



# Coaching Requirements

USA Hockey requires registration and certification to be eligible to coach. This ensures that our coaches are both educated and safe to coach our youth hockey players.

**Before stepping on the ice**, all coaches must:

- Register with USA Hockey as a coach for the current season.
- Complete a Background Check every two years.
- Complete their SafeSport training module yearly.
- Complete an age-specific module for each age group that they will coach this season. Once a coach completes a module, they do not have to take the module over again in future seasons.
  - *New coaches must take the FOUNDATIONS OF PLAYER DEVELOPMENT before doing their age-specific modules.*

Coaching Education Program courses must also be completed **by Oct 31st for split-season team coaches and Dec 31st for full-season team coaches.**

- First time coaches of **10u+ teams** start with a Level 1 Coaching Clinic.
- **New in 2025-26:** First time coaches who are **only coaching 6u/8u teams** take the 6u/8u Coaching Clinic
  - *This is good for 5yrs or until the coach moves up to 10u+, whichever comes sooner – they will then need to take their Level 1*
- Returning coaches who already have their Level 1 must advance through Levels 2-4 in successive years.
- Once coaches reach Level 4, they must complete 5 Continuing Education credits over 3 years to maintain it or they can attend the National Coaches Symposium for their Level 5 certification.
  - *Coaches who obtained their Level 4 prior to Jan 1, 2021 and are not coaching Tier I or II teams are not required to take any coursework.*
- Once coaches reach Level 5, they must complete 5 Continuing Education credits over 4 years to maintain it.
  - *Coaches who obtained their Level 5 prior to Jan 1, 2021 and are not coaching Tier I or II teams are not required to take any coursework.*