



Updated July 9, 2017

Hockey players and parents,

My name is Jeremy Fitchell and it is my privilege to be selected as the head coach of the 2017-18 Minor Peewee A Kanata Blazers. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information about myself, my approach to hockey and key information about the season.

I have been involved in the KMHA system for the past six years in various coaching roles and I have coached in the Kanata Girls Hockey Association for the past three years.

My coaching philosophy will be rooted in an "athlete's first" approach where the development needs of the players will be priority. You can expect a strong focus on skill development coupled with a commitment to team play. My goal is to provide players with a broad base of skills, promote creativity and equip them for in-game situations.

When it comes to games, winning will be the objective, but not at the expense of player confidence and team cohesion. This means games will be guided by equal playing time, disciplined play and a strong work ethic. All players and parents will show respect for teammates, opponents, coaches and referees on and off the ice.

Tryouts will start late August and like previous years, our tryouts will follow the weekend after the AA tryouts. Evaluations will be based on skating and skill assessments, and performance during games. This process will be supported by a team of independent evaluators with hockey backgrounds.

Player evaluation will extend beyond skating and skills. I will be looking at compete levels, positional play with and without the puck and the ability to read and react to various situations. Other considerations will also inform evaluations such as an openness to take instruction and respect exhibited by the athlete. It is worth stating that the purpose of evaluations is to place players at a level that best supports their development. Additional communication will follow in August and I encourage you to check the KMHA website regularly for tryout times.

The team is currently registered in five tournaments:

- Capital Goldrush – Ottawa, ON, September 22-24, 2017
- Fall Classic – Rochester, NY, October 6-8, 2017
- Team Builder – Peterborough, ON, November 17-19, 2017
- Bell Capital Cup – Ottawa, ON, December 27-29, 2017
- Winter Classic – Ottawa, ON, January 18-20, 2017

Players will be on the ice 4-5 times a week which includes games and practices. I will incorporate an early morning practice to focus on player skill and goaltender development. Families can expect a team fee of approximately \$1,600 per player.

I'm committed to delivering a high quality program this season and look forward to seeing you at the rink. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at jfitchell@hotmail.com.

Jeremy Fitchell
Head Coach – Minor Peewee A Kanata Blazers,