#  Novice “A” Welcome Letter

On behalf of KMHA I would like to welcome you to the 2013/14 hockey season and to the Novice A Competitive program.

My name is Scott Dexter and I am excited to be this year’s coach. I have been either playing or coaching for over forty years now. I love the game and what it teaches people. I have coached teams from IP through to the College level and will be entering my 5th consecutive year at the novice level (I was an assistant with last year’s team).

Our team will be on the Ice 3-4 times per week on average and we will also be hosting some brief meetings to teach the players rules and concepts so that we can maximize our practice ice for individual and team skill development. It is expected that players are to attend all team events throughout the season. In addition to the time commitment, families should be aware that there is an increased financial commitment. Our draft budget is approximately $ 17,000 or $ 1,000 per player. Fundraising will be encouraged and can help offset some of the costs.

We will be attending three tournaments this season with the possibility of a fourth if we happen to win the Silver Stick. The following tournaments have been booked:

 Kingston Canadians - October 18-20th

Cobourg Silver Stick - November 29- December 1st

Ottawa Sens Holiday Classic – Dec 13-15th

Tryout Schedule is posted at [www.kmha.ca](http://www.kmha.ca) . I will contact each family to confirm tryout times. Players will be evaluated by me and several independent evaluators all with many years of playing and/or coaching experience. We will be looking for players with good individual skills but just as important we will be looking for players that are: hard workers, good teammates, willing to learn and be coached, are aggressive and want to compete and have potential to improve over the course of the season. We will be selecting 15 skaters and 2 goalies. Due to the limited amount of playing experience by these players, the coaching staff will attempt to identify what position best suits each player in order for us to field our strongest possible team. Players can be moved to a different position at the coach’s discretion at any time throughout the season.

Finally my philosophy on coaching this age group! Given this is only the second year that Novice “A” has been offered in Ottawa I view this program as an introduction to competitive hockey. I want the kids to love the game of hockey and get the most they can from it. So I will really strive to create a fun atmosphere. That being said hard work will be required. I will challenge them to become better individual and team players and get them to develop the habits that will not only help them on the ice but will also help them throughout their lives.

If you have any questions you can email me at sdexter@rogers.com