

Dear parents and players,

Welcome to the 2025-26 hockey season. My name is Chris Eccles and I will be the head coach for the U16B team. I'm excited to return as head coach and look forward to a fun and exciting season.

Philosophy

This season's goal will be to create a fun, dynamic environment that makes players eager to attend practices, challenge themselves and work with their teammates. This philosophy will be based on:

- players bringing a positive attitude to all team events;
- effort on and off the ice for all practices and games;
- respect for coaches, teammates, officials and opponents; and
- accountability, being a team player and displaying on-ice discipline.

The focus will be on team play and creating a fun and positive environment. Players will be provided the opportunity to play in different game scenarios so that every player can contribute to the team's overall success. While the emphasis will be on team play, we will continue to work on individual skills. There will be an emphasis on taking and receiving a bodycheck safely, and how to properly use body positioning to either protect or retrieve the puck.

Commitment

Players will be expected to attend 3-5 team activities per week consisting of practices, games and a dryland training session. The players will be asked to notify me in a timely manner if they are unable to attend a team event. This will allow affiliated players the opportunity to participate throughout the season and will assist with ensuring that a full roster is available for games and practices.

Tournaments

The team is registered to participate in the following tournaments

1. Kingston Canadians Tournament Series, Kingston, October 25 to 26, 2025
2. Canadian Cup, Montreal February 13 to 15, 2026.

We will be looking to add either two in-town tournaments or one additional away tournament.

Team Fees

Team fees will be approximately \$850. These fees are in addition to WEHL association fees and the purchase of a Golden Knights team track suit.

Tryouts

Tryouts will most likely consist of 2 or 3 intrasquad games and 1 or 2 exhibition games. I will be working with evaluators to select fifteen skaters and two goalies. The evaluators will be looking for players with:

- strong skating skills, hockey IQ;
- high level of compete; and
- a positive attitude.

All players will be given an equal opportunity to make the team.

Further information concerning tournaments, arrival times, dress code and volunteers will be communicated after the team is selected.

Enjoy the rest of your summer. I look forward to seeing you at the September tryouts.

Chris Eccles