

## Coaches Letter: Jeff Hawthorne

My name is Jeff Hawthorne, and I am excited for the opportunity to coach the 2023/2024 U11 Crusaders team. I have 4 years' experience as head coach and 1 year as an assistant coach all with the 2013 birth year. I am looking forward to getting on the ice with the players to help develop their game to the next level.

With this U11 age group entering their second year of full ice, my focus will be to continue to develop and refine the fundamental skills of the game. Throughout the course of the season, this will include a focus on technical skills, individual skills, team play, positioning, and strategy.

As we move forward through the season, the intensity will be gradually increased which will require the players to give more effort and execute their skills at a greater speed in order to be competitive at this level.

I will encourage fair play, inclusiveness, respect, strong work ethic, punctuation, and most importantly having fun. My goal is to make this the most enjoyable and memorable season for the players and their families.

I envision at least 2-3 ice times per week (practices, games) and we will be participating in 4 tournaments (2 local and 2 away). The team will also participate in some off-ice activities and some community involvement as well (TBD). Fundraising activities, sponsorships, etc., will be discussed at the start of the season.

I encourage all kids with the 2013 birth year to register for the try outs. I will be looking for players with a competitive spirit, strong work ethic, and willingness to listen and learn. I guarantee to all parents and players that everyone who participates will be given a fair and equal opportunity to make this team.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and I look forward to seeing you at the rink.

Coach Jeff