



# PRESS RELEASE

**Columbus, Ohio** — Capital Amateur Hockey Association (CAHA) and Columbus Chill Youth Hockey Association (CCYHA) are proud to announce the merger of their organizations to launch a new **Columbus Cannons** Tier II hockey program beginning with the **2026–2027** season. In its inaugural year, the Columbus Cannons will establish teams for **2016 and 2017 birth years**.

The Columbus Cannons Tier II hockey program is designed to become the premier Tier II hockey offering in Central Ohio and will be operated through a strategic partnership between the organizations, uniting some of the region's most respected hockey organizations under one shared mission:

*To provide a seamless, united hockey experience that ties the Columbus hockey community together at all levels. By optimizing our resources, experience and coaching, we aim to become a model and respected program under the guidelines of USA Hockey for player development and organizational excellence. Working together to ensure we are providing a positive and safe environment that prioritizes sportsmanship, safety and long term athlete development that goes beyond the confines of the ice.*

**Bryon Moore, President of CCYHA**, said "This new organization represents a shared commitment to prioritize players' development and families' youth hockey experience. By bringing our organizations together, we're creating a stronger, more sustainable hockey environment that expands opportunities, strengthens development and sets a clear path for long-term success at all levels of play."

"This partnership represents a major step forward for youth hockey in Central Ohio," said **Chris Elliott, President of CAHA**. "By combining high level instruction, proven development models, and strong organizational leadership, the Columbus Cannons Tier II program will provide young athletes with the foundation they need to excel both on and off the ice."

"At its core, this initiative is about putting players and families first across Central Ohio." said **Ed Gingham, President of the Ohio AAA Blue Jackets**. "Through collaboration with CAHA, CCYHA, and the Battery Hockey Academy, we are aligning our efforts to elevate standards, foster teamwork, and create a stronger, more simplified and consistent development pathway for all."

Endorsed and supported by both the Ohio AAA Blue Jackets and Battery Hockey Academy, these four organizations have a shared vision for Central Ohio youth hockey programming. By leveraging the developmental expertise of the Battery Hockey Academy, the competitive excellence of the Ohio AAA Blue Jackets, and the long-standing leadership of CAHA and CCYHA, the Columbus Cannons Tier II program will establish a new standard for youth hockey in the region.

“The Battery is honored to join this collaboration and help shape the next generation of hockey players in Columbus”. **Joey Nahay of the Battery** added. “This group will create a developmental program that will strengthen hockey in our city and provide an excellent model for other markets to replicate around the country.”

The Columbus Cannons Tier II hockey program will emphasize:

- Comprehensive skill development
- High level coaching and age-appropriate training methodologies
- A competitive Tier II pathway designed to prepare players for future high-level opportunities
- A positive, family-focused environment that prioritizes sportsmanship, safety, and long-term athlete development
- A collective effort to best utilize all resources available for the betterment of youth travel hockey in Central Ohio

The Columbus Cannons will operate under the guidance of an Executive Committee made up of members from all four organizations over the next few years until all Tier II birth-years are united under the Columbus Cannons. At that time, an elected board will take control of all Columbus Cannons’ programming, and CAHA and CCYHA will cease operations.

We are excited to announce the NEW Columbus Cannons Tier II hockey club for the 2026-2027 season!

For more information, including details about the program and an FAQ, please visit [www.cannons hockey.com](http://www.cannons hockey.com). Should you have any additional questions, please contact:

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