



INFORMATION BULLETIN

BULLETIN #: 260129-035-I
DATE: 29 January 2026
TO: OMHA Associations; OMHA Leagues
CC: OMHA Board; OMHA Convenors
FROM: Kevin Hamilton – Senior Director, Operations & Hockey Development
SUBJECT: TEAM OFFICIALS QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS – 2026-2027 SEASON

The Team Official Qualification Chart for the 2026-2027 season, is attached for your information, please make note of the following:

Hockey Canada Shift Forward Program:

Commencing April 1, 2026, Hockey Canada will be launching 'The Shift Forward: Evolving Hockey Culture', an education and training program to support participants and the key objective of changing unhealthy behaviours in the game. For the 2026-27 season, the program is launching for all Coaches, Rostered Staff (Trainers/Managers), Parents/Guardians and HCOP Officials.

As part of a multi-year phase-in, existing training completed under the Respect in Sport (RiS) platform (including legacy 'Speak Out' qualifications) will continue to be recognized until the end of 2027-2028 season, following which the Shift Forward Programming will be the only mandated and recognized qualification.

Member Associations should encourage new participants that will be entering programming for the first time and requiring any element of training for the 2026-2027 season to wait until after April 1, 2026 launch to complete the Shift Forward Programming.

It is expected that Hockey Canada will be releasing complete details on the Program in mid-late February, which will be forwarded upon receipt, but we believe that it is important to communicate the known critical elements of the information as soon as possible in order to inform your membership.

Hockey Trainers Certification Program (HTCP)/Hockey Canada Safety Program (HCSP)

Beginning the 2026-2027 Season the Hockey Canada Safety Program (HCSP) will be replacing the Hockey Trainer Certification Program (HTCP) in Ontario. Current HTCP Qualifications will remain valid until expiry.

Please note the following on the transition process from the HTCP to the HCSP that will impact registration and completion timelines for HTO courses:

HTCP Course Registration Deadline: We have been advised that HTO Level 1 and Level 1 Refresher clinics in the HCR will be closed on March 31, 2026, at 11:59 pm. Commencing April 1, 2026, participants will no longer be able to register for HTO clinics.

HTCP Course Completion Deadline: Anyone who registered on or before March 31, 2026, will have until April 30, 2026, at 11:59 pm to complete their course and receive their qualification. If they do not complete the course by April 30, they will need to re-register in the HCSP. The HTO/HCR API connection will remain until April 30, 2026, to support these individuals. There will be no refunds for anyone who has not completed their course by April 30. These details will also be posted on the HTO website to ensure that every account user is aware of the necessary requirements. HTO support, including help desk assistance, will be available throughout this time, until further notice.

Please contact your Regional Director or OMHA Development Staff should you have any questions or require additional clarification.