

Dear players and parents,

I am excited to be named head coach for the Minor Peewee A Blazers for the 2014-15 season. This will be a season of fun, development; and hopefully that will lead to more success in regular season, playoffs and tournaments.

This letter outlines some of my expectations for the upcoming season.

Season expectations

You can expect that the number of ice time hours will range between 75-95 hours for practices and league games. In addition to this we will have a number of pre-season exhibition games, five tournaments and some skill development sessions with Next Generation Hockey (including specific goalie coaching/instruction).

The tournaments will participate in are: Toronto (Hillcrest Canadiens), Capital Fall Classic (Sensplex), Rochester (Thanksgiving Classic), Bell Capital Cup and Montreal (to be confirmed).

After family and school commitments it is my expectation this team is the player's highest priority. While I certainly encourage the players to pursue other interests, I expect them to attend all practices and team functions as the priority.

Preliminary Budget

The preliminary budget for the team is approximately \$27,000 which is slightly less than \$1600 per player without fundraising. It will be a decision amongst the team staff and parents as to the forms and amount of fundraising to reduce the cost per player.

Tryout expectations

As the players move into peewee, it is important to highlight characteristics that are equally important to the necessary skills to play at this level. The evaluators at the tryout, to the best of their ability, will be looking at the following factors. This will be determined through drills, small area competitive games and scrimmages/exhibition games:

- Attitude – does the player come to the rink with a smile on his face and ready to get to work?
- Coachability – is the player willing to listen/focus/retain/put-into-practice feedback provided by the coaching staff?
- Effort – does the player apply his best effort drill-after-drill, shift-after-shift?
- Aggression – is the player aggressive in all drills, situations? As players grow and progress at different rates, it is important that players stay aggressive using their body to retrieve and protect the puck.
- Teaming – does the player communicate/encourage his teammates?
- skills – does the player have the necessary tools to play at this level?

I look forward to the tryout process and a successful 2014-15 season.

Regards,
Terry Lavineway