



It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Kanata Blazers U9 Tier 1 2021/22 season. My name is John Ostapyk and I am excited to be coaching the team this year. I want to take an opportunity to introduce you to myself, my philosophy and my plan for the upcoming season.

I grew up playing in the KMHA system and this will be my 4th year as a head coach within KMHA. Previously and over the years I have coached a number of teams, I've taught shooting and power skating clinics, worked numerous hockey camps, and in the past, I was in charge of all on ice youth skill development programming at the Bell Sensplex. I feel I have a good understanding of hockey skill development and more importantly I believe I understand how to teach kids hockey. Hockey has been a big part of my life and identity since I was a young child. I truly enjoy being part of the hockey community and want to share my knowledge and passion for the game.

At the U9 Tier 1 level KMHA plans to ice two balanced teams. Nathan Barwell has been selected as the other head coach. Nathan is experienced, passionate and knowledgeable as a coach. I'm excited to work with him in continuing to develop our entire group. We plan to share resources and ideas to create the best long term development plan.

We will be following Hockey Canada U9 Pathways Program which outlines tryouts and framework for the season:

[Under-9 Hockey | Seasonal Structure & Annual Calendar \(hockeycanada.ca\)](https://www.hockeycanada.ca/en-ca/under-9-hockey-seasonal-structure-annual-calendar)

Our practices will be fun, challenging, well organized and efficiently run. Practices will have a large focus on skating development, improving fundamental individual skills, compete skills and safety, and begin to introduce age appropriate game concepts. I expect the team to demonstrate a good work ethic and show respect for teammates, opponents, coaches and referees each time they are around the rink.

I am looking for skilled hockey players that are willing to work hard, be respectful, be committed, be a great teammate, and have fun!

As with all competitive sports there is a commitment both financially and time that is expected. This year you can expect 4 to 4.5 ice times per week. It's hard to perfectly predict how this season will unfold, but additionally we would like to play in

3 jamboree/tournaments total (with 1 potentially being away). Families can expect team fees of approximately \$1000-1200. Team fees are in addition to KMHA registration fees and a detailed budget will be reviewed with parents at the start of the season.

Enjoy your summer and I look forward to seeing everyone back at the rinks!

John Ostapyk
Head Coach U9
Tier 1 Kanata
Blazers
jostapyk@gmail.com
