

Dear U11 Players and Parents,

I am very honoured and excited to be selected head coach for the U11 competitive team for the 2024-2025 season. I would like to take a moment to outline my background, coaching philosophy, tryouts, expectations, and season plan for the upcoming season.

Background

For those who don't know me, I am 19 years old and was raised in Smiths Falls. I started playing minor hockey in 2009 and ended in 2022. In my minor hockey career, I was coached by many High-Performance coaches, some of which coached me during my four years in CPGHA Tier 1. Since graduating as a player in 2022, I have gone on to coach 3 years of girl's hockey, along with being a coach/instructor for the Ottawa Valley Selects. I am looking forward to entering my fourth-year coaching in CP this upcoming year.

Philosophy

Everyone on my team receives equal opportunities to grow, learn, and contribute. My goal this season is to build confident and believing athletes, and I will do so by fostering an environment where they feel empowered to perform, strive for personal best over competition, and instilling a passion for this sport. Most importantly I hope to create a safe and nurturing environment. No Victory is worth risking the well-being of my players.

Tryouts

Tryouts are highly competitive; this can create a stressful environment for these young hockey players. I ask all players to be confident and perform for yourself. During tryouts, I am looking for skating, shooting, passing, hockey IQ, sportsmanship, hard work, and character. Tryouts will be hosted in the fall, and reminder to all players, hockey isn't perfect, mistakes will be made, learn from it. Best of luck.

Expectations

I know what it takes to be committed to a competitive team, but one must never lose sight of the fun and love this sport has to offer. I bring a firm approach and have an expectation that players work hard, play with discipline, encourage, support each other, and compete with passion. Winning is not the only goal; my goal is to teach, develop, motivate, and inspire. I believe the most important factor in developing an athlete is belief. There's nothing more powerful than a coach who believes in their players. I will need commitment from all players and parents because I have learned over my years in coaching that the most important word in hockey is TEAM.

Season plan

Hockey season is the busiest time of the year but ends up going so fast. I will be looking for two away and two local tournaments plus striving for provincials. The team budget will be determined at the beginning of the season and discussed in the team meeting at that time. We will have three to four team events a week including practices, off ice training, games, and team bonding. I am a big believer in team bonding. I will be asking all players to attend the team meeting because I would like to go over player rules and introduce myself.

Looking forward to meeting you all in the fall.

Coach Haley

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