

Hello U11 level players & parents,

For those of you that don't know me, my name is Brooks McMillan and I have been a longtime KGHA coach and executive member. I want to welcome you to (or back to) the U11 level for the 2024/25 campaign and I look forward to working with some of your players this season.

First and foremost, congratulations to Coach McCheyne who leaves this post to pursue higher levels of hockey with his daughter. The KGHA is thankful for his intentions to coach this squad and we wish him and Finley all the best at the BB level with Coach Hanham. As a result, I am really excited to accept the torch and get to work at the U11C level for the 2024/25 season. I last coached this (same) level in 2019/20 and led that team to 3 gold medals and a Provincials berth, before they were cancelled due to covid. Somehow, I feel like it's time to finish what the girls started 5 years ago. We have some big shoes to fill after the success of Coach Sweeney's 2023/24 U11C team, but I'm confident we will live up to the expectations that our foresisters have forged for us.

COACHING PHILOSOPHY

My coaching philosophy is simple... I want two basic things for every girl: I want them to develop, and I want them to have fun. Those two things are what it's all about. If I had to elaborate, I really want five things from this season: I want every girl to have fun, to develop substantially as a hockey player, to develop substantially as a person, to develop as a coach, and for every girl to sign up to play hockey next year.

This is C hockey. We will win and we will learn. Mistakes will be encouraged. If mistakes are made while players are giving 100% effort, I have no issues. I expect that all players will be model teammates, and, in return, it will be a healthy, positive environment for players to build self-confidence, self-esteem, discipline, social skills, and hockey skills. I want the players to take pride in their team and be committed to the process. I want all players to be excited to come to the rink and motivated to compete once they get there.

We will operate the season in segments and players will be encouraged to play at all positions, ending up in their preferred or best-suited positioning prior to playoffs/playdowns. It is important for players at this age to both learn and appreciate the various positioning.

COMMITMENTS

Players can expect (on average) 4 touches of ice per week. We will supplement our on-ice program with some outside skating instruction from a TBD vendor. This instruction will take place during our already-scheduled ice allotments. Other outside development may be considered once we get a benchmark of the needs of this team moving forward.

We will schedule several social outings throughout the season, and we will also aim to partake in one humanitarian event throughout the season, cause TBD (food bank or something similar).

Priority will always be given to family and school but hockey, at a competitive level, should follow closely behind. Unlike house league, where players might choose a conflicting activity over hockey, it is expected that hockey is the activity of priority at the competitive level. I expect that players and parents will always make their best effort to attend all team functions.

TOURNAMENTS

My aim is to inherit the tournaments that Coach McCheyne has already planned; two away and two local. Those tournaments are as follows:

- Etobicoke Pink the Rink (October)
- Smith Falls (November)
- Kanata (November)
- Scarborough (January)

These tournaments are in addition to the OWHA Provincials (April) that we will aim to qualify for.

BUDGET

Parents can expect a budget of approximately \$1,800-\$2,200 per player, over and above KGHA registration and tryout fees. The budget shall be agreed upon by the parent group prior to the commencement of the season and will be reviewed several times throughout the year. Our goal will be to do some fundraising to offset team costs. Specifics TBD and discussed once the team is formed.

MISCELLANEOUS

Once the U11C team is formed, we will hold a parent meeting soon thereafter and I will elaborate on many of the aforementioned topics. Players and parents will be given a U11C handbook with all the information and expectations for the 2024/25 season.

We will operate this team under the KGHA '17 Strong' club model that the association seeks to observe. We can expect our players to receive U11B opportunities when they are available, and we will likewise look to provide opportunities to house league players capable of playing at a C level when those opportunities present themselves.

Please reach out to me at any time should you have questions or concerns. I coach by an open-door policy; all I ask is that the '24 Hour' rule is respected when appropriate. I wish all your players the best of luck at U11B/C tryouts, and I look forward to an amazing season full of fun, development, and memories.



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