



Welcome to the Kanata Blazers U12 Rep B 2021/22 season! My name is Kyle McDonald and I am pleased to be coaching the team this year. I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, my coaching philosophy and the plan for the upcoming season. Coming off last years' COVID interrupted season, we're not entirely sure what this year will look like but we will plan for a 'normal' season and make adjustments if needed.

I have been a coach with KMHA the last 4 years, over the years I have also coached with WOSC and Nepean Knights lacrosse. I grew up playing competitive hockey and have been lucky to have had some great coaches along the way to learn from.

My primary objective will be for the players to have fun. If hockey becomes a job for kids at this age I think we are doing a huge disservice. I like to maintain an open dialog and will address any concerns players or parents have to ensure the players are having a positive experience. While the objective is having fun, that doesn't mean easy. The expectation will be that the kids work hard, listen and always cooperate at practice and games. We will have a disciplined group who will show respect for teammates, opponents, coaches and referees at all times.

Tryout evaluation will start with the first on ice session. I am hoping to set up some exhibition games as part of the evaluation process. I will have independent third party evaluators with no connection to the players trying out for the team who will assist me in the selection process. I like players who listen, follow instruction and work hard. Attitude towards the game goes a long way with me. I'd likely select a player who is coachable with less raw talent than a highly skilled player with a poor attitude.

As with all competitive sports there is a commitment both financial and with time that is expected. This season you can expect an average of 4-5 team activities per week. This will include on and off ice activities. We will be on the ice at least 3 times a week between practices and games. We plan to play in at least 3 tournaments, and at least one away if allowed. We will put lots of effort into selecting the right tournaments.

Families can expect additional team fees of \$1300 - \$1400 per player on top of tryout and registration fees. We will also look for sponsorships and we might do some fundraising if needed.

The tryout schedule will be posted at [www.kmha.ca](http://www.kmha.ca). I will contact each family to confirm tryout times. Evaluations occur starting with the first tryout. Your child should be ready to compete for a spot that first day so it's important to check their equipment (especially their skates) prior to the first ice time.

Enjoy the summer and I look forward to getting this season started!

Should you have any question please contact me at [kyle.mcdonald@gmail.com](mailto:kyle.mcdonald@gmail.com)

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