



U13 BB2 Tryouts – 2024 / 2025 Season

Memo From Coach David Buzzelli

Welcome to the U13BB2 Rep tryouts for the 2024/2025 season. Please find some additional details below around the tryout process. There are a lot of talented players in this age group and I am excited to be able to lead this team through the next phase of their development.

My philosophy for U13 BB players is centered around the following elements.

- **Having Fun:** Make sure that fun is at the forefront of every practice session and game. Encourage a playful atmosphere where players feel comfortable expressing themselves and enjoying the sport.
- **Development:** Emphasize skill development and team play. Provide opportunities for players to improve their hockey skills while also learning the importance of teamwork, high compete levels and sportsmanship.
- **Discipline:** Teach players the importance of discipline and commitment both on and off the ice. Encourage players to set high standards for themselves and hold them accountable for their actions, while also emphasizing the importance of balance and well-being.
- **Self-Worth:** Help players build confidence in their abilities by providing positive reinforcement and constructive feedback. Encourage them to set goals and celebrate their achievements, no matter how small. Create a supportive environment where players feel empowered to take risks and learn from their mistakes. Help them develop resilience and confidence in their abilities by providing opportunities for personal growth and success.
- **Friendships:** Foster a sense of camaraderie and teamwork among players. Encourage them to support and respect each other both on and off the ice, building lasting friendships that extend beyond the game.

By focusing on these elements, my expectation is to create a positive and nurturing environment where our daughters can thrive both as athletes and as individuals.

What I Am Looking for in Tryouts

- Most players by U13 have committed to playing forward, defense or goalie and will tryout for the team as one of these positions. My intention is to select the 15 strongest skaters, keeping in mind the position your daughter is trying out for. There may be some player/position movement to start the season, and throughout the season, depending on what works best for the team.
- During the team selection process, I will be looking for **competete, coachability, hockey skill, hockey sense and team play.**
- The tryout process is the **final step** in selecting the team. Over the past two months, I have used the following resources to gain perspective in selecting the team.
 - *Player observations at various games and/or practices over the last several weeks*
 - *Perspective from 2024/25 U13 coaches*
 - *Feedback received from the 2023/24 U11 and U13 Rep coaches*
 - *Tryout performance*
- Formal offers have not been made to any skaters. However as a result of scouting, BW game performance, player observation and obtaining feedback from this season's coaches, I will be looking for the following positions to fill the roster:
 - 2 open positions on defense
 - 4 open positions on forward
 - Goalies have been evaluated through March and April with the help of the league and outside instructors. I have chosen goalies for U13 BB2 for the 2024-2025 season and those positions have been committed.

The Tryout and Communication Process

- BB1 – Bruhn and BB2 – Buzzelli will have three tryouts to select both teams
 - Saturday April 20th 12:00 River Oaks A – open tryout
 - Sunday April 21st 11:45 Sixteen Mile 4 (check Hornets Portal to see if your player will return).
 - Tuesday April 23rd 7:30 PM Joshua Creek Blue (check Hornets Portal to see if your player will return)
- **The current plan is to have the BB1 team selected after the April 21st skate. The BB2 team will be selected after the April 23rd skate.**

- Communication during tryouts will come through the Hornets portal. I am available to all families during this time. Please understand that my preference would be to communicate outcome of tryouts face to face with each player, however given the tryout window and the number of players involved, it is not always logistically possible. If I cannot connect with families directly on the 23rd, I will be available following tryouts and happy to provide feedback over phone, email or in person.

Time Commitment

- **April, May and June** – light team activities to bond before we break for summer
 - Planning 2 exhibition games in April
 - May 27th, June 3rd, June 10th, June 17th, June 24th – 7:30 PM Skills Session with Brandon Coccimiglio
 - We will be looking to arrange dryland training once per week in May / June time frame as well
- **July and August** – have a great summer, there will be no 'official' team activities in July and August
- **September 1st 2024 to April 2025** - Players are expected to prioritize Hockey as their top sport during the hockey season. Players are expected to attend all functions. You can anticipate 2-3 practices per week plus one home game and one travel game.
- **The U13 BB2 Team will enter 4-5 tournaments this season.** I believe there are a lot of good, local hockey tournaments to help families minimize hotel and travel costs. However, we all know the players love travel tournaments and we will be looking into 1 or possibly 2 away tournaments. Currently looking at the following tournaments:
- Our goal is to make it to Playoffs and Provincials. As such, it is expected that players are available during March break for practices and games to prepare.
- We will not be practicing or entering tournaments between Christmas and New Years (we will break from Dec 23rd until Jan 2nd)

Financial Commitment

- The final team budgets are yet to be finalized and are expected to be approximately \$55,000. Your family commitment will be *approximately* \$3,250 per player and can be partially offset by fund raising and sponsorship activities.
- This amount is above the Oakville Hornets Registration fee (TBD – last season registration was \$725)
- Hotels and travel for tournaments are an additional expense.

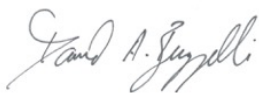
Family Commitment

- As with any team sport, we will need parent volunteers to help with team management and team functions to ensure a positive experience for your daughters. I will be looking for 2 assistant coaches, a trainer and an assistant trainer to help on the bench. I will also need a team manager, social committee, sponsorship coordinator as well as several other roles. This will be discussed at the first parent meeting.
- It will be your daughter's responsibility to ensure that hockey does not negatively impact her schoolwork. School comes first - a player or family should never feel they are letting the team down if they need to miss an event to focus on schoolwork with adequate notice.

Rep Apparel and Game Jerseys

- **On Ice Apparel** - All Oakville Hornet Rep players will be required to wear a consistent uniform to all games. This includes Oakville Hornets pants, a black helmet and gloves in the Hornet color scheme (gloves do not need to be Oakville Hornets branded).
- **Off Ice Apparel** – Players will need Oakville Hornets track pant and jacket, as well as a warm up shirt (all available though Corbets). Players may use team branded apparel from previous seasons if apparel still fits.
- Fittings at Corbett's will be scheduled some time this spring. Payment for these items will be made at time of purchase by each family.

Best of luck to all players and families during tryouts!



David Buzzelli

Head Coach, Oakville Hornets U13 BB2 2024-2025