My name is Louis Charland and I am honored to be the U11B Kanata Rangers hockey coach for the 2023-24 season.

I hope this letter finds you well and filled with excitement for the upcoming hockey season. I have been coaching minor hockey and skills in various capacities since 2005 and this will be my third year as a head coach, first at KGHA. I look forward to leveraging this experience and my leadership abilities to have a successful hockey year. The primary goal this season will be to foster a safe and respectful environment where girls can grow not only as hockey players but most importantly as individuals. Here is a brief overview of the themes we will be focusing on this season:

Being a good teammate: hockey is a team sport, and being a good teammate is of paramount importance. The values of teamwork, sportsmanship, and support for each other both on and off the ice will be emphasized throughout the season to the girls. Together, we will create a positive and inclusive team culture.

Developing hockey skills: continuously working on improving hockey skills is essential for growth, especially at U11. I am committed to providing quality instruction, progressive and meaningful practice sessions that will enhance the development of each player's fundamental skills, tactical proficiency and introduce team play concepts. Individual development will be prioritized while emphasizing the importance of collective success.

Emphasis on hard work: success on the ice begins with a strong work ethic and commitment to one’s craft. I will work to instill in players the values of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. These qualities will not only serve them well in hockey but also in all aspects of life.

Fun and passion: we all want our girls to love being active and playing the game of hockey. While we will work hard to develop their skills, I will also ensure that practices, games, and team events are filled with fun and excitement. My objective is that every girl looks forward to stepping onto the ice to play hockey and being with their teammates, this year and into the future.

Throughout the season, there will be an average of four team events per week, including the occasional off-ice training. These events will not only help improve the girls' fitness and physical development but also strengthen team bonds and create lasting memories. Families can expect a team fee of $1,600. These fees are in addition to the KGHA registration fees. More information, and the team budget, will be discussed at a parent meeting that will take place once the team has been formed.

The team will participate in four tournaments: Etobicoke (13 to 15 October), Kanata (17 to 19 November), Quebec City (8 to 10 December), and Nepean (2 to 4 February). These tournaments are evenly spread out throughout the year to ease the load on families and provide girls with time to improve from one tournament to the next. They will provide valuable opportunities for girls to test their skills and progressively showcase their growth.

I am committed to open communication with both players and parents. A strong and respectful partnership between coaches, parents, and players is crucial for the success and enjoyment of the season. I look forward to building these strong relationships and connecting with the girls. Players (and their parents) will be expected to display a similar commitment towards the team and its staff, along with a commitment to attending team events, and doing so with an attitude and work ethic that aligns with the values expressed in this letter.

Ultimately, I will do my very best to nurture our young athletes into confident, skilled, and resilient individuals both on and off the ice and provide them with unique experiences. Looking forward to seeing the progress and fun times that this upcoming season will bring. See you at the rink in September.

Louis Charland