

Leading into the upcoming 2012-13 hockey season, I wanted to take an opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Jason Gadde and I have the pleasure of coaching the Major Atom B Kanata Blazers this season. I have been coaching within KMHA for the past 5 years and this will be my first year coaching at the competitive level.

I am truly passionate about the game of hockey. It has provided me many great memories, life lessons and lifelong friendships and I hope to play a part facilitating that to our younger generation. Here are a few quick hits to give you some insight on some of my philosophies on hockey:

- I never lose perspective that hockey is just a game and a game must be fun in order for it to be worthwhile
- Some see mistakes - I see learning opportunities
- Skaters at this age should learn the game by playing and experiencing all positions
- The Team includes players' families
- Respect for those involved in the game is essential
- Hard work, commitment and dedication will translate into success

My expectations are for a high speed team with advanced puck skills who are determined, possess a willingness to learn, receptive to coaching and are eager to put forth their best efforts at all times while displaying a great positive attitude, demonstrate respect at all times and place the team in front of their own objectives.

Our goals this season are to continue to develop players' overall skills and abilities; elevating their basic fundamentals. We will focus on developing and refining technical skating skills, puck skills, goaltending skills, hockey sense and emphasize team play and concepts. A key goal is to improve the player's skills and abilities such that they may reach higher levels of competition next season.

Commitments

In addition to KMHA registration fees, our team fees are expected to be under \$1200 per player. This can hopefully be offset thru fundraising and sponsorships.

All team events are considered mandatory. You can expect on/off ice sessions at average of 4 times per week. Off-ice sessions will include team bonding events, ``class-room`` style learning sessions, conditioning and fitness sessions and just ``having fun`` sessions. I am a supporter of multi-sport disciplines however I expect our Team to be every player's top priority only behind family and school commitments.

Teams in our league are likely to be from Nepean, Ottawa, Gloucester, Stittsville, Cumberland, Carleton Place, West Carleton, Blackburn, Osgoode and Metcalfe.

Practices may start as early as 4pm during the week and we can expect our share of 6am starts on the weekends.

Our tentative tournaments are as follows:

1. October 7th-9th – Rochester Fall Classic (Rochester, NY (USA))
2. November – Pembroke Silver Stick (Pembroke, ON)
3. December 2nd-4th – Canadian Cup (Montreal, QC)
4. December 28th-Jan 1st – Bell Capital Cup (Ottawa, ON)
5. January 25th-27th – Capital Winter Classic (Kanata, ON)

Tournament games could start during the day on Fridays or require travel time and as such, players could miss some school. We will try to keep this to an absolute minimum. Player`s are expected to maintain schooling standards according to their parents.

Try-outs

- Ice times will be posted on the KMHA website and families will be contacted for a player`s first session and subsequent sessions. Arrive early for your sessions.
- Players are to wear full equipment, including mouth guards and bring their own water bottles.
- Myself, 3 to 4 selected independent volunteers as well as a KMHA appointed representative will conduct the evaluations and team selection process.

I look forward to see everyone at try-outs, a great season of hockey and a lot of fun ahead. Should you have any questions, please contact me by phone at 613.878.9809.

Enjoy the rest of your summer, take care and good luck.

Jason Gadde

Coach – Kanata Blazers Atom Major B 2012-13