

Coaches Letter – Jeff Hawthorne – U13 Crusaders

Dear Players and Parents,

My name is Jeff Hawthorne, and I'm excited for the opportunity to coach the U13 Crusaders team for the 2025–2026 season. Over the past two years, I've had the privilege of coaching both the U11 and U12 Crusader teams, and I'm eager to get back on the ice to continue working with this age group.

Throughout the season, players will be expected to bring their best effort to all practices, games, and off-ice sessions. Our focus will be on developing a wide range of hockey skills and team strategies, all taught and reinforced in a high-tempo environment. In addition to on-ice instruction, we will incorporate classroom sessions, including video analysis and chalk talks, to deepen each player's understanding and awareness of the game.

The U13 Crusaders will be built on the principles of fair play, inclusiveness, respect, work ethic, dedication—and above all, having fun. My goal is to create an environment where every player feels valued, respected, and encouraged to grow both as an athlete and as a person. I believe this foundation helps foster a lifelong passion for the game.

Players can expect 3–4 ice sessions per week, including practices and games. We will also participate in four tournaments this season:

- **Pembroke Silver Stick** – November 14–16
- **Oshawa Hockeyfest** – December 12–14
- **Capital Winter Classic (Ottawa)** – January 16–18
- **Josh Bailey Classic (Clarington)** – February 5–8

Please note, our team will not be traveling outside of Ontario this season. In addition to on-ice activities, we'll be involved in team-building events and community initiatives (details to be determined). Fundraising, sponsorship opportunities, and other logistics will be discussed during our preseason meetings.

I strongly encourage all 2013-born players to attend tryouts. I'll be looking for athletes who demonstrate a strong work ethic, a competitive spirit, and a willingness to learn. Every player will be given a fair and equal opportunity to earn a spot on the team.

Enjoy your summer, and I look forward to seeing you at the rink.

Warm regards,

Jeff Hawthorne

Head Coach – U13 Crusaders (2025–2026)