Dear Parents and Players,

My name is Jeff Tetzlaff, and I am thrilled to be leading the U13B Kanata Blazers for the 2023-2024 hockey season. I have enjoyed the game since a young age, growing up playing minor hockey in the Ottawa region and then furthering my hockey career through stops in the OHL with the Barrie Colts and in USports with the Saint Mary’s Huskies. I believe the game can be a great outlet for children to grow not only their athletic skills but also enhance their confidence and teamwork abilities to take with them in their daily lives.

Kanata has been home for almost 15 years to a growing family which includes three children. We have had two sons move through the KMHA over the past number of years. I have been involved as a head coach, assistant coach, and team manager at various levels from house league to AAA during many of these seasons.

Our team philosophy is five-fold and will be shared and referred to throughout the season with both parents and players. This would also be a basis of how final decisions on players would be made at tryouts.

* FUN - #1 requirement every day each game and practice - - smiles on faces!
* RESPECT – for your teammates, coaches, parents, officials, and the opposing team
* LISTEN – whether it be a practice or a game I expect a 100% attentive team
* COMPETE – “show up” and play with speed, heart, and determination every time on the ice
* MISTAKES ARE OK – trying new skills or a limited team strategy are a part of the process and a requirement for improving as a player and individual on the ice and off. It’s how you change after that’s most important

Playing competitive hockey is a serious time commitment for players and their families. Team fees for the season are budgeted at $1,200 per player. Estimated time on ice from September to March would be 3-4 times per week allowing for a 30-game regular season, and 1-2 practices per week making up most of these ice times. In addition, we expect to compete in the following 4 tournaments:

* Essa Eagles Fall Classic, October 27-29
* Pembroke Regional Silver Stick, November 17-19
* Clarence-Rockland Crush 10th Annual CoCo Lemay Tournament, December 8-10
* Capital Winter Classic @ Bell Sensplex, January 19-21

This year’s tryout schedule will be posted at [www.kmha.ca](http://www.kmha.ca) usually in early to mid-August. The evaluation process will consist of on-ice practice sessions, intra-squad games, and possibly an exhibition game. The players will be evaluated by a panel consisting of non-parent evaluators to ensure a fair assessment of all players. Further communication regarding the tryout process will be communicated soon.

Have an excellent summer and see you in September at tryouts!

Jeff