

CANADIAN BLIND HOCKEY



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**2026- 2027 TRY SKATING AND BLIND HOCKEY
PROGRAM INFORMATION PACKAGE**

www.canadianblindhockey.com



BLIND HOCKEY

2026-2027 BLIND HOCKEY SEASON

This year Canadian Blind Hockey is celebrating our **17th season of Try Skating & Blind Hockey Programs** for children and youth who are blind and partially sighted!

Canadian Blind Hockey's "Try Skating & Blind Hockey Programs" are introductory programs where local students who are blind or partially sighted are invited to come spend the day at an arena to learn about and try the Para sport of Blind Hockey.

Since establishing the program in 2010, we have organized **over 250 field trips for more than 2000 students in all 10 provinces and the Yukon Territory**. Our goal this season is to set new records for both number of programs and participants, and host field trips in communities across Canada to provide programming for students from coast-to-coast.

This program is **100% free** to attend! As a charity, we don't want cost to be a barrier that prevents any Canadian who is blind or partially sighted to participate in the game we all love.

PROGRAM DETAILS

This program is a **one-day annual program** where students who are blind or partially sighted between the ages of 4 – 20 are invited to come spend the day at an arena to learn about and try the Para sport of Blind Hockey.

Depending on the size of the community there are between 10 – 30 participants at each program.



ABOUT TRY SKATING & BLIND HOCKEY PROGRAMS



During the program students ranging in age from kindergarten to grade 12 have the opportunity interact with peers who share the same disability while learning about the sport of hockey; the importance of sport, physical activity, and the Paralympic movement; and getting to try skating and Blind Hockey in a safe, inclusive environment.

No prior skating experience is necessary – many current Blind Hockey players took their very first strides on the ice at one of our programs and fell in love with the game. Many field trip participants now have a lifelong love of hockey, and now participate in weekly programming and regularly compete at the annual National Blind Hockey Tournament, some of whom have even progressed all the way onto the **Canadian National Blind Hockey Team!**



Program Goals

- *Empower all Canadian children and youth who are blind or partially sighted to try skating and Blind Hockey.*
- *Educate participants about the many Para sport opportunities that are available to them.*
- *Inspire participants to live a healthy active lifestyle.*
- *Engage community partners to provide ongoing local Blind Hockey programming.*
- *Provide a memorable learning experience for the students.*

ABOUT CANADIAN BLIND HOCKEY



In addition to the program, Canadian Blind Hockey operates ongoing children and youth teams in Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Brantford, Edmonton, Vancouver and supports all-ages Blind Hockey programming in Newfoundland, London, Winnipeg, Edmonton and Victoria. 2026-2027 season we are working to launch programs in Edmonton and Victoria, and we are always looking for new communities to establish Blind Hockey programming.

Canadian Blind Hockey also operates four major annual events including:

- Eastern and Western Regional Tournaments
- Summer Development Camp
- The Canadian National Blind Hockey Tournament.

There will be both a children's and youth division at the 12th annual Canadian National Blind Hockey Tournament taking place from April 2-4, 2027, in Toronto, ON, and we expect many participants from the field trip program to attend!

OVERVIEW AND DAILY SCHEDULE

Overview and Daily Schedule Each program will feature 10 – 30 youth who are blind or partially sighted between the ages of 4 – 18. Most schedules have the participants arriving at the venue by 10:00 am and departing at 2:00 pm. The schedule for the day fluctuates depending on ice availability and different constraints school boards have, however a typical schedule is:

9:45 am - 10: 00 am	Arrival
10:00 am – 11:00 am	Active Warm-Up
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Pizza Lunch + Partner Talks
12:00 pm – 12:30 pm	Sensory Tour, Visit Zamboni, Learn About Hockey
12:30 pm – 1:00 pm	Put on Skates & Equipment
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Learn to Skate + Try Blind Hockey!
2:00 pm – 2:15 pm	Departure



PIZZA LUNCH

Canadian Blind Hockey provides a pizza lunch for all in attendance along with juice boxes and granola bars. Pizza is ordered in cheese, pepperoni, vegetarian, and Hawaiian. Participants with dietary restrictions are asked to bring their own lunch.



PARTNER INFORMATION SESSION

Canadian Blind Hockey is grateful for the support of our National Program Partner the CNIB – Canadian National Institute for the Blind. CNIB provides excellent programs and services for Canadians who are blind or partially sighted, and schedule permitting representatives will come inform the students about the local services available to them.

SENSORY TOUR OF ARENA / LEARN ABOUT HOCKEY SESSION

The sensory tour of the arena is a highlight of the day for many of the students. We explore the dressing room, player's bench, penalty box, and even get to visit and learn about the Zamboni! Students are taught about the rules of hockey and learn about the functions of the different facets of the arena.



LEARN TO SKATE & TRY BLIND HOCKEY!

We partner with a local sighted hockey team (such as a high school, junior hockey, hockey academy, or U- Sport club) to serve as our on ice mentors and skating partners for the day. Each participant is paired up one-on-one with a volunteer skating mentor who will provide different levels of assistance based on age, skill, and level of vision to ensure a safe and fun experience. Staff will run a pre-skate workshop with all volunteer instructors to explain the lesson plan for the day, how to work with a person with a visual impairment in a sport setting, proper guiding and assistance techniques, and to practice specific verbal communication.

JERSEYS

Every student participating in this program will receive an official Canadian Blind Hockey jersey that is his or hers to keep!



CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

Participants are highly encouraged to wear appropriate athletic clothing and footwear for both the on-ice and off-ice activities. Sweatpants, runners, sweatshirt, t-shirt, proper socks, and gloves are recommended. Students who own their own skating and hockey gear are encouraged to bring it with them!



HOCKEY AND SKATING EQUIPMENT

We will work with each group to ensure that we have adequate equipment for the students to safely experience skating – needs differ greatly across the country depending what the arena has to offer. We will organize **helmets, elbow pads, knee pads**, as well as introductory hockey gear including **sticks, gloves, and adapted blind hockey pucks**. **Rental skates** are more readily available in certain parts of the country and we will work with the groups to ensure everyone has skates.

WAIVER AND MEDIA RELEASE

Every participant must complete the registration to confirm their spot which includes the waiver and media release. Canadian Blind Hockey programs tend to get a fair amount of media coverage. All participants receive a media release as part of the standard liability waiver.

STUDENTS WITH MULTIPLE DISABILITIES

Students who are blind or partially sighted and have additional disabilities are welcome to participate in the program provided they have appropriate support. If a student has limited use of a leg and will find skating uncomfortable, or uses a wheelchair and can be transferred, we encourage the use of a sledge. We can provide advice on where to seek out the sledge to borrow / rent, however we are unable to bring it to the arena and it is the vision teacher, EA, or parent's responsibility to do so. Feel free to contact our staff if you have questions about specific student's needs and recommendations as we want to accommodate all participants.

CONTACT US



BLIND HOCKEY

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We look forward to skating
with you this season.



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