



TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

Prague, November 4 – 7, 2026

Basic Rules

The tournament shall be played in accordance with the IIHF Ice Hockey Rules 2026–27, 2027, with the modifications specified in these regulations for the tournament in Prague

Regular Round

The tournament will be contested by 8 registered teams divided into 2 groups. Each team will play against every other team in its group. Games will be played over 2 x 20 minutes of stop time, with a short break of 5 – 10 minutes.

10-Goal Rule

If the score difference reaches 10 goals, the game will continue using gross playing time, so the game clock will no longer be stopped for each game interruption and will continue to run.

Semi-Finals from the top and bottom half of the scoreboard

After the completion of the regular round, the teams finishing in 1st to 4th place will play the semi-finals according to their positions in the standings. The 1st-placed team in Group A will play against the 2nd-placed team in Group B and the winner of Group B will face the team in the second place in Group A. The winners will advance to the final, while the losers will play for 3rd place.

Similarly, there will also be matches between the finished third and fourth teams in their groups.

All these games will be played over 2 x 20 minutes of effective playing time, with a short break of 5 – 10 minutes.

Matches for the final ranking:

so the teams defeated in the lower and upper semi-finals will play the game for 7th place and for 3rd place, while the winning teams will play for 5th place and for 1st place (read in the following paragraph).

With the exception of the final match, the playing effective time will be 2x 20 minutes, with a short break of 5 – 10 minutes.

Final

The winners of the “upper” semi-final matches will compete in the final, i.e. in the game determining the tournament winner, which will be played for 3 x 20 minutes of effective time, with intermissions for ice resurfacing.

Regular-Round Standings

In the regular round, 3 points are awarded for a win, 1 point for a tie and 0 points for a loss. The standings are determined in the following order: 1. number of points, 2. head-to-head result, 3. goal difference.

Officials – Referees

Each game will be officiated by 2 referees licensed by the Czech Ice Hockey Association (ČSLH).

The game for 3rd place and the final will be officiated by 3 referees licensed by the Czech Ice Hockey Association (ČSLH): 1 referee and 2 linesmen.

Forfeit

If a team fails to take the ice within 10 minutes of the official start of the game, leaves the playing surface before the end of the game, or fields an ineligible player, the team will lose the game by forfeit, 0:5.

Game Misconduct

If a player receives a game penalty, the player may not participate in the following game, depending on the severity of the offence, unless otherwise decided by the Tournament Jury.

Protests

A protest may be submitted only by an authorized team representative (coach or team leader), in writing in Czech or English, no later than 60 minutes after the end of the game. A deposit of EUR 100 must be paid to the Tournament Jury. The Tournament Jury must decide on the protest before the start of the next game of the team submitting the protest. If the protest is unjustified, the deposit is forfeited; otherwise, it will be returned.

Tournament Jury

The Tournament Jury consists of 3 members:

- Head of the Sports and Technical Support Team
- Tournament Head Referee
- Representative of the foreign teams

Match Reports and Individual Awards

For each game, a Match Report will be prepared recording penalties, goals and assists. The reports will be evaluated each day of the tournament and will be used to determine the following individual awards:

- Best Scorer of the Tournament
- Best Goaltender of the Tournament
- Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the Tournament
- Fair Play Award

Overtime in Final Placement Games

If a final placement game is tied at the end of regulation time, a 5-minute overtime period will be played immediately after regulation time. The teams will not change ends for overtime and will continue with 3 skaters and 1 goaltender. Overtime ends after 5 minutes or when a goal is scored. The team scoring first in overtime is the winner.

Shootout

If no goal is scored during overtime, a shootout will be used to determine the winner.

Coin Toss

The referee will call the two team captains to the referee's crease and conduct a coin toss to determine which team will take the first shot. The winner of the coin toss may choose whether their team shoots first or second.

Goaltenders

The goaltenders will defend the same goal as in the last period. The shootout will be conducted at both ends of the rink. The goaltenders may be changed after each shot. If a shot has to be retaken for any reason, the same skater and goaltender must remain in place, except in the event of injury.

Initial Shootout Series

The shootout begins with five different skaters from each team taking shots alternately (A, B, A, B, etc.). The skaters do not have to be named in advance. All players listed on the official Match Report and both goaltenders are eligible to participate in the shootout.

Penalties

A player whose penalty has not expired before the end of overtime is not eligible to participate in the shootout and must remain in the penalty box or locker room until the end of the game. Players penalized during the shootout must likewise remain in the penalty box or locker room until the end of the game.

Decisive Shootout

The teams take shots alternately. Once one team scores and the other team fails to score with the same number of shots taken, the game ends and the team that scored the decisive goal is the winner. Any remaining shots are not taken.

Shootout After Five Shots

If the score remains tied after five shots by each team, the shootout continues with one player from each team. The same or new players may be used, and the team that took the first shot in the initial series will shoot second in the next round. The game ends as soon as the two shots produce a decisive result.

Refusal to Participate

If a team refuses to participate in the shootout to determine the winner of the game, that team will be declared the loser. If a player refuses to take a shot, the shot will be declared unsuccessful for that team.

Reference document: IIHF Ice Hockey Rules 2026–2027