

Dear Ottawa West Golden Knights Families,

My name is Michael Brimner, and I'm thrilled to have been given the opportunity to be the head coach of the U14 boys for the upcoming 2026-2027 season. I've spent the past two seasons as an assistant coach for the 2013 boys and have previously held the head coach position for a U11 A team, successfully leading them to a championship season. I look forward to working together toward a fun and productive season.

My Coaching Philosophy

My focus has always been on teamwork over individual play, along with helping players develop their overall fitness 🌲 and skills — the best teams win together, and that's what I'm looking to build. This matters even more this season with the introduction of body contact, which fundamentally changes how the game is played. I'll spend time teaching players how to use it safely, effectively and responsibly.

My goal is simple: create a competitive environment where players love coming to the rink.

What I Expect

I expect players to compete hard every shift, be great teammates, and show respect to everyone — coaches, officials, and opponents, without exception. I expect accountability: own your mistakes, show up prepared, and follow through on your commitments. And I expect players to represent the Golden Knights with pride, on the ice and off.

How I'll Work With You

I believe in leading by example — I'll be doing the conditioning skates and dry land sessions alongside the players, and I want the bench to be a place where players feel supported, especially when things get tough in a game.

With parents, I take a proactive approach. I'll be reaching out regularly throughout the season, not just when there's an issue, because open communication makes a real difference for the players and the program. I see every family as part of what we're building, and a strong relationship with each of you is something I'll actively work toward.

Tryouts

Team declarations are due September 10, 2026, so tryouts will likely start the week before. Depending on ice availability and player turnout, I'm planning to include a skills session, a small area games session, an intersquad scrimmage, and one or two exhibition games.

With the help of independent evaluators, we'll be assessing passing, finesse, physicality, skating, compete level, and attitude. I'm planning to carry 15 skaters and 2 goalies on the roster. Come ready to work hard and show what you bring to the rink.

Team Commitment

Families should plan for 3–5 sessions per week — this includes practices, games, dry land training, and regular game video review. I'll run dry land outdoors while the weather cooperates and move it inside as the season progresses.

I understand hockey isn't everything, and I'm happy to work with families around occasional absences for other commitments and adventures.

Season Kickoff

Shortly after the season gets underway, I'll be organizing a day-long adventure in Tremblant or Gatineau — a hike and some fun activities to kick off the year and get players and families interacting outside the rink. This wasn't built into the budget, so it'll come as an additional cost, but I think it's well worth it. Families are welcome to join.

Giving Back

I'm also looking to set up some fun practices with the Ottawa Bandits, a local program that gives athletes with special needs a place to belong, an ice surface to gain confidence on, and a community to build friendships in. It's a great chance for our players to give back and have some fun outside our regular routine.

Tournaments

I'm registered for three tournaments this season:

- South Simcoe Storm Classic — Oct 2–4
- Niagara Falls Peter Mancuso Tournament — Nov 6–8
- Sensplex Capital Winter Classic — Jan 8–10

In lieu of a fourth tournament, I'm working on setting up exhibition games against Kingston and Belleville in December, which would include an overnight on the Saturday.

Team Fees

There will be \$950 in additional team fees, on top of WEHL association fees, covering tournaments, extra ice, skater and goalie skill training, and Amped Ice sessions for 3v3 and 4v4 scrimmages.

That's the season ahead. One last thing — enjoy your summers but come prepared to earn your position on the team.

See you on the ice,
Coach Mike