

Hi, my name is Chris Neil and I am excited about being named your 2022-2023 OVSS U14AA Coach. Thank you to Silver Seven hockey association for their efforts throughout the coach selection process.

I was raised in a small town of 700 people and that is where I fell in love with the game of hockey at a very young age. I'm the youngest of four competitive boys and that is where I developed my tough competitive nature, they never let me get away with shortcuts.

During my junior and professional career, I had the privilege of playing for a long list of renowned coaches like Roger Neilson, Jacques Martin and Bryan Murray along with Paul McLean to name a few. I have been fortunate to witness first hand their coaching techniques and philosophies. I have seen a lot of strategies that work very well and unfortunately some that don't. I intend to take the best of what I have seen work and adapt them into the game play strategies that will work well for this age group.

I am looking forward to the team tryouts slated for August. I would like to encourage all prospective players to come out and challenge for a position on the team.

I'm looking for kids that are hard working on and off the ice, that show respect to their teammates and coaches as well as their parents. I will run energetic and high pace practices that create good work ethic and good habits on the ice. I hope to also be able to foster an environment where kids feel like they can be creative with their skills while still developing. I plan to run off ice training practices as well to further develop good fitness habits. I want the kids to love the game as much as I do, so therefor we will have fun this season. You can expect 4-5 days a week and all team events will be mandatory.

We are registered to participate in 5 tournaments this season, 3 of which are out of town. We have an early season tournament booked which I hope will be a time for the players and coaches to bond as a group.

Wishing you all the best in your off season, I look forward to the season to come.

-Chris Neil