



Coach Letter of Introduction- U12AA Kanata Blazers

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of you to the U12AA Kanata Blazers 2021/22 season. My name is Kelly Holden and I am honored to be coaching the team as a non-parent coach this season. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, my coaching philosophy and a brief outline of the season plan.

I have been coaching hockey for 14 years now including the last 4 years within KMHA as both head coach and assistant coach positions. In the last two years I have also been a HL Coordinator and HL Coach Mentor. Prior to our move to Ottawa, I was heavily involved in Hockey Manitoba as a coach and as President of Shilo Minor Hockey for 5 years. I have enjoyed the game all my life having played for many years in minor hockey and in the Army. I enjoy coaching, playing and officiating the game and feel fortunate to be able to share this love of the game.

My coaching philosophy is fairly simple; skill and development. I want to develop players both mentally and physically through demanding on and off ice training focused on individual, small group and team skills. Provide a learning atmosphere that is both challenging and fun, allowing players to develop through learning from their mistakes and taking a greater role in team play. It is important for players to understand for themselves, what they are doing and why. Even at this age, they need to be involved in their development. My goal is to get them to the next level and beyond if that is what they desire.

I am looking for players that are willing to put in the work, come ready to practice/play, and put their best effort forward on a regular basis. For a player to be successful they need to be able to listen, be disciplined, be proactive in their development, be prepared, be willing to learn, and help their teammates.

Competitive hockey is a big commitment in terms of time and money. You may expect team fees to be between ~ \$1400 and \$1700 for the season depending on sponsorship and fundraising. Members of this team can expect a min of 4 hockey actives a week of on and off-ice events (games/practices/dryland/etc). Plan for 4 tournaments throughout the season as follows (all TBC):

18th Annual Kanata Blazers AAA Shootout- 19-21 Nov 21 Sensplex
U12 AA Silver Stick- date/loc TBD
22cd Bell Capitol Cup 27 Dec 21 - 1 Jan 22 Sensplex
Another out of town tournament TBD

Tryout evaluations will start with our first ice time and will include exhibition games. My evaluation team are all third party individuals with a myriad of hockey experience who will assist me in the selection process. The tryout schedule will be posted at www.kmha.ca. I will contact each family to confirm tryout times.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the rink very soon. In the meantime, enjoy the rest of the Summer.

If you have any questions, please contact me at holden59er@gmail.com.

Kelly Holden
Head Coach
U12 AA Blazers