



Welcome to the 2025-26 Hockey season. My name is Shawn Perrier. I am thrilled to be given the opportunity to lead the U13 AA Kanata Blazers. I've been around the game for almost 50 years playing, coaching and working in the hockey world.

Coaching philosophy

I believe hockey teaches many life lessons including hard work, accountability and discipline which will help kids not only today but thru their life journey.

My fundamental approach to coaching is that in order for kids to develop as hockey players they need to hone the proper skills — skating, passing, shooting, team play, and building good character. Is character a skill? I believe it is; it is a critical skill in the hockey game and in life. The ups and downs, wins and losses, achievements and disappointments inherent in the youth hockey journey form character, and good character is worthy of more respect and praise than outstanding talent. Most talents are to some degree a gift. By contrast, good character is not given; it must be built piece by piece in thought, choices, courageous acts, and determination.

The expectation of my players are HARD WORK, ACCOUNTABILITY, and DISCIPLINE, both on and off the ice. I believe these are the foundation to having a great team culture. Emphasizing positive peer relationships within a competitive setting, we aim to foster a safe, motivated and empowered environment at the rink.

Our practices will consist of skating, skill development and team tactics. The practices will be challenging and very competitive.

Tryouts

Tryouts will be scrimmages and an Exhibition games. The evaluators will have an extensive background in hockey. The tryouts will begin May 3rd. Please check the KMHA website <http://kmha.ca/> for updates to the schedule.

Season Expectation

This year you can expect a commitment level of 4-5 days each week consisting of practices, games or off ice conditioning. On top of registration fees, team fees will be between \$2000 to \$2400, depending on sponsorship and team fundraising. Tournaments will be 2 in town and 2 out of town.