



STARPTAUTISKĀS POLICIJAS ASOCIĀCIJAS LATVIJAS BIEDRĪBA

Rīga, Rododendru iela 14 - 4, LV - 1083

IPA WORLD CUP IN ICE HOCKEY 2026 – TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

1. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 1.1. To promote the game of ice hockey among the world's law enforcement and emergency service institutions.
- 1.2. To encourage a healthy lifestyle.
- 1.3. To determine the best ice hockey team among global law enforcement institutions.

2. MANAGEMENT

2.1. The Championship is organized by the **International Police Association Latvian Section** in cooperation with **Volvo Ice Hall** and **Riga City Council**.

3. TIME AND VENUE

- 3.1. The tournament will be held in **Riga, at Volvo Ice Hall, Jūrmalas gatve 78D**.
- 3.2. **Dates:** March 19–22, 2026.
- 3.3. Games will be played according to the schedule prepared by the organizer and determined by draw.

4. COMPETITION PROCEDURE

4.1. The **IPA World Cup in Ice Hockey 2026** will be held under **IIHF rules** (excluding body checks), these tournament regulations, and the disciplinary code.

4.2. The **IPA World Cup 2026 Hockey Championship** will commence with the **Group Stage**, where all participating teams will compete in a **round-robin format** within their respective groups.

Following the group stage, and based on the total points earned, the teams will be divided into **two divisions – East and West**. Division matches will then be played to determine the qualifying teams for the **Quarterfinals, Semifinals, and the Final**.

The **group allocations** will be determined by an **official draw**, which will take place **one day prior to the start of the tournament** during the **Team Captains' Meeting**.

4.3. Games may end in a draw. To determine a winner, **penalty shots** will be taken five minutes before the end of regular time.

2026

4.4. Each game lasts **60 minutes**, consisting of **3×12 minutes of effective playing time**.

1. Intentional delay of the game results in a **penalty shot**, taken by a player chosen by the opposing team.

2. Pre-game warm-up on ice – **5 minutes**.

4.5. Teams must submit a **handwritten player registration form** to the secretariat **10 minutes before the game**.

4.6. Failure to appear or refusal to start the game results in a **0:5 loss**, and further participation will be reviewed by the **IPA World Cup 2026 Committee** in accordance with the disciplinary code.

4.7. If less than **2 minutes** of ice time remain, teams cannot request a **30-second timeout**. Each team may use one timeout per game.

5. PARTICIPANTS AND PLAYER REGISTRATION

5.1. Teams of the **International Police Association** are invited to participate.

5.2. Each team may register **22 players** (including **2 goalkeepers**).

5.2.1. With the organizer's and opposing team's agreement, a team may register an additional goalkeeper if he is not registered for another team in the tournament.

5.3. Professional players (those with active contracts in professional hockey clubs or who have played in the last three seasons for **national teams, KHL, or NHL**) are not allowed.

5.3.1. Only **active or retired law enforcement officers** are eligible. Players may be asked to present a **service ID, retirement card, or IPA membership card**.

5.4. **Player restrictions:**

- Minimum age: **18 years**.

- Players under **21** must wear a **full-face mask** and **neck/throat protector** according to international standards.

5.5. Each team must have at least **6 players** (including goalkeeper) on the ice at the start of the game.

- Players must wear **approved standard jerseys**.

6. DETERMINING WINNERS

6.1. Points system:

- Win in regular time – 3 points

- Win in penalty shots – 2 points

- Loss in penalty shots – 1 point

- Draw – 1 point

- Loss in regular time – 0 points

6.2. Tie-breaking criteria:

- Points in head-to-head matches;
- Goal difference in head-to-head matches;
- Overall goal difference;
- Fewer penalty minutes.

6.3. If a game must be stopped due to technical issues (e.g., broken glass):

- If at least half of the game time has been played, the current score counts as final;
- If the game resumes and reaches half of the total playing time, the score at the end of play stands.

7. RESPONSIBILITY

- 7.1. Players are responsible for their own health and must confirm this by signing the registration form (in accordance with the Sports Law).
- 7.2. Neither referees nor organizers are responsible for injuries or damages (including fatal outcomes) during the tournament or within the arena area.
- 7.3. By registering, each participant confirms familiarity with and commitment to these regulations and the organizer's instructions.
- 7.4. The organizer may **disqualify** any participant for violating these rules.

8. SAFETY RULES

- 8.1. Participants must stay within the tournament area and ensure personal and collective safety.
- 8.2. All participants must follow organizers' instructions and maintain respect for the environment.
- 8.3. **Helmets are mandatory.** Failure to wear or fasten a helmet results in **disqualification**.
- 8.4. Each participant is responsible for personal health and medication use.
- 8.5. For medical assistance, participants must contact **on-site medical personnel** or the organizers.
- 8.6. All participants must assist others in need of medical aid.

9. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS AND DISQUALIFICATION

- 9.1. A team will receive a **0:5 loss** and a **fine** in the following cases:
- Failure to appear – €50
 - Game stopped due to misconduct – €250
 - Leaving the ice – €50 fine and a 0:5 loss
- 9.2. Players may be **expelled from the tournament** for dangerous or unsportsmanlike conduct.
- 9.3. Absence is defined as:
- Fewer than 6 players (including goalkeeper);
 - Team not on ice within 5 minutes after referee's call.

9.4. Teams are **excluded** for:

- Two absences;
- Violations of fair play, ethics, or discipline;
- Unpaid financial obligations.

9.5. All fines must be paid before the next game. Teams cannot play until fines are paid.

10. REFEREES

10.1. Each game is officiated by **two referees** on ice and **one in the secretariat**.

10.2. The organizer is responsible for referee appointments and quality.

10.3. Referee replacement requests are not accepted.

10.4. Referee decisions are final and cannot be appealed.

11. PROTESTS

11.1. A team may notify referees or the organizer within **10 minutes** after a game about submitting a protest. The protest is recorded on the back of the game protocol.

11.2. The team captain may request verification of opposing players' eligibility.

11.3. The referee must inform the opposing team, whose player must remain in uniform until verification.

11.4. After the game, the player must report to the secretariat for eligibility verification by referees and organizer.

11.5. The verification report is signed by referees, the organizer, the player, and the protest initiator.

11.6. Failure of a player to appear results in a **€50 fine** and treatment as participation of an ineligible player.

11.7. Protests may be submitted by any team, following proper procedures.

11.10. Protests concerning refereeing quality are not accepted.

12. FINANCIAL TERMS

12.1. The **team participation fee** for the championship is set at **€100 per player**, with a **minimum total of €1,500 per team**.

Each team must pay the **reservation fee of €500 no later than December 1, 2025** to confirm its participation in the tournament.

During the tournament days, **each athlete will be provided with:**

- a **hot lunch**,
- **refreshing beverages** in the locker rooms,
- **dinner**, and
- **entry to the official Closing Evening Event**.

12.1.1. The **full participation fee** must be paid **no later than February 1, 2026**.

13. AWARDS

13.1. Special awards:

- Best Goaltender
- Best Forward
- Best Defenseman

13.2. The top 3 teams will receive **cups, medals, and prizes.**

- All teams will receive **certificates and commemorative gifts.**

14. INFORMATION

Organizers:

International Police Association Latvian Section

President

Inguns Pičs

Chief Referee

Dear Friends,

This regulation is intended for informational purposes, and of course, many questions may arise.

Please feel free to contact me personally by email at **Inguns.pics@ipa-latvia.lv**, and I will be happy to provide all the answers and clarifications you may need.

“Through dialogue and discussion, we can always find the best solutions.”

— I.P.

With respect,

Inguns Pičs

ICE HOCKEY
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
2026