Ottawa Sting U14B – Coach’s Letter

Potential U14B Hockey Players and Families

**Introduction**

My name is Warren Graham, and I will be the head coach for this years U14B Ottawa Sting Hockey Team. For those that don’t know me, I have played hockey since the age of 4 and played throughout minor hockey before proceeding to play Tier II Junior A hockey then Varsity at the University of Windsor. Hockey has always been a great passion of mine and it is exciting to now be apart of your minor hockey experience. I have been coaching for the past 8 years in various roles. The last three season I have been an assistant coach withing the Sting Organization and I am looking forward to taking the reins as head coach this year.

**Coaching Philosophy**

I believe in a coaching philosophy that can be summed up in in two bulletin points -work ethic and teamwork. If team members embrace this concept, they end up coming alongside their teammates, being encouragers, offering forgiveness when necessary, helping teammates to succeed and ultimately creating team success. It is playing with integrity, making the right choices during and after each game and playing with heart and no excuses that determines a successful hockey player. There is no substitute for hard work and combined with the “servant-leader” philosophy of others first, success is inevitable.

Practices will focus on speed, positioning with and without the puck, individual skills, skating techniques, and overall team cohesion. As body contact is introduced at this age the played will be taught how to receive and deliver contact in a safe and effective manner.

**Tournaments**

The U14B will be entering four tournaments this season:

1. Capital Volunteer Cup – Ottawa ON – October 28-30
2. Bradford Blue and Gold – Bradford ON - Nov 17-20
3. Riverside International – Windsor ON – Dec 27-30
4. TBD however it will be a tournament in the Ottawa area

**Team Fees**

Team fees will cover tournament registrations and extra ice times for the development of the players. For this season, we are budgeting a team fee of $1,200 per player. This is above and beyond the Sting registration fee and accommodations at tournaments. Once the team is finalized, a review of the budget will occur.

**Tryouts**

The tryout format is still to be finalized but players can expect scrimmages, and for the final releases, one or two exhibition games. For selection I will have independent non parent evaluators that know the game of hockey and have played at a high level. These evaluators will be an unbiased set of eyes as they have never seen the players before.

Tryouts can be challenging and stressful for both players and families. This is normal and I have been through this process myself many times. All I can ask is that your player gives their best at all times and plays the game they love, the way they love to play it.

I wish everyone trying out for the U14B the very best of luck and I look forward to seeing you all on the ice very soon. Enjoy your summer.

Warren Graham

Head Coach

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