



2012-13 Kanata Minor Pee wee A Blazers

Introduction – Geoff Publow

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am entering my 7th year of coaching with KMHA. My playing career progressed through the local Jr B and CJHL ranks, ending with four years at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport level.

Coaching philosophy

My philosophy is focused on providing a positive, fun, safe and structured learning and development environment for all the kids. From a hockey perspective, we will spend the majority of our time focused on skill development and individual tactics over the course of the year. At the peewee level, core skating and puck handling skills are still the primary focus of our development plan, and practice plans reflect this, while also integrating individual and team tactics. Apart from hockey development, we also emphasize fair play, respect, hard work and a “team first” environment.

Core messages for the kids, which will be reinforced over the course of the year at every practice, game and team event, will be:

Team Themes

1. **Team Work** learn as a team, play as a team, win as a team, lose as a team
2. **Compete** give 100% effort and hustle every time out, every practice, every drill and every game
3. **Respect** teammates + coaches + opponents + referees
4. **Have Fun** this should always be the reason we go to the rink

These simple themes will be reinforced throughout the year. Coaches will emphasize hard work and a “team first” attitude, and we will make every attempt to keep it fun for the all the players.

Commitment

Playing Minor Pee wee A rep hockey will come with a significant commitment for the players and their families. Please ensure you understand these commitments prior to arriving for tryouts.

- **Ice time and team functions** – players can expect to be on the ice 4 to 5 times a week, beginning the week of August 21 with the tryout process. This will general consist of 2 practices and 2 games per week, with some additional off-ice functions where our schedule permits.
- **Financial** – parents will be asked to pay an additional team fee of \$1200 to \$1500, over and above the KMHA registration fees already paid. These funds are required to cover the cost of additional ice time, league games, referees, exhibition games, tournament entry fees and team functions. We will seek to reduce this cost somewhat through sponsorship and fundraising programs. Over and above the team fees will be the cost associated with traveling to tournaments and team merchandise.
- **Tournaments** – we are confirmed in 5 tournaments. Each tournament typically requires a Friday to Sunday commitment:

1	Brian Steele Memorial Early Bird (Toronto)	Sept 14-16
2	Bell Sensplex Fall Classic (Silver Seven)	Oct 26-28
3	Jay Peak	Nov 2-4
4	Bell Capital Cup - Ottawa	Dec 28-Jan 1
5	Bell Sensplex Fall Classic (KMHA)	Jan 25-27

- **Volunteers** – in order to ensure we have a successful year and the best experience possible for the kids, we will need a number of parent volunteers, for roles including assistant coaches, on-ice helpers, team manager, trainer, fundraising coordinator and social coordinator. All of these positions will be filled after the tryout process is completed and the team has been selected.

Tryouts Dates and Process

- Tryouts for the Minor Peewee A team are scheduled to begin around August 23 (final dates still TBD).
- These dates (and any updates) are posted on the KMHA website.
- I will be in touch with everyone in mid August to confirm the first tryout date.
- Tryouts will run over four (4) or five (5) ice times between August 23 and 30, and all the boys will receive a minimum of two (2) hours of ice as part of this process (including any tryout ice from the Minor Peewee AA team, if applicable).
- I will have a number of independent evaluators assisting with player evaluations for all tryout sessions and scrimmages.
- The tryouts will be a mix of skating and skill evaluations, scrimmages and exhibition games.

Tryout Preparation and Expectation

- The boys should come to the tryout sessions focused on working hard and having fun. It can be a stressful week for the boys and all the families, but I would ask everyone to keep things in perspective as the process unfolds.
- We will be evaluating for a combination of:
 - Core skating and puck skills
 - Work ethic and compete levels
 - Impact in game situations (scrimmages + exhibition games) – this may come through skill plays, but it may also come through hustle and work ethic. Both are key attributes for a successful player, and we will be looking for players that not only have strong skills but also show a willingness to work hard, engage, compete and battle.
- Players should work on their shot and puck handling over the summer months.
 - shooting 400 pucks a week
 - working with a stick-handling ball (or golf ball) for 45 minutes a week.
- Players should arrive at tryouts in good physical condition and ready for game situations. Minimum expectation is the ability to run for 20 minutes consecutively.

I am excited about the upcoming season and looking forward to coaching the Minor Peewee A Blazers. Enjoy the rest of the summer, and if you have any questions please feel free to give me a call or send me a note.

Geoff Publow

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