



My name is Nathan Barwell and I am extremely excited to welcome you to the 2021/22 U9 Tier 1 season. Below you will find a little information on me, my coaching philosophy and what to expect from the upcoming season. This is my 8<sup>th</sup> year involved with KMHA and is my 6<sup>th</sup> as Head Coach.

As KMHA plan to ice two equal teams at the U9 Tier 1 level this season, I would like to congratulate John Ostapyk. John will be the Coach of the other team. John and I have worked closely over the past three seasons with the 2013 born players and I am very pleased to have John as major part of the leadership group for these players and coaches. John and I do plan to work very closely together with the goal to develop this entire group!

I would also be remiss if I did not quickly mention that the season plan and info below is being written based on a season with no Public Health concerns or challenges. We are all preparing as if we will see a return to normal. Please keep in mind that we will remain flexible and positive and will take direction from Public Health, KMHA and Hockey Canada to navigate any challenges if the need arises.

I have played hockey since I was 4 years old and it is an absolute passion of mine. Over the past seven seasons, I have had the pleasure to coach with 10 different teams across many levels and I have enjoyed every minute of it. Being able to pass along things I have learned and share in the successes of the players has been very rewarding and I look forward to another great experience with this group.

The overall goals for this season are very simple. The most important things to me are that the players have fun and get better each and every time we are together. Skating and skills are the foundation of each player and as such, a large amount of the focus for the season will be on skating and skills development. As we are introducing this group to the competitive level, you can expect to see up tempo, and high energy practices to drive the maximum development of each player. In addition to skating and skills, positive attitude and teamwork are essential to succeed and will be a part of the focus plan.

Over the course of the tryout process, I will be looking for players who have strong base skating skills, and who are hardworking, competitive, good listeners and have a drive to learn and to get better. During the tryouts, players will be evaluated in both a practice style setting and a scrimmage setting. Evaluations will be done with non-parent evaluators. Dates and times are not currently available for tryouts, but will be posted on the KMHA website ([www.kmha.ca](http://www.kmha.ca)) later this summer, and I will be contacting each family to ensure they have all the information.

This season, families should expect to commit to 3-5 team events per week. In addition, there will also be periodic team events that will allow us to continue team building in different settings. Players are expected (to the best of the families' abilities) to attend all sessions.

With all competitive sports, there is a significant financial commitment required. Families should expect a team fee of approx. \$1000 - \$1200 above KMHA registration fees. We will look for sponsorship and fundraising to assist with these costs. These fees will be paid in 3 installments. These fees will be used for ice time, officials, tournaments and other team activities/requirements. In addition to the team fees, each player will be expected to have a Blazers Track Suit for all game and tournament activities.

The team will plan to participate in 2 - 3 tournaments (now called jamborees for the half ice U9 program) this year. Ideally it will be 3 with one possibly being out of town. However, as many places are still in their planning phases, we will continue to monitor options for jamborees. Tentatively, a jamboree schedule might appear as: Capital Fall Classic – Bell Sensplex – Nov 5-7 Novice Holiday Classic – Bell Sensplex – Dec 17-19 ----- Placeholder -----

Finally, I am very much looking forward to the upcoming season. With a plan to share a development strategy with a leader like John, and the goals being to have fun, and get better, there is no limit to how much this group will grow. We will be reaching out to confirm tryout times once they are available. In the interim, should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [nathanbarwell@yahoo.ca](mailto:nathanbarwell@yahoo.ca) Enjoy your summer and I look forward to seeing everyone at the rink!

Regards,

Nathan Barwell

Head Coach Kanata Blazers U9 Tier 1