

Welcome to the Kanata Blazers 2015/2016 Minor Bantam B team! My name is Dave Cluskey and I will be coaching the team this upcoming season. I have been involved in Kanata Minor Hockey, coaching and playing for over 25 years. I volunteered as an on-ice helper, acted as assistant coach and have coached other house league and competitive sports over the past 7 years. I am excited to continue to teach the 2002 boys and develop their skills to the best of their abilities.

My goal for this season is to ensure that the game continues to be competitive, challenging and rewarding for all athletes. As members of a competitive team, the players will learn the value of hard work and dedication and the importance of practicing hard and being prepared for games. Players will be expected to work on their fitness levels and hockey skills outside of team practices and games, which will enable the team to learn and compete at a high level. Players and families need to be committed to this hockey team. Time management is essential to the success of each individual and to the hockey team. Players are expected to balance school, family and hockey activities.

The team commitment will be 4-5 days a week, including games, practices, off-ice training and events. Emphasis will be placed on power skating, shooting clinics, nutrition, video sessions and goaltending training. Players will be required to arrive ready, 1 hour prior to game time and 45 min. prior to practice time. This will enable the team to warm-up properly and discuss game and practice strategies prior to stepping on the ice. All players must display a positive attitude, hard work ethic and discipline at all times. Players on this team will represent the association with respect, there will be zero tolerance for negative attitude and/or behavioral issues.

Financially, families can expect to pay between \$1600 and \$1800 over and above the KMHA fees. This amount will cover team activities, player development, ice time, coach bus, etc. Away tournament expenses such as hotels, travel and meals are not included in these fees.

The team will participate in 4 tournaments this season.

1. September 24th to 27th, 2015 - Pittsburgh Invitational – USA (Coach bus)
2. October 30th to November 1st, 2015 Jay Peak – USA
3. December 4th to 6th, 2015 -Cobourg, Regional Silver Stick
4. January 8th to 10th, 2016 - Kanata Winter Classic

*Families will require the necessary documents/passports for US travel.

There is a potential for an additional tournament, depending on results of the Cobourg Silver stick.

Dress Code: Families will be expected to purchase a team track suit (approximately \$80-100) which will be used for all games and practices. More information will follow once the team has been established. A good pair of running shoes are required for all players.

This year's try-outs will begin in early September. The dates and times will usually be posted on the KMHA website between late July and early August. Please check the website frequently. The team will consist of 17 players (9 forwards, 6 defencemen and 2 goalies). I will be using independent evaluators, which includes a KMHA official to assist me with the selection of the team. I am looking for individual skills, team skills, positive attitude and conditioned athletes. Our games will increase this year to 1 hour 20 minutes long, therefore players must be in good physical condition to compete at this level. A fitness test will be administered during the try-out process which will include, 3k run, plank, push ups, shuttle run. Players should prepare themselves during the summer months for the try-out process.

Hitting will be introduced this season at the Minor Bantam competitive level. It is recommended that your child participates in a hitting clinic prior to try-outs. If your child does not complete the hitting clinic prior to try-outs, we reserve the right to remove the player from the ice should there be any safety concerns.

Should you have any questions please e-mail me at minorbantamblazers@bell.net.

Dave Cluskey

