

Dear Parents & Players,

My name is Robbie Moreland, and I am thrilled to have been named Head Coach for the U9-Tier 1 Team and am looking forward to a fantastic season ahead.

I have been involved with KGHA for the past four years in a variety of coaching roles working with the U7-U11 cohorts. Over these years, I have developed a hockey philosophy that I believe fosters not only skill development but also personal growth.

My philosophy is focused on **three** main areas

1. **Building a Strong Team:** I believe that a team is more than just a group of individuals. It's about creating a supportive environment where everyone feels valued and contributes to the team's success.
2. **Maintaining a Positive Attitude:** A positive attitude is contagious and can uplift the entire team. I encourage all players to stay positive, regardless of the situation, as it helps to build resilience and perseverance.
3. **Always Bringing Their Best Effort:** Effort is something within each player's control. I encourage all players to always give their best, regardless of the outcome.

For the first half of the season, our focus will be on individual skill development. This includes improving skating, stick handling, shooting, and passing skills. The second half of the season, we will introduce game play structure and tactics while transitioning to full ice games.

Commitment/Player Expectations

This season players can anticipate having **3-5** commitments per week between practices, games and the occasional off-ice activity early in the season to work on team building. The priority will always be family, school and then hockey. However, the expectation is that hockey will supersede any other extra-curricular activities if scheduling conflicts arise. Of course, there will certainly be times when conflicts occur throughout the season – the ask is to provide as much notice as possible so that we may be able plan accordingly for practices and the opportunity for call ups.

Team Fees

Team fees will be approximately **\$1,800** and will vary depending on the level of fundraising and sponsorship efforts. Please note that these fees are in addition to KGHA registration fees. Tournament hotels and travel costs are at the individual's expense. For some, there will be the need to purchase items such as Kanata Rangers 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.

Season & Tournament Schedule

The typical U9 season is **20 games** against the local Ottawa and surrounding area teams. Games will be played on half ice through mid January when we transition to full ice games.

We are hoping to take part in the below tournaments with **2 local and 3 away** tournaments spread out across the season including registering within the U9A division for Oshawa. The U9 age group automatically qualifies for Provincials in April.

- ☐ **Etobicoke Pink the Rink (B)**– October 18th -20th 2024
- ☐ **KGHA (B)** – November 15-17th, 2024
- ☐ **Nepean (B)** - Jan 31-Feb 2, 2025
- ☐ **Oshawa (A)** – March 1st – March 3rd, 2025
- ☐ **Provincial Championships** - Toronto – TBD - April 2025

Tryouts

Tryouts start as soon as the players arrive at the rink – evaluators will be watching to see how they interact amongst their peers, instructors and their parents off the ice. Not only are we looking to put together the most skilled combination of players – consideration will be given to players who best demonstrate the behaviours as outlined above in our season philosophy.

Tryouts will be structured to incorporate individual skills, compete levels, and small area scrimmages

For U9, all players are guaranteed 2 tryout sessions.

[Link to try out Schedule](#) *(Release feedback will only provided during the final round)*

Best of luck to all the players trying out!

Cheers,

Robbie Moreland

Head Coach – U9 Kanata Rangers 2024-25