



# PACIFIC COAST AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

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SERVING AMATEUR HOCKEY IN THE LOWER MAINLAND SINCE 1941

## **PCAHA 2023-2024 BULLETIN # 6**

**DATE:** September 28th, 2023  
**TO:** The Presidents  
PCAHA Member Associations/Leagues  
**FROM:** Melanie Earland  
PCAHA President  
**SUBJECT:** **Game Numbers for Try-outs, Exhibition & Pre-Season Games**

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I would like to remind teams of their obligation to obtain exhibition game numbers for exhibition games:

Section L(2) states as follows:

2. (a) Any team wishing to play an exhibition game shall first obtain permission from its League Manager by way of an exhibition game number. Under no circumstances will an exhibition game be played without a game number. Failure to obtain a game number may result in suspension or other disciplinary action against the team official(s) responsible.
- (b) If two PCAHA teams are playing in the exhibition game, the home team is required to obtain the exhibition game number.
- (c) If the two PCAHA teams playing in the exhibition game report to different League Managers, the visiting team shall notify its League Manager of the exhibition game number assigned to the game.
- (d) If a PCAHA team is playing an exhibition game against a non-PCAHA team, the PCAHA team shall obtain an exhibition game number whether the game is at home or away.

The game number rule applies both to games between teams from different Associations and to games between teams of the same Association.

The Hockey Canada playing rules define a game as, "A meeting of two teams playing for a specific length of time, for the purpose of declaring a winner through the scoring of goals. The game consists of regular playing time and overtime, if such is required." This definition has only limited usefulness. Obviously, "declaring a winner" is not a distinguishing factor for U7 or U9 games, where no score is kept, and for exhibition games at other levels.

The intent of the game number rule is not to prevent teams that regularly practice together from using the last 15 minutes or half hour of their practice for a controlled scrimmage. However, in the past some teams have attempted to expand the "scrimmage" to play what is really a game. In one documented case, two teams held a 10 minute "practice" (really a warm-up), followed by a 1 hour "scrimmage", with score clock, uniforms, and a referee. This event was, in fact, a game. Fundamentally, I am asking that all teams be honest about their activities, both to their Association officials and to their PCAHA League Manager, and not attempt to hide behind euphemisms.

PCAHA Bulletin - Game Numbers for Exhibition Games (cont.)

Also, please consider that those involved in referee development at the local level are concerned that opportunities for beginner referees to gain game experience may be limited because some teams seem to prefer to have their exhibition games officiated by the coaches of the participating teams rather than by carded referees. This seems to be especially true in U7 and U9 and in some cases U11 "C". Games at U9 and above should be officiated by carded referees.

I would appreciate your assistance in ensuring distribution of this bulletin to teams within your Association.

cc. PCAHA Executive Committee  
PCAHA League Managers  
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