



My name is Mark De Verno and I'm honoured to be coaching one of the 2019-2020 Novice Tier 1 teams. I'd like to take the opportunity to welcome your player to their first season of competitive hockey!

About Me

Coaching and teaching have been a significant part of my life. I've had the privilege head coaching the last four years in KMHA, including last year's Novice Rep B team. Prior to this, I've taught children overseas for 5 years in Japan, as well as karate to students of all ages.

Coaching Philosophy

The young athletes on my team will be starting their competitive long-term development. The start of the journey I consider to be of paramount importance, and I look to make this year as positive as possible. The changes to Novice this year align with my coach philosophy, which focuses on individual development. I'm a firm believer in mastering skill foundations, so we'll be tackling a small group of skills until the players have progressed sufficiently. Rather than systems, or set plays, I will instead help foster creativity by teaching four key concepts; time, space, speed, and support. All practices aim to be challenging, fun, and fast paced!

Players are expected to show great respect for everyone involved with the game; teammates, opponents, referees, coaches, and parents. They are also expected to work hard, be a good teammate, and have a positive attitude. Focus and discipline will be worked on from the first practice.

Season Plan

The commitment will be 4-5 times per week including games, practices and dryland. Attendance is mandatory to the best of the ability of the family.

We'll be attending 4 jamborees, with at least one being out of town in the very early season.

Families can expect additional team fees of approximately \$1200 depending on the level of fundraising and sponsorships we achieve. These fees do not include registration or tryout fees.

Tryouts

Players are expected to be competing for a spot from the outset. There will be a team of 4 or more independent evaluators to help select the team. As this will be your child's first year in competitive, we'll be looking at long term development.

I'm looking for players who are coachable, respectful, driven to compete. Skill wise, I'm primarily looking for strong skaters, followed by their ability to handle the puck.

Further information concerning the tryouts will be communicated in the near future. Please check the website (www.kmha.ca) for details.

I'm happy to answer any questions and can be contacted at mdeverno@hotmail.com.

Have a great summer and keep your stick on the ice!

Mark De Verno
Head Coach
Novice Tier 1
Kanata Blazers

