

BENEFITS OF ADULT MEMBERSHIP

A benefit of membership is belonging to a growing National Governing Body which trains and selects Men's and Women's National Teams at various levels, including the Olympic Winter Games. In addition, you become united with more than 100,000 adult members of USA Hockey.

Additional benefits of membership include:

- Uniform Playing Rules
- Local Programs – Sanctions and Discipline Procedures
- Adult National Championships at many levels of play
- Referee Education Program
- Coaching Education Program
- Adult Recreational Tournaments
- General Liability, Sports Accident, Theft and Catastrophic Medical Insurance Coverage
- Annual subscription to *USA Hockey Magazine* and access to usahockey.com

BEING INVOLVED IN THE GAME

Another benefit of membership that is often overlooked is the ability to give something back to the game. All of USA Hockey's programs rely heavily on volunteers in both leadership and hands-on grassroots positions. To fill these volunteer positions, we need individuals who are committed to the game, maintain a positive attitude and are willing to share information with the next generation of participants.

As an adult hockey player, you have experience in the game that is valuable to the next generation of players and USA Hockey asks you to be more involved in our great game. Please read the information contained in this brochure to learn about some of the many opportunities available.

TO CONTACT USA HOCKEY, WRITE OR CALL:

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PLAYERS

LABATT BLUE ADULT CLASSICS

USA Hockey sponsors an annual series of recreational, non-checking tournaments for adult players. These tournaments are open to registered teams in Gold, Silver, Bronze, Over-30, Over-40 and Women's Divisions, and all are held in adult destination locations.

The Labatt Blue USA Adult Classics and USA Hockey invite you, your teammates and families to enjoy your experience at these tournaments. With the cooperation of all players, coaches and team officials, Labatt Blue USA Adult Classics have been a success at all levels.

LABATT BLUE ADULT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

USA Hockey conducts eight different levels of National Championship tournaments for adult players. There are two full-check divisions (Adult U.S. and Adult Elite) and six adult non-check divisions (30 and Over, 40 and Over, 50 and Over, 60 and Over, Adult Elite and Recreational). All teams competing are state champions, Classic champions or sanctioned qualifiers.

Our primary goal is to provide equitable competition for all participating teams. For more information about these tournaments, please call the Adult Hockey department at 719-576-USAH (8724).



THIS IS USA HOCKEY

USA Hockey, Inc., is the National Governing Body for the sport of ice hockey in the United States. Its mission is to promote the growth of hockey in America and provide the best possible experience for all participants by encouraging, developing, advancing and administering the sport.

USA Hockey is the official representative to the United States Olympic Committee and the International Ice Hockey Federation. In this role, USA Hockey is responsible for organizing and training men's and women's teams for international tournaments, including the IIHF World Championships and the Olympic Winter Games. Closer to home, USA Hockey works with the National Hockey League and the National Collegiate Athletic Association on matters of mutual interest.

USA Hockey's primary emphasis is on the support and development of grassroots hockey programs. USA Hockey is divided into 12 geographical districts throughout the United States.

Each district has a registrar to register teams; a referee-in-chief to register officials and organize clinics; a coach-in-chief to administer educational programs for coaches; a risk manager to oversee liability and safety programs; and a skill development program administrator to facilitate learn-to-play programs for youth players and their parents.

For players, USA Hockey annually conducts regional and national championship tournaments in various age classifications; sponsors regional and national player identification and development camps; studies and makes recommendations for protective equipment; and provides an insurance program that includes excess accident, general liability and catastrophic coverage.

For coaches and officials, USA Hockey conducts clinics and produces training manuals and videos through the Coaching Education Program and the Officiating Education Program. USA Hockey also promotes uniformity in playing rules and the interpretation of those rules.

USA Hockey has not forgotten parents, supplying this vital segment of the hockey family with a "Parent's Introduction To Youth Hockey" brochure, which includes tips on buying equipment, rules of the game and the role of parents in youth sports.

USA Hockey also publishes *USA Hockey Magazine*, the most widely circulated hockey publication in the world, which is sent to the household of every registered member as a benefit of membership. The organization's official website, usahockey.com, also provides up-to-the-minute coverage of news and events.

In December 1994, USA Hockey introduced its official inline hockey program – USA Hockey InLine – to provide structure and support for the growth of the sport across America.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULTS IN USA HOCKEY

Share The Passion



OFFICIATING PROGRAM

The USA Hockey Officiating Education Program is responsible for the registration, testing and education of more than 26,000 ice hockey officials in the United States. Officials who are registered with USA Hockey actively officiate all sanctioned games, tournaments and other events. These events are played at all levels ranging from youth hockey to the Olympic Games.

The Officiating Education Program provides resources for referees to successfully officiate at the grassroots and youth levels of hockey. More advanced officiating resources and opportunities are also provided to those referees who aspire to officiate at the highest levels of hockey, including USA Hockey National Championships, collegiate, minor professional and international competitions. Several top graduates of the USA Hockey Officiating Education Program have also gone on to successful careers in the National Hockey League. Officiating USA Hockey-sanctioned games offers a unique opportunity to practice and further develop on-ice skills while providing a safe environment in which all participants may compete.

WHO SHOULD OFFICIATE?

USA Hockey registers male and female officials between the ages of 11 and 70. These officials are recruited from all aspects of life. Players, students, adults and parents are all welcome to join the program and participate as on-ice officials. Even those who aspire to a career in professional officiating begin in the ranks of USA Hockey.

WHY DO PEOPLE OFFICIATE?

People officiate for many different reasons. Officiating is a great way to supplement a playing career. It provides players with an "extra edge" that comes from the additional ice time and rules knowledge that they receive. Ex-players find officiating a rewarding method to

stay involved in ice hockey, while parents can enhance their child's involvement in the game by participating as well. Students find the additional income helpful in financing their education. Above all, most officials are involved because they love the sport. There is a great deal of self-satisfaction after completing a well-officiated game.

HOW DO OFFICIALS GET STARTED?

All officials who work sanctioned games must register with USA Hockey. This involves the completion of a simple registration form and the payment of a nominal annual registration fee. After registering, the applicant must pass an open-book rules exam that is designed to cover the basic playing rules that are required knowledge for the lower levels of hockey. New officials will also have to obtain a black hockey helmet, official's sweater, black pants and a whistle.

The Officiating Education Program conducts over 400 pre-season educational seminars for its officials during the fall months. These full-day seminars are mandatory for all officials registering with USA Hockey. All seminars are conducted free-of-charge to all participants. The content of these educational seminars ranges from on-ice skills to rules interpretations to advanced theories of officiating. As experience is gained, officials advance to higher-level seminars.

WHAT ARE THE VARIOUS LEVELS OF OFFICIATING?

The Officiating Education Program establishes "levels of achievement" for each individual, from the beginner to the highly-skilled official.

First-year officials must register as a Level 1 official and may officiate at the lower levels of hockey. New officials who have past experience in officiating ice hockey may register at a different level, on a case-by-case basis, as determined by the District Referee-in-Chief.

Officials are allowed to advance one level each season, up to our highest level, which is level 4. Level 2, 3 and 4 officials need to complete a closed-book exam and will receive performance feedback through the Officials Evaluation Program. Level 4 officials will also need to successfully complete a skating exam.

HOW FAST CAN I MOVE UP THE OFFICIATING RANKS?

This really depends on the level of commitment you are willing to make and your overall ability. Most areas have a shortage of adult officials. Adult officials oftentimes move up the grassroots hockey ladder fairly quickly and may be working higher-level youth games within a couple of years. For those adults who may wish to pursue a career in officiating, USA Hockey conducts elite development camps each summer to identify and train officiating prospects who want to officiate at the highest levels. In addition, our Junior Officiating Development Program provides the opportunities and resources for our young adult officials to gain the necessary experience to advance on to the minor professional, collegiate and international levels of hockey.

COACHING PROGRAM

Coaching is a great way for ex-players to give something back to a sport that gave them a lot of enjoyment, and a chance for parents to enhance their child's involvement in the game by participating as well. Coaching can provide many advantages, which include:

Satisfaction – Coaches can be proud when their players improve in growth and development.

Player's Growth & Development – With good teaching and coaching, players can develop their individual hockey and team skills, and grow socially, academically and as people.

Coach's Growth & Development – As a coach, it is satisfying to succeed in developing skilled players and producing an enjoyable season. Also, a coach can be satisfied by the impact he/she has on the lives of his/her players, which cannot be measured by wins and losses. All coaches become wiser, more mature, and learn something new everyday.

HOW DO I REGISTER TO BECOME A COACH?

All hockey coaches (head coach and assistants), as well as instructors of USA Hockey programs, shall be registered for the current season (before the start of the season) in order to be eligible to coach/instruct in any regular-season activities (practices, clinics, games, tournaments, try-outs, etc.); in state, district, or regional playoff games; USA Hockey National Championships; or in the USA Hockey Player Development Programs. There is an annual fee to register all coaches and instructors. If a coach or instructor has paid a registration fee for the current year as a player, he/she shall not be required to pay an additional fee as a coach or instructor.

HOW DO I BECOME A CERTIFIED COACH?

You can become a certified coach by signing up and attending a USA Hockey Coaching Clinic.

Seminars are conducted for the different levels of certification. Clinics for Level 1, 2, 3 and 4 certification are organized and conducted by the District Coaching Program Director. They are conducted numerous times each season in all 12 USA Hockey districts. Clinics for Level 5 are organized by the USA Hockey National Office and feature professional, collegiate and amateur coaches as instructors.



WHAT WILL I RECEIVE AT THE CLINIC?

Manuals – Level-specific manuals are distributed to coaches attending a clinic.

Drill Books – Drill books or handouts are provided for coaches at each clinic level. The drills provided cover the topics that are presented in the clinic.

Visual Aids – Visual aids have been developed to coincide with the progressive levels. Videotapes, slides and acetates are incorporated into clinics where appropriate.

Recognition – Recognition, in the form of a card and sticker will be presented to everyone who successfully completes a coaching achievement level.

Level 1 is the introduction of the basic skills in hockey of skating, puck handling, passing, receiving and shooting. The primary role in the Skill Development Program is instructing the basic skills of hockey to beginners. Topics covered include leadership qualities, communication, teaching skill progression and skill analysis. Four teaching progression practice plan manuals are provided to each coach attending the clinic.

The Level 2 clinic involves the study of coaching skills such as the role of the coach, teaching techniques, and practice organization; individual player skills such as skating, puck control, shooting, body play, goaltending; and team development related to the basic concepts of offensive and defensive team play.

The Level 3 clinic involves the study of coaching psychology and physiology as they relate to hockey. Player development skills include body checking, overspeed skating and dryland training. Discussion will take place on team concepts and systems, which include defensive, offensive and specialty situations.

The Level 4 clinic examines in great depth the psychological, motivational and teaching aspects of coaching young athletes, along with the physiological and conditioning requirements of training ice hockey players. It will also deal in-depth with more complex tactics and systems and advanced levels of player skills and development.

The Level 5 clinic examines in great depth the physiological aspects of coaching young athletes. It also will take a more in-depth look at systems of team play and player skill development at the international level. Daily, small-group breakout sessions occur with an assigned leader that address present-day hockey issues. The Level 5 seminar is generally held every two years.

WHERE CAN I FIND A TEAM TO COACH?

Most local youth hockey organizations are in need of coaches, and especially those who have experience playing the game. Ask the personnel at your rink about who to contact in your area to find out more about becoming a youth hockey coach. Or, to find hockey near you, check out usahockey.com for local contact information.

