



Welcome to the 2017/2018 season of the Kanata Blazers Minor Bantam AA team. My name is Mario Martel and I am very honoured and extremely excited to be your Head Coach for this upcoming season. I am looking forward to working with the team and making this a positive and successful experience for both players and parents.

I have been involved with KMHA for the past 5 years in various roles from head coach, to assistant coach and most recently as the conditioning coach with the Kanata Blazers Major Pee Wee AA. This year's coaching program will emphasize a good work ethic, individual skill development, and team play on and off the ice in a competitive and fun environment.

My coaching Philosophy is all about the "PROCESS", with focus on practice, training and preparation (physical and mental), built on a foundation of hard-work in a positive environment. Players are encouraged to perform, to be creative and to learn from their mistakes. Players will be expected to commit to all practices, games and team events throughout the season.

This year the team will be participating in 4 tournaments. Applications have been submitted to participate in the following tournaments however the list may change based on acceptance:

- Brian Steele Memorial Early Bird Tournament (Markham Toronto) Sept 11 - 17, 2017
- Oshawa Cup – (Oshawa) - Oct 13 – 15, 2017
- 34th Annual AA Tournament of Champions – Stoney Creek (Hamilton) - Nov 9 – 12, 2017
- 14th Annual Capital Winter Classic – (Kanata) – Jan 5 -7, 2017

The December Christmas break will be a blackout to allow for time to spend with family and for players to recharge. Depending on our league schedule, you can expect our team to completely shut down with no events scheduled between December 24 and January 2.

Kanata team dress code will be in effect: It is expected that all Blazers gear is in good condition – clean, fit properly, no holes.

- Good pants (no jeans), shirt, tie and Blazers jacket for all games and tournaments.
- Kanata Blazers work out attire for all team events
- Dress pants, shirt, tie and Blazers jacket for all games for coaches,
- Blazers track suit for trainers

In terms of financial commitments, families can expect a team fee of \$2,000 per player in addition to your KHMA registration and try out fees. Team fees will be paid over 4 instalments. We are anticipating the team to raise an additional \$5,000 in sponsorships and fund raising which may result in lower team fees.

The team will be selected by experienced independent hockey personnel from the community and our coaching staff.

I am looking for players with strong fundamental individual skills and tactics with good hockey sense. I am also looking for players that are committed and are willing to work hard and play as a team vs. an individual. Players should be in good physical and mental condition and are expected to come to tryouts prepared and ready to compete at the highest level for a spot on the team.

I hope you have a great summer and we will see you in August for tryouts. Looking forward to a great season!

Sincerely,

Mario Martel