



Ottawa Sting Minor Hockey Association (OSMHA)

2009-10 Major Bantam AA

Coach's Message to Players and Parents:

Welcome and thank you for participating in the OSMHA Major Bantam combined AA/B Tryouts, and best of luck in your hockey season.

Major Bantam tryouts will consist of intra-squad and exhibition games. Players will be assessed by the coach and independent evaluators, based on each player's overall hockey ability. The tryout schedule and squads are tentative so please visit ottawastinging.com frequently for the most current tryout schedule, squads, and information updates.

Although all OSMHA players are guaranteed a minimum of 3 hours of tryouts, for Major Bantam this season, no releases to B, or House League, shall take place until following the 4th hour of tryouts on Saturday evening August 29th, 2009.

All players must attend the first two tryouts except with permission from the coach. Given the overlap with the final days of AAA tryouts this season at Major Bantam, the OSMHA President has authorized an exemption that the very final released players from AAA will commence AA tryouts the day after their AAA release, though this would not guarantee their selection to the AA team.

Players should be aware of what to expect at Major Bantam AA this season:

Although each player must identify the position he/she is trying out for, each player accepting a spot on the team must also agree to play other positions as required by the team throughout the season. Based on last season, it is expected that the AA league will again be extremely competitive (very strong opponents). Our players will train intensely, and be at the rink or participating in off-ice activities a minimum of 4 times a week. The goal will be to improve individual skills based on Hockey Canada Bantam guidelines, fitness and team play, in an enjoyable, positive environment.

The team will participate in a minimum of 5 tournaments, the first one will be September 11-13 in Upper New York State (passports required).

Players (and coaches) will be expected to bring their best effort at all practices not just games. All must be eager to learn and have a positive attitude. All must demonstrate good sportsmanship, respect for teammates, opponents, coaches, team officials, and referees. Team rules must be respected by all. The focus of the team will be to have fun while working hard at playing hockey, and to be a team with class that represents the OSMHA well at all times.

New for this season, an executive from the Ottawa Sting will be assigned to each tryout group as a liaison to the coach during tryouts. For Major Bantam, the executive liaison is Chris Cullen (president@ottawastinging.com 613-740-1660). Once tryouts commence, all questions and comments must be directed to the group liaison, not to the coach, without any exceptions.

Tryouts are a very difficult time of year for hockey players, parents and all who are involved. In general no two people, including no two coaches or evaluators, ever agree completely or unanimously on each of the 17 players selected to form a given team. Please remember that a coach's views and final decisions are based on a broader view, taking into consideration the team as a whole, not just individual players. The tryouts shall be conducted in accordance with the OSMHA processes. They will be as fair and transparent as possible with all players given an equal opportunity, as time permits. No spots on the team are guaranteed regardless of where a player previously played, and past or present acquaintances shall not influence or determine any player selections.

No matter what the final decision is for each player, it is my sincere hope that they enjoy their season with their team and they continue to develop, both as players and young adults.

Sincerely,
Fernando D'Orazio
Head Coach Ottawa Sting Major Bantam AA
OSMHA Director of Coaching