



# Kanata Minor Hockey Association

*Creating a Stronger Community Through Minor Hockey*



Welcome to the 2018-19 hockey season! My name is Mike Barrett and I will be the head coach the 2018-19 KMHA, Minor Pee wee A Blazers Hockey Team. I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with some information about myself, my coaching philosophy and principles, evaluation/tryout process and season plan.

I have been involved with the great game of hockey my entire life. From a four year old learning to skate and play the game to present day where I still play adult league hockey several times a week, with several years of officiating during high school and university sandwiched in there as well. I love the game. I have been helping coach the Capital City Condors (the Capital City Condors are a group of hockey teams for mentally and physically handicapped individuals ranging in age from 6 to 35 years) for 6 seasons. This has been an extremely rewarding experience over the years helping the Condors players grow as both hockey players and individuals and is something I will continue to be involved with in the future. In the fall of 2017 I joined the coaching staff of the KMHA Major Atom A Competitive team as a non parent assistant coach. I learned just as much from getting to know, guiding and teaching those young men as they did from me I'm sure. It is an honor to be trusted to build and develop a team of young hockey players and provide them with a challenging, positive and fun hockey season.

## Coaching Philosophy

My coaching philosophy for all sports, not just hockey, is that it goes well beyond simply teaching children to play the game. Obviously, teaching and helping to improve skating, passing, shooting, team play, etc is extremely important job for all members of the coaching staff but I also believe that team sports and activities are a vital part of any child's growth and development as a person. We are all aware of the physical fitness benefits that playing hockey provides, but beyond that it provides invaluable lessons in teamwork, friendship, work ethic, goal setting, fair play, respect, and discipline. My measure of success at the conclusion of a season would be that all members of the team will be not only better hockey players, but will have grown as individuals, developed deeper friendships with teammates and become more rounded in all aspects of life.

## Coaching Principles

As for my coaching principles, I have three. Listen and be respectful at all times. Always work your hardest. Have Fun.

Hockey is expensive sport in both time and money. It is important the children listen closely and respectfully to the coaching staffs instructions. This enables the coaching staff to use all time to together, on and off the ice, constructively. It also helps to develop those life skills they are learning at the same time.

Giving their best effort will also be expected from the players. My goal will be to develop each player's skills and tactics through high tempo, high repetition and well-designed practices. Then utilize and apply these skills

in all game situations. Mistakes will happen, some skills will be more difficult for some players to master and there will be some off days, but an honest effort is all I ask.

I love this game and all that I have learned and gained from it. I still love going to the arena, it is where the stresses of my day disappear I get to simply have fun whether I'm playing or coaching. That is key for any team that I coach. Coming to the arena for practices and games or any other team event must and will be fun and something the players will look forward to. All time spent together can be fun as well as instructional and I believe that children having fun are also children that will learn the quickest and easiest.

### Evaluations/Tryouts

The evaluation panel will be instructed to identify players who are strong skaters, competitive and hardworking (with AND without the puck). In addition, I will be selecting players who are good listeners, follow instruction well and are team players who show potential for continued improvement. Evaluations will take place via on-ice practice sessions, inter-squad / exhibition games and individual parent / player meetings. The evaluation panel will be comprised of several Non-Parent independent evaluators to ensure objective measurement of all players.

The dates and times for the tryouts will be posted on the KMHA website <http://kmha.ca/> later in the summer.

### Season Plan

As with all competitive sports, this team will require a significant time and financial commitment. This year you can expect 4-5 activities per week. Typically, 2 league games and 2-3 practices, dry-land training or team building.

In addition, there will be 3 tournaments, 2 of which will be out of town.

- September 13-16 - Richmond Hill Hockey – Mary Parkinson Memorial Early Bird Tournament
- October 19-21 - Capital Fall Classic, Ottawa Sensplex in Kanata
- December 7-9 – Oshawa Hockeyfest

Financially, families can expect additional (on top of KMHA registration and tryout costs) team fees of approximately \$1350-\$1750 depending on the level of team fundraising or sponsorship that can be secured. Finally, it is expected that each player be outfitted in a KMHA track suit and winter coat at your cost.

The expectation for selected players is that they will attend, to the best of the family's ability, all scheduled team events.

I understand the responsibility that comes with being a minor hockey coach in a competitive organization. To fulfill that responsibility I will invest a lot of time and energy into delivering a high quality program for all players and parents. In return, my 'ask' is for 100% player and family buy-in. This year, individual and team successes will not be measured only with wins and losses, rather they will be direct reflection of that team buy-in and growth in the players both on and off the ice.

If you have any questions, would like further clarification on anything above or would like to provide feedback, you can contact me at [barrett\\_55@sympatico.ca](mailto:barrett_55@sympatico.ca).