



Hello my name is James McGee and I am excited to have been chosen as the Head Coach of the 2025-26 U16AA Kanata Blazers. This will be my third season as Head Coach and eleventh season coaching in KMHA.

I look forward to another great year for all involved. My goal is to provide a fun team environment that engages the players and keeps them motivated to continue their development both as hockey players and members of our community.

Our team identity will be built with an emphasis on individual accountability with a team first attitude from each player throughout the season. Players are expected to be attentive and provide consistent effort before, during and after all practices and games as well as during off-ice training and video.

Continuous advancement of individual player skills will be critical to team success. Practices will be organized such that the players develop skating, shooting, passing, puck handling and checking skills. Players will be challenged to work on weaknesses and new skills. A consistent commitment to off ice training and fitness will be a team expectation. Conditioning work will occur off-ice as well as during certain practices. Mandatory team video sessions will also be part of the learning process.

Team tactics will be taught such that players learn positioning and strategy in each zone. This will include D zone coverage, various breakouts as well as O zone entries and cycles. It will also include instruction on effective fore checking and back checking. Specific power play and penalty kill concepts and strategy will be implemented.

Individual ice time will be fair and consistent with KMHA policy. All players will be provided the opportunity to contribute to special teams (power play and penalty kill). However fair ice time is not equivalent to equal ice time. When and where appropriate there will be in game coaching decisions that influence individual ice time. Hockey at this age and level is a competitive sport.

Tryout dates will be posted on the KMHA site at:

**<https://kmha.ca/2025/04/11/spring-competitive-tryout-schedule/>**

*\*\*\*Please note that these dates and times will be updated to accommodate exhibition games so please check back often.*

This will be a competitive and fair selection process including independent evaluators. All players will be given an honest chance to earn their place on the team. The formal evaluation process begins at the first tryout ice time. I expect each player will be fully prepared to compete to the best of their ability. I am seeking intelligent and determined players that consistently demonstrate skilled hockey at a high pace. Willingness and ability to demonstrate body contact skills will also be an important selection criteria.

Competitive hockey includes a significant commitment from each family. Expect 4-5 team activities on a weekly basis. The team fee will be approximately \$2500. This amount is over and above the KMHA registration fee. A detailed team budget will be shared with parents prior to the season.

I expect we will enter up to 5 tournaments. Most likely 2 away and 3 within Ottawa.

Best regards,

**James McGee**

Head Coach 2025-26 Kanata Blazers U16AA

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