

Welcome to the 2022-2023 season of the Kanata Blazers U9 Tier 1 team.

I would like to start off this letter by introducing myself and explaining my hockey path that has led me here. My name is Darren Trenholm and I grew up playing hockey in the Ottawa area finishing my playing career in Junior A. I began my coaching experience with the Ottawa Valley Titans program where I coached for 3 seasons before moving onto the Ottawa Jr. Sens program. I have also spent 3 seasons in the Nepean Minor Hockey Association. This will be my 2nd season with KMHA. I also spent 6 years as a skating instructor with the Canadian Hockey Academy/Can-Power program.

My philosophy in coaching is to help improve each player both on and off the ice and to foster a love for the game. I believe good character people make up the best working/teaching environment which only helps development of individuals.

My focus this year will be on fundamental skill development such as skating, passing and puck control. Our practices will be engaging, fun and challenging from start to finish. The practices will all have a central focus or theme based on the needs of the team. There will be lots of competitive drills with game-like situation simulation. There will be emphasis on player safety taught throughout the year. I expect this team to show great work ethic, respect for teammates, opponents, coaches, referees and parents both on and off the ice.

At the competitive level there is a higher expectation of commitment both financially and time-wise. This year you can expect 3-4 ice times per week, as well as 2 local and 2 away tournaments. Families can expect team fees of approximately \$1400-1600. These team fees are in addition to KMHA registration fees and will be discussed and reviewed with parents before the start of the season.

I am looking forward to a hard working, fun and exciting season as we get back to normal. Please stay safe and enjoy your summer. If you have any further questions regarding the upcoming season please feel free to contact me at anytime.

Darren Trenholm

Head Coach U9 Tier 1

Kanata Blazers

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