

## **Tie Breaking Formula for Playoffs (Updated April 2025)**

### **Tie Breaking Formula Overview**

**Tie Breaking Formula:** If two or more teams finish the round robin stage with identical records, the following tie breaking procedures will be applied in the order listed below to determine which team advances.

#### **1. Head-to-Head Play**

**#1 Head to Head Play:** If only two teams are tied and they faced each other during the round robin, the winner of that game will advance.

In cases where three teams are tied, if teams A and B both defeated team C, A and B will be ranked higher than C. The head-to-head result between A and B then determines their final positions; for example, if A beat B, A ranks above B, and C ranks behind B.

**If only two teams are tied and did not play each other, the team with the most regulation wins ranks higher than a team with overtime wins. If this is even, then the steps below will be used.**

#### **2. Goals For Divided by Goals For Plus Goals Against**

**#2 Goals For Divided Into Goals For + Goals Against** If head-to-head play does not resolve the tie, the next criterion is the ratio of goals for to the total of goals for and goals against. For example, if Team A has scored 14 goals and conceded 10, their ratio is 14 divided by (14 + 10), resulting in a 0.583 average. If Team B has scored 17 and conceded 13, their ratio is 17 divided by (17 + 13), or 0.566. The team with the higher average advances.

Team A would advance with the higher average.

#### **3. Most Goals For**

**#3 Most Goals For** If the previous formula does not break the tie, the team that has scored the most goals advances.

**#4 Least Goals Against** If teams remain tied after the previous steps, the team with the fewest goals conceded advances.

**#5 Least Penalty Minutes Regular season.** If the tie persists, the team with the least total penalty minutes advances.

**#6 Least Aggressive Penalty Minutes Regular season:** If a tie still remains after all previous criteria, the team with the fewest aggressive penalty minutes, based on aggressive minor penalties, will advance.