



# PACIFIC COAST AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

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SERVING AMATEUR HOCKEY IN THE LOWER MAINLAND SINCE 1941

## PCAHA 2011-2012 BULLETIN #5

**DATE:** August 17, 2011  
**TO:** The Presidents  
PCAHA Member Associations/Leagues  
**FROM:** Vanna Achtem  
PCAHA President  
**SUBJECT:** Game Numbers for Tryouts, 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:

***All Tryout/Evaluation, Pre-Season Balancing Games and Exhibition Games require a PCAHA game number and a certified referee.***

Section L(2) states as follows:

- (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 both teams report to the same League Manager, only the home team is required to obtain an exhibition game number.
- (c) If the two teams do not report to the same League Manager both teams shall obtain an exhibition game number.
- (d) If the exhibition game is against a non-PCAHA team, an exhibition game number shall be obtained whether the game is at home or away.
- (e) Please refer to Section F(6) regarding responsibility to submit game reports.

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 Hockey 2 and Hockey 3 games, where no score is kept, for Hockey 4 games, where there are no standings or competitive play, 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.

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In discussion with Managing Directors and others about this problem, two related problems have been identified. First, many team officials seem unaware of part (c) of the rule which requires a game number to be obtained whether home or away when playing a game against a team which reports to a different PCAHA League Manager (for example, teams from different "C" leagues or in different Flights of "A" or Female). In the case of such cross-league games, the game will have 2 game numbers.

Second, persons involved in referee development at the local level have complained 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 Hockey 3, Hockey 4, and in some cases Atom "C". Games at Hockey 4 and above should be officiated by carded referees.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vanna Achtem". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Vanna Achtem  
PCAHA President

cc. PCAHA Executive Committee  
PCAHA League Managers  
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