**Welcome to U15 C Aaron Murray**

My name is Aaron Murray, and I am very excited to have been selected to coach the U15 C Rangers for the 2023-24 season. I have been coaching in KGHA since 2016, both in Head Coach and Assistant Coach roles for various House and DS teams. This season will be my first moving up to coaching at the competitive level and I am looking forward to the challenges and rewards I expect to come with that.

Coaching Philosophy

As a head coach, I will be focused on individual player skill development while working with the players in terms of positive personal growth and empowerment. Throughout the season we will work on fundamental, individual skills, and decision making. We will work with the players to understand and implement team tactics and systems appropriate for this level. I believe in setting expectations in terms of effort and behaviour and rewarding the players when they meet or exceed those standards. I will work hard to give the players the right structure to allow them to learn and excel while also becoming more confident as individuals and increasing their love of the game.

I will be looking for players who have a team first mentality, who bring positivity when they enter the rink and towards their teammates, that are willing and eager to learn and push themselves as individual players, and who want to learn how to come together to play collectively as a team.

I am also a strong believer in the “17 Strong” concept, and the development of players within KGHA and not just the members of my team. When individuals are absent or injured, I will be looking to U15 DS or U13 competitive teams for call ups. I will therefore invite potential affiliate players to participate in practices to help them develop and be ready if and when they are needed.

The rest of my coaching staff will be selected after tryouts. I will be looking for individuals to round out my staff that can bring their experience and unique skills to complement me and bring different voices to work with the team and keep them engaged.

Expected Commitment

Based on past seasons, you can expect around 4 activities per week (potentially both on and off ice).

As this is a competitive level hockey program, I will expect a lot of each player in terms of work ethic, personal commitment, and a commitment to collectively work towards team goals. Team expectations will be defined by the coaches and players at the beginning of the season.

I really want to focus on creating a positive environment for the players, both in terms of their peer relationships and in working with myself and the other coaches. The expectation is that every player and family is fully committed to the team ahead of any other activities and will be bringing a positive attitude and a strong desire to work hard and improve.

Tournaments

We will be looking to participate in 5 tournaments, likely 2 local and 3 away. We will also be competing to go to provincials, which would be an extra away tournament should we qualify.

The planned tournaments so far are:

Pink the Rink Tournament, Etobicoke, ON – mid-October

Kanata Annual Competitive Tournament, Kanata, ON – late-November

Several other tournaments are being considered at this time, including potentially playing up in a B level tournament in the Toronto area later in the year. Plans will be finalized closer to the beginning of the season.

Team fees

The expectation for team fees will be around $1,750 to $2,000. These fees are in addition to the KGHA registration fees. The final team budget will be determined at the beginning of the season and discussed and agreed upon at the parent meeting.

Tryouts

In terms of the tryouts, our evaluation process has already begun and will continue as soon as players get to the rink for tryout sessions. This includes pre-practice, bench behaviour, and post-practice sportsmanship. On ice we will be evaluating attitude, skating and puck handling, hockey sense and team play, work ethic and compete level. Note that players are only guaranteed one skate at each level of tryouts.

If interested, **feedback can be provided 24 hours after the last tryout session for players released after the final tryout session only**.

I look forward to going through the tryout process over the coming weeks and the opportunity to work with your child.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out at any time.

Thanks,

Aaron Murray

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