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# **HOCKEY NOVA SCOTIA MINOR COUNCIL PLAYOFF FORMAT 2025–2026**

*(As of December 2025)*

*HNSMC Approved  
HNS Approved*



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## **2025-26 HNS Provincial / Atlantic Championship Tournaments**

- **U13 AAA:** April 2-5, 2026 (8 teams) – Valley Jets
- **U13 AAA Atlantics:** April 16-19, 2026 (5 teams) – Halifax Hawks
- **U15 AA:** April 2-5, 2026 (7 teams) – Glace Bay Miners
- **U18 AA:** April 3-5, 2026 (5 teams) – New Waterford Sharks

## **HNS Conference Championships with a Day of Champions (DOC in Truro April 11-12)**

- **U11 AA:** Conference Champions by March 29, 2026 (DoC: April 11-12, 2026)
- **U11 A:** Conference Champions by March 29, 2026 (DoC: April 11-12, 2026)
- **U11 B:** Conference Champions by March 29, 2026 (DoC: April 11-12, 2026)
- **U13 AA:** Conference / League Champions by March 29, 2026 (DoC: April 11-12, 2026)
- **U13 A:** Conference Champions by March 29, 2026 (DoC: April 11-12, 2026)
- **U13 B:** Conference Champions by March 29, 2026 (DoC: April 11-12, 2026)
- **U15 A:** Conference Champions by March 29, 2026 (DoC: April 11-12, 2026)
- **U15 B:** Conference Champions by March 29, 2026 (DoC: April 11-12, 2026)
- **U18 A:** Conference Champions by March 29, 2026 (DoC: April 11-12, 2026)
- **U18 B:** Conference Champions by March 29, 2026 (DoC: April 11-12, 2026)

## **League Champions**

- **U11 C:** Declared no later than March 29, 2026
- **U13 C:** Declared no later than March 29, 2026
- **U15 C:** Declared no later than March 29, 2026
- **U18 C:** Declared no later than March 29, 2026

***Please note that all dates in this document are deadlines that must be met.***



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## U13 AAA, U15 AA and U18 AA Playoff Structure

- **U13 AAA:** Provincial Tournament (April 2-5, 2026) – Valley Jets
- **U13 AAA:** Playoff Winners Atlantic (April 16-19 2026) – Halifax Hawks

At the conclusion of the Nova Scotia U13 AAA Hockey League play, there will be a playoff round to determine the teams that advance to a Provincial Championship Tournament. Please note that the **provincial host** and **wild card game-losing team** will not play in the playoff round.

**Format as follows:** Team seeding is based on regular season final standings. Ex: First-place team is Team 1, the second-place team is Team 2, etc.

**Playoff Round:** Series will be best 2-out-of-3. The lower seed will host Game 1. The higher seed will host Game 2 and Game 3 if necessary. Each team winning their playoff round will advance to Provincials.

Game	Teams		
1	1vs14	Pool A Winners	Pool B Winners
2	2vs13	Games 1-3-5-7	Games 2-4-6-8 (Host)
3	3vs12		
4	4vs11		
5	5vs10		
6	6vs9		
7	7vs8		

The winning seven teams, plus the host team, will advance to the HNS Provincial Championship Tournament scheduled for April 2-5, 2026. The event will use an 8-team format with two divisions of four teams each. Each team will play three games.

The top four teams will play a crossover for the semifinals.

1 Pool A VS 2 Pool B  
1 Pool B VS 2 Pool A



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Winners of each pool advance to the Championship Game with the highest seed team after tournament play receiving home ice.

The winner of the Nova Scotia U13 AAA Provincial Championship will represent Nova Scotia at Atlantics. The event is scheduled for April 16-19, 2026 in Halifax.



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### U15 AA Provincial Tournament (April 2-5, 2026)

#### U15 AA

**Determined by March 15, 2026**

Central Minor League  
North Conference League  
Host

4 teams advance  
2 teams advance  
1 team  
**TOTAL: 7 teams**

### U18 AA Provincial Tournament (April 2-5, 2026)

#### U18 AA

**Determined by March 15, 2026**

Central Minor League  
North Conference League  
Host

2 teams advance  
2 teams advance  
1 team  
**TOTAL: 5 teams**

**HNS North and South Conference Champions Advancing to the Day of Champions**  
**U11 AA, A, B; U13 AA, A, B; U15 A, B; U18 A, B**

<u>U11 AA</u>	<u>League Winner (March 29, 2026)</u>	<u>DoC (April 11-12, 2026)</u>
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Central Minor League (15 teams)	Winner	
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North Conference League (8 teams)	Winner	
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## **U11 A**

<b><u>NORTH CONFERENCE</u></b>	<b><u>March 29, 2026</u></b>	<b><u>April 11-12, 2026</u></b>
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North Conference Hockey League (13 teams)	1 Winner	DOC
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<b><u>SOUTH CONFERENCE</u></b>	<b><u>March 8, 2026</u></b>	<b><u>March 29, 2026</u></b>	<b><u>April 11-12, 2026</u></b>
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Central Minor League (12 teams) 1 Winner

Scotia League South (6 teams)	1 Winner	DOC
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## **U11 B**

<b><u>NORTH / SOUTH CONFERENCE</u></b>	<b><u>MARCH 8, 2026</u></b>	<b><u>March 29, 2026</u></b>	<b><u>April 11-12, 2026</u></b>
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North Conference League (4 teams)	1 Winner		DOC
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1 Winner

Scotia League South (4 teams)	1 Winner		DOC
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<b><u>SOUTH CONFERENCE</u></b>	<b><u>March 29, 2026</u></b>	<b><u>April 11-12, 2026</u></b>
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Central Minor League (11 teams)	1 Winner	DOC
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<b>U13 AA</b>	<b>March 29, 2026</b>	<b>April 11-12, 2026</b>
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Central Minor League (14 teams)	1 Winner	
North Conference Hockey League (4 teams)	1 Winner	DOC

<b>U13 A</b>		
<b>NORTH CONFERENCE</b>	<b>March 29, 2026</b>	<b>April 11-12, 2026</b>

North Conference League (10 teams)	1 Winner	DOC
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<b>SOUTH CONFERENCE</b>	<b>March 8, 2026</b>	<b>March 29, 2026</b>	<b>April 11-12, 2026</b>
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Central Minor League (7 teams)	1 Winner		
		1 Winner	DOC

Scotia League South (7 teams) 1 Winner

<b>U13 B</b>		
<b>NORTH CONFERENCE</b>	<b>March 29, 2026</b>	<b>April 11-12, 2026</b>

North Conference Hockey League (8 teams)	1 Winner	DOC
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<b>SOUTH CONFERENCE</b>	<b>March 29, 2026</b>	<b>April 11-12, 2026</b>
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Central Minor League (12 teams)	1 Winner	DOC
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## **U15 A**

<b><u>NORTH CONFERENCE</u></b>	<b><u>March 8, 2026</u></b>	<b><u>March 29, 2026</u></b>	<b><u>April 11-12, 2026</u></b>
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North Conference Hockey League (9 teams) 1 Winner

1 Winner

DOC

Scotia League South (5 teams) 1 Winner

## **SOUTH CONFERENCE**

**March 29, 2026**

**April 11-12, 2026**

Central Minor League (11 teams)

1 Winner

DOC

## **U15 B**

**SOUTH CONFERENCE**

**March 29, 2026**

**April 11-12, 2026**

Central Minor League (13 teams)

Top 2 Advance

DOC

## **U18 A**

**NORTH CONFERENCE**

**March 29, 2026**

**April 11-12, 2026**

North Conference Hockey League (5 teams)

1 Winner

DOC

## **SOUTH CONFERENCE**

**March 29, 2026**

**April 11-12, 2026**

Central Minor League (12 teams)

1 Winner

DOC

## **U18 B**

**NORTH CONFERENCE**

0 Teams

**SOUTH CONFERENCE**

0 Teams





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## HNSMC Playoff Games, Series and Tournaments

All HNSMC playoff games, series, and/or tournaments must be approved by the Regional Director(s) and/or the Minor Council Conference Coordinator. A HNSMC representative will coordinate and oversee all HNS playoff games, series or tournaments.

The North and South Conference Playoff Finals shall be one-game, sudden victory events. If required, some Conference Champions may be league champions and not require the sudden victory event, the final HNS Playoff format will be approved after final team categorization in December 2025.

For the 2025-26 hockey season, home ice advantage shall be granted to the teams to the **WEST** geographically.

For all conference finals where the East plays the West, the teams in the **WEST** must supply two ice times to the **HNSMC Conference Coordinator** who will pass on to the team in the **EAST** to choose one of these dates for the one-game sudden victory event.

All scores must be reported to the HNSMC Representative after the conclusion of each game

North Conference: [dstjohn@hockeynovascotia.ca](mailto:dstjohn@hockeynovascotia.ca)

South Conference: [jmosher@hockeynovascotia.ca](mailto:jmosher@hockeynovascotia.ca)

### **C-Level League Champions U11 C, U13 C, U15 C, U18 C**

The C-Level Championships are under the jurisdiction of the local MHA or the established league within an area or Region[s]. The MHAs and Leagues are encouraged to provide a positive experience for all players with consideration being given to the development of player skills and the promotion of player self-esteem.

The costs of the game and alternate choices for players and parents of players playing at the C-level must be taken into consideration when this level of minor hockey is being designed within each Association or Region.

HNS will take measures to assist each MHA in developing programs and assisting coaches at these community levels.