



MHSAA Tournament Overtime Procedures

For all MHSAA tournament games that finish regulation tied, 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.
- **Change goals for first overtime period and each subsequent 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 each set of two eight-minute overtime periods, the ice shall be resurfaced. Teams may go to their locker rooms. Same ice cleaning format is used throughout OT.
- If the score remains tied after four overtime periods have been played, teams will play all subsequent overtime periods as 4-on-4 hockey until a winner is determined. Carry-over penalties will apply. If the first 4 on 4 period starts with a team down two players, the two man advantage will be played 5 on 3 and will remain until penalized players return to ice. Teams revert to 4 on 4 on first stoppage once shorthanded penalties expire and both teams are at full strength. (By rule, teams cannot play below on ice strength of 3 skaters plus a goalkeeper).

GOAL DIFFERENTIAL RULE - The goal differential rule (mercy rule) is in effect for all regular season and MHSAA Tournament games. The rule is as follows; a running clock shall be used when a team leads by **eight** or more goals during the first and second periods. After two periods of play or anytime during the third period, the game will be terminated when a team leads by **eight** goals. During the first and second periods, if the goal differential drops below **eight** goals, regular time resumes. The rule is not optional nor shall it be modified.