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## Coaching Program Update – May 2020

This letter is addressed to the coaching community throughout the Atlantic District. It is our hope that coaches, players and their families, all of our coworkers, and colleagues have remained safe and healthy. This pandemic has placed many challenges on us, and we recognize that hockey may not be a priority for you at this time. The restrictions keeping us at home with mandates to keep non-life essential businesses closed has certainly created challenges and had its negative impact on the business of our sport. Tournaments are canceled, seasons ended abruptly, and arenas are looking to survive a pandemic economy.

Even though we don't know exactly what it will look like in the fall, many of you have asked what they can do to plan and be organized with the coaching program requirements. Below is some information that will help you prepare for next season when we all get back to our game.

USA Hockey and the [Atlantic Amateur Hockey Association](#) [AAHA] affiliate have been watching developments throughout our tri-State region. We expect that we will begin to see Red Phase restrictions ease in June, but we will need to adapt to the reopening guidelines imposed in the Yellow and Green Phases until phased out completely. Many of the guidelines and directives remain undefined, and these may differ between the States [PA, NJ, DE] and other public health regulations.

The coaching program [CEP] is assessing our options for Coaching Clinics for the upcoming season. It is reasonable to anticipate a mix of online coursework, ZOOM Meetings, and in-person events. As more information becomes available, we will make those announcements through [USA Hockey](#) and the [Clinic Catalog Registration Page](#). We have not yet set any "launch date."

Meanwhile, the AAHA is moving forward by permitting Member Clubs to offer Player Agreements *without a tryout at this time* to allow for the planning of the 2020-21 season. This planning includes determining team counts, ice requirements, scheduling, uniform orders, etc. It also permits our rinks to better plan for other activities within their buildings. Many clubs have been accepting player applications for placement and eventual evaluations. Contact your club registrar for those details.

Announced May 2, 2020, the AAHA Executive Committee is authorizing its Tier I, Tier II and Independent Member Clubs to commence the [offering of Player Agreements per this schedule](#).

For complete terms and conditions, please see the [AAHA 2020-2021 Player Agreement Process](#)

Please know that USA Hockey and the AAHA, and its member clubs appreciate the time and dedication of our volunteers in coaching as well as players and their parents.

On the following pages are some useful tips and guidance as you prepare for the 2020-2021 season. I've added my personal cell number above so please do not hesitate to call me with questions or concerns.

Thank you for all you do.

Yours in hockey,  
*Mike Lichtenberger*



## WHAT YOU MAY DO NOW DURING THE PANDEMIC SHUTDOWN TO PREPARE FOR THE 2020-2021 SEASON

- Register as a Coach: <https://membership.usahockey.com/>
- Complete Background Check: <https://www.usahockey.com/backgroundscreen>
  - In your live in, or coach in Pennsylvania, you are required to comply with ACT 15/153 in addition to USA Hockey's background screening.
- Complete Safe Sport: <https://www.usahockey.com/safesportprogram>
- Coaching Clinics - We in the Coaching Education Program are in the process of finalizing a few changes to the CEP guidelines and clinic formats. Once that has been finalized and approved, we will announce those changes to you.
  - We are also examining the various options for holding clinics next fall. Given the uncertainty of when each region may reopen and under what guidelines, ***no clinics will be posted until mid-summer***. Clinics and certification may be in the form of online e-learning, remote and virtual training [ZOOM Meetings], and in-person. The entire Coaches Section and Coaches in Chief are working together and exploring such options. ***None of these options have been firmed up, nor authorized at this time. When more information is available, we will let you know.***
- [Age Specific Modules](#) and the [Level 3 Recertification](#) are online and available now with your current membership. Many more learning tools, coaching references and coaching aids for on-ice and off-ice activities can be found at <https://www.usahockey.com/coachingcertification>
- Webinars – USA Hockey has been hosting online events each week to keep our coaches motivated and engaged. They can be accessed at the following links:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCat0Y6HKq1G6D84vvN3hAQw>

<https://www.facebook.com/AmericanDevelopmentModel/>

In closing, my entire staff of Coach Developers/Instructors and I wish you all the best in this difficult time. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Stay safe and healthy. See you in the fall.

Mike

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