

Dear Parents and Players,

Welcome to the 2012-2013 hockey season! My name is Chris Bernard and I am this year's coach for the Kanata Blazers Minor Bantam B team. I've been involved in sports my whole life. In hockey, I have played on top amateur teams, Canadian national champions and I've also played professionally. I have coached spring hockey, I am a skating instructor to top amateurs and NHL players in the Ottawa area and have been for the past two years. I am currently a golf professional with the Professional Golfers' Association of Canada.

Hockey is a game of skills and development. Players develop and learn the game by being given the opportunity to play in all game situations. Experiencing the highs and lows of power plays, penalty kills and end of game results makes players mentally tougher. In the end this means fair ice time to each player. But, the game must remain fun and kept in perspective.

Hockey is also a game of mistakes and my role as a coach is to try to reduce the mistakes as the season progresses. I do bring a firm approach to the rink and have an expectation that players work hard, play with discipline, encourage and support each other, and compete hard at each team event. When all the players buy into this concept, we become a "team".

There will be three (3) to five (5) team events (practice, dry-land training, games, etc.) per week. Depending on fundraising activities, families should expect to contribute team dues of approximately \$1000 to \$1500 over and above the KMHA registration fees to cover additional ice times, referees and tournaments.

Tournaments (yet to be confirmed):

- Nepean Raiders 4th Annual Turkey Tournament – October 5 to 8, 2012
- Syracuse or Rochester – American Thanksgiving weekend, November 23 to 25, 2012
- Kanata '9th Annual KMHA Winter Classic' – January 2013
- Lake Placid 'CAN/AM' – end of January 2013
- Kingston 'Kids for Kids' – end of March 2013

Hopefully this has given you some insight into who I am and what my expectations are this coming season. Not everyone will agree with my philosophy, but rest assured, I do what's in the best interest of the kids. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me. The best way to reach me is by email at chrisbernard@rogers.com.

I look forward to the upcoming months ahead. Go Blazers!