed into the facility. This policy will be strictly enforced. Any abuse of the team credentials will not be taken lightly and may result in the pass revocation and/or other disciplinary actions enforced by AAU College Hockey.

### **NATIONAL TOURNAMENT UNIFORM & DRESS STANDARDS**

In National Tournament play, student-athletes, coaches, and staff must adhere to the on-ice and off-ice attire and uniform standards. This includes appropriate attire for entering and leaving the arena and while on the bench (coaches/staff). All competing student-athletes on a team must have identical jerseys and socks, with each player having a unique number prominently displayed on the back of the jersey. Helmets and gloves are required to be the same color. Any coach or player not in compliance with the above-stated attire and uniform standards at this year's National Tournament will be excluded from all official media, video, and created content posted live and for future promotional projects.

### **PRACTICE & GAME PUCKS**

Pucks will be provided for all practices, pre-game warm-ups, and games.

### **TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS**

The on-ice officiating system will be the four-man system, consisting of 2 referees and 2 linesmen. AAU College Hockey Officials will be in attendance for all games. Any abuse of on or off-ice officials during any portion of the tournament, verbal or physical, will not be tolerated and will result in supplemental consequences, including suspension and disqualification.



### **COACH & TEAM STAFF EXPECTATIONS**

It is our expectation that all coaches and team staff will be knowledgeable of the National Tournament format and structures, as well as all rules of play and the protocols that govern the tournament, so that they may communicate them to their players and supporters. Coaches and team staff are also expected to assist in the operation of the tournament, by adhering to all schedules and protocol elements, ensuring that games start on time, locker rooms and tournament facilities are maintained and that any questions, concerns, issues, or circumstances that may arise are communicated to AAU Officials in a professional and timely manner.

### **GENERAL TOURNAMENT EXPECTATIONS**

We hope and expect this will be the finest run tournament you and your players have ever experienced. For this to occur, all parties must work together with understanding and flexibility. Games will not be moved up if they finish early. Games may be delayed for several reasons, but we will do all we can to keep things moving as expected.

The times listed are the game times, not the warm-up times. We have allotted 3 hours for each game. Please plan to arrive at the Ice Line facility at least 90 minutes before your game time. This will give the players plenty of time to stretch and go through their pre-game routines and the coaches time to drop by the AAU College Hockey Tournament Operations Center prior to their scheduled contest.





**2025 AAU COLLEGE HOCKEY  
NATIONAL TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE & QUALIFICATION**

**\*\* The following structure and qualification protocols have been determined through the collaborative efforts of the AAU College Hockey Competition Committee and the Board of Governors.**

**AAU COLLEGE HOCKEY DIVISION I**

For the 2024-2025 season, the Division I National Tournament field will feature 16 teams from three Conferences (CHS, EMPIRE, UNYCHL). The top 16 DI Members who accepted tournament bids will Auto-Qualify for the 2025 Tournament. All member teams qualifying as Auto-Bids must be in Good Standing within AAU College Hockey.

Following a traditional snake format, the DI National Tournament will divide the field into four pools of four teams, seeded according to the Final National Ranking.

*\*\* The Competition Committee may need to adjust the pool seedings to ensure that no more than two teams from a single conference are placed in the same pool. These adjustments will begin with seeds 13-16 first and may require adjustments in 9-12. Any adjustments that need to be made will be reported to the appropriate teams and conference leadership prior to the public release of the tournament brackets.*

Pool A	Pool B	Pool C	Pool D
1	2	3	4
8	7	6	5
9	10	11	12
16	15	14	13

Pool Play Round will feature Day 1 matchups of the highest seed vs. the fourth highest seed and second highest seed vs. third highest seed.

The matchups on Day 2 will feature the highest seed against the third-highest seed and the second-highest seed against the fourth-highest seed.

The final Day of Pool Play will feature the highest seed vs. the second-highest seed and the third-highest seed vs. the fourth-highest seed.

The four pool winners, determined by tournament points and standard tiebreakers (i.e., wins, points, goals against, goal differential, goals for, least penalties, and fastest goal scored) in each pool, will advance to the National Championship Semifinal.

The National Semifinal will feature a field of 4 teams, each winner of their respective pools. Teams will be re-seeded according to their Final National Ranking. Teams qualifying for the National Semifinal will compete in single-game elimination, with the two winners advancing to the AAU College Hockey National Championship Game, and the home team being determined again by tournament points and standard tiebreaker





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**AAU COLLEGE HOCKEY DIVISION II**

The Division II National Tournament field will feature 20 teams from 6 Conferences (ACCHL, CHS, DVCHC, EMPIRE, NEIHC, UNYCHL). The highest-ranked team will represent each Conference upon the Final National Ranking. These six teams will be identified as National Tournament Auto-Bids. The tournament field will be finalized by selecting the next 14 highest-ranked teams based on the Final National Ranking. All member teams qualifying for the National Tournament must be in Good Standing within AAU College Hockey.

Following a traditional snake format, the DII National Tournament will divide the field into five pools of four teams, seeded according to the Final National Ranking.

*\*\* The Competition Committee may need to adjust the pool seedings to ensure that no more than two teams from a single conference are placed in the same pool. These adjustments will first address seeds 16-20 and may also necessitate changes in seeds 11-15. Any required adjustments will be communicated to the relevant teams and conference leadership prior to the public release of the tournament brackets.*

Pool A	Pool B	Pool C	Pool D	Pool E
1	2	3	4	5
10	9	8	7	6
11	12	13	14	15
20	19	18	17	16

Pool Play Round will feature Day 1 matchups of the highest seed vs. the fourth highest seed and second highest seed vs. third highest seed.

The matchups on Day 2 will feature the highest seed against the third highest seed and the second highest seed against the fourth highest seed.

The final Day of Pool Play will feature the highest seed vs. the second-highest seed and the third-highest seed vs. the fourth-highest seed.

The five pool winners, determined by tournament points and standard tiebreakers in each pool, will advance to the National Championship Quarterfinal. Pool Play will also see three teams earn a “Wild Card” bid to compete in the Quarter-Final Pool.





The selection of the 3 Wild Card teams will be determined by tournament points and standard tiebreakers, i.e., wins, points, goals against, goal differential, goals for, least penalties, and fastest goal scored, after the Pool Play Round.

The National Quarterfinal will feature a field of eight teams, made up of the winners of the five pools and the three wild card teams. First, the five pool winners will be re-seeded based on tournament points and standard tiebreakers, such as wins, points, goals against, goal differential, goals for, least penalties, and fastest goal scored. Then, the three wild card teams will be added to the bracket based on points and standard tiebreakers.

Eight teams will compete in the quarterfinals in single-game elimination. The four winners will advance to the AAU College Hockey National Semifinal Round.

The National Semifinal will feature a field of 4 teams. Teams will be re-seeded by tournament points and standard tiebreakers, i.e., wins, points, goals against, goal differential, goals for, least penalties, and fastest goal scored. Teams qualifying for the National Semifinal will compete in single-game elimination, with the two winners advancing to the AAU College Hockey National Championship Game, with the home team being determined again by tournament points and standard tiebreakers.





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**AAU COLLEGE HOCKEY DIVISION III**

The Division III National Tournament field will feature 12 teams from 5 Conferences (ACCHL, CHS, DVCHC, EMPIRE, UNYCHL). The highest-ranked team will represent each Conference upon the Final National Ranking. These five teams will be identified as National Tournament Auto-Bids. The tournament field will be finalized by selecting the next seven highest-ranked teams based on the Final National Ranking. All member teams qualifying for the National Tournament must be in Good Standing within AAU College Hockey.

Following a traditional snake format, the DIII National Tournament will divide the field into three pools of four teams, seeded according to the Final National Ranking.

*\*\* The Competition Committee may need to adjust the pool seedings to ensure that no more than two teams from a single conference are placed in the same pool. Adjustments will start with seeds 10-12 and might also require changes in 7-9. Any necessary adjustments will be communicated to the relevant teams and conference leadership before the tournament brackets are publicly released.*

Pool A	Pool B	Pool C
1	2	3
6	5	4
7	8	9
12	11	10

Pool Play Round will feature Day 1 matchups of the highest seed vs. the fourth highest seed and second highest seed vs. third highest seed.

The matchups on Day 2 will feature the highest seed against the third-highest seed and the second-highest seed against the fourth-highest seed.

The final Day of Pool Play will feature the highest seed vs. the second-highest seed and the third-highest seed vs. the fourth-highest seed.

The three pool winners, determined by tournament points and standard tiebreakers in each pool, will advance to the National Championship Semifinal. Pool Play will also see one team earn a “Wild Card” bid to compete in the Semifinal round.

The selection of the Wild Card team will be determined by tournament points and standard tiebreakers, i.e., wins, points, goals against, goal differential, goals for, least penalties, and fastest goal scored, after the Pool Play Round.



The National Semifinal will feature a field of 4 teams. Teams will be re-seeded by tournament points and standard tiebreakers for the three pool winners, while the Wild Card Team will be the fourth seed. Teams qualifying for the National Semifinal will compete in single-game elimination, with the two winners advancing to the AAU College Hockey National Championship Game and the home team being determined again by tournament points and standard tiebreakers.





## 2025 AAU COLLEGE HOCKEY NATIONAL TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE & QUALIFICATION

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### AAU COLLEGE HOCKEY WOMEN'S DIVISION

The Women's National Tournament field will feature four teams from 2 Conferences (CHS, UNYCHL). Each conference will advance their top 2 seeds based upon Conference Playoff Results. All member teams qualifying for the National Tournament must be in Good Standing within AAU College Hockey.

Following a traditional snake format, the Women's National Tournament will divide the field into a single pool of four teams, seeded according to winning %.

WOMEN'S POOL
1
2
3
4

Pool Play Round will feature Day 1 matchups of the highest seed vs. the fourth highest seed and second highest seed vs. third highest seed.

The matchups on Day 2 will feature the highest seed against the third-highest seed and the second-highest seed against the fourth-highest seed.

The final Day of Pool Play will feature the highest seed vs. the second-highest seed and the third-highest seed vs. the fourth-highest seed.

Upon the completion of pool play, the top 2 seeds will advance to the AAU College Hockey Women's National Championship Game, and the home team will be determined again by tournament points and standard tiebreakers.





## 2025 AAU COLLEGE HOCKEY NATIONAL TOURNAMENT OFFICIAL RULES OF PLAY

Under the Official Rules of Play established by the NCAA, all official AAU College Hockey Games will be played with three 20-minute stop-time periods.

All games played during the National Tournament will feature a 10-minute warm-up period before the start of each contest and ice resurfacing between each period.

In all sanctioned AAU College Hockey Games, AAU member teams may dress up to 22 players, provided the dress roster consists of a minimum of 2 goaltenders. Teams may not dress 21 position players and 1 goaltender.

All official games during the National Tournament's Pool Play Round, which end regulation ending in a tie, will commence a 20-minute 3v3 overtime. Goaltenders will switch ends at the start of OT, and each team will receive 1 timeout. Teams will play until there is a winner.

During the Quarterfinal, Semi-Final, and Championship rounds, OT will be 20-minute 5v5 Overtime Periods until a winner is determined. Goaltenders will switch ends at the start of OT, and each team will receive 1 timeout.

Teams will be awarded 2 points for a win, 0 points for a loss, and 1 point for the losing team in overtime.

### OFFICIAL TIEBREAKER PROTOCOLS

In the event of a tie in the standings during the Pool Play Round in Division I, and for advancement, selection of wild card teams, and re-seeding of the brackets in Division II and III, will be determined by:

1. Head-to-Head Competition
2. Number of Wins
3. Fewest Goals Against in all Tournament Games
4. Goal Differential in all Tournament Games.
5. Fewest Penalty Minutes.
6. Most periods won in Pool Play are determined by +/- in goals.
7. The quickest goal recorded on the score sheet in pool play.
8. Single coin flip by the Divisional Commissioner.

In cases where multiple teams are tied at any stage of advancement or placement across all divisions, all teams will proceed through the standard tiebreakers. The calculation of tiebreakers does not restart as teams are eliminated.

### PLAYER DISQUALIFICATION PENALTIES

Should a player receive a disqualification penalty, he/she may be disqualified for the remainder of the tournament, pending a review by the AAU Commissioner and Tournament Director. If a player should get a disqualification penalty in his/her final game of the tournament, he/she will serve the disqualification (s) from his/her first game (s) at the start of the next season. If it is his/her last game before graduation, the team will be fined \$500, and the coach will be suspended for 2 games.

### ALL-TOURNAMENT RECOGNITION

The first and second All-Tournament Teams will be recognized following the Championship Game.





## AAU COLLEGE HOCKEY NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT GAME PROTOCOLS

\*\* The Home Team is expected to wear white or light-colored jerseys in all games unless both teams mutually agree to wear jerseys of the opposite color.

The time posted on the game clock counts down to the start of the game. If 45 minutes are posted on the clock, the game will start in exactly 45 minutes.

\*\*45 minutes before the start of the game, the Visiting Team Head Coach or Designee must report to the Tournament Operations Center to enter the starting lineup on the GameSheet iPad designated for their scheduled game.

\*\* 30 minutes before the start of the game, the Home Team Head Coach or Designee must report to the Tournament Operations Center to enter the starting lineup on the GameSheet iPad designated for their scheduled game.

40:00 – Zamboni cleans ice if not cleaned already.

31:00 – The clock operator will sound the horn to indicate 1 minute before teams take the ice.

30:00 – Officials take the ice for warm-up.

29:00 – The Home Team takes the ice for warm-up.

28:50 – The Visiting Team takes the ice for warm-up.

20:00 – Horn sounds signaling 1-minute remaining warm-up; team captains meet with the officials.

19:00 – Horn sounds, ending warm-ups. Teams pick up pucks and return to the scorer's booth.

18:00 – Both teams go off the ice; the ice is resurfaced.

6:00 – Officials take the ice.

5:00 – The Home Team takes the ice and assembles on their goal line.

4:50 – The Visiting Team takes the ice and assembles on their goal line.

4:00 – The Visiting Team is announced – starters line up on the blue line.

(The remaining Players will remain on the bench)

3:00 – Home Team is announced – starters line up on the blue line. (Non-starters remain on the bench)

2:00 – The National Anthem is played.

0:00 – The Timekeeper puts 20:00 on the clock, and the game starts.

\*\* When teams take the ice for the start of the game and before each period, only the 5 starters and the goaltender may skate around. All other players must go directly to the bench.

\*\* In the event of a delay from one game into the next game's protocol time (not allowing 30 minutes), the ice will be resurfaced, both teams will warm up on clean ice, and they will enter the game directly following the warmup period.

### Before each Period

The timekeeper puts 15:00 on the clock and starts once all players have exited the ice.

4:00 – The Team and officials are notified that three minutes remain before the teams take the ice.

2:00 – Officials take the ice

1:00 – The Home team takes the ice.

0:50 – The Visiting team takes the ice.

0:00 – Period starts.

**Any infractions or violations of this protocol may result in a Bench Minor for Delay of Game.**

