

Hello KGHA families,

My name is Ryan Brown, and I'm honoured to be named the Head Coach of the U9 Competitive team for the upcoming season. Over the past two seasons, I've had the privilege of coaching within the KGHA at the house league level, working with both U7 and U9 age groups. Through that experience, I've developed a strong understanding of the skills and mindset players need at this stage—and I'm excited to help guide this next group.

**My vision for the upcoming season:**

This team represents the youngest level of competitive hockey, and for most of the players, it will be their first experience in a competitive setting. That makes this season incredibly important—not just for developing hockey skills, but for setting the tone for their future in the game.

I aim to provide a positive experience that will keep players engaged and motivated to grow. That's why our focus this year will be on fun, confidence, and challenge—three core values that will guide everything we do.

**Fun:** Players should love coming to the rink. We'll work hard, but we'll also laugh, support one another, and create a team environment full of energy and enthusiasm.

**Confidence:** Whether it's learning a new skill or bouncing back from a mistake, I want each player to leave the rink feeling proud and empowered.

**Challenge:** We'll encourage every player to push outside their comfort zone—on the ice and off—to become better athletes, teammates, and people.

We'll build on core hockey skills like skating, puck handling, passing, shooting, and game sense while introducing age-appropriate systems and positioning. Just as importantly, we'll help players learn how to compete, how to lead, and how to be a great teammate.

**Tryouts:**

At tryouts, we'll be looking for players who demonstrate solid fundamentals—skating, puck control, passing, and shooting—as well as a positive attitude and a desire to learn. This season will bring new expectations and opportunities, and we're looking for athletes who are excited to grow, work hard, thrive in a team environment, and are ready to take the next step in their development.

**Tournaments:**

Our team will be taking part in two half-ice tournaments and two full-ice tournaments in addition to Provincials.

**Half-Ice**

Etobicoke – Pink The Rink: (Oct 17-19)

Kanata – Light The Rink, (Nov 14-16)

**Full-Ice**

Clarington Flames Fest (Jan 15-18)

Toronto Leaside March Matchup (March 20/21)

OWHA Provincials – April 2026

See you at the rink!

Ryan Brown

Coach – U9B