

W.T.M. Coaches Guidelines

5 Things to remember when you are coaching

1. **Where am I?** If you are coaching the mite team like the last level you played at, high school, juniors, college, or pros, you are doing it WRONG!
2. **Preparation.** You are a volunteer, but a volunteer that has 15 parents watching you. USA Hockey has an entire season of practice plans, use them. If you are prepared practices and games will be much easier to manage and operate.
3. **Equality.** Make sure that you rotate who starts games, what position they play, and discipline when needed (YOUR CHILD INCLUDED). At the Squirt and Pee Wee level there certainly will be times when you want certain players out there, I get it. **But that is not in the first period of the third game of the year. Give everyone the opportunity for power play and penalty kill, how else will they learn.**
4. **Who's watching?** Above I touched on the parents, the most important set of eyes are the players. They are watching everything you do. So how you act towards the officials, how you handle them being unruly during practice, are you always starting the same players, are they always "stuck" playing defense, and a host of other interactions are being watched and absorbed by our athletes. Handle these situation appropriately.
5. **Have fun.** Can't get any more cliché. But it is what it is, you should be loving that you are able to teach the game of ice hockey to youths!

Practices

Be prepared. Have a practice plan ready.

USA HOCKEY Recommendation

Mite 50-60 minutes skating, passing, shooting, mini games

*Note there is NO recommendation that you work on systems!

Squirt 35-50 minutes skating, passing, shooting, mini games

*Leaves 15 minutes for systems and positions

Pee Wee 35-50 minutes skating, passing, shooting, mini games

*Leaves 15 minutes for systems and positions

REMEMBER IF WE ARE NOT TEACHING THEM TO SKATE PROPERLY WE ARE NOT DOING OUR JOBS

USA Certification

Yourself and any coach who plans on the ice and/or bench needs to be USA Hockey Registered and Certified. Any coach that registers and completes certification will be reimbursed any and all fees incurred from USA Hockey by WTM.

USA Hockey Requirements (Must be completed before participating in any team activities)

- Register as a member of USA Hockey (Cost is \$40 plus any affiliate fees if applicable). [Click here for more information.](#)
- Complete the background screening (found on your affiliate website).
- Complete the USA Hockey Safe Sport Training (required every two years). [Click here for more information.](#)

Coaching Education Program Requirements (Must be completed by Dec. 31)

- Find, register and attend the required certification clinic. (Cost is \$40 plus any lunch fees if applicable) You can only attend one clinic per season and all coaches start at Level 1. (The coaching clinic season for Levels 1-3 officially runs from September 1 to December 31). [Click here to find a clinic.](#)
- Complete the online age-specific module(s) for the age level of play you are coaching. (Cost is \$10 per module) (The online modules are available from September 1 to December 31.)

WTM will receive notifications of certified coaches the first week of January. Any coach that has not completed their certification will not be allowed to coach for the remainder of the season.

Scheduling

Practice

Ryan Deane is the WTM ice scheduler. If you have any questions or concerns please contact him at rdeane8@yahoo.com. Please understand that he cannot change practice times. This current schedule will be in place until 11/28. On 11/28 a new schedule will be released until seasons end.

GSL

Ryan does not schedule any games that is done by the GSL. If you have questions or concerns about GSL games please contact gslhockey.org and click on GSL executive board and then scheduler.

No Play Dates (2 weekends MAX) NPD need to be sent to Jason Vedovelli, vedoat132@comcast.com, No later than September 15th. No play dates are weekends during the season, games begin October 22nd, and that you would not want your teams to play. **The GSL does not schedule games over school holiday vacation. Also remember if your team is playing in our New England Youth Pond Hockey Jamboree, those days are weekend of February 10th.**

Equipment

You have been provided a coaching equipment bag. Containing 6 water bottles, pucks, 6 cones and a bag. You have also received goalie equipment, pads, neck guard, chest protector, blocker, glove and stick. Please do your best to keep this equipment in the best condition and please stress that to families that are using our goalie equipment. If you have any issues, questions or request for equipment needs please contact, Jeff Mendrala, jeff.mendrala@graybar.com.