

## **2015/2016 Major Atom “AA” Kanata Blazers**

Welcome to all those who have registered to try out for the Major Atom “AA” Kanata Blazers Hockey Team.

As many of you know, I have been involved in Kanata Minor Hockey for over 15 years in one capacity or another. I enjoy giving back to the kids, what so many coaches gave to me during my hockey years. I have played competitive hockey all my life and enjoyed the experience of playing at the top level on both the Lac St Louis Lions Midget AAA club in Montreal and then the Kanata Valley Lasers CJHL team here in Kanata. I look forward to the opportunity to pass on the passion I have for hockey, the skills of hockey and teaching each player what it means to be successful in a team environment. I have 4 children all who have played various levels of competitive hockey here in Kanata.

My coaching philosophy is quite simple in my goal this year is to develop each player’s hockey skills in and effort to help them develop to the next level of hockey. With the AA level comes great competition and our team will strive to be competitive on a daily basis, both in games as well as practices. Hockey is a team game and I will ensure the players understand this as we move forward through the season. Decisions will be made in the best interest of the team as a whole and not necessarily for one specific player and or parent.

### **Commitment**

Playing competitive sports comes with a heavy time and financial commitment from both the players and the parents. It is the expectation that we will be gathering together between 4 and 5 times per week for either 1 or 2 hrs sessions, with a mix between games, practices, dry land training and/or team building events. This will also include a **7am** practice/skills session on **Friday** mornings. Please keep this in mind prior to committing.

As the time commitment is large, so is the financial. Families can expect to contribute approx. \$2000 per player, over and above the registration fees for this coming season. It is our hope to be able to minimize these costs with fundraising and/or sponsorship activities. Each family is expected to participate in this.

### **Try Outs**

This seasons try outs times will be posted on the KMHA website, so please keep an eye on that. I hope to have the team selected within 2 weeks from the start of the process, as the team leaves to participate in the Toronto Marlboro’s Tournament on September 11-13<sup>th</sup>, 2015. This will be a great way for everyone to get together and kick off the year!

### **Times and location**

These will be posted on the KMHA web site.

I will be holding a brief parents meeting 10-15 mins prior to the first on ice session.

## Tentative Tournament Schedule

Our tournament schedule consists of 5-6 tournaments as listed below, but this is subject to change over the next few weeks.

**Sept. 11-13, 2015** Toronto Marlboro's  
TBD

**Nov. 26- 29** Niagara Falls Purple Eagles (**Bus Leaves Thurs. Morning 6 am**)

**Dec 28- 31, 2015** Bell Capital Cup

**Jan. 14-16, 2016** Preston International Hockey Tournament  
TBD

## Evaluations

Independent evaluators will be used to assess the player's skill level and I will rely heavily on their unbiased inputs when making player selections.

*It is important to note that players will be evaluated as soon as they arrive at the rink and not only for what they do on the ice! We will be looking at a player's basic hockey skills, game sense, as well as qualities such as aptitude, attitude, teamwork, effort and intensity. These are all important components of the team!*

## Releases

A big part of managing a player's release to the next level is the support of the parents. It is critical for **each parent to support their** child in the event that your child is released. Our job as coaches is to place each player at the level to which they belong. In some cases players do not participate at the level they wish one year and turn around and attain their goals in the very next season. Please ensure that you support your player with a positive reaction to whatever news you may receive. I will be happy to discuss the decisions behind any release after the entire tryout process has been completed.

Each participant will be assigned a practice jersey at the beginning of the first practice. Changes may be required and numbers reassigned to others, so if this occurs it's because I am trying to even out the inter-squad teams as we move forward.

I will be holding a short meeting with all the kids before each session so that they will all fully understand what is expected of them as we move forward. Therefore it is important that you arrive on time and be prepared to hit the ice with your best effort.

Assistant coaches will be identified after the final selections have been made. There are a number of other very important positions to fill as we move forward so I will be looking for volunteers after the team has been selected.

Thanks,

Kevin MacTavish