



2024-25 KANATA BLAZERS U9 TIER 1

Dear U9 Tier 1 Kanata Blazers Hopefuls,

Welcome to the U9 Tier 1 Kanata Blazers program. The goal of this letter is to let you know a little bit about the program and the goals and expectations for the upcoming 2025-2026 season.

Introduction and Coaching Philosophy

My name is Travis O'Donnell and I am the Head Coach for the U9 Tier 1 Kanata Blazers. This will be my 7th season coaching with KMHA at the U7, U9 and Competitive level. My goal this season is to advance our young athletes into hockey players, developing an appreciation and understanding of the game, and ultimately have FUN!

This will be achieved through 5 fundamental aspects of an Athlete:

- Commitment
- Effort
- Coachability
- Repetition
- Conditioning

The focus for the season will be on development, not only on individual skills but also the overall team concept while at the same time trying to ensure that each and every player leave this team a better player and a better teammate.

Commitment

Playing competitive hockey comes with enhanced time and financial commitments from each player and their family versus U7 or U9 house league hockey. **PLEASE** ensure that you are fully aware of the commitment that this season will bring before you arrive for try outs!

Families should expect to be on the ice 4 nights per week for games and practices with an expectation that those players are at the rink no later than 30 mins before practice and 1 hour before games.

Parents should plan on contributing approximately \$1200 - \$1500 to the team budget, over and above their registration fees. Travel costs associated with out-of-town tournaments will not be covered in our team fees. We will engage in fundraising and sponsorship activities with the goal of keeping costs down.



Team Support

We will be looking for volunteers to help us with the operations of the team (assistant coaches, on ice helpers, trainer, manager, treasurer, social coordinator, fundraising coordinator etc.). These will be determined as soon as the team is formed.

Tournaments

As part of the Hockey Canada pathway, we are limited to how many games we can play in a season, so typically at this level the focus is on league play. We are planning to participate in two tournaments this year:

1. Local Tournament
 - a. Half ice jamboree format
 - b. Will include 2 games on Friday
 - c. Will include a fun skills competition
2. Away Tournament – February/March Location TBD
 - a. Full ice format with scorekeeping
 - b. 2-3 night stay in TBD depending on schedule
 - c. Participation in this tournament will depend on dates and HEO direction on 5v5 involvement

Sincerely,

Travis O'Donnell
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