Welcome to the Kanata Blazers Major Atom B team. I am really looking forward to the opportunity to coach this team. The hockey experience can be so positive for players and their families: providing exercise and developing skills, learning the rewards for effort and teamwork, and fostering confidence and friendships that can last a lifetime. I began playing at age 5 and still play three times a week and have been coaching for almost 40 years so it’s fair to say that I have a love of the game and wish to pass along that interest to every player.

Our team can expect an average of 4 ice times per week. In addition to the time commitment there is a greater financial commitment and the 2014-15 draft budget is a little under $16,000 to be funded by sponsorships, fundraising and players families. Our intention is to participate in 4 tournaments, which are likely to be:

Fri Oct 10 – Mon Oct 13 2014 Eric Leighton Memorial Tournament in Nepean

Fri Nov 28 – Sun Nov 30 2014 Rochester Thanksgiving Classic

Mon Dec 29 2014 – Fri Jan 2 2015 Bell Capital Cup

Fri Jan 23 – Sun Jan 25 2015 Capital winter Classic at the Sensplex

The tryout Schedule will be posted at [www.kmha.ca](http://www.kmha.ca) some time during the summer. I will contact each family to confirm tryout times. Players will be evaluated by me and several independent evaluators. We will be looking for players with good individual skills but just as important we will be looking for players that are: hard workers, good teammates, willing to learn and be coached, are aggressive and want to compete and have potential to improve over the course of the season. We will be selecting 15 skaters and 2 goalies.

Typically many of the players on this team are playing competitive hockey for the first time. How different is it? More time and money yes, but not a lot more, and the emphasis remains on enjoying the game and being with friends and developing hockey and life skills. Players on the Major Atom B team will be given fair ice time and equal access to all opportunities at all times and situations of the game. Practices will be varied and challenging and players will be asked to work hard but the environment will be fun and supportive. Winning will not be the measure by which we judge a game or a season but I will coach to have my players compete as hard as they can on every shift of every game and as such *trying* to win is a fundamental goal, whether it is a shift, a game, or a race in practice.

Should you have any questions about the team or the tryouts, please contact me at [andymcafee@rogers.com](mailto:andymcafee@rogers.com).

Thanks

Andy McAfee