



Welcome to the 2017-2018 Hockey Season! My name is Paul Barnes and I will be the Head Coach for this year's KMHA, Major Atom A Blazers Hockey Team. I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with some information about myself, my coaching philosophy, evaluation / tryout process and the season plan.

As a member of KMHA, I have been coaching minor hockey since 2012 at both the house and competitive levels. However, I have been involved in this great game my entire life either as a player, referee or coach. It is an honor to be trusted to build and develop this team and provide your child with a challenging, positive and fun hockey season.

Coaching Philosophy

I believe that team sports and activities are a vital part of a child's growth, development, personality and character. For me, Hockey is an excellent way to teach many of the critical inter-personal life skills that will help a child excel as they mature, while enjoying Canada's Game.

Teamwork, discipline, respect, friendship, accountability, fitness, work ethic and fair play are all life skills that I've developed from hockey and I am passionate to share these learnings with children through hockey.

Coaching Principles

There will be three primary rules for this team: 1. Listen and be respectful at all times 2. Always work your hardest 3. Have Fun.

Individually, my goal is to develop each player's skills and tactics through high tempo, high repetition and well-designed practices. Then utilize and apply these skills in all game situations. It is also important to understand that not all players are at the same level and will require individual one on one work to develop further.

As a coach, I am enthusiastic, knowledgeable, consistent, hardworking and organized. I am also very passionate about team and team play! As such, there will be no assignment of Captains, Assistant Captains nor will there be individual recognition based on points.

Evaluations and Tryouts

Most players trying out for this "A" team will be making the move from a competitive B or House League team. That means a significant increase in competition level. Therefore, the evaluation panel will be instructed to identify players who are strong skaters, competitive and hardworking (with AND without the puck).

In addition, I will be selecting players who are good listeners, follow instruction well and are team players who show good potential and keenness for continued improvement. During tryout, this evaluation will take place via on-ice practice sessions, inter-squad / exhibition games and individual parent / player meetings. The evaluation panel will be comprised of several Non-Parent independent evaluators to ensure objective measurement of all players.

The dates and times for the tryouts will be posted on the KMHA website <http://kmha.ca/> later in the summer and I will be contacting registered players to confirm your attendance.

Season Plan

As with all competitive sports, this team will require a significant time and financial commitment. This year you can expect 4-5 activities per week. Typically, 2 league games and 2-3 practices, dry-land training or team building.

In addition, there will be 3 tournaments, 2 of which will be out of town.

September 15 – 17 - Richmond Hill Hockey – Mary Parkinson Memorial Early Bird Tournament

December 1 – 3 - Northumberland Minor Hockey – 2017 Northumberland Silver Stick

The final local tournament has yet to be confirmed. When it has, this letter will be updated.

Financially, families can expect additional (on top of KMHA registration and tryout costs) team fees of approximately \$1350-\$1750 depending on the level of team fundraising or sponsorship that can be secured. Finally, it is expected that each player be outfitted in a KMHA track suit and winter coat at your cost.

The expectation for selected players is that they will attend, to the best of the family's ability, all scheduled team events.

I understand the responsibility that comes with being a minor hockey coach in a competitive organization. To fulfill that responsibility I invest a lot of time and energy into delivering a high quality program for all players and parents. In return, my 'ask' is for 100% player and family buy-in. This year, individual and team successes will not be measured only with wins and losses; rather they will be direct reflection of that team buy-in.

If you have any questions, would like further program / team clarification or would like to provide feedback, you can connect with me at paul.cf.barnes@gmail.com

Enjoy your summer and I look forward to seeing you at the rink in August.