



**To:** ACHA Membership  
**From:** Craig Barnett, ACHA Executive Director  
**Date:** August 18, 2021  
**Re:** 2021-22 Pre-Season Updates and Information

**2021-22 DECLARATION & REGISTRATION:** Our Declaration and Registration portals opened on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Details on the registration process can be found on the ACHA website at HOME> RESOURCES > TEAM REGISTRATION INFO. Please contact Dave Kurtz - [dkurtz@achahockey.org](mailto:dkurtz@achahockey.org) with any questions.

**NEW SCORING & STAT SYSTEM – “LeagueStat”**

- ACHA will add **Team Reps** to LeagueStats and create custom login to system once Team Declaration is completed.
- ACHA will create a separate **Scorekeeper** login for each Team for the scorekeeper section of LeagueStats to score games live or enter post-game.
- Both Team Rep and Scorekeeper logins will be sent to the **Team Rep's** email on file with ACHA – the same person who created USAH Declaration in portal. If you have not received it, check your spam box, and then contact Craig Barnett at [cbarnett@achahockey.org](mailto:cbarnett@achahockey.org) if not there.
- **Scorekeeper** logins will be standard across all members ('DIVISION+SCHOOL NAME+Scorekeeper@acha' for example = W1AdrianScorekeeper@acha) for ease of use with schools that have multiple teams and scorekeepers.

\* For more detailed information and resources on the LeagueStat system, go to RESOURCES > FORMS & RESOURCES on ACHA Website – here is the link for your convenience, <https://www.achahockey.org/forms-resources>

**RETURN TO PLAY GUIDELINES & COVID-19 / DELTA VARIANT:** It is crucial that you keep in contact with your institution's Sports Administrator regarding school policies and Return to Play guidelines for the 2021-22 season. As you know, the Delta Variant is very concerning and at the forefront of many school administrators with classes starting shortly.

The ACHA considers the health and safety of its student-athletes, coaches, teams, and fans to be of paramount importance. With close to 475 members in 48 states and 2 provinces, the ACHA recognizes that your respective institution is best equipped with staff, policies, local and regional information, and services to keep your student-athletes safe and in compliance with state and local regulations.

The ACHA's policy regarding the pandemic situation is simple: our members and teams must follow your institution's policies and Return to Play guidelines to be eligible to compete during the 2021-22 season. The ACHA will only allow members to compete this season if your institution permits you to do so. If there are additional restrictions that your institution requires you to follow in order to compete, the ACHA requires you to do so.

In addition to your institutional policies and requirements, here are some ***Risk Mitigation Practices for Student-Athletes and Other Athletic/Team Members*** that we encourage you to follow:

- Ask your Sports Administrator if an educational communication plan or seminar is available to attend or information for you to present to your Team about COVID-19 and best practices to stay safe during the season and school year.
- Learn what your institution's requirements and recommendations are for the following and hold a Team Meeting to review:
  - o Masks / Face Coverings – who, where, when?
  - o Temperature /Symptom Checks – requirements? Where to go if symptoms?
  - o Quarantine & Isolation Requirements – out of state, international students, etc.
  - o Mental Health Support and Resources – where to go, who to ask?
  - o Restrictions for Vaccinated and Unvaccinated Students
  - o Physical Distancing
  - o Access to PPE
  - o Athletic Facilities Use and Restrictions if any
  - o Policies for Athletic Training Facilities, Locker Rooms and Equipment Rooms
  - o Training or Practice Equipment
  - o Local (off-campus) Rinks Policies and Restrictions
  - o Hydration and Water
  - o Team Travel Considerations
- The ACHA requires your student-athletes and staff to follow ALL your institution's policies and Return to Play requirements. Furthermore, you must have permission from your Sports Administrator to be permitted to compete for the 2021-22 season.

**GPA ELIGIBILITY FOR FALL 2021 SEMESTER:** The following amendment to regular ACHA policy was approved by the Board of Directors in June 2021 regarding **GPA Eligibility Requirements for the Fall 2021 Semester**.

**Background:** With Board approval back in August 2020, we modified Players Eligibility due to the pandemic which included the following clause regarding the FALL SEMESTER of the 2021-22 season:

*"In Fall of 2021, all eligibility requirements as outlined in the Policy Manual will be back in full effect. A 2.0 GPA or greater will be required at the beginning of Fall 2021 semester."*

Now that we are through the 2020-21 season and it's been 10 months since the Board approved the modification, the following recommendation has been approved by the Board of Directors for the Fall 2021 semester.

**Approved Recommendation:** Remove the GPA requirement for the 2021 Fall semester.

**Rationale:** This modification will only make the rule more lenient for the Fall semester - which ultimately treats all our student-athletes the same regardless of if they competed this past spring or not. It is also important to be unified across all our divisions for those programs that have multiple teams with players moving up and down. All credit requirements for Fall of 2021 remain as outlined in Policy Manual and as stated in the August 2020 modification, however the 2.0 GPA or greater will NOT be required until Spring semester beginning in January 2022.

**ADDITIONAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY:** The following amendment to regular ACHA policy was approved by the Board of Directors in December 2020 regarding extending an **Additional Year of Eligibility**.

Due to the 2020-21 pandemic, the ACHA has approved an extra year of eligibility for all ACHA student-athletes that were eligible to compete during the 2020-21 pandemic season, despite if they competed during the 2020-21 season or not.

This follows the same changes made by the NCAA for all D1, D2 and D3 winter sport student-athletes.

This amendment does a couple of things for our ACHA student-athletes, it provides an extra year of eligibility which will allow our student-athletes to enjoy a true full-season experience that they may lose during the 2021-21 pandemic season. It also offers our student-athletes the peace of mind to go into the season, if permitted by their schools to compete, knowing they can regain that eligibility without taking a chance on the front end of they chose to compete, and the season is cut short or otherwise negatively impacted by the pandemic.

It is important to note that this extension of an additional year of eligibility will not affect the ACHA rule which only permits student-athletes to compete in 5 ACHA National Tournaments. This rule remains in effect and does not change.

In addition, for any student-athletes participating during the 2020-21 season, they must continue to meet the academic credit requirements that are outlined in the ACHA Manual.

**2022 NATIONAL TOURNAMENT:** Co-hosted by the St. Louis Sports Commission and the St. Louis Blues, the 2022 ACHA National Tournament will take place in St. Louis, MO at the Blues' Centene Community Ice Center (CCIC) and the Maryville University Hockey Center from **March 10-20, 2022**. All 5 ACHA Divisions will be together once again with a total of 113 games, 78 teams and the crowning of 5 National Champions!

Here are the dates per Division:

***Men's Division 1:*** March 10-15

***Men's Division 2:*** March 14-18

***Men's Division 3:*** March 10-15

***Women's Division 1:*** March 16-20

***Women's Division 2:*** March 15-19

**ANNUAL MEETING DATES:** The ACHA will host our Annual Meetings during the same week as the AHCA convention (see below) however at a separate location since the Naples Grande Hotel, where the AHCA convention is being held, cannot accommodate meeting space for us. The dates and location of the ACHA Annual Meeting are:

\* **April 22-23, 2022** – ***Spanish Wells Golf & Country Club, Bonita Springs, FL*** (as a reference, this location is 10 miles north of Gulfcoast Inn hotel)

Friday, April 22:

6:00pm-9:30pm – Awards Banquet & Hall of Fame ceremony (transportation from the Gulfcoast Inn will be provided)

Saturday, April 23:

8:00am-12noon – General Session

12noon-1:00pm – Lunch Buffett

1:00pm-2:30pm – Divisional Breakout Meetings

\* **April 28-29, 2023** – Details to be announced when finalized for 2023.

The ***American Hockey Coaches Association*** (AHCA) Convention for the next 2 years that will be hosted at the Naples Grande Hotel. The dates of the AHCA convention are:

\* **April 20-24, 2022** – Naples Grande Hotel

\* **April 26-30, 2023** – Naples Grande Hotel

**NIL (Name, Image & Likeness policy) POSITION STATEMENT:** Effective as of July 1, 2021, the ACHA will support and follow the NCAA interim policy as well as individual institution policies on the NIL ruling to provide all individuals an opportunity to exercise their Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) rights. If the NCAA and/or individual institutions change their position on the NIL rule, the ACHA will adjust with those changes. Since this is not a federal law, the ACHA also supports and will follow the NCAA's decision that individual schools and not the NCAA (or ACHA), are the best resource regarding state law questions since each state may be different.

**[LINK: Quick Guide on NIL Interim Policy](#)**

**TEAM SCHEDULES:** 2021-22 Season schedules must be uploaded into the LeagueStat system by your ACHA Division Commissioner or ACHA staff. Please fill out your HOME GAME SCHEDULE utilizing the template link below and email it to your ACHA Commissioner.

**[Men's Schedule Template](#)**

**[Women's Schedule Template](#)**

**NEW WEBSITE:** The new ACHA website is now live at [achahockey.org](http://achahockey.org), **[see press release](#)**

**SURVEY RESULTS:** We appreciate the 118 teams that completed the survey this summer and will provide a summary of the survey shortly, at this time our focus is on preparation for the start of 2021-22 season. Thank you for your patience.