

Dear Parents and Players,

I hope this letter finds you all in good health and high spirits. It is with great excitement and anticipation that I write to you as the coach for our U11B hockey team. I am truly honored and privileged to have been entrusted with this responsibility, and I am looking forward to an incredible season filled with growth, development, teamwork, and, most importantly, fun.

Allow me to introduce myself briefly. My name is Tom and I have been involved in the world of hockey for over 30 years. Throughout my journey, I have had the privilege of playing at various levels of youth hockey, officiating for 14 seasons in the Ontario Hockey League and coaching at the U7, U9 and U11 levels for the past 4 seasons, including coaching the U11C team last season. I am deeply passionate about the game, and I am committed to passing on my knowledge and love for hockey to our young athletes.

As we embark on this journey together, I wanted to outline some key expectations for the upcoming season:

**Commitment:** Hockey is a team sport that requires dedication and commitment from both players and parents. Regular attendance at practices and games is crucial to the team's success. We understand that occasional conflicts may arise, but please make every effort to communicate any absences in advance.

**Skill Development:** Our primary goal is to help your daughters improve their hockey skills and knowledge of the game. We will provide structured practices and drills to enhance their abilities, but players are encouraged to practice on their own as well.

**Sportsmanship:** It's important that our players display good sportsmanship on and off the ice. Respect for opponents, referees, coaches, and teammates is non-negotiable. We will foster an environment where everyone feels valued and supported.

**Teamwork:** Hockey is a team sport, and success comes from working together. We will focus on building strong team bonds, effective communication, and a positive team culture where everyone has a role to play.

**Fun:** Above all, we want our players to have fun and enjoy their time on the ice. While we will work hard and strive for improvement, we will also create an environment where laughter and enjoyment are encouraged.

Throughout the season, there will be an average of 3 to 4 team events per week. These events will not only help improve the girls' fitness and physical development but also strengthen team bonds and create lasting memories. Families can expect an all-in team fee of around \$1950 plus some fundraising. These fees are in addition to the KGHA registration fees. More information, and the team budget, will be discussed at a parent meeting that will take place once the team has been formed.

The team will participate in four tournaments: Etobicoke (18 to 20 October), Kanata (15 to 17 November), Gloucester (December 13 to 15), Orangeville (24 to 26 January) and Nepean (January 31 – February 2). These tournaments are evenly spread out throughout the year to ease the load on families and provide girls with time to improve from one tournament to the next. They will provide valuable opportunities for girls to test their skills and progressively showcase their growth. We have also budgeted and plan to qualify for the provincial championships at the end of the season.

I believe in exceptional communication with both players and parents. A strong and respectful partnership between coaches, parents, and players is crucial for the success and enjoyment of the season. Open and transparent communication is a cornerstone of our program. Throughout the season, we will maintain various channels of communication to keep you informed and engaged in your child's hockey journey.

I am confident that with your support and the dedication of our players, we can achieve great things this season. Feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns you may have throughout the year. Communication is key to our success.

I am looking forward to meeting each of you and watching our girls grow as hockey players and individuals. Let's make this season a memorable one for our young athletes.

Thank you for entrusting your daughters to our care, and here's to a fantastic season ahead!

Warm regards,

Tom Sweeney  
Coach U11B