



*New Coaching Education Requirements, adopted by USA Hockey Board of Directors on June 13, 2020. Significant changes are highlighted in red text.*

**The Requirements below take effect for the 2021-2022 Hockey Season, beginning in September, 2021.**

**(1) Required Coaching Education Program Levels for Ice Hockey**

All coaches must have the required certification level prior to January 1 of the current season, unless earlier deadlines are established by the district and/or affiliate.

All coaches must complete the online age-specific modules PRIOR to participating with their team.

(a) All coaches must enter USA Hockey's Coaching Education Program at Level 1, and must continue their education with a coaching clinic each year until, at a minimum, they achieve Level 4. Coaches of only 8U or younger players **should** remain at Level 1 until such time as they are coaching any older age level of play. A coach may attend only one (1) certification clinic per year. Once Level 4 is achieved, **coaches will need to complete 5 credit hours of Continuing Education within each subsequent three-year period [as outlined in Paragraph (c) below].**

(b) In addition to the training in paragraph (a) above, coaches must also complete online age-specific training modules specific to the level of play they are coaching, if they have not already taken that module. This requirement applies to all coaches at all levels, 1 through 5. Coaches may complete more than one age-specific module in any given season.

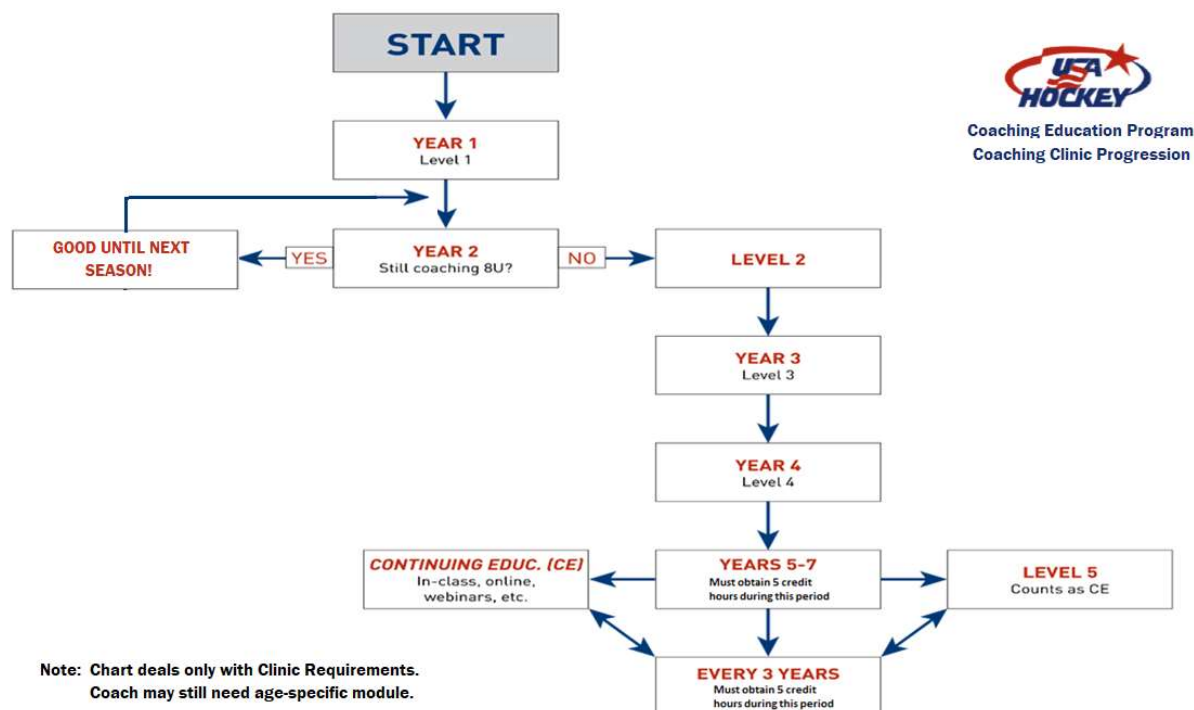
**(c) Effective in the 2021-2022 season, Coaching certification at Levels 4 and 5 is valid for three (3) seasons, as indicated by the expiration date. Before the expiration of their level, coaches must accumulate 5 credit hours of continuing education by either taking Level 5, or by attending other USA Hockey Continuing Education clinics. The USA Hockey clinic listings will indicate all continuing education offerings and the credit value of each. The Coaching Education Program retains the responsibility for defining continuing education credit values, including clinic or online course work.**

**(d) Grandfather Clause – For those coaches who received Level 4 or 5 prior to January 1, 2021, only coaches of Tier I and Tier II teams are required to do continuing education as given in ( c) above.**

**(e) Previous/Expired Certifications**

Coaches with any expired certification will retain their previous certification levels provided the certification can be verified. Coaches may re-enter the certification system at that previous level and be subject to the certification guidelines **in (a) through (c) above.**

## Typical Coach Education Clinic Progression Chart



### SUMMARY OF CHANGES – EFFECTIVE 2021-22 Season

- Level 4 becomes part of ordinary clinic progression (see above chart), is reduced to single day session, standard clinic price, offered more often in more places.
- Online module requirement reduced as modules are consolidated from 5 to 3 (8U, 10U & 12U, 13+)
- Continuing Education requirement effective in 2021-22 for all coaches (except those affected by the Grandfather Clause "d").
- The "old" Level 4 format of 2-or-3-day clinics are generally obsolete – replaced by 1 or 2 day "High Performance" specialty clinics.
- Continuing Education offerings will include Level 5 (national), High Performance in-person clinics, and various online solutions now under development.

