



My name is Aaron Taggart and I have the pleasure of being selected as one of the coaches of the U9 Tier 1 competitive hockey team this year. I have been involved with KMHA in both recreational and competitive levels with all 4 of my boys. I have been an active volunteer and coach throughout my sons' participation with a strong emphasis on player and goalie development. It is an honor to be trusted to build and develop this team and provide your child with a challenging, positive and fun hockey season.

I will be promoting an inclusive and positive environment for all players, coaching staff and parents. I will provide a consistent, organized, and supportive approach and in return I expect each player to represent the Kanata Blazers each and every day by having a strong work ethic, be a good teammate by respecting each other, the coaches, opposing teams, and officials. My expectations are that all players attend every team activity, arrive on time, encourage each other, and bring positive attitudes and a consistent effort.

We will be following the Hockey Canada U9 Pathway program. Our practices will be fun, challenging, well organized and efficiently run. In practices, we will work hard to develop fundamental skills, decision training, and tactical situations through high tempo drills and game situations. Practices will have a large focus on skating development, refining fundamental individual skills, compete skills and safety, and begin to introduce age appropriate game concepts. I expect the team to demonstrate good work ethic and show respect for teammates, opponents, coaches and referees each time they are around the rink.

The tryout schedule will be posted on the KMHA website (www.kmha.ca) in August. Once the schedule has been confirmed, I will contact each family to confirm the dates and times. The team will be selected by me with the assistance of independent and experienced evaluators. The evaluation process will consist of on-ice practice sessions and inter-squad games. This group will be evaluating individual skills, team play and compete levels.

As with all competitive sports there is a commitment both financially and time that is expected. This year you can expect on average 4 ice times per week, 2 local & 1 away tournaments. We will also occasionally have team building activities and off-ice training. Families can expect team fees of approximately 1400-1650. Team fees are in addition to KMHA registration fees and a detailed budget will be reviewed with parents at the start of the season.

Have a great summer and I look forward to seeing you at the rink.

Aaron Taggart
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Kanata Blazers
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