



Alberta Sports and Recreation
Association for the Blind

Proud Past ... Proud Future

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE 2026 AGM

2025 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

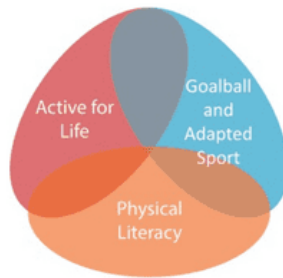
Mission Statement:

The Alberta Sports and Recreation Association for the Blind (ASRAB) supports Albertans who are blind or visually impaired to live physically active lives and participate in competitive sports programs. We do this by:

- providing development and competitive sport programs, and
- supporting and encouraging the blind or visually impaired to actively participate in a broad spectrum of sport and recreation programs.

Alberta Sport and Recreation Association for the Blind

ASRAB accomplishes their mission by focusing on 3 pillars...



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ASRAB identified 5 strategic priorities which form the foundation of the Association's planning and development, to meet the mission of the Association; with a Board Director assigned to each portfolio.

As at June 12, 2026

1. EDUCATION / AWARENESS

Goal Statement: To increase ASRAB's profile across the province as the one provincial sport and recreation association that is focused on providing quality sport and physical activity opportunities for the blind and visually impaired.

- Sight Night
 - ASRAB holds promotional sight night events: “a fun run after dark - vision optional”, in Calgary (inaugural 2010), Edmonton (2012) and Red Deer (2020). Lethbridge held its inaugural run in 2024.
 - Sight night plays 3 critical roles for ASRAB: 1) promotion to the community at large, 2) bringing together the ASRAB members / community, and 3) fundraising.
 - ASRAB hosted four events:
 - Sight night Edmonton – September 27
 - Sight night Lethbridge – September 27
 - Sight night Red Deer – October 18
 - Sight night Calgary – November 8
 - We are grateful to our long-term Provincial sponsors who joined us again in 2025: Presenting Sponsor – Flaman Fitness; Elite Sponsors: Accessible Media Incorporated and The Running Room; as well as Supplier Westcan (radios).
 - We had ~560 runners over the 4 events (a small increase from 500 in 2024).
 - Thanks to the Chairs who were flexible and creative managing these events: Chris Abdalla (Calgary), Colleen Reay (Red Deer), Shanlyn Cunningham (Edmonton), and Alexa Fowler (Lethbridge).
- Presentations to outside agencies
 - We held (goalball) programs with 3 classes / schools involving ~100 participants.
 - ASRAB participated in interagency meetings with: Alberta Vision Network / Alberta Education, Disability Recreation Networks in Calgary and Edmonton, and Inclusive Sport and Recreation Collective.
 - Presented to adapted sport classes on opportunities with ASRAB (practicums and volunteer), as well as adapting sports for participants with low vision.
- Collaborator meetings:
 - We had a promotional booth at AATEC (Alberta Access to Education Coalition) March 12th.
 - CNIB in Calgary and Edmonton for promotion to their clients: provide information on ASRAB programming, including ‘mobile hub’ outreach to Okotoks (June 26th), ran children’s events at ‘beeping eggs’ April 12th, promotional booth at CNIB ‘Beyond Sight’ event Oct 9th, teaching physical literacy presentation to CNIB children and youth program staff in Western Canada June 25th.
- Support to Educators & Students:
 - Teacher Conventions: ASRAB attended 8 regional conventions (Grande Prairie, North Central, Edmonton, Red Deer, Calgary, Palliser, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat), with physical literacy presentation at Calgary and Palliser.
 - ASRAB is developing a series of modules for Physical Educators – to offer lesson guides and adaptation for students with visual impairment. The Athletics and Badminton drafts are completed (with the inclusion of technical photos). The Soccer module is waiting on a photo shoot. We are considering initiating modules for: volleyball and basketball in 2026.

- Hosted a School Sports Day for students with low vision in Calgary (May 16th – 20 students) and Red Deer (June 19th – 4 students).
- We anticipate that our program will expand significantly in 2026 through the hiring of a Program Education role (with goal of engaging and supporting students and educators).



2. OPERATIONAL PRACTICES

Goal Statement: Through a strong organizational infrastructure ASRAB has the resources and capacity to promote the participation of blind or visually impaired to live healthy active lifestyle. The Association's capacity supports participation in both competitive and recreational sports programs and physical activity programs.

- Governance
 - The AGM was held virtually Saturday May 3, 2025.
 - There were 11 Board Meetings held, all virtually. There was 1 in-person Board Social held Nov 21st in Calgary (prior to a goalball provincial practice).
 - Safe Sport - Continued work. Safe Sport Modules were created and designed for age-appropriate audiences: children, youth and adult. Attended Alberta Sport Leadership presentations on the Alberta Safe Sport Complaint Mechanism (ABSSCM): Review of the Independent Third-Party Mechanism (ITPM) and Associated Policies and Procedures.
 - Volunteer Screening – Ongoing. Initiating a monitoring system in our CRM.
 - ASRAB celebrated its 50th Anniversary with a Gala held in Calgary Sept 14th, and 5 community events.
- Office / Staff:
 - ASRAB continues to locate the head office in Calgary and maintain an Edmonton office.
 - The ASRAB office is managed by: Executive Director (became a full-time role in Jan 2025), Financial Administrator and Program Operations (both part-time); with support from Fund Development (project based).
 - A HR Review was conducted by Sport Law in fall 2024. The review was undertaken to provide a stronger structure for ASRAB with consistent job descriptions and internally consistent salary ranges. The full-time role of Program Manager was hired in Feb and part-time role of Program Operations in Jan. The full-time role of Program Education was advertised in Dec 2025.
 - Further to SPAR Grants; ASRAB fulfilled a long-time goal of establishing staff in centres outside of Calgary, Edmonton and Red Deer. Program Leads were hired

in September 2022 in Grande Prairie, Fort McMurray and Lethbridge, with ASRAB now represented in 7 centres / regions. Program Lead Medicine Hat was established in June 2024. Program Lead Camrose started in fall 2025.

- The addition of the Program Operations role and the Program Leads throughout the province greatly enhances ASRAB's capacity and reach.
- Membership
 - Through the activation of Program Leads in 7 centres, there is a noticeable increase in membership and active members throughout the province.
 - The use of the CRM (Neon) is used to great effect in managing the membership and registration; which assists with our risk management.
- Promotion
 - Communication - ASRAB utilizes 'Constant Contact', to allow the Association to communicate to the Members (and contacts) easily through email notices. Approximately 60 notices were sent to distribution lists throughout the province. The notices alert Members and Participants of upcoming sport and recreational activities, Association news and items of interest, as well as notification of important sport and recreational information.
 - Website – continues to be reviewed and revised to enhance promotion and communication. Significant work was done to revise the Program section (to include information on the performance pathways for sports with competitive VI events) and Goalball (to include player cards for current athletes).
 - Social media – ASRAB utilized facebook, twitter and Instagram to keep members apprised of upcoming events and items of interest and generate community interest. We were much more active in 2025 with the new hire of Program Operations.

3. COMPETITIVE SPORT STRATEGY - GOALBALL

Goal Statement: A strong and comprehensive provincial sport development strategy is in place that has resulted in an increased level of participation for all ages and all levels of participation across the province. The programs and services will continue to expand as the need and priorities are identified. Goalball is ASRAB's signature program and has the financial support in place to ensure the athletes can compete at the local, provincial and national level.

Goalball is ASRAB's signature sport, and we prioritize the development of the sport and athletes in accordance with the principles of long-term athlete development.

- We utilize the sport to teach fundamental movement skills to children and youth.
- We offer programming for children and youth to develop specific sport technical skills.
- We support high performance training through technical practices and strength and conditioning. We encourage our athletes to develop to the national level.

Goalball

- School goalball demonstrations with 3 classes / schools involving ~100 students.
- Introductory, recreational and competitive programming was held for Children, Youth and Adults - in Edmonton, Red Deer and Calgary in two sessions, spring and fall.
- Provincial programming - practices were held alternating between Red Deer, Calgary and Edmonton for men and women in two sessions, from January to April and July to

December. (As of Fall 2024, it was determined, where feasible, to have equal weekend practices in Edmonton and Calgary, alternating with day practices in Red Deer.) The summer programming is both to support athletes technical skills and ensure national pool athletes have preparation for selection events and competitions.

- A Player and Parent Guide to ASRAB Goalball 2025-2026 season was prepared to provide planning, procedures and expectations for the athletes.
- ASRAB worked to support the strength and conditioning of our athletes. We communicated with athletes individual strength trainers as needed. We continued with 'quad challenge' testing for youth and senior athletes, and made the test results part of selection criteria.
- ASRAB continues to prioritize the development of the youth performance pathway, both provincially and nationally.
 - We hosted the Canadian Youth Training Camp in Calgary March 14-16, 2025. We had 14 youth participants from Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario and Quebec. The event was hosted by ASRAB and supported by CBSA. We are working to develop and prepare youth players for international competitions anticipated in 2025 (through our Goalball Performance Pathway).
 - We again sent two teams to the Ontario Provincials in Brantford April 4-6, with a team in the 3rd recreational division (winning bronze), and the other team competing in the 2nd recreational division.
 - We sent two teams to the Junior Nationals in Halifax with a total of 9 athletes. Both Div 1 and Div 2 teams won silver.
 - 2025 Youth Parapan American Games – Oct 28-Nov 6 in Santiago Chile. ASRAB had 5 athletes and 1 coach at the event.
- ASRAB Senior Teams attended
 - the Montreal Open January 24-26, with the women winning silver and the men finishing 6th.
 - the Nationals held in Saskatoon May 9-11th. We had two Men's teams with the Alberta Blue team winning Gold, and the Women winning silver. We had a total of 11 athletes and included youth to prepare them for upcoming selection and competition.
- Alberta women athletes Meghan Mahon and Cassandra Ruttle competed in both the 2025 Malmo Cup in Sweden May 29-June 1, and the Goalball UK International July 9-13; both coached by Trent Farebrother.
- ASRAB supported and encouraged athlete development towards the National Pool (3 men and 3 women) and Sport Canada AAP (2 men and 3 women) named for carding.
- Many thanks to our volunteer coaches: Senior - Trent Farebrother and Darren Hamilton; and Youth – Darren Hamilton in Calgary, Trent Farebrother in Red Deer; and in Edmonton Briann and Stephen Bly in Winter 2025 and Blair Nesbitt in Fall 2025.



ACTIVE LIVING SPORT STRATEGY

Goal Statement: A continuum of programs and services will be in place that supports participation and engagement of the blind and visually impaired in a broad range of recreational and physical activity programs in their local community.

In 2025, ASRAB had active living programs in: Grande Prairie, Edmonton, Camrose, Red Deer, Calgary, Lethbridge, and Medicine Hat.

ASRAB endeavors to expose members to a wide range of recreational activities that our members can participate in with their friends and family. In 2025, ASRAB offered 60 Try-it or multi-sport programs representing 28 different sports:

- Winter sports: skating skills & hockey drills, blind hockey, curling, (Camrose, Red Deer, Calgary, Lethbridge)
- Indoor sports: taekwondo, gymnastics, yoga, spin class, rock climbing, bowling, line dancing, adult aquatics, variety games, and strength training (Calgary, Grande Prairie, Red Deer, Medicine Hat, Edmonton)
- Summer sports: dragon boat, golf, lawn bowling, sailing, soccer, track and field, paddle boat, disc golf, and tandem / trolley (Edmonton, Red Deer, Calgary, Lethbridge, Grande Prairie, Medicine Hat)
- Running and walking programs: walking club and sight night (Calgary, Edmonton, Red Deer, Lethbridge, Grande Prairie, and Medicine Hat).
- Children's physical literacy and fundamental movement skills: movement for me, children's swimming, children's golf, children's youth sports camp (Calgary and Lethbridge)



4. SPONSORSHIP AND FUNDING

Goal Statement: Through a comprehensive planning process ASRAB has a sponsorship development fund.

- **sight night** - While sight night was envisioned to meet many mandates of the Association, the creation of an alternative revenue stream has been a primary outcome. Hosting four events in Calgary, Edmonton, Red Deer and now inaugural Lethbridge; lets ASRAB expand our engagement; and raise valuable funds for our Association goals.
- Ongoing relationship with 'Canada Helps – Donate Now'; the icon on our website and Constant Contact, to generate donations. ASRAB works diligently on our donor recognition program.
- ASRAB was successful with obtaining grants for new programs and expanding existing programs. We will continue to investigate potential granting and funding opportunities.
- ASRAB initiated work to activate a fund development plan. This includes an initial end of year email solicitation and improved donation tracking through our CRM Neon.



Sincere thanks are extended to the Board of Directors, Staff, Volunteers and Clinicians for their efforts on behalf of ASRAB during 2025.