

## 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.

USA Hockey officials can also earn higher-level assignments with organizations including the NCAA, the International Ice Hockey Federation and with the professional hockey leagues.



## 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.

USA Hockey's primary emphasis is on the support and development of grassroots hockey programs. In January 2009, the organization launched the American Development Model, which - for the first time ever - provides associations nationwide with a blueprint for optimal athlete development. Always a leader in safety, USA Hockey furthered the enhancement of those efforts by advancing the USA Hockey SafeSport Program in June 2012.

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.

Beyond serving those who play the game at the amateur level, USA Hockey has certification programs for coaches and officials to ensure education standards are met that coincide with the level of play. In September 2011, USA Hockey became the first youth sports organization in the U.S. to offer its coaches online, age-specific coaching education modules. 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; and opportunities to participate in USA Hockey National Championships and 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 IIHF World Championships and the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. Closer to home, USA Hockey works closely with the National Hockey League and the National Collegiate Athletic Association 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 register officials and organize clinics; 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 for youth players and their parents.



## OPPORTUNITIES START WITH THE DROP OF A PUCK

*A Guide for Men 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

## 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
- USA Hockey Junior Officiating Development Program
- NCAA Division I & III Assignments
- Minor Professional Hockey
- IIHF World Championships
- Olympic Winter Games

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*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

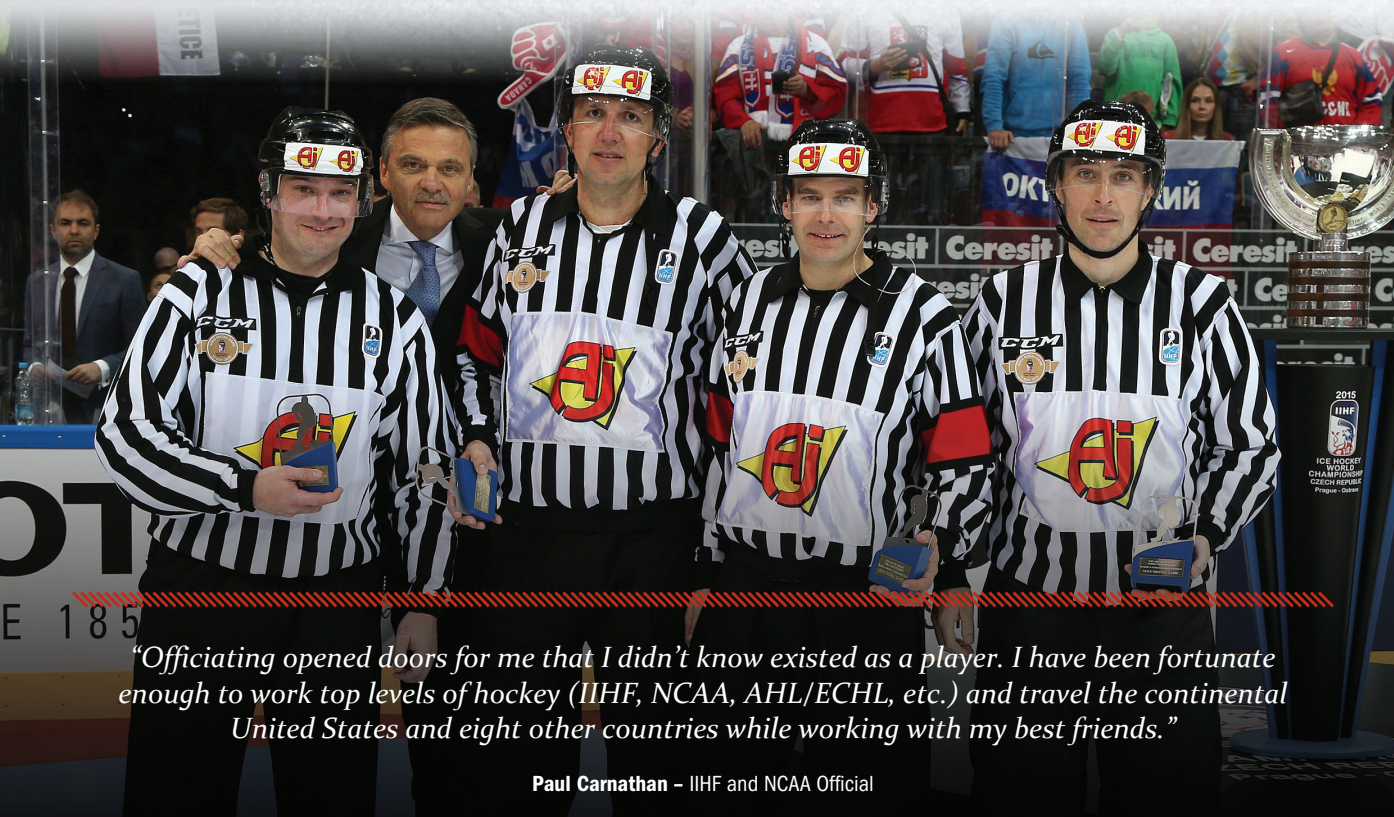
## WHAT ARE THE STEPS?

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

1. Register at USAHockey.com
2. Attend an in-person seminar
3. Complete the required 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).*



*“Officiating opened doors for me that I didn’t know existed as a player. I have been fortunate enough to work top levels of hockey (IIHF, NCAA, AHL/ECHL, etc.) and travel the continental United States and eight other countries while working with my best friends.”*

**Paul Carnathan** – IIHF and NCAA Official