

Hello Everyone,

My name is Karolina Hanham, and I am very excited to have been selected to be the head coach of the U11 BB team for the 2024-2025 season with KGHA. This is my tenth year of coaching, and fourth as a head coach. Last year I had the privilege to coach the KGHA U9 Tier 1 team. I am very passionate about coaching and take it very seriously that I am given the privilege to help young girls foster their love for the game. I am looking forward to providing the players who I have the privilege of coaching a season full of development, growth, teamwork, and fun to allow them to grow on and off the ice.

Philosophy:

As part of my philosophy, I believe that it is very important to create a safe, positive, and fun learning environment for these young hockey players that challenges them to grow not only as hockey players but as human beings as well. With this part of the philosophy, it is not only the players that need to be fully committed; my expectations are that the coaching staff, parents, and players are all committed to this environment.

The balance of the coaching staff will be built after tryouts are completed and will be complimentary to myself. They will bring a different voice for the players while supporting the same philosophy I have mentioned above. My expectations will be for all coaching staff, players, and parents to aid in creating a positive and safe environment for the players while they are working on strengthening their individual skills and their team skills.

Commitment:

This season we will have three to five hockey commitments per week, that will vary between on-ice and off-ice sessions. There are no set days for these commitments. Off-ice activities will work on agility, strength, communication, and working together as a team.

The priority for players will always be family, school, and then hockey. If there are family or school commitments that conflict with hockey, please treat these as a priority over hockey. My expectation is that if there is a hockey conflict with another sport or activity that hockey will supersede that conflict. If there is a conflict I would greatly appreciate as much notice as possible, so that we can plan accordingly for practice groups and call-ups.

Skill Development:

This season I will be working on individual development, and starting to work more on team play and systems that would be used in a game (i.e. breakout, forecheck, regroup, etc.). I am a firm believer of having players work together as a team versus as individuals on the ice. There will be a lot of on ice work that will look like team play but they will always have players working on multiple individual skills. On the ice we will work on individual tactics as well as how to implement those tactics into team play.

I have found that the most successful seasons come from players developing both on and off the ice. Off ice activities will work on developing communication skills that will help players develop both in working as a team and independently.

Sportsmanship:

It is important to me that the players, coaching staff, and parents display good sportsmanship while at the arena. Respecting opponents, officials, teammates, and coaching staff is a non-negotiable for me. I strongly believe that fostering an environment where everyone feels they are supported, and a valuable member of the team is important.

Teamwork:

Hockey is a team sport, and it is my view that we win and lose as a team. I will expect players to work together whether it is a practice, game or off ice activity. Hockey is a sport that helps young child develop life skills of working as a unit. All players should feel as though they are supported and respected by their teammates.

Fun:

I will ask a lot of the players during this season, but I also want to ensure that they are still having fun while doing this. Playing the game of hockey should be something that players enjoy and look forward to every time they come to the rink. I want players who want to be here and work hard, but also build their love for the game while having fun!

Season & Tournament Schedule:

At this time, we do not know how many games we will play this season, but it is usually around 20 games. The first half of the season will be half ice games, and for the second half we will switch to full ice games.

We are hoping to take part in the below tournaments.

Etobicoke Pink the Rink Tournament – October 18th – 20th, 2024

KGHA Tournament – November 15th – 17th, 2024

Buffalo – January 3rd – 5th, 2025

Central York – February 7th-9th, 2025

Provincial Championships (season dependent) – April 2025

Team Fees:

Team fees will be between \$1,800-\$2,000. Please note that these fees are in addition to KGHA registration fees. Tournament hotels and travel expenses are of course additional. In addition to these expenses, for some, there will be the need to purchase additional items such as track jackets, name bars, and any other clothing or equipment to adhere to the KGHA competitive dress code. The team budget will be determined at the start of the season and discussed at the first parents' meeting.

Tryouts:

For the tryouts our evaluations will start as soon as the players arrive to the rink. As I want to try to have a cohesive group, I will be watching to see how all players interact with instructors, peers, and parents while off the ice, on the ice, and on the bench. **For Tryouts, the evaluation group will be looking for skilled, determined, hard-working and coachable kids with respectful attitudes.**

For on ice evaluations, the drills will incorporate individual skills, compete, small area, and scrimmage scenarios. Our goal is to build the best possible roster of players that align with the philosophy previously mentioned in this letter. Having a team that can work together, have fun, and complement each other's skills is a goal for this season.

There will be releases after each ice sessions. Only those release after the final session will be provided feedback. Please reach out to the VP of Competitive if you wish to obtain feedback.

I look forward to the opportunity to working with all the players selected for this upcoming season.

Good Luck to all players coming to tryouts!

[U11 Tryout Schedule](#)

Thank you,

Coach Karolina