



Andrew MacPherson –

U9 Sharks Coaching Bio & Team Philosophy/Approach 2022-2023

Hello! I'm excited for the opportunity to coach the 2022-23 Scarborough Sharks U9 Hockey Team.

Born in Quebec, raised in Ottawa, and now living in Toronto, I have been regularly involved in ice hockey in some manner since I was a child. Starting as a player in the U7 (then 'Tyke') division and continuing on through the various age divisions until I left home for university. Earning undergraduate and graduate degrees, I participated on various recreational adult hockey teams, and continue to play today in the Toronto Downtown Men's Hockey League. As a teenager, I ran the local outdoor rink, and became a Hockey Canada certified Level 3 on-ice official continuing to officiate boys, girls, men's and women's hockey to subsidize my education costs. My youth was also where I held my first formal coaching experience, as during senior year of high school, I took on the role of volunteer head coach for a local U13HL boy's hockey team.

As parents, my wife and I are fortunate to provide the opportunity for, and actively encourage our daughters to participate in variety of individual and team sports including swimming, gymnastics, tennis, skiing, soccer, lacrosse and basketball. A strong believer in giving back to the community, I returned to coaching and volunteered to lead a daughter's community soccer team, and this current 2021-2022 season volunteered as Assistant Coach for my eldest's Scarborough Sharks U11A team.

My philosophy on coaching is rather straight forward. Like my work, I see the kids as my clients – and am invested in their success. Success for them is active participation, continued development as players, teammates and people, and ultimately having fun! As a coach, my approach is to be mindful and respectful, encouraging and challenging, communicative and committed. I believe the greatest thing we can give the kids is opportunity. That with the appropriate nurturing environment coupled with positivity, patience and perseverance, from players, parents and coaches - anything can happen. I look forward to icing a team that is competitive and a joy to be around. At the end of the season, a kid that has had a positive experience and is eager for the next season to start- is a success!

In 2022-23, I am very pleased to be joined by Assistant Coach Gino Piazza. Gino and I first met four years ago when I coached his triplets in soccer and we reconnected this past season as we our daughters were 2 of only 3 minors with the U9 Sharks. We look to add one or two additional volunteer coaches, and trainers to commit through the season coupled with the leadership and support of paid skills trainers to further the development of the kids. Aside from specific managerial duties and responsibilities of a head coach, we are firm believers in coaching by committee. We know the importance of role models, and will actively seek opportunities for female leadership, whether through an assistant coach, skilled trainer, or in the greater community through exposure to the PWHPA, PHF, local varsity or other opportunities.

Pleased with the girls' current U9 program, we will endeavour to replicate its success again next year. In the pre-season, our program will include practices, skill sessions and a parents' meeting. During the season, we anticipate being on the ice 3-4 times per week including weekly skills sessions, team practices and games. Our team budget will include for a minimum of one out of town tournament and two local GTA tournaments – and some Sharks swag!

Should you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

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