

RDGHA Competitive Program

My name is Dan Daoust and I will be coaching the U11 Russell Coyotes competitive team for the 2026-2027 season. This will be my 4th year in the Coyotes association and my 3rd as a coach, however it will be my first as a head coach. I fell in love with the sport of hockey at a very young age. I was fortunate enough to be coached by my father for much of my youth hockey career and always said I would love to coach myself one day... all that to say, I couldn't be more excited to be coaching the U11 competitive team!

I am excited to get started with the tryouts in April and May and wanted to share a little about myself, my approach, and some expectations for the players and parents for the upcoming season.

My main goals this year are to:

- Develop individuals– each practice will have time set aside for the girls to work on their individual skills such as skating, shooting, and puck handling. As a group, they will improve their individual skills and personal traits to be their best selves for their teammates.
- Foster teamwork – through on ice and off ice activities, the girls will work hard together to help each other be successful. The girls will start learning specific positions and positioning, how to support one another on and off the ice, and how to succeed as a team.
- HAVE FUN – More than anything, the girls need to be excited to show up to team activities and be ready to have a great time. Youth hockey doesn't last forever – they deserve to have fun first and foremost.

To be clear, this is a competitive team. The aim will be to find success as a team: win games, go deep in tournaments, and push for a league championship.

As players, I expect the girls to show up to our activities ready to work. They will need to listen to their coaches, work hard for their teammates and their own development, and want to win games. There will be take-home assignments for the girls such as watching specific informational videos and participating in a shooting challenge – I expect the girls to put in the work for themselves and their teammates. I will be regularly communicating with the individual girls - supporting their growth, providing constructive feedback, and reinforcing their strengths.

As parents, you can expect upwards of 80 ice times between the end of August through April, including 1-2 practices a week, 1-2 games per week, various off-ice training activities, and advanced skill development sessions. I plan to book 4 tournaments through the year – 2 away tournaments early in the season to foster friendships and develop a strong team culture, followed by 2 local tournaments. The team will also compete for a spot at the OWSA Provincial Championship held each April. In 2025-2026, the U11 competitive team played ~60 games – while I can't predict the exact amount, I do expect our game total to be similar.



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As a coach, I will always be available to players and parents for questions and concerns. I will be as open as possible, providing regular updates to the parents on upcoming activities, as well as doing my best to plan activities as far in advance as possible. I show up to the rink early and stick around after and I look forward to getting to know all the players and parents and fostering great relationships.

I am very excited to be coaching the U11 competitive team! I'll see you at the tryouts!



www.russellcoyotes.ca