

Coach Jay has coached within the North Middlesex Minor Hockey Association for the past four seasons, working this year with both the U7 and U5 programs. He also serves as the association's U7 Coordinator, supporting early-stage player development and program organization.

Before coaching, Coach Jay played his minor hockey with the South Huron Sabres and went on to spend four seasons with the Jr. D North Middlesex Stars. His experience as both a player and coach help him connect with young athletes and foster a positive, development-focused environment.

Coach Blake and Coach Jay share a clear vision: develop great kids and keep hockey fun. When players enjoy the game, they stay in the game. The inaugural U8MD program will focus on skating technique, puck control, passing, shooting, and building strong work habits. Hard work, compete level, sweaty hair, and smiling faces are the goals—forming the foundation of a growing Coyotes culture.

WELCOME CO-HEAD COACH
JAY THOMPSON – U8 MD



Coach Blake has spent the past three seasons coaching within the Ilderton Minor Hockey Association, working this year with the U7, U8 Select, and U5 programs. He also serves as the Director of Development on the IMHA Board of Directors, helping guide player development across the association.

Coach Blake played minor hockey with the Elgin Middlesex Chiefs (now the Canucks), then advanced through Jr. B with the St. Mary's Lincolns, Jr. A with the Mississauga Chargers, and the OHL with the Kingston Frontenacs. He continued at the university level with the Queen's Gaels before completing his playing career in the Dutch Eredivisie with the Groningen Grizzlies.

A certified power-skating instructor, Coach Blake has worked with the University Skating School and now provides private development training in the off-season.

This season marks the first year for AVHA U8 programming, and Coach Jay and Coach Blake are focused on building strong team chemistry and friendships that will grow over the coming years. Each player brings their own strengths and personality to the team, but all share the core values of hard work, focus, teamwork, and fun. With those traits at the centre of the program, both individual development and team success will follow.

WELCOME CO-HEAD COACH BLAKE PRONK – U8 MD



Hello everyone, my name is Richie Cotterill, and I'm excited to serve as the Head Coach of the Ausable Valley Coyotes U10 A team this season. I've lived in Ilderton for more than 12 years and have been actively involved in community volunteering for over eight.

I've previously coached within both the Ausable Valley and Ilderton Jets programs, and I bring more than 43 years of playing experience to the bench. Returning to the Ausable Valley program is something I'm truly looking forward to, especially with this U10 A group.

My focus is on developing both individual and team skills while making the season enjoyable for players and parents alike. Creating a positive, fun, and growth-oriented environment is at the core of how I coach.



WELCOME HEAD COACH
RICHARD COTTERILL – U10 A

I'm excited to lead the U11A Ausable Valley Coyotes for the 2026–27 season and continue building a program rooted in development, character, and competitive growth.

I've spent the past 18 years coaching and volunteering within the Ilderton Minor Hockey Association, most recently with the U10A Coyotes, where the focus was long-term skill progression, hockey sense, and individual growth. Discipline, respect, accountability, resilience, and positive sportsmanship shaped our approach, and those same values will guide this group as we create an environment where hard work, communication, and selflessness drive success. Our goal is to compete at a high level while fostering leadership and a lifelong love for the game.

Tryout evaluations will emphasize technical skills, hockey IQ, effort and competitiveness, and a positive, team-first attitude. I'm looking forward to working with dedicated players and supportive families next season as we build something special together.

WELCOME HEAD COACH MARK READ – U11 A



Coach Warren returns to the U12A bench with a strong commitment to player development, a positive team culture, and helping every athlete reach their potential. This will be his fifth-year coaching youth hockey, highlighted by a U12A OMHA Championship, a U11B International Silverstick title, and two Shamrock League championships. As a player, he began junior hockey at 15 with the Essex 73's, winning a Clarence Schmalz Cup and appearing in the All-Ontario Finals four times.

His approach emphasizes work ethic, teamwork, respect, strong values, and being a good teammate. He looks for players who want to improve, support each other, and enjoy the game, with effort, coachability, and commitment guiding playing opportunities.

The season will move from individual skill development to team-play concepts and finally to systems and structure. Players can expect three to four sessions per week, including practices, games, and skill work. Evaluations will focus on attitude, effort, decision-making, puck movement, and strong puck-possession habits rather than raw skill alone.

WELCOME HEAD COACH CHRIS WARREN – U12 A



Coach Pat is excited to lead the U13A team for the 2026–27 season. He is currently the Head Coach of the U12A team in its inaugural year, where the group has already made history with three tournament wins and the first Regional Silver Stick Championship in Ausable Valley history, with the Shamrock League Finals still ahead.

Coach Pat played minor hockey in Lucan and Junior with the Irish. He has contributed to multiple OMHA and OWHA championship teams as both a player and a coach. With 24 years of competitive hockey and baseball coaching experience he brings a strong development background and holds D1 Certification.

His philosophy emphasizes hard work, character, community involvement, and a positive team culture, supported by consistent on-ice development, off-ice training, video review, and mentorship opportunities within AVHA. He looks forward to creating an unforgettable season built on growth, teamwork, and lasting memories. Go Yotes Go!

WELCOME HEAD COACH PAT
CONLIN – U13 A

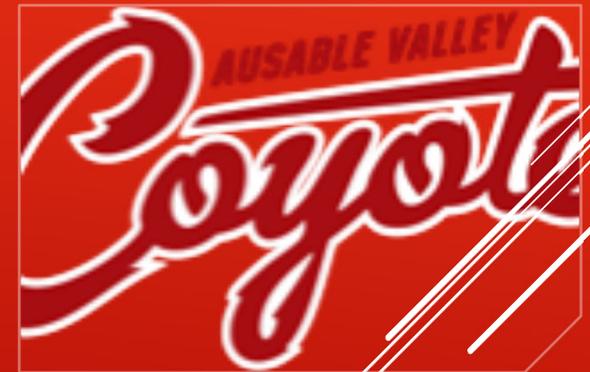


Coach Matt is a respected hockey coach with a strong record of developing high-performing athletes and competitive teams from U7 to U15 AA. He has coached with the Ausable Valley Coyotes, Bluewater Hawks, and the Ilderton Minor Hockey Association, helping young players grow their skills while building positive, winning team cultures.

A former competitive Junior-level player, Coach Matt brings deep knowledge of the game and a development-first approach. His coaching focuses on elite skill progression, accountability, confidence, and strong team identity

Coach Matt has led teams to International and Regional Silver Stick titles, a Nation's Cup Championship, multiple league and tournament wins, and a Provincial Quarter Final. He has been part of OMHA Championship teams as both a player and a coach.

Coach Matt is D1 Certified and a Certified Field Evaluator, reflecting his commitment to coaching excellence and ongoing growth. He remains dedicated to developing young athletes and promoting the values of hard work, teamwork, leadership, and sportsmanship



WELCOME COACH MATT
THOMPSON – U14 A

Coach Owen is a nonparent coach from Ilderton, Ontario. Over the past two seasons, Coach Owen has served as Assistant Coach for the London Devilettes U15A team, strengthening his approach to game management, individual skill development, and team-first habits.

Coach Owen played four years junior hockey with the Lucan Irish Six, including serving as team captain, this experience shaped his understanding of leadership, accountability, and the culture required to compete at a high level.

Coach Owen believes that a team's success is built on belief, daily effort, and full commitment to the program, and he aims to develop athletes who embody discipline, determination, and a strong work ethic both on and off the ice.

Supported by a non-parent coaching staff with recent junior and senior playing experience, he brings a modern, competitive approach with a strong focus on balanced offensive, defensive, and goaltending development, his program delivers a fast, high-tempo environment for athletes seeking an elite and challenging path forward towards junior level hockey.

WELCOME HEAD COACH OWEN CURRIE – U15 A



Chris is a D1 Certified nonparent coach and carded trainer with more than seventeen years of experience across AAA and community levels. He has served as a Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Trainer, board member, body-checking clinic instructor, and D1 Certifier, reflecting a long-standing commitment to developing athletes and supporting the growth of the game.

His background as both a youth and adult athlete spans hockey, ball hockey, and baseball, and he has coached across a wide range of ages and skill levels. This diverse experience strengthens his ability to connect with players and reinforces his belief that sport builds character, resilience, and teamwork.

Chris's coaching philosophy centers on hard work, support, and purposeful play. He pushes players to reach their potential while fostering a culture of respect, accountability, and consistent effort. He expects every athlete to show up ready to work, embrace challenges, and trust one another throughout the season. In return, he brings energy, structure, and commitment to every practice and game.

This season, Chris will focus on strong fundamentals, a team-first mindset, and helping players grow as both athletes and young people. His goal is to build a group that competes with heart, grows together, and creates something meaningful as a team.

WELCOME HEAD COACH CHRIS DIXON - U16 A

