



**Ottawa Sting Minor Hockey Association (OSMHA)
2009 – 2010 Minor PeeWee 'B'
Coach's Message to Players and Parents – September 2, 2009**

Thank you to all players that participated in the OSMHA Minor PeeWee combined 'AA'/'A' evaluations. To the players that were selected for those teams - Congratulations! To the players that were released to the 'B' team evaluations and to other eligible players, I welcome you to the next round of Sting evaluations.

Players for the Ottawa West End Hockey League that have been released from the Ottawa Sting 'AA'/'A' teams are encouraged to attend the 'B' tryouts of the Ottawa West Golden Knights as they are not eligible to play on an Ottawa Sting 'B' team. (More information is available at www.goldenknights.org.)

I have been appointed as the Head Coach of the 'B' team. It was announced earlier that Tony Hickey would be the Head Coach but he has since been reassigned to another Sting team and we wish him well for the season. I will be a parent-coach and have a son who is a candidate for selection to the team.

I am new to the Sting organization and have several years of minor hockey coaching experience and in particular with younger players. I espouse in my teams and players the values of sportsmanship, skill development, tenacity and having fun.

Evaluations for the 'B' team will consist of three scrimmages between September 11 and 13. Players must attend at least two of these scrimmages; as well as the body checking clinic if they have not already done so. (Specific times and locations are posted at www.ottawasting.com.) Players should bring both their black and white Sting tryout sweaters and arrive about thirty minutes early to check-in at the registration table for each ice-time. All players will be evaluated by me and two independent evaluators. In addition, executive liaisons have been appointed as a liaison to the coach during the evaluations. The liaisons for PeeWee are Georganne Drews and Tracey Dyks. All questions and comments should be directed to one of them and not to the coach.

Fifteen skaters and two goaltenders will be selected to the team from the approximately 30 players being evaluated. Skaters will be evaluated on their skating, passing, puck control, shooting, checking, and positional play skills. Goaltenders will be evaluated upon their physical, technical, situational tactics and mental characteristics. Immediately following the last of the three scrimmages, I will meet

personally with each player to inform them if they have been selected to the team or are being released. ***Be prepared to wait for an hour or more after the end of the scrimmage.*** Players that are not selected for the 'B' team will be released to their home house league association for assignment to a specific team.

The following notes should help player and parents set expectations for the season:

- Players will have some specialization at a particular position but will also develop skills at other positions.
- A balance between fair playing time and competitiveness over the course of the season.
- Approximately four ice-times a week between practices and games balanced with school and family commitments.
- Participation in approximately five tournaments, including two that will be out of town.
- Team staff (assistant coaches, trainers and managers) will be selected from the parents of the players selected to the team.
- A team budget will be established that will require a contribution of up to \$1000 per player. This contribution may be offset by fund raising activities by the team.
- A parents meeting that will be held in mid-September to discuss the plan for the season.

I wish all players, both those selected for the team and those who go on to play for other teams, an outstanding season.

Sincerely,

Dan Gunther

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