



## DISABLED SECTION NEWSLETTER

Annual Congress Denver, CO.  
June 6-8, 2025

### CALENDAR 2025-2026

Warrior Hockey Classic	NOV. 6-9, 2025	Wesley Chapel, FL
Special Hockey Classic	NOV. 7-9, 2025	Wayne, NJ
Blind Hockey Classic	NOV. 21-23, 2025	Wellesley, MA
Sled Hockey Classic	DEC. 4-7, 2025	Long Island, NY

Winter Paralympics – Milan, ITALY **March 6 – March 15**  
(NBC and Peacock- primary platforms)

In DALLAS, TX:

Warrior National Championship **Apr. 23-26, 2026**

Sled Hockey National Championship **Apr. 30-May 3, 2026**

Special Hockey is invited to the SHI tournament in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Due to timing of the SHI event in 2026, USAH will not host a Special Hockey event. Discussions have begun for USAH to host in 2027.

### ANNUAL USA HOCKEY REGISTRATION

**Do Not register for the 2025-26 season until AFTER August 1, 2025.**

**WHY:** Registration created a new fee structure for the Disabled Section for the upcoming season, however, it will not be in effect until after August 1.

- If you already registered for the upcoming season, there are no refunds
- The new fee structure is coming from the USA Hockey Foundation who providing our adaptive players a block grant to reduce our costs. *This is a different fee structure from the able-bodied players.*
  - o Returning players (ages) 7-18 = \$55 plus their affiliate fee (U8 are free)

- New players will be directed to contact Member Services for the first-year code.
- If they have never been claimed, USAH will have information instructing them to stop registration and call USAH. If they are a first-year athlete, USAH registers them directly and claims them to the association where they will participate.
- If they are a returning player and have never been claimed, USAH will contact the association to confirm

### **TEAM / PROGRAM REGISTRATION**

WHY it is imperative to capture (claim) all your players and roster a team(s) with USAH:

- The more members claimed under the Disabled Section the more likely our Section will qualify for grants that can support
  - Disabled events hosted by our Section.
  - Return to offering a sled lending program
  - Return to offering reduced/free registration for those in need
  - Reducing team costs for classics, nationals, camps
  - Offering more camps in more regions
  - Offering more coaching / official education in more regions

### **FOR ALL TEAMS/PROGRAMS:**

- Please claim and then turn in a roster to USAH **BY DECEMBER 31** each season in order for your team to be eligible to attend a national championship.
  - Who goes on the roster: ANYONE who is 'eligible' to play in the upcoming (youth and or adult) national championships. This should include coaches, managers, pushers, players (disabled and able-bodied).
  - IF A TEAM then chooses to go to a national championship, they simply need to turn in a second roster made up of anyone of their choosing from the initial roster. No new players may be added to the national roster after Dec 31 of the same season (except new players to the sport).
- Using this process
  - reduces the several hundred waivers submitted to the Fair Play Committee.
  - confirms that everyone on the initial roster has been checked for requirements and qualifies to participate in nationals.

**(MIDAM DISTRICT)**


PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOUR USAH PROGRAM IS NOT LISTED:

<b>WARRIOR HOCKEY (STANDING HOCKEY)</b>
<b>NO INDIANA, WEST VIRGINIA OR KENTUCKY PROGRAMS LISTED</b>
PITTSBURGH VENGEANCE
SOUTHPOINTE GRIZZLIES
BEAVER COUNTRY ICE SHARKS
HAPPY VALLEY SPECIAL HOCKEY
GREATER PITTSBURGH SPECIAL HOCKEY
CINCINNATI CYCLONES SPECIAL HOCKEY
COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS SPECIAL HOCKEY
<b>WARRIOR HOCKEY (STANDING HOCKEY)</b>
<b>NO INDIANA, WEST VIRGINIA OR KENTUCKY PROGRAMS LISTED</b>
PITTSBURGH WARRIORS
JOHNSTOWN GENERALS
<b>BLIND HOCKEY</b>
<b>NO PENNSYLVANIA, WEST VIRGINIA OR KENTUCKY PROGRAMS LISTED</b>
CENTRAL OHIO BLIND HOCKEY
INDIANAPOLIS BLIND HOCKEY
<b>SLED HOCKEY</b>
FORT WAYNE SLED HOCKEY
RIVER CITY ROVERS
INDIANAPOLIS SLED HOCKEY
ASPO – WOOSTER, TOLEDO, YOUNGSTOWN, CLEVELAND
OHIO BLADES SLED HOCKEY
CINCINNATI SLED HOCKEY
OHIO WARRIORS SLED HOCKEY
JOHNSTOWN SITTING BULLS
PITTSBURGH MIGHTY PENGUINS
HAPPY VALLEY SLED HOCKEY
PHANTOMS CHARITIES SLED HOCKEY
CHARLESTON SLED HOCKEY (WEST VIRGINIA)

**WHO ARE WE MISSING (?)**

COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS SLED HOCKEY  
CANTON TUSKIES SLED HOCKEY  
CINCINNATI BLIND HOCKEY  
OWENSBORO HOCKEY HEROS SPECIAL HOCKEY  
TOLEDO WARRIORS  
COLUMBUS WARRIORS

**EARLIER DATES FOR WELCOME BACK WEEK and TRY HOCKEY**



**USA HOCKEY**  
PROGRAM SERVICES  
programservices@usahockey.org

**SAVE THE DATES**



**Welcome back Week**

**September 7-13, 2025**



**TRY HOCKEY FOR FREE**  
DISCOVER


**September 13, 2025**  
**March 7, 2026**



**SIGN UP**



**October 17-19, 2025**



**IIHF**  
world girls' ice hockey weekend



**HOCKEY WEEK ACROSS AMERICA**

**March 2-8, 2026**



**IIHF**  
The global girls' game

**March 6-8, 2026**



## COACH & OFFICIAL EDUCATION at ALL REGIONAL SLED CAMPS

Each of the FIVE regional sled hockey camps will offer coach AND official education

Contact CHUCK GRIDLEY to participate in the coach education.

[chuck.gridley@usahockey.org](mailto:chuck.gridley@usahockey.org)

Contact BRAD ROETHLISBERGER to participate in the official education

[hockeyrefbar@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hockeyrefbar@sbcglobal.net)

## MIDAM HAS 6 LOANER SLEDS

Contact Randy Kwapis at Mobility Sports to arrange to use up to 6 sleds for a weekend event or a TRY HOCKEY – [randykwapis@mobilitysports.com](mailto:randykwapis@mobilitysports.com)

## SLED HOCKEY PUSHER EDUCATION

REMEMBER...a pusher **CANNOT TURN** or **PUSH** a sled **FASTER THAN the average speed on the ice.** PIVOT TURNS, which are allowed are included in this speed-related rule

Be sure **both blades are also on the ice at all times** on a pushed sled

## PROPOSALS AND AMENDMENTS RE: DISABLED SECTION

The proposals and amendments from the Disabled Section was submitted to USA Hockey and approved for constituent review by the Congress at our recent meeting in Denver. These proposals and amendments will be posted in the USA Hockey website by September.

RE: VOTING: There was a change last year regarding voting. Voting on all proposals and amendments for all committees and sections is now January. Therefore, everyone has time to review and offer feedback/comments to the proposals and amendments. If you want to communicate your feedback/comments, feel free to email me or we can set up a time to talk.

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