

Dear U11B Cyclones Families,

I'm excited to be returning as the U11B Head Coach. I'm really looking forward to being back behind the bench and welcoming the next group of athletes to the ice this season.

U11 is such an important stage in a player's hockey journey. At this age, development truly matters — but so does enjoyment. I firmly believe that when players are having fun, feel supported, and enjoy coming to the rink, they are far more open to being challenged and motivated to improve.

Coaching Philosophy

My coaching philosophy is built around three core principles:

Development. Effort. Enjoyment.

We will place a strong emphasis on fundamentals, including skating, puck skills, hockey IQ, and teamwork. Practices will be structured, purposeful, and high-energy, while still engaging and competitive in ways that keep players motivated and excited to learn.

I want our players to:

- Work hard and compete every shift
- Support and respect their teammates
- Build confidence in their abilities
- Embrace challenges and learn from mistakes

Growth often comes from stepping outside of comfort zones, but players develop best in an environment where they feel encouraged and supported. Mistakes will be treated as learning opportunities, and consistent effort will always be valued.

Most importantly, I want every athlete to continue building their love for the game. When players enjoy the process, improvement follows naturally.

Coaching Background

This will be my fourth season as a Head Coach within the organization. Prior to that, I served as an Assistant Coach with the Northern Ontario Hockey Association.

Outside of minor hockey, I spent two years as a Strength Coach for the Sudbury Special Olympics Powerlifting Team and ten years training members of the Canadian Forces. These experiences have shaped my coaching style — structured and disciplined, while always maintaining a strong focus on individual growth, accountability, and positive team culture.

Coaching is something I genuinely care about, and I'm committed to creating a development-focused experience where players grow not only as athletes, but also as teammates and individuals.

What to Expect This Season

- Structured, high-energy practices
- A strong focus on individual skill development
- Age-appropriate team concepts and systems
- A respectful, team-first culture
- An environment where effort, attitude, and commitment matter

At this level, success isn't defined solely by wins and losses. It's measured by improvement, confidence, teamwork, and how we represent our team and association both on and off the ice.

Player Commitment & Expectations

Players are expected to actively engage in team activities throughout the season, including practices, games, off-ice training, and team-building opportunities. These commitments will typically take place **three to four times per week** and are designed to help us grow as a team while supporting each player's individual development.

We will also participate in **four tournaments over the course of the season — two local tournaments and two away tournaments**. These events provide exciting opportunities for players to showcase their hard work, compete together as a group, and continue building team chemistry.

I encourage each player to bring their best effort, a positive attitude, and a strong sense of commitment. Full dedication to the team not only contributes to our collective success, but also plays a huge role in individual growth and confidence.

Tryouts

Tryout information will be shared once finalized. I encourage players to arrive ready to work hard, listen, compete, and most importantly, enjoy the opportunity to be on the ice.

Communication

Open and respectful communication is important to me. I will provide regular updates throughout the season and am always open to constructive conversations. Strong

communication between coaches, players, and families is key to a positive and successful season.

With committed athletes and strong parent support, I truly believe we can create a season defined by growth, effort, teamwork, and a genuine love for hockey.

I'm looking forward to what's ahead and to getting started with the group.

Sincerely,

Steve Corbin