

Portland Jr. Hawks
U18AA/AAA
Tim Moran, Head Coach
Greetings to players and parents,

I am honored to have been asked to coach the Midget U18 team again this year. This will be my fourth year coaching at the Midget AA level and 13th as a PJH coach. In the body of this letter I have outlined a bit of what you can expect for the season. I would welcome any calls from anyone who wishes to talk to me. My cell phone # is 503-805-7221.

This is an extremely exciting time to be involved with the midget program as USA Hockey has changed the format as to our path to Nationals. Starting this year, each state will send one team to Nationals and teams will be matched with teams from similar sized state youth registrations. We will be going to Rochester N.Y. PJH has a long history of having extremely competitive teams and I believe that our team has an excellent chance to have a very good result.

If you are selected to play on this team you can expect to play a high caliber of hockey. This team is expected to compete with some of the top Tier I and II U16 and U 18 teams on the west coast and we will play and coach to win! Practices will be high paced and difficult at times. You may be asked to do things you haven't done before like play a different position, take on a different role on the team, learn different systems and perform under pressure. Ice time is not guaranteed and must be earned. Players will be asked to perform training off-ice on their own time and to work out away from the rink. There will also be mandatory dry-land training before practice.

Our mission is to help young men grow and develop strength, character and responsibility through the game of hockey. The players will be treated like young men and will be held to a high level of accountability and responsibility. Players, coaches and parents will adhere to all team rules and conduct themselves in a professional manner on and off the ice. All ice related issues will be discussed with the players, not their parents. Discipline will be handled at the coach/player level unless the coaching staff deems it necessary to involve the parents.

The team will play approximately 50 games this season. The team will play a majority of its games in Canada playing at the AAA level. We will also play in two to three tournaments that may require airfare. The players will travel as a team at all times and travel arrangements for your player will be made by the team manager. We will travel whenever reasonable via 15 Passenger vans to areas that can be reached in 7 or 8 hours or less. If we fly we will rent vans once there and transport the players and gear to the hotel and all venues.

Sample schedule:

August 16 – September Mandatory Practice - twice a week
October – March Mandatory Practice – Twice a week
September - Home weekends (1) Travel to San Jose for Labor Day Tournament
October – Home weekend (possibly home Tournament); away weekend; Canadian AAA Tournament or travel to OHS.
November – Home weekend, away weekend, Thanksgiving Tournament in Las Vegas
December – Home weekend, away weekend, Christmas Tournament, Richmond B.C.
January – Home weekend, away weekend, MLK Tournament
February – Home weekend, away weekend, President's Day Tournament TBD
March – Home Weekend, away weekend, USA Hockey Nationals, Rochester N.Y.

Team Dues include all ice time, referee costs, ground travel and lodging for the players and most meals, expenses for three coaches and team manager (cook, chaperone, logistics etc.) Airfare will be an additional responsibility of the player/family. The team will book arrangements for a group, but also allow parents to take advantage of frequent flier miles and business discounts if possible. We may also use fundraiser money to offset air travel costs. We will begin collecting dues in July (\$350.00). In August, we will begin collecting full dues of \$550.00 per month. We will be building a schedule during this time. We will always try to balance missing school with travel and last year's team only missed two to three days during the year.

I hope that you will join me at try outs and that you share my enthusiasm and dedication to making our team the very best that it can be.

Sincerely,
Coach Tim Moran