

Neville Arjani U12B 2025-26

My name is Neville Arjani and I am pleased to serve as KMHA's U12B Head Coach for the 2025-26 season. I am passionate about the game of hockey and about supporting our kids in their hockey development. Over the past three seasons I have served as Head Coach in KMHA's House League program, most recently in the U11 House A division during the 2024-25 season. As a youth, I played competitive hockey in Hamilton, Ontario and fortunately I still get the chance to play 1-2 times per week. I am a proud husband to my wife, Mandy, and dad to our two great boys, Josh and Aiden.

Coaching Philosophy:

My coaching style can be described as inclusive and team-oriented, engaged, and empathetic.

We win and lose as a team, and everyone including players, coaches and trainers have a role to play in our success. I welcome suggestions and input from team staff and afford them necessary autonomy to effectively guide and develop our players. I have zero tolerance for trash-talk and other negative commentary between players.

I take an active role in practices and behind the bench during games. This means jumping into drills during practice to help create more energy or to demonstrate a tactic. It also means delivering frequent, individual and immediate feedback to players at the end of their shift. I use positive reinforcement as much as possible and am deliberate and targeted when seeking corrective action. I do not support constantly barking and yelling instructions at players while on the ice – they need time and space to make their own decisions out there.

Having played competitive hockey as a youth, and still playing hockey today, I can appreciate players' efforts and the need to make decisions quickly on the ice. I can also appreciate that sometimes we make mistakes or pucks don't bounce our way. That's okay. That's hockey, and life more generally. None of us is perfect. What's most important is how we respond when faced with adversity and that's my focus with my players.

Commitment:

I am asking players to commit to the following as a team member.

Strong work ethic: You come to every practice and game prepared to work hard and with a focused mindset. You bring a high compete level to each shift and drill, characterized by high energy and elevated tempo. At the end of each drill, shift, practice, or game, you can truly say to yourself, "I gave everything I had."

Attitude: You carry a positive mindset and demonstrate resilience under adverse conditions. When things are not going your way on the ice, you remain disciplined and composed. You do not respond by yelling and blaming others, lying on the ice waiting for a referee's call, disengaging from the team, nor by retaliating and taking unwarranted penalties. Instead, you pick yourself up, quickly recapture your focus, and keep working hard towards our goal.

Respect: You show unwavering respect towards your teammates, coaches, trainers, referees, opponents, and most importantly, towards yourself. Hockey is a great game where skills take time and lots of practice to develop and perfect. Be patient with yourself and celebrate your incremental improvements.

In addition, players can expect to be on the ice 3-4 times per week between games and practices, along with possibility of an off-ice training session during the week to support overall fitness and athleticism. Attendance at all team events is expected. Beyond family and school, players should be prepared to prioritize hockey over all other activities.

In return, as Head Coach I commit to providing a safe and fun hockey environment, to being present and engendering a positive player experience, to fostering skill development and improvement during the season, and to supporting my players' overall hockey journey as best I can beyond the season.

Tournaments:

Tournament play will become clearer as we get closer to the start of the season. I anticipate participation in four tournaments during the season. Please anticipate two local tournaments and two travel tournaments which will entail overnight stays.

Team Fees:

Families can expect a team fee of between \$1,800 and \$2,000 in addition to the KMHA registration fee. These fees are for ice time, officials, tournaments, team activities and other fees needed to run the team. I anticipate bringing in external resources to support on- and off-ice development from time to time during the season. A full budget will be presented after tryouts. Team fees may be offset by proceeds from fundraising activities through the season.

Tryouts:

All tryouts will follow the pathways program which will entail 4 pathways pre-skates followed by formal tryouts afterwards. All tryout information will be posted online on the KMHA website. Evaluations will involve non-parent player and goalie evaluators who will help choose the team. Release feedback will only be provided for the last day of releases.

Thank you for this opportunity and I look forward to working with your kids in the Fall. Enjoy the summer!

Neville Arjani

Head Coach, KMHA U12B