

## Coach Profile: Jimmy Gagnon

**Position:** Head Coach

**Team/Organization:** U13 Kitchener Jr Rangers

**Coaching Experience:** 6 years

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## Coach Biography:

"Jimmy Gagnon is our dedicated Coach for the U13 AA Program in Kitchener, bringing a wealth of experience and expertise to the ice. With over 10 years of professional hockey experience, including playing for the Kitchener Rangers, Jimmy has a deep understanding of the game. His passion for teaching hockey spans more than 20 years, during which he successfully ran his own teaching program in Australia. He has been coaching locally for over 6 years, winning multiple championships as a head coach.

Known for his excellent communication skills and outstanding instruction, Jimmy creates a relaxed and enjoyable learning environment through his unique ability to inject humor into coaching and life. He takes great pride in developing not only skilled hockey players but also well-rounded individuals. Committed to fostering an enjoyable and successful hockey program, Jimmy understands the dedication required to help his players thrive both on and off the ice. Additionally, he is devoted to building leaders in the community and creating a welcoming environment where families can forge friendships and create lasting memories together."

## Playing Experience:

**Position:** Center

### Junior / Pro Career

OHL - 4 Years

CIS - 4 Years

**Representative/Minor Hockey:** KMHA U8 AAA - U16 AAA

## **Coaching Certifications & Education:**

### **Level of Certification:**

Hockey Canada HP1, HP2, D1, L3 Official

### **Specialized Coaching Programs:**

Skills Development, Positional Development, Team Building, Offensive & Defensive Systems

### **First Aid/CPR Certified:**

Yes

## **Coaching Achievements & Recognition:**

Successfully helped develop and elevated 10+ players up levels in the past 3 seasons.

Alliance Champions, Alliance Finalists, 6+ tournament championships

## **Coaching Specialties & Focus Areas:**

### **Skill Development:**

Skating, Puck Handling, Shooting, Passing, Defensive Play

### **Tactical & Strategic Understanding:**

Power Play, Penalty Kill, Offensive & Defensive Systems, Breakout / Zone Entry Strategy

### **Team Leadership & Culture Building:**

Creating a Positive Team Environment, Leadership Skills, Creating a fun inclusive environment for all players, siblings and families

## **Philosophy on Player Development:**

### **Individualized Approach:**

Each player is at a different stage in their development journey. Our team's job is to understand where they are and create a plan throughout the season to help them on this journey. This means trusting them in all situations as experience is the quickest path to growth.

### **Focus on Growth, Not Just Results:**

I am equally focused on creating an environment where hockey players can develop into better individuals as well as skilled athletes. By instilling values such as teamwork, respect, and perseverance, I encourage players to embody these principles both on and off the ice. This holistic approach not only enhances their performance in hockey but also prepares them for success in life beyond the rink.

### **Positive Reinforcement:**

Hockey is a mental sport that requires strategic thinking, focus, and resilience, making the psychological aspect just as important as physical skill. I understand that positive reinforcement fosters a growth mindset, boosting players' confidence and motivation, which ultimately drives better performance and positive results on the ice.

### **Balancing Fun & Hard Work:**

Our culture is based on hard work, trust, respect and fun. My goal is to keep every player and family excited to come to the rink every day.

## **Why Choose Coach Jimmy for Your Child?**

"I consider myself not only a hockey fan but an ambassador for the sport. Throughout my personal and professional career, coaching and mentorship have always been present. It is a passion that I now have the opportunity to share with our youth in sports to make a positive impact on both the individuals and the community. I am beyond excited to have the opportunity to be the role model that I had while going through the Kitchener Minor and Major Junior hockey programs—someone the players can look up to, learn from, and have a ton of fun playing the sport we love together."