



A Note from the Midget Minor AA Coach 2012-2013 Season

Introduction

Welcome to all the Midget Minor AA players and parents. I am Andy Choquette, and I will be the head coach for the upcoming 12/13 season. I would like to take a moment and provide you all with a brief overview of my coaching philosophy and approach towards competitive hockey. I have been coaching minor hockey for 14 years in Canada and the U.S, I have been involved in coaching age groups from Novice to Tier I/AAA – U18. As such, I have achieved coaching certifications from Hockey Canada/NCCP Coach Development Stream and USAH Lvl 4. As well, I was the KMHA Coach Mentor for 11/12 season. I have attended numerous hockey seminars, including U.S. Prep school orientations, Speak Out, Risk Assessment and sports nutrition and fitness. I view coaching education and development on the same level as player development – continuous throughout one's sporting career. Professionally I have been a member of the Canadian Forces for the last 28 years.

Philosophy

There are as many philosophies and approaches to coaching, leadership, and management theories as there are coaches, leaders and managers. The fact remains that the fundamentals are all the same: Hard work, preparedness and discipline that come together in an environment that promotes team work, learning, and pleasure of personal and team success. And on that note, not all success can be measured on the scoreboard.

The one thing hockey taught me, are that the lessons learned on the ice, in the locker room, from other players and most notably from my coaches over the many years served me well in every day life. My philosophy is that leadership starts at the top with the coaches, and players will play like they are coached. Give them goals to achieve, show them what is in the art of the achievable. Inspire them, but also be inspired *by them*.

Priorities

I have 3 priorities for my players:

1. Family first – without family, you have nothing;
2. Education – without education, the road in life is much more difficult; and
3. Hockey (sports in general) – the lessons you learn, the friendships you make, and the success you achieve will serve you well in life.

Forecast 2010-11 Season

As an overview of the expected time and financial commitment for this year's team, please note the following:

- 1) 4 – 5 ice times per week on average which includes practices, games, and tournaments
- 2) 4 – 5 tournaments with 2-3 being out-of-town with hotel stay and Friday games
- 3) 1 classroom session/Video Review and 2 – 4 power skating or dry land training sessions per month
- 4) Expected financial commitment: \$2200.00-2300.00

2012-2013 Hockey Tournaments

- Confirmed: Toronto/Vaughn Hillcrest Brian Steele application for Sept 10-16 (Mon-Sun).
 - o Tournament link : <http://hillcrestcanadiens.com/tournament.htm>
 - o Hotel/Team booking has been made: <http://www.novotel.com/gb/hotel-7157-novotel-toronto-vaughan/location.shtml>
- Confirmed: Ottawa/Kanata Silver Seven Oct 28-29 (Fri-Sun)
- Not Confirmed: Rochester NY Thanksgiving Classic Nov 23 – 25 (Fri-Sun) – Ensure you/players have passports.
- Confirmed: Ottawa/Kanata Blazers Tournament 4-6 Jan 13 (Fri-Sun)
- Not Confirmed: Feb or Mar tournament depending on league rankings, playoffs, and school exam schedules.

Evaluations

The evaluation process tryout schedule is still to be determined. Tryouts will be executed through a combination of on-ice drills, scrimmages and exhibition games. Player's performance will be evaluated with respect to technical and tactical skills including skating, puck control, shooting and passing as well as goaltending, and "hockey sense". I use Hockey Canada's Evaluation template as guide, including scoring to rate, player interviews, and a player questionnaire. Players will be noted on qualities such as aptitude, attitude, teamwork, effort and intensity. Independent evaluators and I will carry out these evaluations. All released players will be given a fair and honest performance/tryout review write-up upon request.

Player Tryout Preparation

I expect all players to arrive at tryouts in shape, squared-away, and ready to earn their spot on this team – there are no 'returning player' guarantees on this team. I have certain expectations of players at this age and this level of competitive minor hockey. Certainly some players have talent that will 'peak' during tryouts; others will peak during the course of the season, this is understood. I look at *all* aspects of a player's performance.

Regardless, once they enter the rink, I expect nothing less than 100% commitment to effort during tryouts. Fun time can be had once they make the team. While parents are expected to get their player(s) to the rink on time, that's where the parent responsibilities end. Players are expected to be responsible for the state of the equipment, their dress and deportment on/off the ice, and most importantly the effort they put forth during tryouts. I will brief all players at the start of tryouts on the tryout expectations and provide them with a simple list of objectives to guide them through the process.

Additional Information

There will be a follow note to this introduction outlining the evaluation process, as well as more details concerning the team tournaments, schedules, activities and events. If you have any questions, I can be contacted at afchoquette@rogers.com, or afchoquette@mac.com

Regards, Andy