Playoff series shortened

The Vernon Lakers and the Richmond Sockeyes have decided to reduce the B.C. Junior Hockey League championship series from a best-of-nine to a best-of-seven series.

"It just didn't make any sense for us to play a best-of-nine series," said Lakers' General Manager Mel Lis. "We don't need nine games to decide our league champion.

"Any additional gate revenue would have been eaten up by travel expenses."

The first two games are scheduled Saturday and Sunday in Vernon. The remaining games will be played March 22 and 23 in Richmond; March 26 in Vernon, if necessary; March 30 in Richmond, if necessary; and April 2 in Vernon, if necessary.

Advance tickets for the opening games go on sale Friday, from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m., at the Civic Arena box office. The ticket office will also be open Saturday, from 11 a.m. to game time.

The winner meets the Peace Cariboo League champion, in a best-of-three series, to determine the provincial representative in the Centennial Cup playdowns.