

Coaching Education Program

The objective of the Coaching Education Program is to improve the caliber and quality of coaching in amateur hockey. Five levels of achievement and six online age-specific modules have been established to educate and train each coach, from the beginner to the highly skilled expert.

The program emphasizes fundamental skills, conceptual development, sportsmanship and respect for teammates, opponents, coaches, officials, parents and off-ice officials.

Why the Coaching Education Program (CEP) is so important to local programs?

- Fun is one of the top reasons for keeping players on the ice. Programs without properly trained coaches are not providing the same level of fun that will keep the child engaged with youth hockey.
- Your job as a youth hockey leader in the community is to provide the best youth sports experience possible. Without properly trained on-ice instructors, the quality of your program will suffer.
- The CEP program provides insight and training to make sure coaches have an age-specific focus for the athlete. Regardless of the coaches playing history, coaching youth hockey at specific age-levels takes training and a certain outlook to offer the best experience.
- By ensuring every person who interacts with our young athletes are trained, background screened and monitored through set policies, the local association is providing a safe and nurturing environment for athletic development.

What are the steps to become a USA Hockey coach?

1. Register as a member of USA Hockey www.usahockeyregistration.com.
2. Complete the background screening ([found on your affiliate website](#)).
3. Complete the USA Hockey Safe Sport Training (required every two years).
 - a. [Click here for more information](#).
4. Attend the appropriate level certification clinic
 - a. One clinic per season.
 - b. Clinics are offered for Levels 1-3 between September 1 to December 31.
5. Complete the online age-specific module(s) for the age level being coached.
 - a. Online modules are available from September 1 to December 31.
 - b. [Click here to access the modules](#).



How Do Coaches Know What Level They Need?

- All coaches start at Level 1 of the Coaching Education Program (CEP)
- They need to attend a new coaching clinic each year until, they achieve Level 3.
 - Coaches of 8U players may remain at Level 1 or current Level.
- Coaches who do not coach in continuous seasons, will need to attend next CEP Level clinic when they resume coaching.
- Once Level 3 is achieved, periodic renewal is needed:
 - Level 3 is valid for two (2) seasons, as indicated by the expiration date.
 - When Level 3 is due to expire, if coaches are not able to attend a Level 4 clinic, they will need to take the online Level 3 Recertification Curriculum.
 - Level 3 recertification is valid for two (2) seasons.
 - Level 3 recertification can be completed twice.
 - If the coach has done the online Level 3 recertification twice, they will need to attend a Level 4 clinic before it expires.
- Coaches of national tournament bound teams need to complete Level 4 by their fourth season.
 - Coaches who achieve Level 4 certification, no longer need to attend CEP Level clinics.
- All coaches, regardless of certification Level, need to complete the online age-specific training modules for the level they are coaching.
 - Coaches may complete more than one age-specific module in any given season.

Where do coaches find out their current certification level?

All USA Hockey coaches possess a Coaching Education Program online certification. They can find it HERE <http://www.usahockey.com/coachingclinics?id=893024-cep-list>

Certification Requirements:

YRS OF COACHING **All levels require coach to take age specific module for their current team unless previously completed.**

Year 1 Level 1 clinic

Year 2 Level 2 clinic

Year 3 Level 3 clinic

Year 4 No Level certification required but can attend a Level 4 clinic

Year 5 Complete the online Level 3 Recertification Track 1 or attend a Level 4 clinic

Year 6 No Level certification required but can attend a Level 4 clinic

Year 7 Complete the online Level 3 Recertification Track 2 or attend a Level 4 clinic

Year 8 No Level certification required but can attend a Level 4 clinic

Year 9 Must attend a Level 4 clinic

Year 10 and beyond No Level recertification required but must complete age specific component if not previously taken for current age level. Coaches are highly encouraged to attend a continuing education course every two years.



What happens if a coach didn't complete their coaching education?

All coaches will need current certification and online component verification beginning January 1 of the current playing season. Any coach not in possession of these requirements will be ineligible to coach for the remainder of the season.

***All coaches have until December 31 of the current season to attend a coaching clinic and complete the online age-specific playing level module to become properly certified.*

USA Hockey provides the foundation for the sport of ice hockey in America; helps young people become leaders, even Olympic heroes; and connects the game at every level while promoting a lifelong love of the sport.



