

# Frequently Asked Questions About the Coaching Program

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## **What are the steps to become a USA Hockey coach?**

USA Hockey and the Coaching Education Program require both certification and registration to be eligible to coach. Registration is done online on a yearly basis at [www.usahockey.com](http://www.usahockey.com) Certification is also required.

A few basic steps are as follows: 1) Register as a member of USA Hockey 2) Find, register and attend the required certification clinic. You can only attend one clinic per season. A current list of clinics can be found by to <http://www.usahockey.com/viewallclinics.aspx>. The coaching clinic season for levels 1-3 officially runs from September 1 to December 31 of the same year. 3) Complete the online age-specific module(s) for the age level of play you are coaching. The online modules are only available from September 1 to December 31 of the same

year. 4) Must attend the required clinic and complete the necessary online age-specific module(s) by December 31 of the current playing season to continue coaching on January 1 5) Please also read the FAQ section under Coaches where most of your questions will be answered as well on [http://www.usahockey.com//templaye\\_Usahockey.aspx?NAV=CO\\_01&ID=19440](http://www.usahockey.com//templaye_Usahockey.aspx?NAV=CO_01&ID=19440)

## **Can I skip one level to go to another?**

No, you must go in sequence. First Level 1, Level 2 second, third is Level 3 and then fourth, Level 4. USA Hockey allows coaches to attend only 1 clinic per season. A coach

must also complete the online age-specific module for each age level he/she is coaching that year. A coach can complete more than one online age-specific module in a season if he/she is coaching multiple age levels.

## **What level do I need to be?**

USA Hockey no longer requires a specific certification level based on the age level of play coaching. A coach must progress through the education system every year and have completed the online age-specific module for each age level coaching.

## **How long is my accreditation good for? How Long do I have to complete my module and certification? Why does my 2010/11 Level 1 or 2 accreditation expire December 31, 2011?**

All coaches must adhere to the new Coaching Education Program guidelines that go into effect on September 1, 2011. The new standards require you to attend one clinic every year for Levels 1-3. In an effort to begin education coaches, we made the 2010-11 stickers reflect the need to attend a clinic this coming season in accordance with the new standards that will go into effect on September 1, 2011

## **Why does my 2010/11 Level 3 accreditation expire December 31, 2012?**

All coaches must adhere to the new Coaching Education Program guidelines that go into effect on September 1, 2011. The new standards have the level 3 accreditation valid for two seasons. In an effort to begin education coaches, we made the 2010-11 stickers reflect the need to attend a clinic during the 2012-13 season in accordance with the new standards that will go into effect on September 1, 2011

## **My Level 1 is expired or expiring this December, what do I need to do?**

You must attend a level 2 clinic and complete the online age-specific module for each age level you are coaching if not previously taken prior to December 31 of the current playing season.

## **My Level 2 is expired or expiring this December, what do I need to do?**

You must attend a level 3 clinic and complete the online age-specific module for each age level you are coaching if not previously taken prior to December 31 of the current playing season.

## **My Level 3 is expired or expiring this December, what do I need to do?**

You must complete the online Level 3 recertification or attend a level 4 clinic and complete the online age-specific module for each age level you are coaching if not previously taken prior to December 31 of the current playing season. Coaches of Tier I and Tier II (National tournament Bound 14&U, 16&U and 18/19&U teams must complete level 4.

## **How many times can I do the online Level 3 Recertification?**

You may complete Track 1 and Track 2 of the online recertification program. The program should automatically recognize if you have previously registered for one of the tracks and will direct you to Track 2. If you have already taken the recertification twice, you must attend a level 4 clinic and complete the online age-specific module for each age level you are coaching if not previously taken.

## **I was told my level 4 and 5 accreditation was valid for life, why do I have to complete the online age-specific module(s)?**

Your accreditation is still valid for life and requires no recertification. With the advent of the American Development Model, all coaches are required to complete the online age-specific module for the age level of play they are coaching. This online component provides information specific to the age of your players in accordance with the ADM and Long Term Athlete Development program.

## **Once I start taking the online module, how long do I have to complete it?**

The online module can take 6-8 hours on the computer. You can start and stop at your convenience by December 31. However, once you start, you **MUST** complete it within 30 days or you will be dropped from the system and will need to start all over again.

## **I did not complete the online age-specific module prior to December 31, what happens now?**

I was not able to attend a clinic prior to December 31, what happens now? All coaches must be certified and have completed the online age-specific modules prior to December 31st in order to continue coaching the remainder of the season. The Coaching Education program offers a request for a temporary card for the certification clinic if a coach is unable to attend a clinic. This must be requested by December 31. If you do not request the temporary card prior to December 31, then you will be ineligible to coach the remainder of the current season.

## **Do assistant coaches have to be accredited at the same level as the head coach?**

Yes - USA Hockey does not distinguish between an assistant and head coach in regards to required certification level. All coaches participating in ALL team functions (i.e. games, scrimmages, practices, try-outs, tournaments, off-ice training, etc.) must meet the same coaching certification level, based upon the level of play coaching.

## **Can I leave a clinic early because I have a game or a practice to go to?**

No – times are advertised and you are required to stay the entire time

## **What do I need to bring to a clinic?**

Paper, pen, and a check payable to USA Hockey. **You DO need to bring your stick, gloves, skates, and helmet.**

## **How do I find out when and where a clinic will be held?**

You can follow on this website. It will be updated as we go along. You will be able to print the pre-registration form for each clinic on this website about one month ahead of the scheduled clinic date. Directions to all of the clinics will be printed on the pre-registration form. Clinics for the fall of 2002 for Level 1, 2 and 3 are now being scheduled. We will not begin registration for any of the 2002 fall clinics until a month before the clinic.

## **How much are the clinics and whom do I pay?**

All checks for the clinics are payable to USA Hockey, Inc; however, we ask that you pre-register online at [www.usahockey.com](http://www.usahockey.com) for clinics in advance of attending. When registering online, you will need to pay by credit card.

Level 1 - \$40.00 Level 2 - \$40.00

Level 3 - \$40.00  
Modules - \$10.00 each level

## How long are the clinics?

All of the clinics are each one day apiece. Registration at each clinic will begin at 8:30 a.m. and will run from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

## Will I get confirmation of my pre-registration to any clinic?

No.

## Why should I pre-register for a clinic?

In order to help us with a head count for both seating and materials, we ask that you pre-register. Otherwise, there is no guarantee of seating or you getting materials.

## What do I do if I lost my coaches card?

Beginning with the 2011-12 season, we will no longer issue blue CEP cards to coaches. The online certification list will serve as proof of a coach's certification. Beginning September 1, 2011 a coach will also have the ability to print a copy of their CEP card from the information provided there.

## Student Coaches?

A player between the ages of 13 and 17 who is currently properly registered with USA Hockey may serve as a student coach under the following conditions:

- Must attend a training session conducted by the local hockey association.
- Must always be under the supervision of a carded, screened adult coach during all practices, clinics, try-outs, and in the locker room.
- May help out at practices, clinics, try-outs only. (May not play during scrimmages or games).
- Must wear a helmet with full face shield, gloves, and skates while on the ice. Must wear helmet during games while on the bench.
- May only work with players at least one full playing age level down.
- The organization that is using the student coach must provide a form indicating on what team he/she is participating as a student coach, and, if applicable, what team he/she is properly registered/rostered as a player.

- Upon reaching the age of 18, the student coach must comply with all USA Hockey coaching and screening rules and regulations.
- May not act as the head coach or assistant coach during practices or games.

<http://www.usahockey.com/page/show/893015-student-coaches>