

Dear Parents and Players,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 Hockey Season!  My name is **Matt Charles** and I’m honored to have been chosen to be leading the U12B Kanata Blazers for the 2023-2024 hockey season.

LET’S GO!!!! Yeah!!

About Me

I have enjoyed the game since a young age, growing up as a goalie playing minor hockey in the Ottawa region and then furthering my love of hockey playing in adult ice and ball hockey leagues. I have been involved in various roles with the 2012 group including: Head Coach, Assistant Coach, goalie coach, trainer, and manager.

Philosophy

My coaching philosophy is rooted in the understanding that at this level players are developing their individual skills, hockey IQ, and love for the game. For this reason, player development, respect, teamwork, and fun are my goal. Ultimately a coach must be able to create a positive experience for players, so they develop and keep coming back each year.

The work

As this is the first year of competitive hockey for most of these players, there will be a focus on establishing the foundational behaviors, habits, and skills both on and off the ice.

My coaching style is fair but demanding. I will never ask an athlete to do something I do not think they can do. I simplify their training sessions to focus on a single or limited number of topics or concepts, so that the players can practice and demonstrate proficiency with the team or on their own.

Expectations

My rules for the team will be discussed at a parent meeting at the beginning of the season, however, here are some rules that will also be a basis of how I make my final decisions on players at tryouts.

* Have fun every day each game and practice - - smiles on faces!
* Listen, be respectful to everyone on and off the ice.
* Compete every time you’re on the ice – play with speed, heart, and determination with tenacity to never give up on a play every time, all the time.
* Trying - mistakes will happen, trying new skills is part of learning and a requirement to improve. It shows a dedication and commitment to the sport.
* Discipline – self awareness of time, preparation, organization, and behaviour.
* It is expected that you are to arrive 30 minutes before practice and 45 minutes before games.
* Most of all, everything we to do is ***“Team First”*** with a lot of information and instruction to learn and apply.

Evaluations and Tryouts

The evaluation will be based on player performance during practices / inter squad games.  In addition to myself, the evaluation panel will consist of non- parent evaluators providing assessments. Tryout schedule is posted on the KMHA website <https://kmha.ca/competitive-tryout-schedule/>   
  
The Season Plan

Practices will be high tempo with a lot of flow.

Playing competitive hockey is a serious time commitment for players and their families. Our schedule will be very busy with practices, with a focus on individual skill and some team tactics.

The time commitment will be 3-5 team events a week. This could include practices/games or dryland once per week, weather and schedule permitting.

Seeing that this is a competitive program all team scheduled events will be mandatory, with some exceptions to be discussed at a parent meeting.

Financial commitment per player will be approximately $1,500 - $1,800 for the year (on top of the KMHA registration and tryout fees) divide into 3 payments.

We will be looking at fundraising and sponsorship to help assist with these costs.  A detailed budget will be reviewed with parents before the season.

The team will be participating in 4 tournaments over the course of the season (3 “local” and 1 away). The proposed tournament listing and schedule is as follows:

Clarence-Rockland Crush Tournament Oct 20th – 22nd, 2023

Niagara Falls, Buffalo/New York Shootout Classic, Nov 17th – 19th, 2023

Bell Capital Cup                                                             Dec 27th - Jan 1st, 2024

18th Annual Capital Winter Classic Jan 19th - Jan 21st, 2024

I understand the responsibilities that come with being a head coach in a competitive environment, and I am happy to give all my spare time to making sure that we have a successful season ensuring the athletes have fun, learn a lot, develop, and most importantly accomplish the goals that they set forth.  I will be looking for the same commitment from each family and player to help have a successful season for everyone involved.

See you all at the rink.

Matthew Charles

Head Coach

Kanata Blazers U12 B 2023/2024