

Hello everyone,

My name is Kris Hodgins and I am very excited to be taking on the role of Head Coach for the West Carleton Crusaders U11 team this upcoming season.

I would like to provide you with a some background regarding myself, my approach towards the game of hockey, and a brief plan for the team for the upcoming season. I have had the privilege of being a head coach for multiple years now at various levels including last years U10 Crusaders team. I have coached both boys and girls hockey, and I can't wait to get started. I have played hockey at a high level my entire life, the highest being NCAA at the University of Wisconsin Superior. I have also worked for many years in hockey development and look forward to the opportunity to pass some of what I've learned along the way to your athlete this season. For those of you who's son or daughter I may have coached previously, you know that I am very passionate about the game of hockey, the process of developing player skills, tactics, developing good work ethic during practices and games, and most of all helping to create great leaders once they leave minor hockey. I assure you I will give every ounce of energy that I have into developing your athlete to become the best athlete and person they can become. It is my belief that as the coach it is my role along with our staff to ensure that all of this can be achieved while having as much fun as we can along the way.

The objectives for this years team will be focused on, having each player being the best teammate they can be, building confidence, self-esteem, discipline, skill development, and a sense of commitment and pride in their team, in themselves, but most of all I want each player to have FUN and look forward to coming to hockey each and every ice session. These personality traits and qualities will benefit them at whatever level they play in the future. I will emphasize development, hard work, and team play over winning and individual success. I anticipate every player will play roughly the same amount of time by the end of the season barring injuries or suspensions.

There will also be more prominence on systems, strategy and structure this season than previous years. I will follow the Hockey Canada long term player development model as well as what WCMHA has provided me so that each player is building skills that are appropriate for their age and individual skill levels. I want to build a strong foundation of physical literacy in an environment that keeps them interested and motivated to come to the rink. Practices will be run with a high level of energy and effort all while learning and having as much FUN as possible.

This year I will be looking to form a team not only based on skill, but great character players and families. What I will be looking for during tryouts are players who work hard, play smart, are positive not only on but also off the ice, body language and effort level. I am not necessarily looking for the 17 most skilled individuals but those who will be able to play within the structure of our team and its values.

Try out schedule has not been released as of yet but I anticipate that pathways will start near mid September and tryouts to follow shortly after.

The tournaments that we will be attending this year will be as follows:

Green Mountain Avalanche – Jay Peak

Oct 31-Nov 3

Timberline Condos have been booked. This will need to be book asap once the team is formed.

Silver Stick – Pembroke

Nov 8-10

Clarion Hotel booked for people who want to stay.

Capital Winter Classic – Sensplex

Jan 17-19

Kingston Canadians Tournament – Kingston

Jan 31-Feb 2

Holiday Inn Express Kingston West Booked

Upon completion of our team selection, there will be a team gathering shortly after, where time allows for as many (hopefully all) players and families can get together.

Just a remember to parents and players, that the team you (your athlete) have been selected to does not define them as a person or a hockey player. Everyone develops at their own pace and if you did not make a level you were hoping to make it does not mean that your athlete won't ever be able to achieve that level in the future. Keep working hard, keep a positive attitude and good things will come.

Here's to a great try out.

Have a great upcoming season, and I look forward to meeting and seeing you all at the rink!

Kris Hodgins

Coach, U11 Crusaders