



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

My name is Sylvain Richer and I'm looking forward to being the head coach of this team. I'd like to take this opportunity to tell you a little bit about myself, my approach to the game, and my plan for this upcoming season.

This will be my fourth season as a non-parent coach with KMHA and my first season as a head coach. Hockey has been a big part of my life since I was four years old – I played competitively in Cornwall throughout my youth and coached Timbits Hockey from 2008 to 2010. I also refereed 4 seasons of minor hockey in Cornwall before moving to Kanata in 2012.

As a former competitive hockey player, I understand and share in the player's desire to win. However, the success of our season will not be evaluated in terms of wins and losses. The main goal for this season is to have fun, and use hard work, discipline, and respect to create a positive team atmosphere.

This season, players should expect to be on the ice four times a week, on average. This includes practices, games, and tournaments. There will also be other, periodic team events such as team building activities, parent meetings, and off ice training. All players are expected to attend all team events. Exceptions will be made for illness, school, and personal reasons, but players are expected to notify coaching staff prior to the missed event. As this will be the first year playing competitive hockey for many of the boys, it is important for them to learn to manage their time early in the season.

With competitive hockey, there comes a significant financial commitment. Families should expect to pay an additional \$1500 above KMHA registration fees. This money will be used for tournaments, ice times, referees, and other team expenses. Beyond this, there will be costs associated with two out of town tournaments that must be considered.

The projected tournaments for this season are:

- Bradford Bulldogs Blue and Gold – September 25-27
- Eric Leighton Memorial Tournament (Nepean) – October 9-12
- Silver Stick Regional (Pembroke) – November 13-15
- Bell Capital Cup – December 30-January 1
- Capital Winter Classic – January 22-24

This year's tryout schedule has not been set. You should expect the dates to be posted at www.kmha.ca in early August. Please check the site regularly to confirm when the tryouts will be held. I will be in contact with all players prior to the first tryout to provide more information and answer any questions about the upcoming season and/or tryout process. A parents meeting will also take place before the first tryout to provide you with more information about the tryout process and team selection. All players should come to tryouts ready to compete and give their best effort from start to finish. The team will be selected by myself along with non-parent evaluators.

In the interim, should anyone have any questions regarding the Major Atom B team for the 2015-2016 season, please feel free to contact me at richer.sylvain@hotmail.ca.

Have a great summer, and I will see you in September!

Sylvain Richer

Head Coach

Kanata Blazers Major Atom B