



Dear U9 Parents,

As we gear up for the upcoming U9B girls' hockey season, I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself and share some important information around my coaching philosophies and goals for the season.

My name is Darren MacDonald, and I am honored to have been selected as Head Coach for this season. Hockey is not just a sport; it's a wonderful opportunity for our young athletes to learn teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. I am committed to creating a positive and encouraging environment where each player can develop their skills and love for the game. I grew up playing hockey at a young age and had the opportunity to play high levels of competitive hockey across North America and look forward to sharing those experiences.

Philosophy:

Teaching and fostering a team-first culture is a priority for me that will help the girls develop both as a player and as an individual. While winning is always a great feeling, it is important that we win as a team, lose as a team, learn as a team and have fun as a team.

Our focus this season will be on fundamental skill development, teamwork, and sportsmanship. I encourage all players to give their best effort, support their teammates, and most importantly, have fun. My goal is to create an environment where our players look forward to practice and games and are excited to participate and spend time with their teammates. Players that have fun are always more engaged, motivated and eager to learn.

Season Overview:

Commitment: The season will consist of weekly practices and games, with 3-4 tournaments throughout the year. Being present and engaged for both games and practices will be important for the development of each player. For all games, it is expected that players arrive one hour before game time. A detailed schedule of the season will be provided when it becomes available.

Team Fees and Budget will be calculated once the team is selected.

Equipment: It is expected that each player has a Cyclones tracksuit to wear to and from all games. It is also expected that all players have a Cyclones pant shell and black helmet for the season.



Communication:

Communication is imperative to ensure this season is a success. I have an open-door policy where everyone is welcome to communicate any questions or concerns.

We will be using RAMP to keep everyone informed about practice times, game schedules, and any changes. Please make sure to check regularly for updates. I plan to hold a parent and team meeting to review the season once the team is selected and to go over any further questions.

Staff:

I will be looking for motivated and knowledgeable individuals who I believe will make a positive impact for our team and shares similar goals outlined above to make our season successful. I will be looking for assistant coaches, a trainer and a dedicated team manager.

Expectations:

Parents, your support is crucial. Having your daughters to the rink on time and ready to play is imperative. Please cheer for all players, respect the referees, and foster a positive atmosphere.

I am looking forward to a fantastic season filled with growth, learning, and lots of fun. Thank you for your support and cooperation. Let's make this season memorable for our young athletes! If there are any questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

Best regards,

Darren MacDonald

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