

FAQ on Continuing Education- v5 – 7.8.22

1. I have been coaching since 2005, when does Continuing Education rules go into effect?

Effective in the 2021-22 season, new Level 4 coaching certifications are valid for three (3) seasons, and Level 5 coaching certifications are valid for four (4) seasons, each as indicated by an expiration date. As well, Level 4 or 5 grandfathered coaches who do not have an expiration date and who received Level 4 or Level 5 PRIOR TO January 1, 2021 and who are coaching or begin to coach after this date any Tier I or Tier II teams) will be required to do continuing education.

2. How many hours must a coach accumulate before their expiration date?

Before the expiration of their level, coaches must accumulate 5 credit hours of continuing education by attending USA Hockey continuing education offerings.

3. Where do I find the Continuing Education classes or offerings that I need to take?

The USA Hockey clinic listings site will indicate all continuing education offerings and the credit value of each. [Coaching Clinics \(usahockey.com\)](https://www.usahockey.com/coaching-clinics)

4. If I sign up for a class but can't attend, can I transfer to another class elsewhere or get a refund?

No. Continuing education classes will be most often available and specific to your district or local area therefore, no transfers or refunds for missing a class.

5. Can I get a temporary card (temp card) if I don't get my 5 credits in time prior to my expiration date?

A coach will not be able to receive a temp card for CE recertifications.

If a coach is actively coaching and does not satisfy their 5 hours of CE recertification by Dec 31 of their expiry year, a coach will need to complete the remaining credits to reach 5 credits before getting on the bench in the current active season.

If a coach goes inactive during their 3- or 4-year recertification window and they do not satisfy their 5 hours by Dec 31 of their expiry year, the coach may re-enter the certification system at that previous level and be subject to the certification guidelines until Dec 31 of the season they enter and earn all 5 credits to be eligible.

6. I have a grandfathered level 4 certification, why does it show an expiration date now?

Level 4 or 5 grandfathered coaches (coaches who received their level 4 or 5 prior to 2021) who are coaching Tier I and/or Tier II teams will leave the 'grandfather clause rule' and will go from having an expiration of 2099 to 3 years (level 4) or 4 years (level 5) from when they begin coaching those teams.

7. I took a couple of continuing education credit hours when I was a level 2 coach but now that I have my level 4, Can those CE hours carry over?

Continuing Education (CE) credits will not be permitted to accumulate “bank” towards recertification “until after a coach receives his/her level 4 certification.

8. I took 5 continuing education credit hours this past year, can I use those to level up instead of taking my next level clinic?

No CE offerings will be considered as a level up in place of clinics, although taking a Level 5 clinic can be considered 5 CE credits or a level up from a level 4.

9. Who makes the decisions on credit values and course offerings for the Continuing Education program?

The Coaching Education Program retains the responsibility for defining continuing education credit values, including clinic or online course work. The Continuing Education committee, which is comprised of Coach In Chiefs, ADM regional staff and USA Hockey administrators, will oversee the goals of the program, the policy directives and quality of course curriculum.

10. If I have questions about my credit hours or CE offerings in my area, who do I contact?

Your coach in chief for your district will be able to direct you or answer your continuing education questions.