Dear Parents and Players,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the 2023-24 hockey season. My name is Shawn Postma, and I am honored to introduce myself as the head coach of the Kanata Blazers U16 B team. As we embark on this exciting journey together, I would like to share important information regarding the season.

With a lifelong passion for hockey, I have been involved with various KMHA teams in different roles over the years. My coaching philosophy is centered around enabling each player to reach their full potential within a positive and supportive environment. I firmly believe that fostering a positive attitude is essential for personal growth and team success. By encouraging players to approach all team activities with a willingness to learn and improve, we can create an environment where individuals can thrive and collectively achieve their goals.

Effort is a fundamental aspect of our journey. I expect 100% effort from every player during practices and games, as it demonstrates their dedication and commitment to the sport. Through hard work and perseverance, players can push their boundaries, unlock their potential, and achieve personal and team goals.

Respect plays a vital role in our team culture. Demonstrating respect for coaches, teammates, officials, and opponents is fundamental in fostering a culture of sportsmanship. By emphasizing respect both on and off the ice, we create an environment where everyone feels valued and can develop positive relationships built on trust and mutual admiration.

My objective is to provide every player with opportunities to enhance their hockey skills through well-designed practices that focus on individual development, team play, and strategic tactics. By tailoring our practices to cater to player needs and strengths, we can cultivate their growth and maximize their potential. Together, we will foster a cohesive team dynamic that values collaboration, communication, and collective success.

The tryout schedule for this season will be posted on the KMHA website in the upcoming weeks. During tryouts, I will be assessing players based on their hockey awareness, work ethic, competitiveness, coachability, attitude, and ability to work effectively with their teammates. The evaluation process will comprise intersquad non-contact and contact games and will be evaluated by non-parent evaluators to ensure fairness and objectivity.

All prospective players will have the opportunity to participate in multiple intersquad games, providing them with multiple chances to showcase their talent and skills. I strongly encourage anyone interested in trying out for competitive hockey to come and join us.

Throughout the season, players and families can expect a commitment of 3-4 team activities per week, including practices, dryland training, team building, video review, and games. Additionally, we will participate in four tournaments, two of which will require out-of-town travel. These tournaments provide valuable opportunities for players to showcase their skills, gain exposure, and experience competitive hockey against teams from different regions. Competitive B teams receive a total of 75 ice hours for the season, including an additional 35 hours of extra ice time allocated for player and team development.

The team is registered for the following tournaments:

* Sept 29 – Oct 1: Capital Blues Hockey Fest - Ottawa, Ontario
* Oct 6 -8: Halton Hills Best of the Best - Halton Hills, Ontario
* Nov 3 – 5: BMHA Mid-Season Tilt! Bell - Belleville, Ontario
* Jan 5 – 7: 18th Annual Capital Winter Classic - Kanata, Ontario

Regarding financial commitment, families should be prepared for fees ranging from approximately $1850 to $2250, depending on the level of fundraising or sponsorship. The fee is based on last year’s numbers so there might be an increase YTD. These fees will cover ice time, officials, tournaments, and other team activities and requirements. In addition to the KMHA registration and tryout costs, these fees ensure a comprehensive and rewarding hockey experience.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the U16 B team for the 2023-24 season, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at shawn.postma@hotmail.com.

Best regards,

Shawn Postma
Head Coach
Kanata Blazers U16 B