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NEW ALL-INCLUSIVE ICE HOCKEY TEAM COMING TO CAPE COD!

The Great Blizzards of Cape Cod to be based at Tony Kent Arena in Dennis

DENNIS, MA (May 25, 2023) – A new all-inclusive ice hockey team is coming to Cape Cod this fall and will be based here at the Tony Kent Arena in South Dennis. *The Great Blizzards of Cape Cod* will be an affiliate of The Great Blizzards of Massachusetts, a successful four-year-old program which is based at the Bog Ice Arena in Kingston. The new team will begin playing in September 2023 and the season will run through May 2024.

As members of the United States governing body USA Hockey, The Great Blizzards provides an opportunity for people with disabilities to shine on the ice, regardless of physical or cognitive needs, age, gender, race, ethnicity, experience, and other background. One of the goals of the program is to introduce ice hockey to this special group of people and give them an experience that is like what a player would experience on a youth hockey team. Traveling to play other inclusive teams and in tournaments in and out of Massachusetts is an important part of the experience for players and their families.

“Sports should be inclusive, fun, and accessible to as many people as possible, and when it comes to ice hockey, The Great Blizzards is the team for everybody without a team,” says executive director and founder Steve Nearman. “We’re excited to bring our program to Cape Cod and to teach, coach and engage in all-inclusive hockey for Cape Cod residents from Bourne to Provincetown and off Cape as well. Major credit to Tony Kent Arena for its support for making this program a reality.”

With friendly, experienced coaches and assistant coaches and an emphasis on blending challenge with fun, The Great Blizzards brings skaters of all skill levels, genders, accommodation requirements, and economic backgrounds together in a healthy, confidence-building activity.

“Tony Kent Arena is thrilled to announce its partnership with The Great Blizzards, an all-inclusive and diverse hockey program for individuals with special needs,” said General Manager Chris Peterson. “This collaboration aims to provide an exciting opportunity for people who are

often relegated to the sidelines, enabling them to actively participate in a thrilling sport at their own pace, guided by experienced coaching staff. Tony Kent Arena is honored to be the designated Cape Cod home for this exceptional program.”

The Great Blizzards of Cape Cod will hold 50-minute practices on Saturdays at 12:30PM at Tony Kent Arena starting on September 16th. Open house events will be held at the rink in June, July and August. Equipment will be loaned to all players. To register, email coachnearms@thegreatblizz.org.

The team is also made possible through volunteer coaches and assistant coaches some as young as middle schoolers with a passion for helping our players. Interested volunteers should contact Nearman by calling 508-202-0218 or by email at coachnearms@thegreatblizz.org.

The Great Blizzards of Cape Cod is also looking for sponsors from the Cape Cod business community and those interested should contact Nearman.

“We look forward to the positive impact this partnership will have on the community and the lives of the participants,” Peterson added. “By providing an inclusive and diverse space for hockey, Tony Kent Arena continues to reinforce its commitment to fostering equal opportunities and enriching experiences for all individuals.”

For more information visit <https://thegreatblizz.org>.

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