

Coach Profile: Brent Smith

Position: Head Coach

Team / Organization: U10 BB/B Kitchener Jr. Rangers

Coaching Experience: 7+ Years

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Coach Biography

I grew up playing minor hockey in Kitchener, in both KMHA house league and rep programs. Hockey played a big role in my development, not just as a player, but in teaching teamwork, accountability, and respect. I began coaching as a way to give back to the organization and the game that gave me so much growing up. I now also having a child playing in the KMHA system, which has further shaped my perspective. Being both a coach and a parent reinforces the importance of creating a positive, supportive environment where players can build confidence, develop strong fundamentals, and genuinely enjoy coming to the rink.

Coaching Philosophy

My coaching philosophy is rooted in long-term player development, enjoyment of the game, and building strong habits at a critical stage of growth. The U10 year is an important window for accelerating skill acquisition while reinforcing confidence, creativity, and game sense. Success at this level is measured by development, not results.

The season is designed to be development-focused, progressive, and age-appropriate, with a strong emphasis on skating, puck skills, decision-making, confidence, and teamwork. Practices are structured to maximize puck touches and meaningful repetitions through small-area games, station work, and game-like situations.

I believe players develop best in an environment that is positive, supportive, and appropriately challenging. Players are encouraged to try new skills, make mistakes, and learn through experience. Improvement over the course of the season, both individually and as a team, is the primary goal.

A successful season means players finish the year skating more efficiently in all directions, handling the puck with confidence in open ice and tight spaces, making quicker and smarter decisions, understanding basic team structure, and competing consistently and respectfully. Most importantly, players should genuinely enjoy coming to the rink and feel proud of their growth.

Coaching Style

My coaching style is organized, structured, and development-driven, with practices that are fast-paced, engaging, and purposeful. Each session is planned around clear skill objectives while maintaining a fun and energetic environment.

On-ice instruction focuses on:

- Strong skating mechanics, edge control, transitions, and acceleration
- Puck skills at speed, passing, receiving, protection, and execution in tight areas
- Individual tactics such as 1-on-1 play, angling, and basic decision-making
- Introduction and reinforcement of simple team concepts, including puck support, defensive structure, and breakouts

Off the ice, emphasis is placed on building good habits—preparation, communication, emotional control, and respect for teammates, coaches, officials, and opponents. Players are taught that effort, attitude, and accountability matter just as much as skill.

Goalie development is supported through regular fundamental work and inclusion in station-based practices, ensuring goaltenders receive appropriate, age-specific development time alongside team play.

Overall, my approach is to balance structure with creativity, teaching with enjoyment, and challenge with support—helping players build confidence, strong habits, and a lasting passion for hockey.

Coaching Experience

2025-2026	U9 Select Kitchener Jr. Rangers – Head Coach
2025-2026	U18 Select Red Kitchener Jr. Rangers – Assistant Coach
2024-2025	U18 Select Red Kitchener Jr. Rangers – Head Coach
2023-2024	U18 Select Red Kitchener Jr. Rangers – Assistant Coach
2022-2023	U18 Select Red Kitchener Jr. Rangers – Assistant Coach
2019-2020	U18 Select Red Kitchener Jr. Rangers – Assistant Coach
2018-2019	U18 Select Red Kitchener Jr. Rangers – Assistant Coach

Coaching Qualifications

Coach 2 - Coach Level
Hockey Canada Coaching Program - Coach 1
HU - Online Coach 1/Coach 2
Hockey Canada Coaching Program – Checking
Respect In Sport - Activity Leader
Gender Identity and Expression Course