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# Minor Atom “A” Welcome Letter

On behalf of KMHA I would like to welcome you to the 2014/15 hockey season and to the Minor Atom "A" Competitive program.

My name is Jeff Bowen and I am excited to be this year’s coach. I have been playing hockey for over 35 years and I have been involved with KMHA for the last 4 years. I have always had a passion for the game of hockey and I look forward to being able to teach our young players the joy hockey has become for me as well as the responsibility and life skills that come with being part of a team.

Our team will be on the ice 3-4 times per week on average and we will also be hosting some brief meetings to teach the players rules and concepts so that we can maximize our practice ice time for individual and team skill development. It is expected that players are to attend all team events throughout the season. Team fees are expected to be approximately $1500 per player but could be lower depending on our fundraising efforts.

We plan on participating in at least 5 tournaments over the course of the season with the possibility of a 6th if we happen to win the Silver Stick. The tournaments we are looking at are the following (will provide confirmation once received)

Kawartha Lakes (Peterborough) September 19th-21st

10th Annual Capital Fall Classic (Kanata) - October 24th-26th

Cobourg Silver Stick - November 28th-30th

2014 Bell Capital Cup (Kanata) December 29th-January 2nd

11th Annual Capital Cup Classic (Kanata) – January 23rd-25th

Tryouts will begin August 23rd. The schedule can be found posted on the KMHA website <http://kmha.ca/competitive-tryout-schedule/>

 You will receive an email from me with your child's exact tryout time as soon as I have that information.

Evaluations will be completed by mmyself and several independent non-parent evaluators who are not affiliated with the Atom level in KMHA. 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. The coaching staff will attempt to identify what position best suits each player in order for us to field our strongest possible team. Players can be moved to a different position at the coach’s discretion at any time throughout the season.

My philosophy towards the game of hockey is simple, it should be fun. I want the kids to love the game of hockey and get the most they can from it. As coach, my goal this year is to provide a safe environment that will challenge the players to grow and improve their skills. I will insist that respect is of utmost importance not only for the players themselves, but for their teammates, ccoaches, officials and parents. Players should also be expected to give the maximum effort that they can while participating in both game and practice sessions.

Should you have any questions regarding the Minor Atom "A" team for the 2014/2015 season, feel free to contact me at minoratomblazers@gmail.com

Looking forward to a great season.

Jeff