

Hi U16 parents and players,

My name is Terry Lavineway and I will be the head coach for the U16B Kanata Blazers for the 2022/23 season.

I have coached or assistant coached over 25 teams in KMHA for the last 16 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.

Similar to every other team I have coached, 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 a renewed emphasis of responsibility and accountability – to the team and your teammates.

Tryouts for U16 will begin likely early September after the U18AAA and U16AA tryouts have completed. Exact dates to be announced by KMHA. In my experience, there tends to be more player changes on the competitive teams than any other season. I wish all the U16 players 'good luck' with whatever team(s) they decide to tryout for.

The U16B tryouts will be similar to every other year – a mixture of intersquad and exhibition games. What I will be looking to assess during the tryouts again is similar to prior years. As we all know, our players are physically growing, their skillsets improving and their capacity to make good decisions is changing; all at different rates.

- 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?).

Players now have played a full regular season (and possibly Spring hockey) with full contact. I expect players in tryouts to play with the same physicality that they will play in the season. **However, 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). Note that I will be introducing new concepts this season to hopefully help the team defend better and score more. We will discuss as a team whether we want to create specialized units for powerplays and penalty killing. While players are usually excited to this, the excitement quickly dwindles if we have a penalty filled game and one unit players significantly more. Importantly: no player will be confined for the entire season on the penalty kill or the power play; all players will have the opportunity to play on both units (if we decide to go that route).

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, 2 of them out of town.

The tryout schedule will be posted at [www.kmha.ca](http://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 Lavineway