



# Ottawa Sting Minor Hockey Association 2009-2010 Major Peewee AA

## Communication 1 - Player Selection Process

### Message to Players and Parents

On behalf of the Ottawa Sting Minor Hockey Association, I would like to welcome you to the 2009-10 hockey season.

I have been coaching minor hockey teams for almost a decade, including last year's Minor Peewee AA team. The team showed considerable improvement throughout the year, and I'm excited to be part of another successful season. This year has the potential to be a very special one for the kids, as both the Ontario Winter Games and the All-Ontario Peewee Championships will have representation from the top teams in our division.

During the tryout process I look for kids that I know will suitably represent our team and the Sting organization. In addition to the obvious hockey skills required to play at this level, I expect that each member of the Major Peewee AA team will demonstrate the following consistently:

- Nothing less than their best effort in both practices and games
- a positive attitude
- an eagerness to learn
- respect toward coaches, team officials and referees
- commitment to the team
- enjoyment of the game during all activities

In exchange for those efforts, I and the other coaches will do our best to provide a positive environment that will result in improved hockey and life skills.

It is expected that between 70 and 80 players will try out for the AA and A teams this year. Tryouts will consist of skills drills in the afternoon of Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, followed by intra-squad games on Saturday night and Sunday morning. Goalies will be part of these sessions, as well as Goalie Only sessions on each of Saturday and Sunday morning. The head coaches and independent evaluators will conduct the evaluations during the tryout process

Immediately following each intra-squad session on Sunday morning, players will be handed a confidential letter from coaches indicating their status. The letter will specify whether the player is invited to stay on for additional evaluation or has been re-assigned to their respective B-level program run by either the Ottawa Sting or Ottawa West Golden Knights. This letter is not to be opened until the player has left the arena parking lot.

Additional information regarding subsequent tryout sessions will be handed out at this time, as well as after each further tryout session a player is asked to attend. Some players will be invited to additional AA/A intra-squad games on Sunday afternoon. Players will once again be given notice of their status following these sessions.

I plan to have at least four exhibition games during the following week, with reassignments made where appropriate. The target date for final selection to the AA team has not yet been determined, but should be no later than August 29<sup>th</sup>.

I expect our team this year to be made up of fast skating, tenacious, aggressive, and physical, hard working players. We will continue to work on being a puck possession team, with an emphasis on puck control, puck movement, and puck support. The greatest consideration will be given to players who possess these skills or show an aptitude to work on developing them.

***Points to Remember.***

- Some drills and all intra-squad games will consist of full body contact. Previous attendance at a body contact clinic is **mandatory** for all players who have **not** previously played contact hockey
- Players should have both of their assigned jerseys with them at all tryout sessions
- Each player should be fully dressed and ready 10 minutes before the scheduled ice time for each tryout session
- Players must be wearing a full set of equipment including CSA-approved neck protector, helmet/face mask and mouth-guard. Players should have a water bottle
- Players must be registered with their home association and with the Ottawa Sting for tryouts before they are permitted to participate in the tryouts
- Players and parents should avoid speaking with evaluators during the selection process
- Players selected to the Ottawa Sting Major peewee AA team must be prepared to play any position
- Please advise the coaches before the selection process if you believe that there is reason for us not to offer a position to your son/daughter, as this could impact the tryout process
- The tryout format is subject to change
- Keep in mind that the 17 players chosen for the AA team will most probably be different from the 17 players you would have chosen. The selection process is subjective, and many factors are taken into consideration. Please understand that, even when the selections don't align with yours, decisions will be made that reflect what I believe will be best for all players involved.

## **Commitment**

Playing competitive hockey requires substantial financial and time commitments. Please make sure that you fully understand this commitment. Once the team has been selected, players and families are expected to be fully committed.

Tournaments for the upcoming 'AA' season are:

Kanata Shootout 'AAA'	Kanata	September 11 – 13
Tim Horton's 'AAA'	Hamilton	October 9 - 12
Shanahan International 'AAA'	Toronto	November 13 – 15
Bell Capital Cup 'AAA'	Ottawa	December 30 – January 3
Kingston Limestone Cup 'AAA'	Kingston	January 15-17
* Ontario Winter Games	Muskoka region	March 4 – 7
* All-Ontario PeeWee Championships	TBD	Late March/Early April

(\* The team must qualify to participate in these invitational tournaments.)

In addition to the costs associated with these tournaments (including out-of-town expenses), one can expect further costs of over \$1000.00 above their own Association fees. We plan to have successful fundraising operations to help mitigate these costs. Any excess funds will be returned to parents at the end of the season. Time commitments include having players at the rink approximately 45 - 60 minutes prior to practices and games. Players will also be expected to participate in weekly dry-land training and/or power skating sessions. Players who are unable to make these commitments are asked to withdraw from tryouts before the team is chosen.

In addition, as previously mentioned, there is a possibility the team will compete at the All-Ontario Peewee Championships. This means that there exists the possibility of the team playing through the March Break and beyond. Please let me know if your child is expected to be away during the month of March and/or April.

On behalf of the Ottawa Sting Minor Hockey Association, I would like to thank you in advance for your presence at these tryouts. The selection process can be the most difficult and stressful part of the season for players, coaches and parents. I wish the best of luck to all players, and hope that each one has a successful and enjoyable season, regardless of where he/she is playing!

John Hladkowicz