



## **MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE PARTNERS WITH U.S. ASSOCIATION OF BLIND ATHLETES FOR HALFTIME ACTIVATION**

**WHAT:** On December 1, 2025 [Miami Lighthouse](#) partnered with the U.S. Association of Blind Athletes and the United Adaptive Soccer Association for a special halftime activation during the U.S. Women's National game against Italy on Monday, December 1. Fans were able to experience Blind Soccer through a penalty-shootout demonstration that featured two Miami Lighthouse program participants, Briana Pinera and Xavier Richards.

Blind Soccer is one of eight recognized adaptive soccer pathways in the United States. It is also the only adaptive soccer discipline competing in the Los Angeles 2028 Paralympic Games, where the USA Blind Soccer Men's National Team will make its debut.

"This demonstration gave the Blind Soccer community a powerful platform to showcase its athletes and reaffirm the importance of inclusive sports," said Virginia Jacko, President and CEO of Miami Lighthouse. "Moments like this introduce thousands of fans to the skill, strategy, and teamwork behind blind soccer – and they help build the momentum we need to expand programs nationwide and prepare future athletes for the global stage."

In honor of disability soccer month, the event featured two blind soccer participants who demonstrated a 5-a-side adaptive form of the traditional game with side walls, a rattling ball and on-field guides. Both players each aimed to score up to three goals, which each were designed to trigger a number of fan shirt tosses into the crowd.

"Kicking in front of so many people was truly unforgettable, and the energy of the crowd made the moment even more special," said Xavier Richards, a program participant at Miami Lighthouse.

"This was my first time on a national stage kicking a ball blindfolded," said Briana Pinera from Miami Lighthouse, "As the first female to represent blind soccer at the USA Women's National game against Italy, I was nervous but scoring that goal was an absolutely amazing experience."

Both participants were led by Blind Soccer coach Erika with the U.S. Association of Blind Athletes, along with guides positioned at the goal posts to provide auditory cues.

**WHEN:** Monday, December 1 at 7:00 pm

**WHERE:** Chase Stadium  
1350 NW 55th St  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309

For more information about Miami Lighthouse's Blind Soccer Initiative, contact Cameron Sisser at [csisser@miamilighthouse.org](mailto:csisser@miamilighthouse.org) or 786-362-7515.