



Kanata Minor Hockey Association

Creating a Stronger Community Through Minor Hockey



Welcome to the 2015-2016 season of the Major Atom A Kanata Blazers!

My name is Mike Craven and I'm extremely excited to be the Head Coach for the upcoming season. I'm very passionate about the game of hockey and consider it a privilege to be given the opportunity to share my enthusiasm with your kids, teach them about the game, and show them what it means to be part of a team.

I have been a volunteer within the KMHA for several years and have held the roles of Head Coach, Assistant Coach, and Coach Mentor in the House Program and Assistant Coach in the Competitive Program. This will be my 6th season as a Head Coach. Nonetheless, I strive to make regular updates to my coaching certifications and take every available opportunity to attend coaching clinics and learn by osmosis from my fellow coaches. I'm a firm believer in the concept of "continuous improvement" which means my coaching and player feedback will **always be positive** but laced with a healthy dose of "What did we learn here?" and/or "What's next to allow another step forward?"

As mentioned, my coaching philosophy is rooted in "continuous improvement" but, as a head coach, I believe my role goes beyond teaching the skills/rules/strategies of the game. I have always gotten tremendous enjoyment from teaching the game and spending quality time with the players and their families and I aim to make hockey something my players will enjoy now and well into the future.

I have 4 basic, **non-negotiable** rules:

SHOW RESPECT; PLAY SAFE; WORK HARD; HAVE FUN

With these in mind, players on my team will receive fair ice time, be exposed to all situations, and be given opportunities play in and learn from those situations. I also believe that some of the most important parts of the season happen off the ice and, often, away from the rink. I'm a competitive, passionate person and, unsurprisingly, I'd prefer a win over a loss. That said, **winning is NOT the fundamental measure of success** for a game, a tournament, or the season. My goal is to emphasize the development of individual skills and bolster confidence while building a team that will look forward to coming to the rink and team events, compete for every puck, and dig deep every shift of every game.

The season will start mid-August with tryouts and will run to the conclusion of the playoffs which start early in the month of February. Families should expect an average of 4 team events per week. In addition to on-ice activities such as games and practices, this average will include off-ice commitments such as dry land training, meetings, fund raising endeavors, and team bonding events. All team events will be mandatory.

The team will be participating in 4-5 tournaments. Applications have been submitted to those listed below but this list may change based on acceptance of our application and a review of the registered teams to ensure an appropriate level of competition.

- Belleville Pre-Season Tilt – Belleville, ON – Sept 25-27
- Capital Fall Classic – Local – Nov 6-8
- Montreal Youth Fall Classic – Montreal, QC – Nov 27-29
- Bell Capital Cup – Local – Dec 30-Jan 1
- Capital Winter Classic – Local – Jan 22-24

A team dress code will be in effect:

- For players:
 - tournament games: good pants (no jeans), collared shirt, tie, and Blazers jacket
 - home/away games: Blazers track suit
- For bench staff: Dress pants, collared shirt, tie, and Blazers jacket for all games
- For trainer: Blazers track suit

Many players will already have the required clothing items. For those that do not or have items that need replacing, a team clothing order will be put in at the start of the season.

Financially, beyond KMHA registration/tryout fees, families can expect a team fee of \$1500-\$2000 per player. These fees will be payable over 3 installments, if desired. The preliminary budget includes a modest amount from fundraising and sponsorship but it should go without saying that creativity and success in these areas will contribute directly to lowering the final cost to the families.

The team will be selected by me with detailed input from experienced, independent evaluators pulled from both inside and outside of the KMHA. I am looking for players that have strong fundamental hockey skills (skating, shooting, stickhandling, and passing) but I place special emphasis on looking for players that show good hockey sense and are developing an understanding of the play unfolding around them. It is key that players compete all out in all situations and are fully committed to playing the game as a teammate versus solely as an individual. Players should arrive at tryouts physically and mentally prepared to participate in drills and game situations that will challenge individual skills as well as creativity, and conditioning.

Now that the nicer weather is finally here, I hope that everybody is having a great summer and I look forward to seeing everybody late in August for tryouts. If, after reading this letter, you still have any questions or concerns about the upcoming season, please feel free to contact me.

It's going to be a great 2015-2016 hockey season!



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