



Hi U15 parents and players,

My name is Terry Lavineway and I will be the head coach for the U15B Kanata Blazers for the 2021/22 season.

I have coached or assistant coached around 25 teams in KMHA for the last 15 years from IP to midget as both head coach and assistant. And many of you might know I also ran a hockey business called RinkEye Development Centre. Furthermore, I have coached a large portion of these kids through their KMHA and spring hockey years, watching them grow and develop along the way.

It will be no surprise to those I have coached that I like to promote fun and competition at the same time as learning and developing. And while my style is low key, don't mistake it for lack of competitiveness.

This season will be especially important for the player's development given the relative lack of hockey we have been able to play and enjoy in the last 18 months.

Tryouts for U15 will begin early September after the AA tryouts have completed. Exact dates to be announced by KMHA.

What I will be looking to assess during the tryouts are the following factors:

- Is the player showing the same energy and hardwork in all zones? (Read: forechecking, backchecking and not waiting for the play to develop before engaging)
- Is the player consistently where they should be? (Read: can they play the position they're asked to play)
- Does the player consistently make smart decisions with the puck? (Read: finding open teammates to move the puck to and not giving up the puck in critical areas of the ice)
- Can the player make plays at speed? (Read: can the player give and receive passes while moving or do they skate with their head down and unable to make plays)
- Is the player a good teammate and coachable? (Read: what is their behavior on the bench between shifts? What is their behavior on the ice when a shift isn't going well? What is their behavior if/when the player makes a mistake?).

Most importantly, given that we have not officially had a season of body contact at this age, players will need to learn how to engage in body contact, how to protect yourself and how to use body contact as a means of getting and protecting the puck. **I will not be impressed by players who take themselves out of their position or out of the play to initiate big hits; or appear to be attempting to injure other players.**

The high level development plan for the season will incorporate individual skills development, small group tactics (e.g. faceoff plays and scoring plays), team tactics (e.g. forechecking and defending strategies, and short-handed and power play options). The season will start with more focus on the individual skills and small group tactics, moving towards more team tactics as the season moves along. And certainly, fitness will be a large element of practices and off-ice sessions.

The budgets will be finalized once the team has been selected and tournaments have been determined. You can expect additional fees of around \$2000. Other factors will include how much additional development we plan to do and how much fundraising the team and parent group wishes to do. I expect that we will do 4 tournaments, 3 of them will be out of town. The tryout schedule will be posted at www.kmha.ca. I will contact each family to confirm tryout times.

Evaluations start at the first tryout session. We all know there are limited roster spots; and the competition will be difficult. Please encourage your player to be ready!

I look forward to seeing you at tryouts.

Regards, Terry