



# PACIFIC COAST AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

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SERVING AMATEUR HOCKEY IN THE LOWER MAINLAND SINCE 1941

## P.C.A.H.A. 2024-2025 MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** January 30, 2025  
**TO:** PCAHA Managing Directors  
**FROM:** Carol McGregor  
PCAHA Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** Shortened Third Period in PCAHA Playoff Games.

One of the major sources of disputes in playoff games is the time allocated to the third period. Many team officials believe that the third period may not be shortened in a playoff game. In fact, almost all playoff games are played under Section G(7)-Note (b), which states:

- (b) Prior to the third period, if the referee feels there is not sufficient time to play the period as listed, he/she will notify both teams that it is necessary to shorten the period by a specific number of stop-time minutes. The revised playing time shall be shown on the clock at the commencement of the third period.

In non-body checking games only, if more than 10 minutes remain in the ice time on the arena clock, the standard for determining the length of the third period shall be half the time remaining on the arena clock plus two minutes. If less than 10 minutes remain in the ice time on the arena clock, the standard shall be half the time remaining on the arena clock.

Note (b) shall apply to all league and playoff games with the exception of the following:

- (i) Games in the Minor "A" Conference or playoff grouping Championship "Final 4" (hosted) Round-Robin series [Section N(10)(e)];
- (ii) Games in the Minor "A" Conference or playoff grouping Championship Final four-point playoff series (if any) [Section N(11)(f)];
- (iii) Tiebreaker Games under Section N(13);
- (iv) Games designated by the Executive Committee as requiring three full periods.

A complete third period for purpose of the above situations means a 15-minute stop time period if the icetime is a 1-hour or 1¼-hour icetime, and a 20-minute stop time period if the icetime is a 1½-hour or longer icetime.

The following situations do not require a full third period and will follow G(7)-Note (b) if there is insufficient icetime to complete a full third period:

1. All "A" round-robin series games except those in the Playoff Championship "Final 4" hosted round-robin series, as mentioned above.
2. All Female round-robin games.
3. All Presidents Series round-robin games.
4. All "C" round-robin games.
5. The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd games in a preliminary round Four Point Series.

In games in which the third period may be shortened, the referee is required to make his or her decision prior to the start of the third period. Once the third period has started the referee cannot further modify the period time. Section G(7)-Note (d) states, "The referee must attempt to complete the game in its

entirety, unless advised by the arena ice engineer that the icetime has expired.”

Regardless of the format used, the first and second periods may not be shortened.

**Running time cannot be used in playoff games under any circumstances.**

It is advisable for the respective Playoff Supervisor to communicate with the participating teams prior to the start of a playoff round to ensure all teams are aware of the game format being used for each game.

If you have any questions with regard to the above, please contact me.

cc. Presidents Caucus  
Executive Committee  
League Managers  
file