

Dear Hockey Parents,

My name is Craig Lyons, your U15B Kanata Blazers head coach for the upcoming hockey season. As a player, parent and coach, I've been involved with the KMHA for the better part of three decades. Hockey has had a profound impact on my life and to say that I have a passion for teaching the game and its many life lessons, would be a massive understatement. Through positive and impactful experiences both on and off the ice, I believe hockey can provide a model with which to develop some of life's most important principles: Respect, Teamwork, Accountability, Hard Work, Discipline, Dedication. These core principals are the foundation of my coaching philosophy and ultimately, my measure of success.

On that note, team chemistry, culture and player experiences are very much a product of the time spent together on and off the ice. In this, your role as a parent is absolutely instrumental to the success of our group. Competitive hockey is a significant time commitment and must be a player's priority activity throughout the season. Expectations are that each player arrives at the designated rendezvous time before every ice, attends all team functions and regularly goes to practice. For my part, I promise to respect and value the time we have together by staying organized, planning ahead and communicating regularly.

Concerning tryouts, schedules are normally posted to the KMHA.ca website in early August. Once released, I will contact each family to confirm individual tryout times. For this season, we will be seeking highly competitive, hardworking players with strong foundational skills who are eager to learn and be part of a team. The team will be selected by me with detailed input from experienced, independent evaluators from both inside and outside of KMHA.

Moving onto the finer points of the season, I anticipate a team fee in the area of \$1,800. Along with sponsorship and/or passive fundraising, fees will cover the cost of two local tournament entries (Volunteer Cup, Capital Blues Fest) as well as two away tournament entries, Halton Hills Best of the Best (Dec 2-4), Oshawa Cup (Jan 19-22). Additionally, families can expect 75 hours of league allocated ice for practice and home games, 22.5 hours of visiting ice time, playoffs* and finally, 2-5 team functions per month. Team functions may include extra practice, exhibition games, off-ice activities, video sessions, guest speakers, parties, gatherings, etc...

Looking forward to a fantastic season!

Coach Craig