

## OPPORTUNITIES

Regardless of your background, if you have a passion for the game of hockey, USA Hockey encourages you to consider officiating.

For those that have played and reached a point where opportunities to advance have ended, officiating can really help fill the void that was experienced as a player being up close and right in the action.

Officiating also provides an opportunity to give back to the youth hockey community, in some cases directly to the local association that supported your development. It's also a chance for those that aspire to have the chance to earn higher-level assignments, including through USA Hockey, the NCAA, the International Ice Hockey Federation and professional hockey.

*"Who knew that the discipline, hard work and perseverance I learned as a goalkeeper would lead me to unbelievable opportunities in Sochi!"*

**Erin Blair**  
IIHF Referee  
University of Findlay



## THIS IS USA HOCKEY

USA Hockey provides the foundation for the sport of ice hockey in America; helps young people become leaders, even Olympic heroes; and connects the game at every level while promoting a lifelong love of the sport.

An organization that was born out of a shoebox in Tom Lockhart's New York City apartment back in the fall of 1937 is today represented in all 50 states and includes a record one million-plus players, coaches, officials, parents and volunteers.

USA Hockey's primary emphasis is on the support and development of grassroots hockey programs. Its cutting-edge American Development Model provides associations nationwide with a blueprint for age-appropriate athlete development. Always a leader in safety, USA Hockey has been at the forefront in advancing efforts to ensure the best possible environment for all engaged in the sport, both on and off the ice.

While youth hockey is a main focus, USA Hockey also has vibrant junior and adult hockey programs that provide opportunities for players of all ability levels. The organization also supports a growing disabled hockey program, which today includes six disciplines.

Beyond serving those who play the game at the amateur level, USA Hockey has certification programs for coaches and officials, inclusive of industry-leading online education modules, to ensure standards are met that coincide with the level of play. Furthermore, a large focus is put on parent education with equipment needs, rules of the game and parental roles in youth sports among common topics.

Members of the organization are entitled to many benefits, including a subscription to *USA Hockey Magazine*, the most widely circulated hockey publication in the world; excess accident, general liability and catastrophic insurance coverage; access to [USAHockey.com](http://USAHockey.com); and opportunities to participate in USA Hockey National Championships, as well as player development camps.

As the National Governing Body for the sport of ice hockey in the United States, USA Hockey is the official representative to the United States Olympic Committee and the International Ice Hockey Federation. In this role, USA Hockey is responsible for organizing and training men's and women's teams for international tournaments, including the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games and IIHF World Championships. USA Hockey also works closely with the NHL and NCAA on matters of mutual interest.

USA Hockey is divided into 12 geographical districts throughout the United States. Each district has a registrar to register teams; a referee-in-chief to lead education programs for officials; a coach-in-chief to administer education programs for coaches; a risk manager to oversee liability and safety programs; and a skill development program administrator to facilitate learn-to-play programs. Within USA Hockey's 12 districts, a total of 34 affiliates provide the formal governance for the sport.



## OPPORTUNITIES START WITH THE DROP OF A PUCK

*A Guide for Men and Women  
Interested in Officiating Ice Hockey*



## WHAT MAKES A GREAT OFFICIAL?

Overall, officials are not much different from players in the sense that they must be excellent skaters, have sound knowledge of the fundamentals of positioning and mechanics, and possess outstanding “hockey sense” to excel in the profession.

Additional key qualities include:

- Judgment
- Rules Knowledge
- Communication Skills
- Sense of “fair play” and what is best for the game
- Credibility

*“I had no idea that officiating would offer me the same feelings I had while playing. The people you meet are incredible. They become your ‘team’ and life-long friends.”*

**Jerilyn Glenn**  
IIHF Referee  
University of Minnesota



## WHERE CAN THE PATH LEAD?

As a player, it takes commitment, focus and practice to advance to a higher level of the game. We typically say you must “conquer” the level you are at before you advance if you want to succeed. Those officials with the courage and work-ethic to succeed put themselves in the best position to be considered for opportunities at the next level.

- USA Hockey National Championships
- NCAA Division I & III Assignments
- NCAA Frozen Four Assignments
- Minor Professional Assignments
- IIHF World Championships
- Olympic Winter Games



## WHAT ARE THE STEPS?

There are five steps all officials must take to become a USA Hockey registered official.

1. Register at [USAHockey.com](http://USAHockey.com)
2. Attend an in-person seminar
3. Complete the prescribed online education video modules
4. Complete the online open book playing rules exam
5. Complete the online USA Hockey SafeSport training (if 18+ years old)

Finishing the five steps above is only the beginning of your education and development as an official. Similar to players, officials can request performance feedback (coaching) through formal evaluations and they have the opportunity to attend development camps during the off-season.

*\*More information is available at [USAHockey.com](http://USAHockey.com).*

*“I started officiating as a way to pay for college. It became a passion which evolved into a professional career with so many unforgettable memories and incredible friends.”*

**Brian Murphy**  
NHL Official