



Kanata Minor Hockey Association

Creating a Stronger Community Through Minor Hockey



Welcome to the 2017-2018 Hockey Season – Kanata Blazers Major Novice B.

My name is Nathan Barwell and I am extremely excited to be selected as the Head Coach for this new Rep B team. This is my 4th year involved with KMHA, and is my 3rd as Head Coach. Below you will find a little information on me, my coaching philosophy and what to expect from the upcoming season.

I have played hockey since I was 4 years old and it is an absolute passion of mine. Over the past three seasons, I have had the pleasure to coach with 3 different teams and I have enjoyed every minute of it. Being able to pass along things I have learned and share in the successes of the players has been very rewarding and I look forward to another great experience this season.

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 strong skating team. Much of the focus, especially early in the year, will be to develop each player's individual skating skills. Additional focus will be on developing each player's individual technical skills including puck control, passing and shooting. It is my belief that players with strong individual skills are the foundation of a successful team. As they build confidence in their own skills, they build that same confidence in each other, leading to stronger and more committed team play. Team work will be a highly emphasized factor for the group. We will do things off ice to help grow and build the group as a team so that the kids have opportunities to grow not only as hockey players but also as individuals, to become leaders, and to learn the value of their teammates.

Over the course of the tryout process, I will be looking for players who have strong skating base skills, and who are hardworking, competitive, good listeners and have a willingness to learn to get better. As skating skills will be a large focus, the team will be asked to play a fast game, creating time and space on the ice. During the tryouts, players will be evaluated on individual skills (skating, puck skills) in both practice style setting and scrimmage/exhibition game setting, as well as drive, effort levels and team work. Evaluations will be done with non-parent evaluators. 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, the players and families should expect to commit to 3-4 ice times per week. Practices will be planned to focus on skating development, skill development and team play. 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. \$1000 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.

The team will participate in 3 tournaments this year. Proposed tournament list is as follows:

- Capital Volunteer Cup – Richcraft Sensplex – Oct 20-22
- Northumberland Silver Stick Regional – Cobourg – Dec 1-3
- Ottawa Senators Novice Holiday Classic – Bell Sensplex – Dec 15-17

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 in regards to the 2017/18 Major Novice Rep B season, 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 Novice B