

Welcome to the Kanata Blazers Minor PeeWee B team. I am looking forward to the season and the opportunity to be a part of 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 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 when playing competitive hockey and the 2014-15 draft budget is \$18,000 to be funded by sponsorships, fundraising and players families. Our intention is to participate in 4-5 tournaments. We will look for one or two of the one day tournaments, as well as the following full weekend tournaments:

Fri Oct 9 – Sun Oct 11 2015 Peterborough “A-AE” Thanksgiving tournament

Fri Nov 20 – Sun Nov 22 2015 44<sup>th</sup> Guelph PowerPlay Tournament

Fri Jan 22 – Sun Jan 24 2016 Capital Winter Classic at the Bell 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, able to make smart hockey plays, good teammates, willing to learn and be coached, and are aggressive and have a high level of compete. We will be selecting 15 skaters and 2 goalies.

Players on the Minor PeeWee B team will be given fair ice time and equal access to all opportunities at all times and situations of the game. The emphasis remains on enjoying the game and being with friends and developing hockey and life skills. 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 players will be expected and will be encouraged to 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