

Hello, my name is Shawn LeBouthillier and I am honored to be selected as the coach of the Kanata Blazers U15AA for the 2023-2024 season. This letter will include information about my coaching philosophy, tryouts and a season overview.

Hockey and sports in general have always played a big part in my life. I have been playing hockey since I was young and continue to play. I have coached hockey for the past 12 years with the Capital City Condors and for the past 9 years with the Kanata Minor Hockey Association as an on-ice helper, assistant coach and head coach. I am very passionate about the game because it has helped me develop as an athlete and as a person growing up. I feel it is important to pass this on to younger players.

**Coaching Philosophy**

I believe that no matter what level of hockey kids are playing, the fundamental goal is that they are always striving to develop and grow as hockey players while still enjoying their time at the rink and with their teammates. As a team, we focus on individual skills and team play/tactics. We also focus on helping our players develop and show character both on and off the ice. Players are expected to show up with a good attitude, ready to work hard and to be respectful towards coaches, teammates and other teams. I truly believe that playing hockey is not only great way to improve fitness and have fun, but it is also a great way to learn life lessons. How to win and lose, sportsmanship and respecting others are important things that players can learn from hockey that will benefit them for the rest of their lives.

**Tryouts**

This year’s tryout process will consist of a combination of intersquad and exhibition games. I will be looking for players who play with discipline, grit, have a high hockey IQ, and are willing to compete with and without the puck. It is important that players are willing to learn and be team players. The evaluators will consist of non-parents that will provide non-biased, fair evaluations.

The tryout schedule has not been determined yet, but once it has been it will be posted on the KMHA website http://kmha.ca/.

**Season Overview**

Competitive hockey requires both a significant time and financial commitment. Players can expect a time commitment of 4-6 days per week which will consist of on ice and off ice development. The team fees will be between $1800 to $2300, depending on sponsorship and fundraising. This is in addition to the KMHA registration and tryout fees. These fees will be

used to cover the cost for ice times, officials, tournaments, team activities and a non-parent assistant coach.

This season we will attend two away tournaments and two home tournaments:

* Capital Gold Rush Sept. 22-24
* Mississauga Early Bird Oct. 6-8
* Capital Fall Classic Nov. 3-5
* Oshawa Cup Jan. 12-14

If you have any questions about the tryouts or the season please email me or call me.

Email: thebootsfamily09@gmail.com

Text/Call: 613-807-7790

Have a great summer and see you at the rink soon.

Sincerely,

Shawn LeBouthillier

Kanata Blazers U15 AA 2023/24