

(updated 5 November 2007)

To: Members of the Mid-West Amateur Hockey Association (MWAHA) Affiliate
From: MWAHA Board of Directors

Subject: Coaching Certification Level

USA Hockey requires that all personnel on the bench during a game have the following level of certification.

- ◆ Level I - Mite and below, Girls/Women 10 & Under
- ◆ Level II – Squirt, Girls/Women U12
- ◆ Level III - Pee Wee, Bantam, Midget, High School, Junior C, Girls/Women above U12
- ◆ Level IV - Midget National Tournament, Junior A & B

All non-players on the bench must be a certified coach. Trainers or managers are not allowed unless they have their proper coaching certification and are considered part of the 4 coach maximum.

The proper procedure at the start of a game is for the coaches to list their name, CEP number and level on the USA Hockey score sheet. Coaches are to present their card to the other teams' coaches. The off-ice official is responsible to see that this procedure is performed.

The proper procedure if a coach does not have the required level is for the on-ice official to make a note of that on the score sheet and the coaches affiliate organization (MWAHA in our case) is responsible for follow up regarding the penalty for not being at the appropriate level. It is the coaches' immediate governing body (Local Association) to enforce the penalty.

The Tri-State policy is that all coaches must be at their appropriate level with the following exceptions.

- Non-travel - It is expected that for non-travel teams the coach must have at least Level 1 and must advance at least one level each year by 31 December, to the required level.
- Travel teams - It is expected that for all travel teams requiring level 2 or greater the coach must have at least Level 2 and advance at least one level each year by 31 December, to the required level.
- Note: these exceptions do not apply if the team plans to participate in the MWAHA Championship with intention of competing towards the District and National Championships; in this case all coaches must be at the required CEP level.
- Intent - rather than forcing a coach through up to 3 levels in one year, we believe a coach will ultimately be a better coach by advancing only one or two levels in a particular year, spreading out the learning process.
- If a coach fails to advance at least one level (by 31 December) to the required level, then they will not be allowed to coach until they remedy the situation. Disregard for these procedures may be reason for not being allowed to participate in future MWAHA activities.

Play outside of the MWAHA area - it is recommended that a copy of this letter be kept on file when competing in friendship or tournament games outside of the IA NE KS area so the game or tournament director can be made aware of the policy used within MWAHA to govern our coaches. The intent of this policy is not to circumvent the USA Hockey requirements but to provide a structured learning process and at the same time provide a remedy to fulfill the Affiliate having a penalty for not being at the appropriate level.

If questions contact; Les Teplicky – MWAHA Coaching Director, 563-359-4898