



**MIDGET B  
COACH'S STATEMENT  
2012/13 SEASON**

Thanks for your interest in the Midget B team (born 1995, 1996 or 1997). I am Rob Carmichael and I will be the head coach for the coming season. I coached the Pee wee B team in 09/10, the Bantam B team in 10/11 and the Bantam BB team in 11/12. These teams have been building a core of players (born 1997) that have remained together as a unit and have had a lot of fun and some solid success on the ice (tournament winners and finalists, LLFHL division winners). While I expect many players will move up from the Bantam BB team to this Midget B team, I encourage everyone to tryout.

I enjoy coaching, seeing a team come together over a season, seeing an individual advance her skills beyond what she thought possible. My job is pretty straightforward – provide a fair, respectful, enthusiastic and encouraging environment for those things to happen.

I believe strongly in positive reinforcement, actively looking for success and noting it. I build on the successes of each girl – it is critical they have the self-confidence to take the risks required to advance their skills and their play. I am passionate about the game, the team and the incredible impact that a positive experience can have on the girls.

### **Team Objectives**

- Have fun!
- Bring 15-17 individuals together to form an enthusiastic and close-knit team, emphasizing team values and team play
- Develop and enhance core hockey skills in each girl
- Be a competitive team, not just amongst GTA teams but across the province

### **Philosophy**

There will be a heavy focus on continued skill development. Building confidence in carrying the puck, advanced skating, passing, shooting, etc. will be worked on consistently in practices. We have worked with a former female Olympian the past couple seasons to assist with specific skill development and that will continue. I will promote an environment where the girls feel safe trying new things and taking personal risks. Individual and team tactics will also be a focus throughout the season.

I will emphasize an aggressive style of play, one that promotes a fast-paced, “always on the puck” approach. I have found this to not only be very effective but a lot of fun for the girls. As this is not necessarily each girl’s tendency, we will talk about this a lot.

The self confidence and development of the girls is critical to me. The general focus will be to “roll the lines”, providing enough opportunity for each player. Depending on the game, the situation and the individual players’ efforts, ice time may not always be exactly equal but it will be fair and reasonable.

Finally, I place a lot of emphasis on team values. Team spirit, high enthusiasm and respect will be promoted heavily.

### **Commitment**

There is no question that “rep” hockey is a very significant commitment for both the player and their family. There is an obvious financial commitment - approximately \$2500-\$3000 + tournament travel costs. It is a long season, starting in Sept and ending in March or April. While school takes precedence, it would be expected that this hockey program takes precedence in terms of extra curricular items. A couple of points to note:

- Attendance at practices and games is expected (occasional absence for special situations is reasonable)
- Hard work is essential – this gets to the most important team value (we are all in it together, working equally as hard); this applies to practices and games
- Respect for the coaching staff, teammates, opposition and officials

I will ask the parents to support us with these commitments and our overall philosophy.

### **Other Logistics**

- The pre-season will begin at the end of Aug/beginning of Sept and will include 5-6 games
- The season will likely include 20-25 games, from Oct to Feb
- We will practice two times per week (one weeknight and one weekend day) most weeks
- We will participate in 4-5 tournaments (Leaside being one on the first weekend of the March break, with 1-2 being overnight tournaments)
- Expect playoffs to begin in early Feb and hopefully extend to April – there are divisional playoffs and provincial playdowns

### **Tryouts**

As might be expected, we will be looking for players that are far enough along in their skill development to compete at this level. Beyond skills, we’re looking for that extra effort, desire and enthusiasm.

If you have any questions, please contact me at [robcar michael@sympatico.ca](mailto:robcar michael@sympatico.ca) or 416-690-5522.

Thanks and good luck!