

# Pacific Coast Amateur Hockey Association Playoff Rules

## February 2006

The playoff formats and rules are reprinted below from the PCAHA rule book for your convenience. The Single Game Elimination Round will be played under Format #1 as described in Section N (12) (d). This means that teams must play a full 15 minute third period and overtime is permitted if the game is tied at the end of the three periods.

## Section N – Playoffs

1. (a) Playoff structure for each Minor "A", "B", and "C" league, Atom through Juvenile, shall be determined by the PCAHA Executive Committee not later than January 10th of the current season. The PCAHA Executive Committee shall issue a detailed format and guidelines to govern playoffs in each division.

(b) The PCAHA Executive Committee may adjust the playoff formats set out in Section N(3), N(4), and N(5), below, to reflect variations in league structures and/or numbers of teams.

2. All HC-carded and Atom "A" teams reaching the final playoff round shall present their original, approved HC or PCAHA cards for all players and team officials to the PCAHA Playoff Supervisor for verification prior to the team's first playoff game. Those teams failing to do so, without just cause, will be disqualified from further participation in the playoff series.

### 3. "A" and "B" Playoffs (PeeWee through Juvenile):

(a) All eligible "AAA", "AA", "A", and "B" teams shall participate in playoffs leading to participation in the BCAHA Provincial Championships.

(b) Notwithstanding the Conference definitions set forth in Section A, for the purpose of playoffs in "AAA" and "B" in the PeeWee, Bantam, Midget, and Juvenile divisions the following format shall apply:

(i) At the conclusion of regular season play, all eligible teams will be ranked on the basis of the final standings, with Tier 1 teams ranked ahead of Tier 2 teams, Tier 2 teams ahead of Tier 3 teams, and so on.

(ii) Teams will be seeded into two playoff groups. The 1st, 4th, 5th, 8th, 9th, 12th, 13th, 16th, 17th, 20th, 21st, 24th, 25th, 28th, 29th, and 32nd ranked teams (as applicable) will form one group, and the 2nd, 3rd, 6th, 7th, 10th, 11th, 14th, 15th, 18th, 19th, 22nd, 23rd, 26th, 27th, 30th and 31st ranked teams (as applicable) will form another group. Teams will play off within the seeded groups according to the formats specified in (d), below, and the champion of each group will advance to the Provincial Championships. The playoff groups shall be referred to as "Blue Group" and "Gold Group".

(c) In "AA" and "A" all eligible teams shall form a single playoff group and play off according to the formats specified in (d), below, to determine the PCAHA champions. In "AA" the 1st and 2nd place finishers in the playoffs will advance to the Provincial Championships.

(d) Playoffs in each playoff group shall be based upon the following formats, depending upon the number of teams in the grouping:

(i) Playoff round(s) necessary to reduce the number of teams to eight (8) shall follow the Single Game

Elimination format.

(ii) Playoff round necessary to reduce the number of teams to four (4) shall follow the Four-Point Series format.

(iii) The championship series shall be a hosted single round-robin involving the top four teams in the playoff group.

**Note:** At the start of each playoff round all teams in each group shall be reranked according to final league standings as determined by Section M.

(e) **"AAA", "AA", and "B" Playoffs:** The championship series in each playoff group shall be completed not later than 10 days prior to the provincial playoffs. In "AAA" and "B", the playoff group champion with the higher placing at the provincial playoffs shall be declared the PCAHA Champion. In "AA", the first place finisher in the PCAHA championship series shall be declared the PCAHA Champion.

(f) **Single "A" Playoffs:** In PeeWee, Bantam, and Midget Single "A" only one team advances to the provincial playoffs. The PCAHA championship series shall be completed not later than 10 days prior to the provincial playoffs.

(g) Each Association President may apply to the Managing Director to have a PeeWee, Bantam, Midget, or Juvenile "A" or "B" team withdrawn from the playoffs. Such an application must be communicated to the Managing Director on or before January 10th of the current season. Any team withdrawing from playoffs after this date shall be subject to suspension, fine, and/or other disciplinary action.

(h) (i) Presidents Series playoffs shall be defined as playoffs not leading to qualification for a provincial playoff. In the PeeWee, Bantam, Midget, and Juvenile divisions the Managing Director shall structure Presidents Series playoffs as part of the general playoff format.

(ii) The following teams shall participate in the Presidents Series playoffs (unless disbanded):

- teams not participating in championship playoffs;
- teams withdrawn from championship playoffs under the provisions of (g), above; and
- teams eliminated during the preliminary rounds of championship playoffs, except that at the discretion of the Managing Director teams eliminated in the Four Point Series round under N(3)(d)(ii), above, in PeeWee, Bantam, and Midget may be granted permission to withdraw from Presidents Series.

(iii) Presidents Series formats shall, if possible, be round-robin format.

(i) To facilitate scheduling, one (1) week shall be left free between the end of league play and the start of playoffs.

**4. Atom "A" Playoffs:** (not applicable to the Juvenile division)

**5. Female Playoffs:** (not applicable to the Juvenile division)

**6. Minor "C" Playoffs:** (not applicable to the Juvenile division)

**7. (a)** Associations wishing to host a round-robin playoff shall apply to the PCAHA Executive Director at or before the Annual General Meeting. If more than one Association applies to host the Conference or playoff grouping championship, the PCAHA Executive Committee shall select from among the competing bids.

(b) The remaining unassigned playoffs will be assigned by the Executive Committee.

(c) The host Associations must supply the Managing Director responsible with a schedule of ice times four weeks before the start of the series.

8. For divisions/categories assigned by the PCAHA, the Managing Director shall ensure that the Referee Assigning Coordinator is advised of all playoff schedules.

9. As a general rule, a minimum of 48 hours' notice of any playoff will be given. However, where circumstances are beyond the league's control, teams must be prepared to play when requested.

**10. Round Robin Playoffs:**

(a) In a round-robin series, the winner will be decided by the final standings determined according to Section M, except that the Sportsmanship Point will not apply in the following series:

- (i) the Minor "A" and "B" Conference or playoff grouping Championship (hosted) Round-Robin series, and
- (ii) any other "A" or "B" round-robin playoff series leading to qualification for provincial playoffs.

(b) No overtime shall be played in a round-robin series.

(c) A playoff game in a round-robin series where the outcome is meaningless may be cancelled, at the discretion of the PCAHA Supervisor in charge of the series.

(d) Icetimes and period times for games in a round-robin playoff series shall be according to Section G.

(e) Notwithstanding Section N(10)(d), games in the following playoff series shall be played on the basis of three full, stop-time periods:

- (i) Minor "A" and "B" Conference or playoff grouping Championship "Final 4" (hosted) Round-Robin series.
  - (ii) Any other round-robin playoff series that the Executive Committee so designates.
- In the Conference or Playoff Grouping Championship (hosted) Round-Robin series, all games in a series shall be played using a consistent format for icetime length and period times.

**11. Four-Point Series:**

(a) Four-point series shall be held on the basis of 2 points for a win and 1 point for a tie. No overtime shall be played in a four-point series, except in the fourth game (if necessary).

(b) Each series of three games shall be played within 8 days, starting with the home team's first available ice time, or Sunday to the following Sunday.

(c) All things being equal, the team with the higher standing in league play shall be the home team and provide icetime for the first and third games of the series while the team with the lower standing in league play will be the home team and provide icetime for the second and fourth games of the series.

(d) Playoff ice scheduling is to be handled by the participating Association's Ice Scheduler, under the direction of the Managing Director. In the event that home ice is not available at a suitable time after receiving the ice submissions from both teams, the Managing Director may rule the first game to be played at the home of the team with the lower standing.

(e) Icetimes and period times for the 1st, 2nd, and (if necessary) 3rd games of the four-point series shall be played according to Section G.

(f) Notwithstanding Section N(11)(e), games in the following playoff series shall be played on the basis of three full, stop-time periods:

- (i) Minor "A" and "B" Conference or playoff grouping Championship Final four-point playoff series (if any).
- (ii) Any other four-point playoff series that the Executive Committee so designates.

(g) In the event of a tie at the end of the series, a 4th game will be scheduled with the home team being the team with the lower standing in league play, thus equalizing the number of home and away games. This game shall be played according to Section N(13) - Tiebreaker Game.

**12. Single Game Elimination Series:**

(a) The home team in the series shall be deemed to be the team with the higher standing in league play. However, in the event that home ice is not available within a suitable period of time, the Managing Director may rule that the game be played at the home of the team with the lower standing.

(b) Due to the limited time available to complete a single game elimination series, games shall be played according to either Format #1 or Format #2, below. Use of Format #1 or Format #2 for a given series shall be at the discretion of the Managing Director.

(c) Every effort shall be made to start games on time and to avoid delays to best utilize the available icetime.

(d) **Format #1:** The game shall be played according to Section N(13) - Tiebreaker Game.

(e) **Format #2:**

(i) Icetime and period times for the game shall according to Section G.

(ii) **Tied Game:** No overtime shall be played. If a game is tied at the end of regulation time, the game shall be replayed on the home ice of the visiting team. Single Game Elimination Format #1 shall apply for the replay.

**13. Tiebreaker Game:**

A Tiebreaker Game shall have three full, stop-time periods of not less than 15 minutes in length. Section G(7)-Note (b) shall not apply. In the case of a tie at the end of the third period, overtime shall be played according to Section N(14). The home team shall provide sufficient icetime for three full, stop-time periods plus any overtime that may be necessary for a winner to be declared.

**14. Overtime:**

(i) In a tied game at the end of regulation time, there will be a one-minute rest and then a ten-minute stop-time sudden victory period.

(ii) If still tied at the end of the first overtime period, there will be a 5-minute rest and then a ten-minute stop-time sudden victory period.

(iii) If still tied, repeat (ii) until a winner is declared.

(iv) Teams will change ends at the end of each period.