



Registration Season Date Change

At the January, 2009 Winter Meeting, the USA Hockey Board of Directors reviewed the recommendation of the District Registrars to change the USA Hockey registration season to May 1 through April 30. This recommendation was approved by the Board of Directors and will take effect for the 2009-10 season.

Rationale:

This change will conform to current practices of member registration and team formation for the majority of programs around the country.

- Most programs consider mid-April to be the end of the season and some begin tryouts for the upcoming season during the summer.
- Many teams form for the upcoming season in May, June or July
- There will be no need to have two seasons open for online registration at the same time thereby streamlining the process, eliminating confusion and refunds for wrong season registration.
- The Junior program currently uses May 1 as their beginning registration date.

Additional benefits to a May 1 season-start date:

- With a May 1 start date, programs have the opportunity to hold learn to play and short term introductory sessions at a time of the year when ice is less utilized. The 4 'extra' months from a year's registration will be at the 'front end of the season'... allowing people to try hockey during the summer and then be able to join a team with their registration for the season already paid.
- Participants will process their USA Hockey registration for summer programs and not have to register again to be able to join a team for the 'regular playing season' (Sept/Oct to Feb)
- This change will benefit programs in markets where facilities are open year-round

The season date change will have no impact on programs that operate during the 'traditional playing season' (Sept-April).

Participants in District and USAH Player Development Camps will not be required to register for the next season to participate in those events. Participation will be based on registration in the previous season if the event is being held after May 1.

Transition year considerations:

Online registration for the 08-09 season will cease on April 30, 2009. Online registration for the 2009-10 season will be available beginning May 1, 2009

All 08-09 registrations will continue to be in effect for those teams to participate through Aug 31, 2009. Therefore, people currently registered for 08-09 will continue to have that registration in place for events associated with their 08-09 team. However, if they are participating with their 'next season' team, they will need to process the registration for the 09-10 season.

Implementation

With the importance of our Grow the Game initiative and the success of online registration, the time is right to make this change. If you have questions about implementing the new registration season date, please refer to the FAQ attached or contact your Registrar or Associate Registrar.



Registration Season Date Change – FAQ

If I registered for 08-09 is my registration still good this summer?

Yes, you will be able to participate with your 08-09 team through Aug 31, 2009. However, if you will be playing with your 2009-10 team in the summer, you'll need to process your 2009-10 registration.

What if someone wants to participate with an 08-09 team during the summer and isn't registered for the 08-09 season?

The program registrar should contact their Associate Registrar or USA Hockey Member Services Department for instructions to accommodate this situation.

Does this date change have any effect on the age classification for players?

No, the date of determination for participation in an age classification remains the same. The calendar year will continue to determine a player's age classification. The Age Chart available in your Cyber Sport (under USAH Forms) will not change.

Does this change my insurance benefits?

No. All insurance coverage questions and concerns have been reviewed and resolved.

What about programs that start in March or April and go through May -- will my players need to re-register in the middle of the session?

No, programs that start in the spring and continue past April 30 will play under their original registration through the end of that session. Programs that fall into this category will need to notify their District Registrar of the dates of their spring session so they can be approved and the information forwarded to the National office.

If I play for one program in the summer, do I have to play for that program in the fall?

No, your online confirmation number will be recognized by any USA Hockey program. However, all current District or Affiliate rules regarding eligibility for participation will continue to apply.

Will games played in May, June and July count toward the minimum game count for national tournament-bound teams?

No. Games qualifying for the 20/10 – 14/10 rule will begin August 1st. Please check with your District or Affiliate as there may be additional rules or dates to be aware of.

When will the USA Hockey Registration software be available?

The software will be available by May 1 for the 09-10 season, and then available in April starting in the 2010-11 season.

What about Ice Officials?

Ice Official's registration season will not be affected. The Official's registration season is currently Aug 1 through April 30 which fits within the May 1 to April 30 date.

Will the Inline season change too?

Not at this time.

Will the USA Hockey fiscal year change?

Not right away but possibly in the future.