

## PRESS RELEASE

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## Field Set for 2024 Hockey East Men's Tournament

Opening Round Begins Wednesday With Finals on March 22-23 at TD Garden

**AMESBURY, Mass.** - The Hockey East Association today announced the field for the 2024 Hockey East Men's Tournament. The tournament will feature all 11 programs competing in a single-elimination format. A full schedule including television and streaming information can be found below.

The Opening Round begins with three games on Wednesday, March 13. #8 UConn (14-18-2/9-14-1 HE) hosts #9 Vermont (13-18-3/7-14-3 HE) at Toscano Family Ice Forum at 7:00 p.m. It marks just the second overall postseason meeting between the two programs, following a 2016 quarterfinal series. Vermont swept that best-of-three set, 2-0. During a three-game regular season series, the Huskies took six of nine points from the Catamounts, including a 5-1 victory in UConn's final regular season game on March 7 in Storrs. The teams previously split a two-game set in Burlington in early November. Vermont is seeking a return to the quarterfinals for just the second time since 2017, while UConn is looking for its fourth consecutive appearance.

#7 Northeastern (16-15-3/9-14-1 HE) earns Opening Round host duties after a 10-4-1 finish to the regular season that included capturing the Beanpot title over Boston University. The Huskies draw #10 Merrimack (13-20-1/6-17-1 HE) for what will be just their second playoff clash. Merrimack swept a best-of-three Opening Round series in 2015 at Matthews Arena, taking two overtime victories. The Warriors advanced to the Hockey East Championship game for just the second time in program history in 2023 while the Huskies are looking for their first semifinal appearance since 2022 and last won the title in 2019.

#6 New Hampshire (19-14-1/12-11-1 HE) and #11 UMass Lowell (8-23-4/4-17-3 HE) face off at 7:00pm on Wednesday night on NESN for the third consecutive game after the Wildcats held the River Hawks scoreless in the final weekend of the regular season. It will be the first Opening Round battle between the teams while New Hampshire holds a 7-6 playoff record all-time against UMass Lowell, although the River Hawks boast a 3-1 mark in the last four meetings since 2017. The Wildcats posted a 13-4-1 mark at home this season, the most wins at the Whittemore Center in 16 years since UNH went 14-4-1 in 2007-08.

One quarterfinal is already set, as #4 Providence (18-12-4/11-9-4 HE) will face off with #5 Massachusetts (19-12-3/12-10-2 HE) on Saturday, March 16 at 4:00pm on NESN+. The Minutemen took a pair of one-goal wins, including an overtime victory, over the Friars on November 16-17. The teams are tied, 2-2, after meeting three times previously in the Hockey East Tournament, including the 2021 semifinals and 2022 quarterfinals, both single-elimination wins by UMass. Providence swept a 2017 Opening Round best-of-three series. Providence has advanced to the semifinals in three of its last five chances and appeared in the title game once (2018). The Friars fell to eventual champion Boston University in double overtime of last year's semifinals. Massachusetts has won two of the last three Hockey East Tournament titles.

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Top-seeded Boston College (28-5-1/20-3-1 HE) claimed the Hockey East Regular Season crown for the 18th time in program history and awaits the lowest advancing seed from the Opening Round. The Eagles wrapped the regular season on a nine-game winning streak, an 18-2-0 record in their last 20, and riding a 13-game winning streak in league play. They are the first program to win 20 games in Hockey East play since Boston College accomplished that feat in 2010-11 in a season where all teams played 27 league games instead of the current 24, and is the best mark in Hockey East play since Maine went 22-1-1 in 1992-93. BC last won the Lamoriello Trophy as Hockey East Tournament champions in 2012.

#2 Boston University (24-8-2/18-4-2 HE) enters the Hockey East Tournament as the second seed for the 10th time in program history and will attempt to defend their 2024 title for the 11th time. The Terriers are tied for the most semifinal appearances in Hockey East history with 26 (Boston College) and have skated at TD Garden in five of the last 10 years.

#3 Maine (22-10-2/14-9-1 HE) earned its highest finish in the Army ROTC Hockey East Standings since 2006 when the Black Bears were the two seed. Maine is seeking its first playoff win since 2018 and has not moved on to the Hockey East semifinals since 2012, the last time the program appeared in the Hockey East title game and the NCAA Tournament. That year, Maine was the fourth seed in the Hockey East Tournament and matched that ranking in 2019-20 before the tournament was canceled.

The Hockey East semifinals are set tentatively set for 4:00pm and 7:30pm on Friday, March 22 at TD Garden in Boston, while the 39th championship game will be played Saturday, March 23 at 7:30pm. All three games will air live on NESN and NESN+. Tickets are available via the host institution for each on-campus game while championship tickets can be purchased now at TicketMaster. com.

## **2024 Hockey East Men's Tournament Schedule**

<u>Day</u>	Date	Away	Home	Time	TV/Streaming
Wed.	March 13	#9 Vermont	#8 UConn	7:00pm	ESPN+
Wed.	March 13	#11 UMass Lowell	#6 New Hampshire	7:05pm	NESN/ESPN+
Wed.	March 13	#10 Merrimack	#7 Northeastern	7:15pm	ESPN+
Sat.	March 16	#5 Massachusetts	#4 Providence	4:00pm	NESN+/ESPN+
Sat.	March 16	TBD	#2 Boston University	4:15pm	ESPN+
Sat.	March 16	TBD	#3 Maine	7:00pm	ESPN+
Sat.	March 16	TBD	#1 Boston College	7:30pm	NESN+/ESPN+
Fri.	March 22	Hockey East Semifinal #1		4:00pm	NESN/NESN+/ESPN+
Fri.	March 22	Hockey East Semifinal #2		7:30pm	NESN/NESN+/ESPN+
Sat.	March 22	Hockey East Championship		7:30pm	NESN/NESN+/ESPN+

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