



Kanata Minor Hockey Association

Creating a Stronger Community Through Minor Hockey



My name is Nathan Barwell and I am extremely excited to welcome you to the 2019-2020 Major Atom Rep A Team. Below you will find a little information on me, my coaching philosophy and what to expect from the upcoming season. This is my 6th year involved with KMHA, and is my 5th as Head Coach. I look forward to another great experience this season as we take the next step in development with this group!

The overall goals for this season are very simple. The most important things to me are that the players have fun and get better each and every time we are together. I plan to work towards a hard working team that will be challenged to play the game fast. Skating and skills are the foundation of each player and as such, much of the focus of the season will be on skill development. In addition, as we are taking this group to the next level, you can expect to see up tempo team play to be incorporated with the skill development. Finally, hard work, compete and team play will be emphasized factors for the group and each child will be expected to play and behave as a TEAM member.

Over the course of the tryout process, I will be looking for players who are hardworking, competitive, good listeners and have a willingness to learn to get better. Players are being evaluated as soon as they check into the arena. Evaluations will be done with third party non-parent evaluators. This group will be evaluating individual skill sets (skating/passing/shooting/puck skills) and, equally important, they will be evaluating the player's effort, compete levels, game awareness and TEAM play. As we are taking this group up a level, a player's willingness to work hard and be a part of the team will play a significant role in the makeup of this team. Dates and times are not currently available for tryouts, but will be posted on the KMHA website (www.kmha.ca) later this summer, and I will be contacting each family to ensure they have all the information.

This season, families should expect to commit to 4-5 team events per week. Practices will be planned to focus on skills improvement, and up tempo game tactics. In addition, there will also be periodic team events that will allow us to continue team building in different settings. Players are expected (to the best of the families abilities) to attend all sessions.

With all competitive sports, there is a significant financial commitment expected. Families should expect a team fee of approx. \$1300 above KMHA registration fees. We will look for sponsorship and fundraising to assist with these costs. These fees will be paid in 3 installments. These fees will be used for ice time, officials, tournaments and other team activities/requirements. In addition to the team fees, each player will be expected to have a Blazers Track Suit for all game and tournament activities.

The team will plan to participate in 4 tournaments this year, 2 of which will be out of town. Proposed tournament list is as follows:

- Capital Gold Rush – Richcraft Sensplex – Sept 20-22
 - Bring Your AA Game – Pickering, On – Nov 7-10
 - Newmarket Atom Tournament – Newmarket, On – Dec 6-8
 - Capital Winter Classic – Bell Sensplex – Jan 17-19
- ❖ Note: Tournament schedule subject to change based on acceptance

I am extremely excited for the upcoming season. Again, with the goals being to have fun, and to get better, there is no limit to how the group will grow. I will be reaching out to confirm tryout times once they are available. In the interim, should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at nathanbarwell@yahoo.ca Enjoy your summer and I look forward to seeing everyone at the rink!

Regards,

Nathan Barwell
Head Coach
Kanata Blazers Major Atom A