



Since 1962, the Knoxville Amateur Hockey Association has offered youth and adult hockey to all in East Tennessee. In that time, a strong tradition of player development across all levels of competition has been the cornerstone of what has propelled KAHA into being one of the most successful and winningest programs in the southeast. With countless league, state, major tournament and even a national championship being the most visible signs of KAHA's successes over the last six decades, our proudest achievement thus far is the incredible culture and the "hockey for life" atmosphere that we've maintained.

This tradition will continue as we, in partnership with Cool Sports, are proud to announce their coaching line-up for the 2021-22 Knoxville Jr. Ice Bears "AA" travel hockey season. With nearly 75 years of coaching experience at the youth, AAA and professional ranks and over 50 years of playing experience at junior, collegiate and professional levels combined, there is not a more experienced group of coaches at the Tier 2 level in the region. The overarching goal for all our coaches this season is simple: develop our players, cultivate their love for the sport in a fun environment, and maximize their potential. Each of these coaches understand that each season is a process and are ready to hold themselves, and their players accountable through all the ups and downs that come with a new hockey season.

The 2021-21 Knoxville Jr. Ice Bears "AA" Travel coaches are:

#### **10U SQUIRT → Head Coach James Ronayne**

James is a native of Bloomfield Hills, MI and has resided in Knoxville since 2003 where he met his wife Nikki. After a collegiate career at NCAA Buffalo State, James – a goaltender – was inducted into the Buffalo State Athletics Hall of Fame in 2006.

James went on to a long and successful professional hockey career with stops in Tulsa, New Haven, El Paso, San Angelo, Pelham and finished in Knoxville with the Ice Bears where he backstopped the 05-06 team to the first ever professional hockey championship in city history.

James comes from a family of hockey coaches and spent many years as a goaltending instructor before serving as the assistant coach for the Knoxville Ice Bears from 2010-17 where he was part of another championship in 2016. Since then James has coached at every level within KAHA, served as a skills coach and evaluator for Total Package Hockey and was the head coach of the SYTHL Champion 10U Squirt Jr. Ice Bears last season.

James has served on the KAHA board as the A.C.E Coordinator since 2018, is a Level 4 certified USA Hockey Coach and is the proud father of squirt player Max and mite player Tucker, who are both KAHA members.





### **12U PEE WEE → Head Coach Mike Craigen**

Mike hails from Buckhorn, Ontario, Canada and has called Knoxville his home since 2003. Mike played Major Jr. hockey in the OHL for the Sarnia Sting before pursuing a professional career with stops in Atlanta, Birmingham and finishing in Knoxville with the Ice Bears. Mike lives in Seymour with his wife Haley, sons Chunk & Charlie, dogs Gordie & Murphy and a slew of turtles, fish and other assorted creatures.

Mike was the head skills instructor for Roger Neilson's Hockey Camp before stepping behind the bench in 2008 with the Tier 2 Jr. A Peterborough Liftlock Stars for two seasons. In 2010, Mike became the youngest head coach in professional hockey when he was hired to guide the Knoxville Ice Bears in the SPHL at just 28 years old. After a seven-year coaching stint with the Ice Bears, Mike joined Cool Sports as the assistant hockey director and then took over the program as the hockey director in 2019.

Mike is a Level 4 USA Hockey coach, a certified USA Hockey official, a member of the USA Hockey CEP Coaching Development team and Hockey Canada High Performance coaching stream member. He has coordinated the Little Peds program at Cool Sports, oversees all the travel and house league programming and was the head coach of the Jr. Ice Bears PW Select team last season.



### **14U BANTAM → Head Coach Tim Sinasac**

Coach Sinasac has been a centerpiece of the Knoxville hockey community since he began volunteering back in 2014. Tim serves as KAHA's Travel Director and has coached from the mite level all the way up to Midget through both travel and house league level.

Tim played Major Jr hockey in Canada with the Windsor Spitfires and Sarnia Sting before spending 2 seasons in the Quebec Major Jr Hockey league. He then joined the Knoxville Speed of the United Hockey League in 2001 and never left.

"Sinner" now calls Knoxville his home with wife Melissa and sons Daydrian and Waylon. He is a Fire Protection Designer with Performance Design Technologies and continues to assist KAHA & Cool Sports across all age





levels. Tim has been a “non parent” coach with KAHA for nearly 8 years and epitomizes the culture of youth development fostered by KAHA. Known for his no nonsense coaching style, Tim is excited to lead the 14U age group this season.

### **16U MIDGET → Head Coach KJ Voorhees**

From Lake Stevens, Washington where he was born into Caps & Mariners loyalty. You’ll need to take a deep breath before reciting Coach Voorhees’ resume. He spent 12 years as the hockey director at Cool Sports and helped put the program on the map in the Southeast as a coach for the past 15 seasons.

KJ spent four seasons as a AAA head coach with Thunder hockey, served as the Knoxville Ice Bears professional hockey team’s assistant coach in 2009-10, is a level 5 USA Hockey certified coach and is a member of the SYTHL governing board. He built the cross ice program in Knoxville, helped bring the NHL’s Little Preds program to Cool Sports and crafted the Jr. Predators house league partnership. He is the owner and founder of Total Skills Hockey

Camp (the longest running summer hockey camp in Tennessee at 19 years and counting) and played seven years of professional hockey with stops in Tacoma, New Mexico, Fort Wayne, Knoxville and Europe before helping lead the 2014 U18 Jr. Ice Bears to a National Championship.

KJ also spent four years at NCAA Division I Colorado College and scored 201 goals as a professional hockey player to go along with an SPHL Championship in 2005. Known for his mega-watt smile and passion for the game, KJ is a cornerstone of Knoxville hockey.

Coach KJ makes his home in Knoxville now with his wife Amanda and their family of 3 boys Noah, Nash and brand new baby boy Banks Voorhees.

### **18U MIDGET → Head Coach Steven Barnard**

No stranger to KAHA or youth hockey either, Coach Steve will return for his third consecutive season as the head coach of the U18 Midget Jr. Ice Bears. From Corona, CA, Steve has coached at every level within KAHA and has been around since the grassroots days of cross-ice hockey at Cool Sports with his sons Ashton, Sammy and Stevie. Most recently, he has coached the Adult Rookie League where his daughter Ashlie plays.

After a AAA youth career with the Long Beach Ice Dogs, Steve bounced around as a junior hockey goalie in St.





Paul of the NEAJBHL, Canora Cobras of the SSJHL and the Neepawa Natives in the Tier 2 Canadian junior ranks. Steve has served as a back-up goaltender for the Knoxville Ice Bears in an emergency role since 2010.

Coach Barnard is a level 4 certified USA Hockey coach and brings a laid-back but accountable approach to coaching and relies on his fantastic player relationships to get the most out of his teams.

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After tryouts in June, head coaches will appoint their support staff of assistants and team managers. KAHA & Cool Sports have the full intention of icing a “AA” and single “A” travel team at 10U squirt, 12U PW and 14U bantam. 16U midget & 18U midget will only have one team (“AA”) at each age bracket. “A” coaches will be named after the “AA” player contracts have been signed by families the Wednesday after tryouts.

KAHA & Cool Sports are projecting the following registration numbers at tryouts this year based on year-over-year trends, overall program numbers and select/travel rosters from previous years:

10U SQUIRT	12U PEE WEE	14U BANTAM	16U MIDGET	18U MIDGET
35	45	33	21	28

KAHA travel teams play under the “Knoxville Jr. Ice Bears” brand as members of the Southern Youth Travel Hockey League which provide organizations convenient league-weekend scheduling to cut down on expensive travel throughout the season. More about the SYTHL [here](#).

Cool Sports hosts all Jr. Ice Bears travel teams for a “High Performance” kick off to the season over Labor Day Weekend. This weekend involves multiple ice times, team building, video sessions and more.

Outside the SYTHL league weekends, the Jr. Ice Bears attend several out-of-town tournaments per season. These tournaments are selected by the head coach in collaboration with team manager, KAHA Travel Director and the Cool Sports Hockey Director.

In addition to tournaments and SYTHL league weekends, teams will have the option to schedule additional games both in Knoxville and out of town to supplement their schedules. Cool Sports & KAHA schedule games and practices based on the recommendations from USA Hockey’s development model “ADM.” For a breakdown of each age group and the specific recommendations for ice touches, practices, off ice workouts, etc please visit this ADM [“Hockey for Life”](#) document.

For an approximation of cost per family at each age group along with a breakdown of practices and more schedule details, families can visit our Travel Hockey page on the Cool Sports website at [Travel Hockey – Knoxville Jr. Ice Bears | Cool Sports, Knoxville, TN \(coolsportstn.com\)](#)