

**Players and Parents: Welcome to the 2024-25 Season**

My Name is Matt Charles, and it is my pleasure to return for my 2nd year as the Head Coach of the 2012 Blazers.

I would like to introduce myself and give a brief overview of what to expect for the upcoming season.

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. I feel I have a good understanding of the team and skill development needed for the 2012’s at the rep B level.

On the ice, we will be following the pathway program for the U13 level set out by Hockey Canada: As this could be the first year for some but also a returning year for others as competitive players, there will be a focus on continuing to establish the foundational behaviors, habits, and skills both on and off the ice but moving toward a more offensive/defensive balanced team.

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.

Practices will be fun, fast paced and challenging. Building on the U12 year, we will continue to improve on skating, individual skill development with an increased focus on positioning, team play and an increased compete level while maintaining a fun, positive and competitive environment. The coaching staff’s goal is to have team success on the ice along with preparing players to take the next steps to progress in their development both mentally and physically.

We are looking for players who are coachable, respectful on and off the ice, with a strong work ethic, looking to improve on individual skills along with team development. Tryouts will consist of skills & drills sessions and game play. Evaluations will be done with third party non-parent evaluators who will be looking at individual skill sets along with compete levels, game awareness and team play. Dates and times for tryouts are currently unavailable but will be posted on the KMHA website ([www.kmha.ca](http://www.kmha.ca)).

As with any competitive sport, hockey takes a serious commitment for players and families. Players can expect 3-4 activities a week including both on and off the ice. Families can anticipate 4 tournaments with 2 being out of town. Families can expect a team fee of $1,800 - $2000 in addition to the KMHA registration fee. These fees are for ice time, officials, tournaments and other team activities and requirements. Paid in 3 installments. A detailed budget will be reviewed with parents before the season.

Essa Eagles Fall Classic, New Tecumseth, ON October 4-6, 2024

Shootout Classic Niagara Falls, Buffalo NY Nov 20-24, 2024

Bell Capital Cup, Ottawa, On                                                        Dec 27th - Jan 1st, 2025

19th Annual Capital Winter Classic, Ottawa, On Jan 17th - Jan 19th, 2025

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 and making sure the athletes have fun, learn a lot, develop, and most importantly accomplish the goals that we set forth.  I will be looking for the same commitment from each family and player to help have a successful season for everyone involved.

If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Enjoy your summer. Looking forward to the season and seeing everyone at the rinks!

Matt Charles

Head Coach

Kanata Blazers U13 B (2012)