Dear prospective U14B Players and Parents!

My name is Jeff Tetzlaff, and I am thrilled to be leading the U14B Kanata Blazers for the 2024-2025 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 over 15 years. We have had two sons and a daughter move through the KMHA and KGHA 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.

Last year I had the pleasure of leading the U13B team through a season of change and growth. I was very happy to see many of our players become better teammates, more positive toward team, and better hockey players. Some also started to showcase outstanding leadership skills. I expect continued progression this season and I believe that same expectation can be applied to myself as a coach and for those coaches who will be members of our staff. This season, with the beginning of contact hockey, we will see some modification to how the players are handled. More time will be spent on individual, tactical skills within the practice setting that can be carried over to the games, hopefully mining some key advanced outputs early. There will be a high degree of dependency placed on the staff to be more involved from the outset of the season in both practices and games in what will be a very busy year!

Our team philosophy is five-fold and will be shared and referred to throughout the season with both parents and players:

* FUN - #1 requirement every day each game and practice - - smiles on faces!
* RESPECT – for your teammates, coaches, parents, officials, and the opposing team
* ACCOUNTABILITY – whether it be a practice or a game I expect an attentive team being accountable in your attitude with your teammates and coaches at all times
* COMPETE – “show up” and play with speed, heart, and determination every time on the ice
* POSITIVITY - no matter the results, we stay focused on improving our skills in practices and working toward game success each time on the ice

Players who can skate with speed, showcase high hockey IQ in all three zones, show a commitment to defense, play a team first game, and can display one or more higher end skills (passing, shooting, puck handling, checking etc.) will attract the eyes of the evaluators and myself.

Playing competitive hockey is a serious time commitment for players and their families. Team fees for the season are budgeted at $1,500 -$1,700 per player, which does not include hotel nights at out of town tournaments and meals. Estimated time on ice from September to March would be 3-4 times per week allowing for a 28-game regular season, and 2-3 practices per week. In addition, we expect to compete in the following 4 tournaments:

* Capital Volunteer Cup @ Richcraft Sensplex, October 25-27, 2024
* Sudbury Northern Regional Silver Stick, November 15-17, 2024
* Capital Winter Classic @ Bell Sensplex, January 3-5, 2025
* Peterborough Petes Minor A Tournament, January 31 – February 2, 2025

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 skills sessions and intra-squad games. 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 a great rest of your summer and see you in September!

Jeff