



# **Ottawa Sting Minor Hockey Association**

## **2009-2010 Minor Midget**

### **Message to Players and Parents – July 2009**

## **Player Selection Process**

Welcome to the toughest part of the hockey season! Anybody associated with competitive sports can tell you that the player selection process is the most difficult and stressful part of the season ... for the players, for the coaches and for the parents.

On behalf of the Ottawa Sting Minor Hockey Association, we would like to thank you in advance for your interest in these try-outs and wish you a successful hockey season, whether with the Ottawa Sting or with another team.

### **1 Participation in Try-outs**

- ✓ players must be registered with their home association and with the Ottawa Sting before they are permitted to participate in the tryouts;
- ✓ players should be wearing their assigned Ottawa Sting tryout jersey;
- ✓ player must be wearing a full set of equipment including CSA-approved neck protector, helmet/face mask and mouth-guard;
- ✓ each player should be fully dressed and ready 10 minutes before the scheduled ice time;

#### **1.1 Try-out process**

- ✓ Tryouts for the Ottawa Sting Minor Midget AA and B teams are being run concurrently with the first set of player releases occurring following the 3rd hour of tryouts.
- ✓ Players will be given letters indicating whether they are released or invited to continue further into the tryout process. Successive tryouts will be followed by further releases until we are down to the final teams.
- ✓ During the tryout period, candidates should check the Sting website ([www.ottawasting.com](http://www.ottawasting.com)) on a daily basis for details of the schedule and their rink/time assignments.

#### **1.2 Player evaluations are based on:**

- ✓ Skills assessment by head coach and independent evaluators (hockey skills, offensive and defensive tactics)
- ✓ Player performances in inter-squad and exhibition games as assessed by the head coach and by independent evaluators (overall ability, willingness to compete, hockey sense)

#### **1.3 What we are looking for**

- ✓ Players who can skate with speed and agility and who are strong with the puck, hustle and win the battles for the puck.
- ✓ Goaltenders who compete and keep the puck out.

## **1.4 Player Releases**

- ✓ Players released from the AA tryouts who are living in the Ottawa West territory are eligible to try out for the Golden Knights competitive “B” team or return to the West End MHA for assignment to a house league team.
- ✓ Players from the South End, Canterbury, Ottawa Centre, Sandy Hill or St. Laurent Minor Hockey Associations released from the Sting AA and Sting B tryouts return to their home association for assignment to a house league team.
- ✓ It is never easy to be released from a team for which a player is trying out. We urge the parents to take the time immediately following the news of being released to discuss with your child the positive aspects of this process. They are to be congratulated for putting themselves forward and making their best effort.

## **2 Level of Commitment Required for Competitive Hockey**

**Level of Commitment Required at the AA level** - Consistent with the experience of competitive teams in past years, your child can expect to be on the ice for approximately 125 hours of games and practices. There will be 4-6 tournaments including 2-3 out of town tournaments. The cost to play competitive hockey is approximately \$1500 per player (including the registration fees) plus travel costs for out of town tournaments. Successful fundraising can reduce this amount.

Given the nature of competitive hockey and the high commitment that players, parents and team officials bring to this activity, it is expected that the competitive hockey team represents a high priority for the players selected, following family and school.

**Level of Commitment Required at the B level** - The ice time for players at the B level will be slightly less than at the AA level with approximately 115 hours of hockey in the upcoming season. We will be involved in 4-5 tournaments in the upcoming year with up to 2 tournaments being ones where an overnight stay will be involved. The cost to play at the B level will entail approximately \$1300 per player (including the registration fees). Also accommodation and travel costs for out of town tournaments and games should be factored in above this amount. As with AA fundraising can be used to reduce the costs.

As with all competitive sports endeavours a significant commitment in time and priority is expected. With B level hockey we will be looking for players and parents who are committed to hockey but occasionally will have commitments for other activities which may conflict. Obviously school and family commitments will always out-compete those of hockey.

## **3 Coaching Philosophy**

In keeping with the Sting policy, we are committed to fair ice time which does not necessarily translate into equal ice time. We believe that the ultimate objective is for player development but are committed to making our teams as competitive as possible.

We hope that this provides you with useful information and look forward to seeing you at the rink.

Bill Floch  
Head Coach  
Ottawa Sting Minor Midget “AA”

Harry Silverstone  
Head Coach  
Ottawa Sting Minor Midget “B”