



Subject: Cambridge roadrunners Pee wee AA 2019-2020
From: Greg Nagel (Head Coach); Melissa Campbell (Assistant Coach)

Parents,

As the 2018-2019 season enters its latter half, some of you may have started contemplating where your daughter will play next year. And if you believe that she has a chance to compete at the highest level of girls hockey, then you certainly have a choice of various associations.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of what your daughter can expect in Cambridge should she be selected, and accept the offer to play in our association next season at the Pee wee AA level.

The coaching staff will include non-parents Greg Nagel (Head Coach) and Melissa Campbell (Assistant Coach). We have both coached together for several years and are currently non-parent coaches on the 2018-2019 roadrunners Bantam BB team.

Our list of accomplishments over the last two years (both at the Bantam BB level) include 4 gold medals and 3 silver medals at the last 8 tournaments our respective teams have entered. This includes a silver medal at the OWSA Provincial Tournament last year.

That said, I need every parent to understand that winning hockey games is **not** our top priority. Instead both Melissa and I set out 3 goals for our team each year. They are as follows:

1. **Be the best possible team we can be.** We want *every girl* on the team to be the best she can be! Don't be afraid to make mistakes and challenge her to try new things on the ice.
2. **Be the best people we can be.** We need to teach the girls about things like resiliency and leadership that will stay with them for the rest of their lives!
3. **Have fun!** We believe that sometimes we as parents get so caught up in the result that we forget why our daughters want to play the game in the first place.

We both firmly believe that if we focus on the 3 goals above, and if we have a competitive level of skill and desire on the team, then the wins will take care of themselves. Emphasizing winning only puts unnecessary stress on the girls and ultimately hinders performance.

Melissa and I chose Pee wee AA as it is a chance to be part of growing the AA program in Cambridge. Instead of "jumping around" and coaching a different team each year, this is a chance for us to stay at the Pee wee level and try to attract quality players and parents to our association. From our philosophies listed above we hope that people understand that we are striving towards excellence on and off the ice. The Cambridge Rivulettes are at the top of our High Performance program and our entire AA program in Cambridge works closely with the Rivulettes.

And while it would be incredibly exciting if all of our players eventually play for the Rivulettes that is certainly not what we promise with our Pee wee AA team. But to be a part of our AA family in Cambridge we hope to continually expose our team to the type of dedication and effort it takes to continue to develop towards Bantam and Midget AA and then perhaps to the Cambridge Rivulettes or another PWWHL team. Children do not start playing hockey because they hope one day to achieve a scholarship to play hockey in Canada or the US. However, presently many opportunities do exist for girls to pursue their education first and foremost while playing hockey. By being part of our AA family it is our hope to help them better understand what opportunities may exist and the type of dedication and love of the game that is required to continue to pursue those opportunities

Finally let me add that any 2007 or 2008 girl that makes our team will be only 11 or 12-years old next year. As a player capable of playing AA hockey, she will undoubtedly play many games in the future where scouts will be watching and the pressure she faces will be intense.

Melissa and I do not want our players to experience that pressure next year but we do want to **teach them how to deal with it at a later age.**

In sum, if you feel that your daughter has the potential to play AA hockey next year at the pee wee level and you feel that your values align with those we have listed above, please do not hesitate to contact either of us should you have any questions.

And regardless of where your daughter plays next year, or what level she achieves, I hope it is the best year that she has ever experienced! That's what hockey is supposed to be.

Greg Nagel
Gnagel@fastenal.com
519 241 1944

Melissa Campbell
melmac11@rogers.com
519 241 4877