

## **John Snider U18B 2025-2026**

Hi Everyone,

My name is John Snider and I'm excited to have the privilege to be the head coach for the KGHA U18B program for the 2025-26 season. I've been fortunate to have been involved with KGHA (and KMHA) for quite a while now in various capacities from head coach to on-ice help and almost all levels from Jr. Fun to U18 covering close to 30 different teams. I have learned a lot over the years and hope to be able to bring that experience to the team this coming year.

### **My Coaching/Team Philosophy**

My goals for next year are to build a team/environment with the following characteristics:

- Players, coaches, parents with positive, supportive and inclusive attitudes and approaches and that are respectful of all aspects of the game (teammates, officials, opponents).
- Players that are passionate about the game, love coming to the rink and are interested in learning new things and getting better.
- Hard working and determined with a high compete level.
- Speed and intelligence – team approach will be based on speed with and without the puck and a strong understanding of systems and team play with an ability to adjust and adapt.

With players now somewhere in their last three years of minor hockey I want a great environment above all else with lots of positivity, smiles and laughter and just some really good memories. Team success obviously helps with that and will be a big part of the plan.

### **Commitment**

You should expect to have three to four hockey commitments per week throughout the regular season consisting of both on and off ice sessions. Please expect that any day of the week could have a team related function. Priority is Family, School, Hockey. I'm conscious at a U18 level that life can be quite busy and there will be some understanding during exam times for example where attendance may not be possible, however to be able to understand systems and play at a competitive B level and more importantly be respectful to the team and teammates, attendance is expected to be close to 100%.

### **Tryout and Evaluations**

Tryouts can be a very stressful time for players and families, and I can tell you it is by far my least favorite part of the season. My commitment is to run as fair a process as possible. Evaluators will all have a strong hockey background with no affiliation/connection to the group being evaluated. Players will be evaluated based on game play situations with criteria linked to the team philosophy areas I outlined above. In addition, I will have been in touch with previous coaches to understand background and reputational considerations.

All girls registered for the U18 B tryouts will be assessed in the first two-hour block. Releases may be made after the first scrimmages. The #'s of the players invited back will be posted on the KGHA website a few hours after each ice time or if necessary, the following day after school hours.

Tryout registration and details can be found here:

<https://kgaha.ca/content/competitive-tryout-registration---25-26-season>

The tryout schedule can be found here: <https://kgha.ca/content/2025-2026---u11---u18--tryout-schedule>

**Season Schedule and Fees**

The team will tentatively plan to attend four or five tournaments next year, two or three of which will be away tournaments. This does not include Provincials which will be our goal to attend.

Budget and season details will be worked out with the players and parent group once the team is formed.

All the best with the remainder of your current seasons and we'll see you around the rinks.

Thanks,

John