

THE ACE COORDINATOR

The Association Coaching and Education (ACE) Coordinator is an experienced individual with a strong coaching background who serves as the administrative link to USA Hockey and its Coaching Education Program (CEP). In their role, ACE Coordinators will organize and manage many CEP requirements, assist the local association in the development of a well-trained coaching staff, promote parent education and provide clear goals and objectives for player skill development.

Why is the ACE Coordinator critical to the Coaching Education Program?

The Coaching Education Program has effectively created an instructional curriculum to provide coaches throughout the country with the training needed to meet the certification requirements for coaching in a USA Hockey program. The CEP program does not, however, provide a direct link to the individual coach at the local association level. The local ACE Coordinator is designated to provide that critical link for those administrative and coaching functions that will deliver the programs, and implement the objectives, taught in the CEP coaching clinics.

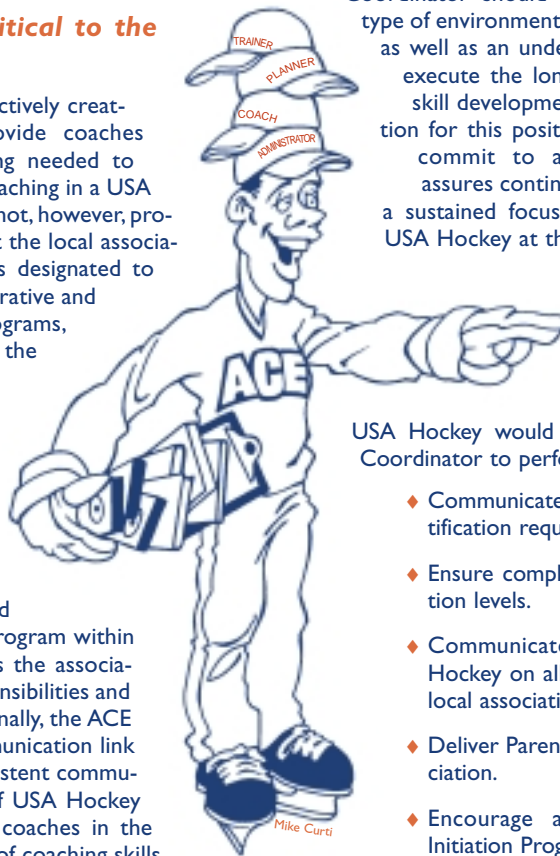
The ACE Coordinator solidifies USA Hockey's commitment to skill development as a primary goal of coaching at the local association because the ACE Coordinator, as part of that association, can manage the coaching program goals and objectives. The position additionally helps formalize the responsibilities and organizational structure of the coaching program within the association. The ACE program assists the association in creating and reaffirming roles, responsibilities and performance criteria for their coaches. Finally, the ACE Coordinator provides that essential communication link to the coaches at the local level. This consistent communication about the goals and objectives of USA Hockey will develop better coaches, keep those coaches in the program longer, provide better continuity of coaching skills, and ultimately develop better hockey players.

Who are the ACE Coordinators?

The ACE Coordinator is an individual within a local association who has a strong coaching background, hockey knowledge and commitment to the sport. This person must possess strong communication skills, be able to communicate goals and objectives, and affirm that the coaches within the association clearly understand their responsibilities. Further, this person must be able to communicate a long-term vision of these goals and objectives and be able to "sell" these to the

association. As part of the communication skills needed for this position, the ACE Coordinator must be comfortable teaching coaches, players, parents and association board members. The teaching environment is in the meeting room as well as on ice. Effective administrative skills are essential to confirm that the association coaches meet the CEP certification requirements and, if necessary, will attend the CEP Clinics to obtain the proper certification. This person must have a strong inclination towards skill development of players in the association and exhibit a "love of the game."

Since most local associations are volunteer-based, the ACE Coordinator should be comfortable working in this type of environment. Patience is a critical component, as well as an understanding of the time needed to execute the long-term vision of age-appropriate skill development in youth hockey. The expectation for this position is that the ACE Coordinator commit to a multi-year appointment. This assures continuity with effective management of a sustained focus on the goals and objectives of USA Hockey at the local association level.



What are the job responsibilities of the ACE Coordinator?

USA Hockey would expect, at a minimum, the ACE Coordinator to perform the following:

- ◆ Communicate to association coaches their certification requirements.
- ◆ Ensure compliance with USA Hockey certification levels.
- ◆ Communicate with the District and USA Hockey on all issues related to coaching at the local association level.
- ◆ Deliver Parent Education Programs to the association.
- ◆ Encourage associations to implement the Initiation Program.
- ◆ Encourage associations to implement the Cross-Ice Program
- ◆ Communicate to players, parents and coaches USA Hockey's Player Development opportunities.
- ◆ Ensure that the association is promoting age-specific skill development in all of their programs.
- ◆ Organize and develop workshop clinics for coaches.

Additionally, at the discretion of the local association, the ACE Coordinator could handle some or all of the following job responsibilities:

- ◆ Establish and maintain a resource center for coaches, players and parents that would include all available USA Hockey materials.
- ◆ Oversee the recruitment, selection, training, evaluation and discipline of coaches.
- ◆ Develop and manage the player selection process for the association.
- ◆ Develop a teaching and practice-planning curriculum for the coaches.
- ◆ Plan, organize and execute periodic skills workshops for coaches and players.
- ◆ Evaluate practice sessions and provide feedback to coaches to improve the coaching capability of local association coaches.

ACE COORDINATOR ADMINISTRATION

ACE
National
Administrator
Kevin Dulin

ACE
District
Administrator
*see back
panel*

ACE
Affiliate
Coordinator

ACE
Local
Association
Coordinator

The ACE Coordinator reports directly to the local association board and through a multi-year appointment by that board, with reporting responsibilities to the Coaching Education Program ACE District Administrator. Each USA Hockey District will have an ACE District Administrator. These individuals are listed on the back page of this brochure and are your contacts for information on organizing and managing ACE programs in your local association. Each local association must appoint an individual to be their association's ACE Coordinator and notify the District ACE Administrator of that appointment. Depending upon the organizational structure of the District, there could be additional ACE Coordinators appointed to assist in the management of the local ACE Coordinators. That determination would be the responsibility of the District Coach-in-Chief and the District ACE Administrator.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND/OR TO PURCHASE
THE ACE COORDINATOR PACKAGE
(INCLUDING VIDEOS AND PUBLICATIONS), CONTACT:**

**Sarah Ross — (719) 538-1180
sahr@usahockey.org**

THIS IS USA HOCKEY

USA Hockey, Inc., is the National Governing Body for the sport of hockey in the United States. As such, 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.

Headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colo., USA Hockey is the official representative to the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) and the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF). In this role, USA Hockey is responsible for organizing and training men's and women's teams for international tournaments that include the IIHF World Championships and the Olympic Winter Games. USA Hockey also coordinates activities with other national hockey federations around the world and, closer to home, works with the National Hockey League (NHL) and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) on matters of mutual interest.

With a membership of more than 585,000 ice and inline hockey players, coaches, officials and volunteers, USA Hockey's primary emphasis is on the support and development of grassroots hockey programs. USA Hockey is divided into 11 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 an initiation program administrator to facilitate learn-to-play programs for youth players and their parents.

For the player, 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; distributes Hat Trick, Playmaker and Zero Club Awards; 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. These programs enrich the knowledge of coaches and officials through careful study, training and examination. USA Hockey also promotes uniformity in playing rules and the interpretations 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 *American Hockey Magazine*, the main communication vehicle for the organization which is sent to the household of every registered member as a benefit of membership.

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. Through valuable membership packages which include standardized playing rules, competitive playing opportunities at the regional and national levels, and a variety of educational programs for players, coaches and officials, USA Hockey InLine is dedicated to providing a positive experience for all participants.

ACE PROGRAM PERSONNEL

NATIONAL ACE ADMINISTRATOR

Kevin Dulin — kevindulin@msn.com

ALASKA DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Mark Brooks — damiobrooks@hotmail.com

ATLANTIC DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Frank Golembrosky — fgolly@aol.com

CENTRAL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Lloyd Ney — ice@wentzvilleicearena.com

MASSACHUSETTS DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Jim Cooney — hockeyguy@worldnet.att.net

MICHIGAN DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Jack Witt — jackwitt@worldnet.att.net

MID-AMERICAN DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Tim Murphy — tlmurph@aol.com

MINNKOTA DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Barry Ford — barry.ford6@honeywell.com

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Alan Jochem — zjochem@adelphia.net

NEW YORK DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Gavin Regan — gregan@slic.com

PACIFIC DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Bob Levin — badgerbob2@aol.com

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

T.C. Lewis — tlewis@aerodromes.com

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

Bob McCaig — mccaig@bellsouth.net

USA HOCKEY NATIONAL COACH-IN-CHIEF

Bob O'Connor

(952) 933-6111

alicembo@aol.com

USA HOCKEY COACHING PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Mark Tabrum

(719) 576-USAH, ext. 185

markt@usahockey.org



ACE COORDINATOR PROGRAM



The USA Hockey Coaching
Education Program is presented by

