

Northern Plains Hockey

Coaching Newsletter

David.Hoff@sendit.nodak.edu

New Coaching Certification Requirements

This newsletter contains all the new information for coaching certification for the coming year. Please read the newsletter carefully and contact me if you have any questions.

First of all, the old CEP (Coaching Education Program) requirements page that stated a bantam or peewee coach had to be a Level 3 coach has been thrown out. Coaches must now attend a clinic each year to be properly certified. A 1st year coach will attend a Level 1 clinic and is certified to coach a peewee or bantam team. That certification is good for 1 year- he must attend Level 2 in his 2nd year of coaching and Level 3 in his 3rd year of coaching.

Here are a few of the new requirements:

1. A coach may only attend 1 clinic per year. Coaches are not allowed to attend multiple levels in one year.
2. Level 1 and 2 certification is good for 1 year for each level while Level 3 certification is good for 2 years.
3. A Level 1 or 2 coach may not re-certify at the same level- he or she must attend the next level for re-certification. In the past, we have had mite coaches who renew their Level 1 certification by attending another Level 1 clinic. While it was recommended that not happen, it is now not allowed.
4. **A Level 3 coach never re-certifies in the classroom.** All Level 3 re-certification must be done online. A Level 3 coach may re-certify twice online- there are 2 different online Level 3 re-certification courses.
5. All coaches (Level 1 to Level 5) must complete an age-specific online module in order to be properly certified to coach.
6. **All Level 1-3 clinics will have an on-ice portion to the clinics.** All participants are expected to have skates, stick, gloves, and helmet with them. Everyone is expected to participate in the on-ice portion.

Changes to the CEP Program in the Northern Plains

1. All clinics will now have a maximum of 50-60 participants
2. **Participants must pre-register for the clinics online.** The days of walking up and expecting the clinic instructor to take care of the registration for a

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coach are a thing of the past. Anyone who is opposed to using his or her credit card online can go to Walmart and buy a \$40 credit card to be used online to pay for the clinic. **This registration must be done prior to the clinic.**

3. All certification clinics must have at least 10 participants per level. Communities will not be allowed to host clinics that have less than 10 participants. We have to look at communities that are within 2 hours of each other combining their clinics and offering 1 set of clinics rather than 2 sets.

Costs Related to the New CEP Program

1. All coaches must still register as a member of USA Hockey- approx. \$30 to \$40 (depends on the state fee)
2. Level 1, 2, and 3 certification clinics- each level costs \$40
3. Online age-specific module- \$10 per module
4. Level 4 clinic- approx. \$250 to \$300
5. Level 5 clinic- approx. \$500 to \$600

Age-Specific Online Module

1. All coaches must complete an age-specific online module for the age group he or she is coaching.
2. The online module course will take 5-6 hours and must be completed by Dec. 31
3. A coach who coaches at more than 1 level must complete an online module for each age group
4. The online modules will not have to be redone each year. Once done, the modules are good forever- or at least until the next change

So why the change in the CEP Program? The biggest reason is that these changes are all about making the game better. The changes that are being put in place should make the coaching better for our players. The curriculum has been designed so each level builds off the previous level- the overlap has been minimized. We should have more knowledgeable coaches who can better train our players at all age levels.

I know there will be some frustration with the new requirements but we should be able to work our way through those problems. We need to have more participants in the clinics as this will lead to better clinics in more than 1 way. More

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participants should lead to better classroom discussion and more participants are crucial for the on-ice portion of the clinics. Online registration is required as we are limiting the number of participants in the clinics and we are expecting coaches to take care of the registration paperwork, not the instructors.

CEP Track for all Coaches

Year 1- Attend a Level 1 clinic

Year 2- Attend a Level 2 clinic

Year 3- Attend a Level 3 clinic

Year 4- Do not have to attend a clinic or may attend a Level 4 clinic

Year 5- Complete the Level 3 recertification process online (Track 1)

Year 6- Do not have to attend a clinic or may attend a Level 4 clinic

Year 7- Complete the Level 3 recertification process online (Track 2)

Year 8- Do not have to attend a clinic or may attend a Level 4 clinic

Year 9- Attend a Level 4 clinic

You can see that this track will put all coaches at Level 4 in their 9th year of coaching. Current Level 3 coaches are entering the track where they currently are located. If he or she has renewed his or her Level 3 two or more times, it is strongly recommended that they look to attend a Level 4 in the coming year.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding coaching certification.