



2012-2013 Kanata Blazers



Minor Bantam AA (Updated June 26th, 2012).

On behalf of the Kanata Minor Hockey Association, I would like to welcome you to the 2012-2013 hockey season.

My name is Stephan Desbiens and I am the 2012-2013 Minor Bantam AA coach for the Kanata Blazers. I'm very excited about the upcoming hockey season and I will be looking to build a team of players who are equally excited, enthusiastic and committed to sharing a great season!

I've been coaching for a number of years and for the past 8 years my focus has been mainly with KMHA and KGHA. I've been fortunate to have had the opportunity to learn hockey from some excellent players and coaches and look forward to sharing these experiences with your player.

Hockey is a sport that can be enjoyed at all different levels from house league to adult recreation. It should be fun to learn and play. Like many team sports, it's an excellent way to develop life skills which can be applied to a child's, or even an adult's life. I believe that all kids should be given a chance to play and excel at their appropriate skill level. They should be challenged to improve their skills in a comfortable setting. I'm a "team first" coach all the way and I'm committed to developing player skills that will enable competition both individually and as a team.

Competitive hockey requires a commitment of time, effort and money. Our team will have activities, on average, four times per week throughout the season. All team activities – games, practices, dry-land and classroom sessions will be mandatory. Our team should be your player's top priority - behind only family commitments and school work.

The hockey season will likely start in late August with tryouts (shortly after Ottawa Senators AAA tryouts are completed). Tryout timings will be posted on the KMHA website (www.kmha.ca) and each registered player will be advised by phone of their first tryout ice time. We intend on competing through to the end of March, however the season may end as early as February.

A "fair ice" policy will be applied throughout the full season. This means we will roll all lines for all games and all situations through the entire season. The **only** exception to this rule may be in games where the coaches feel something needs to be done in the last 2-3 minutes of the game in order to advance in playoff or tournament games **only**. If anyone has concerns or questions about this policy please call me at your convenience to discuss.

We will hopefully be participating in 5 tournaments this year. Likely 2-3 out of town and 2-3 local. So far we have confirmed Niagara Falls/St. Catharines in September, Silver Seven in October, Belleville in November and Kanata in January. After 4 years of Bell Cup, you can expect to have **no tournaments between Christmas and New Year**, although we could practice or play exhibition games during the break. One or two tournaments may be added and changes to this plan could take place between now and the start of the season (Just count on no tournaments around Christmas).

Other Considerations

School: Players will miss some school to attend away tournaments and other team activities. While this will be kept to a minimum, players selected for this team will be required to ensure they maintain their schooling to an acceptable level as determined by their parents.

Fees: Our draft budget is approximately \$34,000 or \$2,000 per player (over and above registration fees and other associated costs such as travel, lodging etc...) This may be offset by sponsorships and fundraising activities.

Team Selection: We will be looking for players who demonstrate skill and effort that are commensurate with this level. We expect our team to be made up of fast skating, tenacious, aggressive, physical and hardworking kids. This team will emphasize puck control, puck movement and puck support. Player's technical skills, including skating, puck handling, passing, and shooting (and goaltending as applicable) will be fully evaluated. Character, aptitude, attitude, teamwork, effort, and intensity and finally, overall effectiveness and hockey sense are very important qualities. Assessments will begin as soon as players arrive at the rink. Conduct on and off the ice will also be evaluated. Players are expected to be positive, respectful and supportive to teammates, officials, parents and coaches. The greatest consideration will be given to players who possess these skills and qualities, as well as, demonstrate a spirit to work on developing them. I along with independent evaluators (2-4) will carry out all player evaluations.

Other: Players are responsible for having all the necessary CSA approved equipment, including mouth and neck guards. Bring your own water bottles. Jerseys will be provided for tryouts. Players must be registered and paid up with KMHA in order to participate in the tryouts.

Thank you in advance for considering the Minor Bantam AA team. I wish all players a fantastic, safe summer and the best of luck for tryouts.

If you have any questions about the above season plan, please don't hesitate to contact me by phone at 613-599-8560.

Stephan Desbiens

Coach, KMHA Minor Bantam AA