

Dear Parents, I'd like to introduce myself, Matt Huntley, as the coach of the U9C Carleton Place Cyclones for the 2025-26 season. I am an approachable and collaborative coach and I look forward to working with my fellow coaches, players, and parents to create a supportive, and inclusive team culture. I believe that teamwork extends beyond the ice and helps to build a foundation of respect and unity within the team, the CP Cyclones as an organization, and the community as a whole.

Coaching Philosophy and Season Goals

My plan for the season will center on skill development, teamwork, communication, sportsmanship, and creating a positive, fun environment.

Skill Development: At this stage in their hockey journey, our main goal is to help players improve their fundamental skills. This includes skating, passing, shooting, and positioning. We will focus on building confidence in their abilities, while also pushing players to challenge themselves.

Teamwork and Communication: Hockey is a team sport, and it's important that the girls understand the value of working together. We will encourage open communication both on and off the ice, and reinforce the idea that success is a collective effort.

Sportsmanship: How we handle wins, losses, and everything in between defines who we are as athletes. I will stress the importance of showing respect for teammates, opponents, coaches, referees, and the game itself. Developing resilience, grace under pressure, and a positive attitude is as important as developing skill.

Fun and Passion: Above all, hockey should be fun. This is a time for our girls to fall in love with the sport, build friendships, and create memories. The joy they get from playing the game will fuel their drive to improve and succeed.

For this age group, my definition for success is that every player improves by the end of the season and continues to enjoy playing the sport of hockey.

Season Expectations

Parents, your support and involvement is crucial to our teams success. Throughout the season outside of regular practices and games, you can expect team activities, and team building to be a regular part of our season. Building a sense of camaraderie off the ice encourages engagement, builds trust, and further cements the sense of belonging they need as a team. We will have game comprehension sessions ahead of some of our practices. For these sessions players will need to arrive 45 mins early to practices. For regular practices players can arrive 30 mins before ice time. Players are expected to arrive 45-60 mins before all games. Expected arrival times will be communicated throughout the season.

For the season, you can expect 3-4 tournaments with at least two away (to be confirmed). Team fees and budget will be calculated once the team roster is finalized.

I believe parents participation to be imperative in building a strong foundation in sport. I ask that parents be actively involved with the team, lead by example, cheer for all players, respect the coaches and referees, and demonstrate good sportsmanship and the values of our team and league.

Equipment

Players will be required to wear navy blue pants to all games. We encourage any other Cyclones gear, but it is not required. Further, for games, players are required to wear black helmets for the season. Other coloured helmets may be worn during practices only.

Coaches and bench staff will be required to wear some form of visible Cyclones gear to all games.

Staff

I will be looking for dedicated individuals who like to get involved. People who identify with my philosophy and will support our season plan with a positive attitude. Although it is not required, I am strongly encouraging female volunteers to join our coaching staff. I will be looking for several assistant coaches, a goalie coach, and a trainer. There will be other roles and opportunities to contribute to the team once the team is selected.

Communication

Clear and open communication is key to a successful season. If you ever have questions, concerns, or feedback, please reach out to me directly. We will be using RAMP to keep everyone informed about scheduling and I plan to hold a parent and team meeting once the team is selected and to go over rules and expectations for players and parents.

I'd like to thank the Carleton Place Girls Hockey Association for this opportunity and am looking forward to a fantastic season!

Best regards,

Matt Huntley
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