As players and families gear up for the 2013-14 hockey tryouts and season ahead, I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself and our team plans for the Minor Peewee B Blazers this season.

My name is Jason Gadde and I have the privilege of coaching the Blazers again this season. I have been coaching within KMHA for the past 6 years and this will be my second year coaching at the competitive level.

I look forward to building on the successes of last season with continued player development and advanced team concepts and tactics. This year, I`m looking to build a team with quickness and high end speed, who possess advanced puck skills, strong determination, are assertive and aggressive on the puck and who display an eagerness to work hard and show a commitment to improvement through a strong work ethic. The players must also be coachable and have a "team first" attitude.

As a coach, I will dedicate myself to provide a safe environment, make the game fun and enjoyable for the players while developing their skills as individuals and as a team member. The same level of dedication will be expected of designated team staff. We are here to develop a passion for the game within the players. There is no room on this team for negativity nor will it be tolerated. We're all here to improve, learn and have a good time doing so.

In its essence, hockey is a game. Games must be fun whether playing or watching. Players and coaches alike will put forth a high level of commitment, dedication and hard, smart work to ensure that we play every game to the best of our abilities. We will learn from every win and every loss; always trying to improve while respecting all involved in the game.

## Commitments

There is an understanding that conflicts do not exist with our team activities. All team events are considered mandatory. The team and hockey schedule are a priority over all other activities. That said, family and education do take a priority above hockey but doing homework or finishing a project is not a valid excuse for missing a team activity. Players will continue to learn time management. Players will always strive to maintain high educational standards in accordance with parent's expectations.

It is understood that sacrifices are made at the competitive level but there is also an understanding that a missed event can be made up with special dedicated time on off days to make up for such absenteeism.

Financially, the team budget is set to just under $25,000. This translates to just under $1500 per player above KMHA registration fees which can be offset though team sponsorships and fundraising. Teams fees will be collected though a monthly payment structure over the first 4 months weighted with higher payment amounts in the first couple months. This is to offset the majority of the expenses due towards the beginning of the season.

Time is a significant commitment in competitive hockey. You can expect an average of 4 times a week dedicated for on and off ice activities. Players are to arrive in the dressing room 1 hour prior to games and 45 minutes prior to practices.

Travel is another major aspect in competitive hockey. League games can range from Carleton Place to Rockland to Vankleek Hill. This does not include tournaments. Please see tournaments details below.

Ice times may start as early as 5pm during the week (occasionally earlier) and we can expect our share of 6am starts on the weekends.

Off-ice training will be held every other week starting the second week of September. Training will be held in conjunction with Peak Performance. Off-ice training, indoors or outdoors, may occur immediately after on ice practices.

You can expect one out-of-town extended player development session per month. This will consist of 2 hours on ice of individual player skill and team development, 1 hour off-ice instruction and 1 additional hour back on the ice to reinforce concepts and skills acquired.

For games, including tournaments, players are to wear Blazer track suits, and Blazer T-shirt and cross trainers shoes to games all in clean order. Blazer winter jackets can be used as an alternative to the Fall/Spring track jacket. For off-ice training, the same apparel is expected with the substitution of shorts. Players will need good quality cross training shoe, always in clean order. These items are outside of team budget.

## Tournaments

1. Nov 1-Nov3 Jay Peak Fall Challenge Jay, VT, USA
2. Nov 22-Nov24 Capital Mid Season Showdown Kanata, ON
3. Nov 29-Dec1 Syracuse Thanksgiving Tournament Syracuse, NY, USA
4. Dec 6-Dec8 Roger Senecal Memorial Ottawa, ON
5. Jan24-Jan26 Capital Winter Classic Kanata, ON

\* Roger Senecal Memorial is still not confirmed.

No tournaments during Canadian Thanksgiving, Christmas/New Year's or March break (3rd week in March). There could be practices during this time however the Ottawa B League is shutdown during Christmas and March Break - consult www.ottawableague.ca

I have budgeted for 6 tournaments with the hopes of landing one additional out of town but will settle for another in town as they are generally announced late. There are additional Tier III 1 day tourneys announced during the season as potential candidate tournaments.

Tournament games could start during the day on Fridays and/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 high schooling standards aligned with their parents expectations.

## Try-outs

* Ice times will be posted and updated frequently on the KMHA website
* Families will be contacted for a player's first session and subsequent sessions. Arrive early for your sessions. Be ready to take to the ice 15 minutes ahead of schedule.
* Players are to wear full equipment, including mouth guards and bring their own water bottles.
* Myself, and selected independent evaluators as well as a KMHA appointed representative will conduct the evaluations and team selection process.
* You can expect releases after each session.
* I reserve the discretion to place players at various positions throughout tryouts as well as the season.
* I will assume that all those in attendance for try-outs are competing for a spot on the team. Advice me in advance otherwise.

I am very eager to get to the try-outs started and seeing all the players on the ice. I'm looking forward to a great season of hockey, a lot of fun and great times ahead. Should you have any questions, please contact me through the KMHA website ( http://kmha.ca/contact-kmha-rep-coach/ ).

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

Jason Gadde

Coach – Kanata Blazers Minor Peewee B 2013-14