



To: ACHA Membership  
From: Craig Barnett, Executive Director  
Re: **2020-21 Season Update & Registration Information**  
Date: July 29, 2020

As we continue to navigate the uncertainty and changes at local, state and national levels, the ACHA appreciates we must put forth a plan for the 2020-21 season. We recognize that the coronavirus pandemic is having a significant impact across the country and is affecting our ACHA members.

In an effort to provide the best opportunity for our membership to continue to plan for a competitive season in the safest manner possible, **we will open up our Declaration and Registration process on August 3, 2020.** We do so to position our membership and the ACHA to move forward with as much information as possible, and to sustain the ACHA's ability to operate on a bare-bones budget as a national association without losing critical capabilities.

This plan was developed with the best intentions for our entire membership after months of tracking our institutions "Back to School" and "Return to Play" protocols which continue to vary from region to region.

Our goal is to provide flexibility for our student-athletes and teams to operate their programs and plan for a season while having one Declaration & Registration process per our normal Operating Policies.

## **2020-21 SEASON**

Based on the results of membership feedback and our own tracking, it is apparent that a large number of our members will be prohibited to compete this fall but will have opportunity to practice with various limitations.

If the ACHA 2020-21 season is paused in whole or in part related to COVID-19, the ACHA still needs the support of its membership to provide a meaningful season for our student athletes. This will allow the ACHA to continue to monitor the pandemic situation throughout the fall and make necessary programming and budgetary adjustments.

Conferences have the authority to implement and adjust conference schedules in the best interest of their conference members. From a national standpoint, if an ACHA team is permitted to compete in the fall by their respective institution, local and state regulations, as well as ACHA Operating Policies, those non-conference games would be allowed to take place.

Again, we want to be as flexible as possible and not take away opportunities to compete when they can be safely played within the applicable guidelines.

For the fall, we urge teams to register with the ACHA via the USAH portal as usual. This will assure that they are insured starting upon registration and carrying through the fall and spring.

To that end, we are proposing a couple of options including a two-phased dues payment plan which provides USAH insurances for all ACHA team members for Team Activities, as well as those of your student-athletes who decide to participate in adult hockey leagues should ACHA games not be possible.

Payment for teams registering will include \$700 for USAH insurance and a nominal fee for the ACHA to continue to operate on your behalf. For teams that wish to pay annual dues in full due to the convenience of one invoice, those fees will be considered paid in full. The ACHA will then review a portion of those dues for credit if a pause or disruption happens to our season in the spring.

## **2021 NATIONAL TOURNAMENT**

As a result of our current situation regarding fall competition and with over 80% of membership support in our recent survey, we have finalized details with our Boston host to push back our **2021 National Tournament dates to April 15-20, 2021**. This outcome will allow teams an additional 3 weeks to make-up games that will be lost in the fall. An official press release will be forthcoming.

ACHA Divisional Commissioners will now be evaluating their current logistics relating to minimum number of game requirements, rankings, etc. due to this contingency plan being implemented in response to the pandemic.

## **ACHA REGISTRATION**

ACHA registration provides:

- Active ACHA membership
- USA Hockey membership for players and coaches (30 & 4 respectively-contact Mo Stroemel if your roster will exceed these numbers for details).
- Permits on ice practices / skill training under USA Hockey insurance
- Permits competition (exhibition, regular season and post-season) under USA Hockey insurance vs. other USA Hockey registered teams.
- Provides appropriate safety measures with Safe Sport, clearances and background checks to be compliant with new Safe Sport Federal Law.
- Supports the daily operations of the association.
- Supports initiatives as determined per Division and ACHA Bylaws and Policies for events, ancillary services, marketing, administering eligibility, rules and regulations and planning for post-season Tournaments.

We are making available the following payment options for the 2020-21 season:

**OPTION 1:** Teams pay their full annual dues as listed below by October 31 as is customary. *Required for Teams planning to compete in the Fall.*

**2020-21 ACHA Annual Dues:**

Men's Division 1	\$2,000
Men's Division 2	\$1,700
Men's Division 3	\$1,700
Women's Division 1	\$1,800
Women's Division 2	\$1,200

**OPTION 2:** Teams pay \$1,000 as part of their registration dues and USA Hockey insurance payments to the ACHA by October 31 as is customary. Then, the following Spring dues payment will be due on December 15, 2020.

**2020-21 ACHA 2<sup>nd</sup> Dues Payment (December 15):**

Men's Division 1	\$1,000
Men's Division 2	\$ 700
Men's Division 3	\$ 700
Women's Division 1	\$. 800
Women's Division 2	\$. 200

**THE IMPORTANCE TO REGISTER NOW IF YOUR TEAM HAS SUSPENDED FALL SPORTS**

- If your team will not be allowed to compete in the fall and you register your team when registration opens on August 3, \$700 of your dues will cover your players and coaches for team practices, adult league participation, and youth coaching.
- If your players pay individually it will cost more per player, there are no refunds, and your team will still have to pay the part of the dues that is USA Hockey.

Here is a comparison to show the benefits of our partnership with USA Hockey:

**REGISTER INDIVIDUALLY:**

- Cost = \$50-\$60 per player with affiliate charges included (varies by state)

vs.

**REGISTER via ACHA REGISTRATION** which covers 30 players & 4 coaches

- Cost = \$20.50 per player or coach (based on a 30-player, 4 coach Roster)
- Cost = \$24 per player or coach (based on a 25-player, 4-coach Roster)
- Cost = \$29 per player or coach (based on a 20-player, 4 coach Roster)

**Note:** An ACHA Roster with 30-player/4 coach saves about \$1,260.