



Welcome to the 2016-2017 season of the Kanata Blazers Minor Atom B!

My name is Terry Zanatta and I am extremely excited to be the head coach of this team. Included in this introduction letter is information regarding tryouts, my coaching philosophy, and what you can expect for the upcoming season. My expectation for the 2016/17 hockey season is to have no limitations on the success that we can achieve together as a TEAM in a fun and positive environment. Positive players and positive parents have a huge impact on the overall team success, and my expectation is to have both this season.

This will be my third year as head coach with KMHA. Hockey has been a huge part of my life since I was 5 years old. I played competitive hockey in Sault Ste. Marie and enjoyed the experience of playing at a high level. I look forward to the opportunity to pass on the passion I have for hockey, the skills of the game, and teaching each player what it means to be successful in a team environment.

My philosophy in coaching is to make each player better through individual player development and teach them how to play the game of hockey through hard work and a lot of fun. I believe in trying to make every player feel like they are an important part of the team and to be successful we play as a team. I stress the importance of the process and not the outcome. The process is far more important because if you try your absolute best, then regardless of the outcome you cannot be disappointed. I stress the importance of keeping their head high and to be proud of their play and accomplishments.

I believe in teaching young players the skills of the game, introducing team concepts, and challenging them every day to be better. I try to use sport as a metaphor for life as often as possible, as it is through challenge, adversity and setbacks that we learn to deal with life's tough times. How we learn to deal with these situations in sport helps us deal with challenges later on in life.

This season players should expect to be on the ice four times a week, on average. (All players are expected to attend). There will also be periodic team events such as team building activities, parent meetings and off ice training.

With competitive hockey, there comes a significant financial commitment. Families should expect to pay an additional \$1200-\$1500 above KMHA registration fees, which will be paid in 3 installments. (Fundraising and sponsorships may reduce these fees). This money will be used for tournaments, ice times, referees and other team expenses.

Tournament commitments expected this season:

1. Cumberland Junior Grads Tournament – Oct 21-23, 2016
2. Northumberland 2016 Silver Stick Regional – Dec 2-4, 2016 (Cobourg)
3. Bell Capital Cup – Dec 28 – Jan 1, 2017
4. Kanata Winter Classic Tournament – Jan 20-22, 2017

This year's tryout schedule has not yet been set. You should expect the dates to be posted at www.KMHA.ca in early August. I will contact each family to confirm tryout times. The team will be selected by me with detailed input from experienced, independent evaluators from both inside and outside of KMHA. The team will be looking for players with strong foundational individual skills that work hard and are willing to learn.

In summary, I believe that hockey is a great sport and it is to be enjoyed through hard work and having fun.

In the interim, should you have any questions regarding the Minor Atom B team for the 2016-2017 season, please feel free to contact me at tzanatta@hotmail.com

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Terry Zanatta". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Terry Zanatta
Head Coach
Kanata Blazers Minor Atom B