

# KANATA BLAZERS U15B – 2025/26 SEASON

## COACH'S LETTER – SEAN MACDONALD



Dear Parents and Players,

My name is Sean MacDonald, and I'm excited to be the Head Coach of the Kanata Blazers U15B team for the 2025/26 season. Growing up playing competitive hockey in Eastern Canada gave me some of my best memories and lifelong friendships—and I'm truly looking forward to helping create the same kind of experience for our players this year.

Over the years, I've served as a head coach, assistant coach, and team manager at various levels within KMHA. I believe strongly in building a team culture that's not just about hockey, but about developing young athletes into confident, respectful, and resilient individuals.

### TEAM PHILOSOPHY

Our success will be built on five core principles:

- **Positive Attitude** – We're here to compete, but we're also here to have fun and enjoy the game.
- **Respect** – For teammates, coaches, officials, opponents—and the game itself.
- **Team First** – Selflessness, support, and commitment to shared goals. We win and lose together.
- **Hard Work** – Consistent effort in practices, games, and off-ice training is expected.
- **Continuous Improvement** – Every player will be challenged to set goals and grow each week.

### SEASON STRUCTURE

We anticipate **3–4 ice times per week**, including practices and games. In addition to league play, we plan to participate in **4-5 tournaments**:

- **Halton Hills – Best of the Best | Oct 10–12, 2025 (Halton Hills, ON)**
- **International Silver Stick® | Nov 21–23, 2025 (Pembroke, ON)**
- **Tentative: Coco Lemay Tournament | Dec 5–7, 2025 (Rockland, ON)**
- **Capital Winter Classic | Jan 2–4, 2026 (Hosted by Kanata Blazers)**
- **Melanie Clancy Memorial | Jan 29–Feb 1, 2026 (Peterborough, ON)**

Estimated **team fees** for the season will be approximately **\$2,000 per player**.

## **PRACTICES & PLAYER DEVELOPMENT**

Our practices will be **high-tempo, focused, and purposeful**, with an emphasis on:

- Individual skill development
- Team systems and structure
- Improving hockey IQ and situational awareness

My goal is for every player to **leave the rink better than they arrived**, every single week.

## **TRYOUT INFORMATION**

Tryouts for the U15B team will be held in **September**, and will include a mix of skill sessions and games. Players will be evaluated by an **independent panel** based on:

- **Team Play** – Communication, selflessness, and team-first mindset
- **Attitude** – Leadership and positivity
- **Skill Level** – Puck control, passing, shooting, and scoring ability
- **Compete Level** – Work ethic, hustle, and ambition
- **Physicality** – Strength, speed, agility, and willingness to engage
- **Game Intelligence** – Smart decisions, adaptability, positional awareness
- **Coachability** – Open to feedback, responsive to direction

The full tryout schedule will be posted on the KMHA website once available:

<https://kmha.ca/competitive-tryout-schedule/>

I'm looking forward to a fun, competitive, and rewarding season. See you at the rink!

Sincerely,

**Sean MacDonald**

Head Coach – KMHA Blazers U15B