



August Update: 2020-21 Season

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

In an effort to continue to provide our membership with updates on the 2020-21 season, this memo is a follow up to the recent video message highlighting some important topics.

2020-21 REGISTRATION and ANNUAL DUES

- The ACHA / USAH Registration portal for the 2020-21 season was opened on August 3.
- Team Reps should have received an email from USA Hockey with a declaration link to begin the registration process.
- If your Team did not receive the email, please contact Mo Stroemel (ACHA Director of Hockey Operations) at mo@achahockey.org
- During the declaration process, you will be asked to choose a payment method. You can download an editable invoice to turn into the appropriate office on your campus, or you can pay online.
- In an effort to provide flexibility with payments during these uncertain times, we have provided a variety of options. We understand the many concerns and challenges teams may be having and we are committed to working with you to find the best solution.
- For clarification purposes, teams unable to compete in the fall but will still be permitted to practice (with or without limitations), the payment option "Sustaining Dues + USAH Insurance combo" should be chosen before any on-ice sessions take place in the best interest of players safety.

MODIFICATIONS TO THE SEASON

- Since the majority of our teams will not be permitted to compete until at least January 2021, and based off the feedback we received from membership, the ACHA pushed back the 2021 National Tournament in Boston by 3 weeks, moving the dates to April 15-20. This move allows an additional 3 weeks in the spring to reschedule games that will be lost by the majority of our members this fall.
- Currently our 5 Divisional Commissioners (M1 = Brian Moran; M2 = Jon Eccles; M3 = Derek Conner; W1 = Molly Mahoney; and W2 = Taylor Hadley) are now working on

season modifications to their traditional formats as a result of these changes due to the pandemic situation.

- **IMPORTANT:** It is very important that all members have an opportunity to have a voice on any possible recommended changes (minimum games, how rankings will work, do games played before January count toward rankings, changes to National Tournament format, etc). If you have not communicated with your Commissioners or Regional Coordinators, please reach out asap.
- These modifications fall under Operating Policies where divisions decide on their respective season and post-season formats within financial and logistic parameters monitored by ACHA staff.
- Any recommended modifications will be reviewed by ACHA staff and presented to the Board for approval based on current Bylaws procedures relative to a pandemic.
- As soon as recommendations are considered and approved, they will be announced to membership.
- **ELIGIBILITY** – Player eligibility has been reviewed and adjusted for this playing season due to the effects the pandemic is having on our membership and their respective institutions protocols. ***Please see separate document included with this email.***
- This adjustment was made in the best interest of our student-athletes based on ACHA rules, and membership feedback in order to put together a season that our entire association will enjoy.

RULE CHANGE YEAR

- 2020-21 is a NCAA Rule Change Year. Several minor changes have been recommended by the NCAA Rules Committee and they will be officially voted on at the end of August. The ACHA will then review the official changes and notify membership on any that affect our association.

ACHA WEBSITE

- As communicated this past spring, the ACHA will have a new website this season developed by Integrass Sports, a leader in software solutions and integration for National Governing Body's and sports.
- We anticipate the website to be live by early September.
- All historical data and migration are in final stages of being uploaded to the new site.
- Information on Integrass websites for teams and leagues was dispersed this summer and I have included those documents in this email for your consideration.
- **NEW THIS YEAR:** In past years, the scoring system (schedule, stats, scores, etc) were all under the Pointstreak umbrella, meaning the ACHA used a Pointstreak Stat system in conjunction with a Pointstreak website. Beginning this year, the scoring system is brand new and developed by USA Hockey with customizations for ACHA rules and stats. This scoring system will be integrated into the new ACHA website developed by Integrass. Teams and Leagues that will not be utilizing an Integrass website will just need to link to the ACHA website sections from your respective website. ***Details will follow soon.***

ACHA COACHING DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- We had close to 100 ACHA coaches participate in last month's "Coaches for Coaches" Seminar series. The presentations made by our peers were excellent, and many thanks to our partner, the American Hockey Coaches Association (AHCA), for organizing this opportunity for our coaches during the pandemic.
- Links to all the Coaches for Coaches presentations are now available for those members who were unable to participate due to the times. ***Please see separate document included with this email.***

ACHA TEAM RECRUITING OPPORTUNITY

- We continue expand our opportunities to work with NHL teams and their communities to grow the sport and educate prospective student-athletes about the ACHA.
- Recent events that the ACHA and our schools have been involved with include the Chicago Blackhawks and the Washington Capitals college hockey fairs.
- The Capitals fair ended up being a virtual event due to the pandemic but in the end, it was a great success. With the virtual component added, the ACHA had 44 schools participate versus the traditional 20+ regional schools in past years.
- Now, we have a new opportunity for our membership - the **ANAHEIM DUCKS High School Hockey College Fair during the week of September 20, 2020.**
- The September dates are targeted for BOYS High School teams however, the Ducks are planning on hosting a GIRLS College Hockey Fair in the month of October that we will also be part of – details are still be finalized.
- The Ducks college fair will also be virtual thus any ACHA program across all 48 states and 2 Canadian provinces may participate and talk about your hockey and academic programs to prospective student-athletes in California.
- There is a deadline to submit marketing information for disbursement on September 1. ***Please see separate document included with this email for details and contact info.***