

THE ACE DIRECTOR

The Association Coaching & Education (ACE) Director 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 Directors organize and manage 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 DIRECTOR CRITICAL TO USA HOCKEY'S 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 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 Director 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 clinics. The ACE Director solidifies USA Hockey's commitment to skill development as a primary goal of coaching at the local association. 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 Director provides the 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, provide better continuity of coaching skills, and ultimately develop better hockey players.

WHO ARE THE ACE DIRECTORS?

The ACE Director is an individual within a local association who has a strong coaching background, hockey knowledge and commitment to the sport. 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, the ACE Director must be comfortable educating coaches, players, parents and association board members. Effective administrative skills are

essential to ensure 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 toward skill development of players in the association and exhibit a "love of the game."

WHAT ARE THE JOB RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ACE DIRECTOR?

- Ensure that the association is promoting age-specific skill development in all of its programs.
- Encourage associations to implement the USA Hockey Skill Development and Cross-Ice programs.
- Communicate certification requirements to association coaches and ensure compliance with USA Hockey & District/Affiliate certification levels.
- Deliver parent education programs to the association.
- Plan, organize and execute periodic skills workshops for coaches, players and parents.
- Communicate with the District ACE Administrator and USA Hockey on all issues related to coaching at the local association level.
- Communicate USA Hockey's player development opportunities to players, parents and coaches.
- Establish and maintain a resource center for coaches, players and parents that would include all available USA Hockey materials.
- Evaluate practice sessions and provide feedback to coaches to improve the coaching capability of local association coaches.

ACE DIRECTOR ADMINISTRATION

It is strongly recommended that the ACE Director be a voting board member of the local association. This position reports to the Coaching Education Program District ACE Director. Each USA Hockey district will have a District ACE Director. These individuals are listed on the back page of this brochure and are the contacts for information on organizing and managing ACE programs in your local associations. Each local association is required to have an individual to serve as their local association's ACE Director and must notify the District ACE Director of that appointment. Depending upon the organizational structure of the district, there could be additional ACE Directors appointed to assist in the management of local ACE Directors.