



# CCYHA Columbus Blue Jackets

## Special Hockey Program

**Background:** Special Hockey originated in Canada and began in the US with the St. Louis Blues in 1994. Our Columbus team was launched in 2007 with support from the Columbus Chill Youth Hockey Association (CCYHA), American Special Hockey Association (ASHA), USA Hockey (USAH), and Columbus Blue Jackets Foundation. We are the first Special Hockey program in Ohio.

We provide children and young adults with developmental disabilities the opportunity to learn to skate and to learn to play ice hockey in an environment adapted to each athlete's level of physical and mental ability. In addition to hockey skills, our team emphasizes the development of desirable individual characteristics such as self-reliance, concentration, willingness to share, and personal accountability. The game of hockey is used to develop the characteristics necessary to be successful both on and off the ice.

**Who Can Join & When?** Families may join any time during the season and participants do not need to know how to skate. **Anyone regardless of age, sex, developmental disability, or skill level, who is physically able to play, may join.** Our team is comprised of athletes ranging in age from 5-33.

**How Long Is the Season?** Our season begins in mid-September and ends in April.

**Where Are Practices Held?** The Ohio Health Chiller Ice Rinks including Dublin, North, and Easton.

### **What activities can I expect my athlete to be involved in?**

- **Weekly Practices:** Typically 20-25 practices each season (which include learn-to-skate).
- **Events & Tournaments:** Home/Away games, Future Jackets intermission skate at a CBJ game, tournaments, and an End-of-Season party for the athletes and families.
- **Special Hockey Awareness Event at Nationwide Arena:** Our biggest event of the year. It consists of Special Hockey game(s) on the main ice at Nationwide Arena, a public skate for families, friends & supporters, and a social outing to a Columbus Blue Jackets NHL game.

### **How does my athlete get started?**

Come to our **Season Kick-off Meeting and Pizza Party on Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-5:00pm at the Chiller North** location to learn about the program, meet our players and coaches and have some Papa John's pizza. If you miss the kick-off meeting, you can contact us and arrange to come to see one of our **practices, which start on Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:50am at the Ice Haus** location.

### **Contacts:**

**Chris Wenzke**  
Program Director  
614.284.6104

[cwen0569@gmail.com](mailto:cwen0569@gmail.com)

**Todd Baum**  
Head Coach  
419.310.2467

[toddalan.baum@yahoo.com](mailto:toddalan.baum@yahoo.com)

**Kelly Lewis**  
Parent Liaison  
614.855.5193

[klewis@efcts.us](mailto:klewis@efcts.us)

**Team Website:** [www.ColumbusSpecialHockey.com](http://www.ColumbusSpecialHockey.com)

(For information about our program, events and scheduling)