

My name is Scott Drover and I am thrilled to be back coaching the 2012 Golden Knights for the 2025-26 season. I understand both the responsibility and privilege that comes with coaching young players and take this very seriously.

Being part of a competitive hockey team means that we will spend a lot of time together. My coaching philosophy and expectations can be summed up into these basic principles:

### **Focus & Effort -- Attitude -- Team First -- FUN**

During tryouts we will be evaluating not only hockey skills but also focusing on these attributes. As the players get older, so do the expectations and the standards required to be part of the team.

#### **Focus and Effort**

I expect players to be focused and ready to give their best each time we get together. Preparation starts before you arrive at the arena and carries through off-ice warm-up and onto the ice whether it be for a practice or a game.

Being on time and being prepared does not require any skill but goes a long way to keeping the team moving in the right direction.

#### **Attitude**

I am looking for players with a positive attitude who want to learn and improve. Over the season we will be focusing on making incremental improvements both as individuals and as a team. I am looking for players who are open to feedback, not scared to make mistakes and motivated to improve.

#### **Team First**

I strongly believe that success is maximized when everyone pulls in the same direction. I am looking for players who are prepared to buy into the team-first approach and who are prepared to sacrifice individual glory for the benefit of the team.

#### **FUN!**

Fun should not be last on this list but, in my experience, when a team embraces the principles of hard work, positive attitude and a team-first mentality, the fun follows. I want the players to be excited to come to the rink!

#### **Season Outline**

Dates to start the season are still being finalized however players should expect tryouts to start around Labor Day. There will also be opportunities for some pre-tryout skates to work off any summer rust.

As a member of the team, you should expect to have 4-5 hockey commitments per week. This includes practices, games and off-ice sessions. I have a huge appreciation for the demands of hockey and respect the need for families to have lives away from the rink but ask players (as much as possible) to make hockey a priority during the season.

The team is currently registered in the following tournaments:

- November 7 – 9: Glanaster Bombers Veterans Memorial Tournament
- January 29 – February 1: Dunsmuir Memorial Tournament

Unfortunately, I did not have success registering for any local tournaments as they are all full. I am actively looking to add a third tournament, possibly in Aylmer in late November (Nov 26-30) or the Georgian Bay Islanders tournament from September 26-28\*.

*\*NOTE: Georgian Bay would be a very quick turn-around from the end of tryouts and will replace the pre-season training camp we have done in recent years.*

### **Team Budget**

I recognize that hockey is an expensive sport and believe in setting reasonable budgets and managing additional costs responsibly. In addition to the registration fee, players should expect a team fee of approximately \$900 per player.

The team fee will cover tournament entry fees, extra ice times, skills coaches and other team expenses but does not include travel and hotels. Mandatory team 'swag' is also not included in the team fee. Required team gear will be limited however all kinds of GK gear is available for those who are interested.

Cost should not be a barrier to being part of the team – if it is, please let me know and we can find ways to make it work.

If anyone has questions and/or would like to discuss the season ahead, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Have a great end of summer and see you at the rink soon!

Scott