

Hello Everyone,

My name is Karolina Hanham, and I am very excited to have been selected to be the head coach of the U9 Tier 1 team for the 2023-2024 season with KGHA. This is my ninth year of coaching, and third as a head coach. My playing career started with boys competitive in Carleton Place, but as I got older, I started playing with NCCP (National Capital Competitive Program) out of Ottawa where I played girls competitive AA hockey. I also spent three of my high school years at a prep school in New Hampshire, where I was a multisport varsity athlete. After graduating I played hockey in University and College. I still play in the women's hybrid AA-A league.

Hannah Newsome will be joining the coaching staff as a non-parent coach again this season. I have had the privilege to work with Hannah the past two seasons in KGHA and Hannah is an amazing young adult who is fantastic with the players. Hannah is a very committed non-parent coach and I feel honored that she is joining our group again this year. Hannah has a wealth of knowledge to provide and allows us to have a goalie coach. Hannah spent her minor hockey competitive career as a goaltender in the KGHA organization, so we are thrilled that she has that history to share with the players.

### **Philosophy**

As part of my philosophy, I believe that it is very important to create a safe, positive, and fun learning environment for these young hockey players that challenges them to grow not only as hockey players but as human beings as well. With this part of the philosophy, it is not only the players that need to be fully committed; my expectations are that the coaching staff, parents, and players are all committed to this environment.

I have found that the most successful seasons come from players developing both on and off the ice. Off ice activities will work on developing communication skills that will help players develop both in working as a team and independently. On the ice we will work on individual tactics as well as how to implement those tactics into team play. I am a firm believer of having players work together as a team versus as individuals on the ice. There will be a lot of on ice work that will look like team play but they will always have players working on multiple individual skills.

The balance of the coaching staff will be built after tryouts are completed and will be complimentary to myself and Hannah. They will bring a different voice for the players while supporting the same philosophy I have mentioned above. The coaching staff will maintain a safe, encouraging, and fun learning environment. The people added to the coaching staff will be positive people who will help foster a positive learning environment.

My expectations will be for all coaching staff, players, and parents to aid in creating a positive and safe environment for the players while they are working on strengthening their individual skills and their team skills.

### **Commitment**

This season we will have three to five hockey commitments per week, that will vary between on-ice and off-ice. There are no set days for these commitments. Off-ice activities will work on communication and working together as a team.

The priority for players will always be family, school, and then hockey. If there are family or school commitments that conflict with hockey, please treat these as a priority over hockey. My expectation is that if there is a hockey conflict with another sport or activity that hockey will supersede that conflict. If there is a conflict we would greatly appreciate as much notice as possible, so that we can plan accordingly for practice groups and call-ups.

### **Season & Tournament Schedule**

At this time, we do not know how many games we will play this season, but it is usually around 20 games. The first half of the season will be half ice games, and for the second half we will switch to full ice games.

We are hoping to take part in the below tournaments.  
Etobicoke Pink the Rink Tournament – October 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 2023

KGHA Tournament – November 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Clarington – January 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 2024  
Oshawa – March 1<sup>st</sup> – March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024  
Provincial Championships (season dependent) – April 2024

### **Team Fees**

Team fees will be between \$1,400-\$1,600. Please note that these fees are in addition to KGHA registration fees. Tournament hotels and travel expenses are of course additional. In addition to these expenses, for some, there will be the need to purchase additional items such as track jackets, name bars, and any other clothing or equipment to adhere to the KGHA competitive dress code. The team budget will be determined at the start of the season and discussed at the first parents' meeting.

### **Tryouts**

For the tryouts our evaluations will start as soon as the players arrive to the rink. As we want to try to have a cohesive group, we will be watching to see how all players interact with instructors, peers, and parents while off the ice, on the ice, and on the bench. **For Tryouts, the evaluation group will be looking for skilled, determined, hard-working and coachable kids with respectful attitudes.**

For on ice evaluations, the drills will incorporate individual skills, compete, small area, and scrimmage scenarios. Our goal is to build the best possible roster of players that align with the philosophy previously mentioned in this letter. Having a team that can work together, have fun, and complement each other's skills is a goal for this season.

Tryout schedule can be found at the below link:

<https://kgaha.ca/content/u9-and-u11-tryout-schedule>

Release feedback will only be provided to the last day releases.

I look forward to the opportunity to working with all the players selected for this upcoming season.

Good Luck to all players coming to tryouts!

Thank you,

Coach Karolina