



## Marc Barry - U13 A 2024/2025

My name is Marc Barry, and I am honoured to serve as the KGHA U13 A Head Coach for the 2024/2025 season. With over 13 years of experience coaching girls' hockey from U7 to U18 at the competitive level, I have a deep passion for the sport and a thorough understanding of youth hockey development. I have three daughters who have been involved with KGHA; two are currently playing at the U18 and U13 competitive levels, and one is a recent KGHA graduate. My recent experience as head coach of the U11 AA team has further enriched my perspective and approach.

This season, I am looking to build a team of girls who are not only passionate about hockey but are also committed to excelling in every aspect of the game. I plan to challenge each player to improve their conditioning, endurance, and stamina. While fun will be an integral part of our agenda, our primary focus will be on preparing players for the highest tiers of competitive hockey.

Success in sports extends beyond practices and games; therefore, I will rely on strong parental support to help manage critical aspects like sleep, diet, and general fitness. Our young athletes need a comprehensive support system to perform at their peak.

Moreover, commitment to the team includes adhering to our clear return-to-play guidelines, which will be crucial for managing injuries and health-related absences effectively.

My coaching philosophy is centered on fostering a positive and safe learning environment where progression and development are key. Through positive reinforcement and encouragement, I aim to motivate our players to work diligently, embrace risks, and experiment with new strategies. Transparency, open communication, and team cohesion will be our pillars this season. As I often say, "We work as a team, we win as a team."

## Commitment

For the upcoming season, each member of the U13 A team is expected to fulfill between 4 to 5 mandatory hockey commitments per week. These include a mix of on-ice practices and off-ice training sessions, commencing in the fall.

Our team values prioritize family, education, and hockey, in that order. However, the commitment to the team is critical and should take precedence over other sports and extracurricular activities during the season. If a player is involved in multiple activities and unable to meet our hockey commitment, I encourage considering a participation level that requires less time commitment.

I expect every player and their family to commit fully not only in terms of attendance but also by bringing a positive attitude, a strong work ethic, and a competitive spirit to every practice and game.

During the critical periods of Playdowns and Playoffs, where no call-ups are permitted, it is essential that all players are available. As you plan any family holidays, particularly in February and March, please keep the

team's schedule in mind. The absence of even one player can significantly impact our team's performance and dynamic. Your commitment to being present during these times is crucial for our success.

## Player Expectations

At the U13 A level, full participation is crucial for both on-ice and off-ice sessions. We understand that life's unforeseen circumstances, such as family emergencies or significant school obligations, can occasionally necessitate absences. We expect these instances to be communicated as promptly as possible.

As a feeder team for the KGHA AA levels, we uphold a high standard of commitment. Consistent attendance is key to personal and team development, and missed sessions can impact a player's game time. This is not merely a punitive measure but a reflection of our belief that regular participation is essential for skill improvement and team cohesion.

At the season's start, we will clearly outline our expectations and the potential consequences of unexcused absences. Both players and their parents/guardians will be involved in this discussion to ensure everyone understands and agrees upon these guidelines. Our goal is to foster a transparent and supportive environment where each player knows what is expected and feels motivated to contribute to all team activities.

## Team Fees

For the upcoming season, the estimated team fees are approximately \$2,400 per player. This estimate is based on our current understanding of costs but may vary depending on the success of our fundraising efforts and sponsorship contributions, as well as our qualification for the Provincials.

Please note that these team fees are in addition to the regular KGHA registration fees. The team fees typically cover expenses related to equipment, travel for tournaments, and any special training sessions that are part of our competitive program.

We will provide a detailed team budget during a parent meeting scheduled after the team formation. This meeting will be an important opportunity for all parents to understand the financial commitments, ask questions, and discuss potential fundraising activities and sponsorship opportunities that can help offset costs. We encourage all parents to attend to ensure clear communication and collective planning.

## Tournaments

This season, our team is scheduled to participate in five tournaments, in addition to competing in the Provincials, should we qualify. The tournaments have been selected based on their competitive level, the development opportunities they offer our players, and their geographic locations to minimize travel strain.

Specific dates and locations for these tournaments will be detailed at our upcoming parent meeting, where we will also discuss travel arrangements and potential accommodations. We aim to provide these details well in advance to allow ample time for planning and preparation.

By participating in these tournaments, our players will gain invaluable experience competing against diverse teams, which is crucial for their growth and success at the competitive level.

# Tryouts

As we prepare for the 2024/2025 Rangers U13 A season, I want to outline our tryout process, which begins the moment players arrive at the rink. Evaluation encompasses pre-practice behaviour, sportsmanship on the bench, and conduct post-practice, reflecting our commitment to fostering a respectful and team-oriented atmosphere.

On the ice, we are looking for players who not only display strong skating skills and positional play but also demonstrate a high level of coachability and work ethic. Our coaching staff, together with objective evaluators, will assess these elements to ensure a fair and comprehensive evaluation of each player's capabilities.

Per KGHA policy, detailed feedback from tryouts will be provided only at the final release. Players seeking feedback can request it from the VP of Competitive at [vpcompetitive@kgha.ca](mailto:vpcompetitive@kgha.ca). This ensures all players receive constructive and focused feedback that is consistent with our assessment criteria.

I am excited for the upcoming season and extend my best wishes to all players participating in the tryouts.

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