



Kanata Blazers Major Peewee AA

Welcome to all players interested in trying out for the 2011-2012 Major Peewee AA team.

My name is Sean Brennan and I am the head coach of this year's team. As a quick summary, I have been involved in hockey as a player since the age of 8, played minor hockey for the Nepean Raiders and played Junior B Hockey here in Ottawa. I have been coaching since 1992 in Nepean, Almonte and Kanata in Minor Hockey as well as a skating and power skating instructing. I am a fair coach who will look after the best interest of the players and the team and, at the same time, also demand that players always push themselves to achieve their maximum potential. On the same note I expect players to always perform at that level for themselves as well as their teammates and they will be held accountable for their effort, preparedness and performance. I am happy to announce that Matt Bennett will be my assistant coach this season. Matt has a great knowledge for the game, has past years experience as a head coach, and shares the same values as I to help make this season a successful one for our players.

This year will be especially challenging for players and families with the transition to High School as well as the preparation for AAA in the following season. I understand that and will be experiencing it with you. Expect to be scheduled 4-6 (estimated) days of the week where the blend of games, practices, off ice training, teambuilding and other events will take place and all will carry the same weight of importance. There will also be community events, as well, that we will attend as a team and represent the KMHA and our team. Expect the first 3 months to be the heaviest as far as days of the week. My philosophy is family first, school second, and competitive sport third so, given the above expectation, it is critical that families and players make the 100% commitment to this team. It is going to mean that players have to learn quickly how to manage their time to avoid lateness or attendance issues. It is also assumed that, for these players, hockey is their number one sport and attendance will take precedence over other scheduled sports and events that they may be involved in.

Tryouts will begin on/or around the 20th of August and last approximately 1 week (4-6 ice times). Specific dates and times will be released and posted on the KMHA website in August and you will be personally notified by phone of the exact time your player will be expected to attend. I will also host an information hour, in the evening of the week prior to tryouts, to go over these items in more detail as well as any other information that may be added through the process. (time and place to be determined). Parents, please encourage your player to be relaxed and give it their best effort.

Players need to show up at tryouts properly prepared mentally, physically and in top shape. This is not a conditioning camp so players need to perform at their best right from their first session. Only players challenging to make the team should attend to give all true competitors their maximum exposure to the evaluators. Players looking to play at this level must be self-motivated to attend and perform at their maximum level for every team function. They must be highly skilled and explosive players who are good skaters and have agility. They must also have the ability to control the puck at high speed, make smart plays and shoot the puck quickly and accurately. Players must also be physically and mentally tough to compete at this level, be able to deal with the physical and mental demands and have a disciplined playing and work ethic. They must be highly athletic and play with intensity, sense of urgency and passion. Just as importantly, players need to be respectful to all others, be coachable, good listeners, interested in learning, follow instructions and be 100% committed to the team plan as there will be a continuous learning environment encouraged. I expect every single player to support each other, compete hard with and for each other and show examples of leadership and remain in their top athletic condition.

There will be a dress code for players for all games as well as basic uniform and equipment items that will be mandatory throughout the season that is at additional cost. Our draft budget is around \$31- \$35,000 with fundraising and sponsorship.

Tournaments: September 9, 10, 11:	Kanata AAA Shootout
September 22, 23, 24, 25:	London Knights AAA Tournament (Bus Charter possible)
November 11, 12, 13:	Shanahan AAA Tournament
December 9, 10, 11:	Eric Leighton AAA Memorial Tournament
December 28, 29, 30, 31 and January 1:	Bell Capital Cup AAA Tournament

***Please have valid passports by September 1st as a U.S.A. event is possible on a weekend in September.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.
Have a great summer and remember to keep your stick on the ice.

Sean Brennan

Coach, Major Peewee AA Blazers

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