

KGHA U13BB – 2025–2026 Season Coaches Letter

Dear Parents and Players,

I hope this message finds you well and enjoying the off-season. I'm excited to introduce myself as the Head Coach for the KGHA U13BB team for the 2025–2026 season. I'm honoured to continue growing with this group and look forward to a year filled with development, competition, and team-first culture.

About Me

My name is Tom Sweeney, and I've been involved in hockey for over 30 years. From playing, officiating in the OHL, and coaching U7 through U11 over the past several seasons, my passion lies in helping young athletes grow on and off the ice. This coming season, I'll continue to emphasize pace, puck movement, and decision-making under pressure, while ensuring the game remains fun and rewarding.

Expectations for the Season

1. **Commitment:** U13 is a pivotal age for player development and team dynamics. We ask for consistent attendance at games, practices, and team events. If you must miss something, please communicate in advance—we understand that life happens, but communication and commitment are key.
2. **Development:** We will challenge the players with structured, high-tempo practices and competitive gameplay. We'll continue to focus on puck support, pace, and decision-making, helping players build confidence in all zones.
3. **Teamwork & Respect:** We will cultivate a team-first environment based on respect—for each other, our opponents, officials, and the game. Every player will have a role, and all roles matter.
4. **Fun:** Above all, the season should be memorable. We'll celebrate growth, small wins, and shared experiences both on and off the ice.

Season Logistics

- **Ice Touchpoints:** Families can expect approximately 3 to 4 team events per week, including practices, dryland training, and games. The volume will vary depending on tournament weekends and holidays, but consistency and structure will remain.
- **Tournaments:** We are planning to participate in five (5) tournaments across the season. Given the challenges with local tournaments keeping all divisions, families should plan for three (3) away tournaments this season and two (2) regional tournaments. Dates will be confirmed before the season. We'll also plan for Provincial Championships, pending qualification. These tournaments offer both great competition and opportunities for team bonding and development.

- **Budget:** We anticipate a team fee of between \$2,000 and \$2,500 per player, in addition to KGHA registration fees. This will cover tournaments, apparel, extra development, and other team expenses. Fundraising initiatives will be organized to help offset costs. A detailed budget will be presented at the parent meeting after team selection.
- **Communication & Culture:** I believe in transparency and open communication. We will use a shared communication platform for schedules, updates, and logistics. Parents will always be kept in the loop, and players will be encouraged to advocate for themselves as well—an important part of their personal development.

This team will be built on respect, accountability, and a shared commitment to improving every week. The support from parents plays a huge role in creating the right environment, and I appreciate your partnership in helping our athletes succeed.

I'm truly looking forward to working with this group and making the 2025–2026 season one to remember. If you have any questions before the season kicks off, don't hesitate to reach out.

Let's make this a great year for the U13BB Rangers

Warm regards,
Tom Sweeney
Head Coach – KGHA U13BB
2025–2026 Season