

I am very excited to be returning as the Head Coach of the 2010 Silver Seven group to coach the U14AA team for the 2023-2024 season. It is a huge honour to be chosen and I feel privileged to be able to coach this special group of kids. I look forward to the opportunity to build and improve upon the success that our U13AA team had last season. I am happy to outline my coaching philosophy and approach for the upcoming season in this letter.

It is very important to me that every player on the team feels valued and has fun playing hockey. Throughout the season my focus will be ensuring that all the players on the team have the best opportunity to develop their skills in a supportive environment. Even at this high level of competitive hockey, it should always be fun, and I believe a fun atmosphere can be maintained without sacrificing the high level of focus and competition that is required at this level. Players will be expected to compete to the best of their ability each and every time they are on the ice, both in games and in practices.

Practices will be fast paced and high energy. We will continue to place a strong emphasis on individual skill development in practice however we will incorporate more tactical team skills and team systems at this age. Knowledge of the game and learning to play as a team are essential as the players move onto the older ages and higher levels of hockey.

Attitude and character will be a central focus of our team. One of the most valuable lessons that can be learned from sport is the importance of teamwork, character, and attitude in determining success. These values will be at the forefront of everything we do, and players will be held accountable for actions that are not reflective of these core values.

I have an open and approachable communication style. I will keep parents informed throughout the season. I am happy to provide feedback or to meet and discuss concerns raised by players or parents at any time.

We will participate in 5 tournaments this season:

- Green Mountain Avalanche AAA Elite Tournament, Jay Peak, Vermont, Sept 28- Oct 1.
- Capital Fall Classic, Silver Seven Tournament, Oct 20-22
- Northumberland Silver Stick Regional Qualifier, Coburg, Dec 1-3
- The Oshawa Cup, Oshawa, Jan 11-14
- A second local tournament TBD.

I encourage all players who are interested in playing at the AA level this season to come and try out for the team, all are welcome. I look forward to meeting everyone at jersey pick up night, and I wish everyone the best of luck at tryouts. I am excited to get the season underway. If you any questions please don't hesitate to contact me at jonrathwell@silversevenhockey.com

All the best,

Jon Rathwell