

BCJHL scraps division system

Vernon Vikings went into Thursday's B.C. Junior Hockey League meeting in Vancouver in first-place in the Interior Division of the league, nine points ahead of second-place Penticton Vees.

Vikings came out of the meeting, still in first-place, but only two points ahead of second-place Nanaimo Clippers.

The BCJHL voted Thursday to disband the division system, and incorporate all eight teams into the same point standings.

Thus, Nanaimo which was in first-place on the coast until Thursday, with 40 points, but now they trail Vikings by two in the league standings.

PLAYOFF CHANGE

BCJHL President Bryan Couling told the Daily News the playoff format has also been revised.

Under the new format, the

first-place team will meet the last-place club in the quarter-finals. Second will play seventh, third will take on fourth, and fifth will battle sixth in other series.

In other news, Merritt Centennials' Coach Gary Swanson has had his suspension lifted, but has been placed on probation for the remainder of the season.

EIGHT GAMES

Merritt defenceman Bill Weidman, who was suspended for five games after an incident in Vernon last week, had his penalty lengthened to eight games.

Nanaimo Clippers Coach Larry McNabb was fined \$200 and ordered to post a \$200 bond for directing verbal abuse at the officials, after a recent game in Merritt.

Vikings play in Penticton tonight while Maple Ridge travel to Langley.