

Empire Junior Hockey League Playoffs are finally here!

The Empire playoffs will be held on March 14-17th at the Ice Vault in Wayne, NJ. The full schedule can be found on this web site under Schedule , drop down "EmpJHL Playoffs 2013" or through the following link:

<http://www.pointstreak.com/stats/pro/leagueschedule.html?leagueid=362&seasonid=10687>

The 16 best teams (see below) out of 31 League teams are participating in this event. The first rounds' format will be 4 pools of 4 teams each playing in a round robin format: The teams have been seeded and the four pools will be as follows:

Pool A

New Hampshire
Boston Bandits
Atlanta
Syracuse

Pool B

NY AppleCore
Jersey Hitmen
Springfield
Frederick

Pool C

Junior Bruins
Philadelphia
Maksymum
Suffolk

Pool D

Florida Junior Blades
South Shore
Islanders
Bay State

The 4 round robins will be played on Thursday, March 14 and Friday March 15.

Games can be played to a tie.

The winner and runner up from each pool will play in the Quarter Finals on Saturday March 16 as follows:

Winner A hosts Runner up B
Winner B hosts Runner up A
Winner C hosts Runner up D
Winner D hosts Runner up C

This insures that the Quarters don't repeat a match up that was played in the Round Robin. Games will be played to a winner.

The 4 winners will play in 2 Semi Final games on Sunday Morning, March 17. The two highest seeds will host the two lowest seeds so that no game is between two teams from the same pool.

The championship game will take place at 5 PM on Sunday March 17, with the winner taking League Championship and advancing as the Empire representative to the National Tournament in Minnesota.

Notes on Playoff Seeding and the **KRACH** system:

With 31 teams and a 40 game schedule, teams necessarily play an unbalanced schedule. Teams are housed in 10 states. Some teams never play each other while other teams play each other multiple times.

The 16 best teams have been determined by the **KRACH** system. You can google KRACH and read as much or as little about it as you like

KRACH is endorsed by College Hockey News as the best system to objectively rank teams. It stands for "*Ken's Ratings for American College Hockey*", because it was a statistician named *Ken Butler* who first implemented the methodology for college hockey.

The KRACH rating system is an attempt to combine the performance of each team with the strength of the opposition against which that performance was achieved, and to summarize the result as one number, a "rating", for each team. The higher the rating, the better the team.

This system accounts for strength-of-schedule (SOS) as it ranks the teams.

Teams with equal records and differing SOS can quickly be ranked as a result (i.e. team with stronger SOS is ranked higher than other teams with same record and weaker SOS).

The ratings are calculated purely from the game results (wins) and simply count wins and loses. Goal differentials do not enter into this. For Empire League purposes, overtime and shootout wins count as two-thirds of a win. The loser receives one-third of a win. This adjusts for 3 point games.

The KRACH ranking for each team is an odds number. For example if there are only 2 teams and the odds are 3:1 that the Cows beat the Ducks, then the Cows rank is 3 and the Ducks rank is 1. For convenience, we always let the average rank=100, so in this example, the Cows would be 150 and the Ducks would be 50.

In a simple schedule where the Cows play the Ducks 20 times and go 15-5, you can see how you might compute odds. The results of a 21st game would change the odds and the KRACH ranking. The new KRACH would be either Cows (152.381) Ducks (47.619) or Cows(142.857) Ducks (57.143).

The odds number (ranking) is calculated so that if you apply the odds to every League game played, the expected number of team wins is equal to the actual number of team wins.

Here are the final top 16 rankings at the end of the season:

East	Monarchs	354.2451
West	Apple Core	335.7949
East	Bruins	299.4287
South	Florida Blades	271.2895
East	Kings	250.1372
West	Revolution	241.0643
West	Hitmen	231.7665
East	Bandits	174.2478
South	Atlanta	137.5177
East	Pics	88.4917
West	Maksymum	88.0678
East	Islanders	82.1736
East	Breakers	76.1321
West	Suffolk	68.7591
West	Frederick	63.4532
West	Syracuse	50.0614