

Hamilton Sports Guide

Professional teams shaping the city's sports identity

Hamilton has a uniquely strong professional sports mix for a mid-sized Canadian city. The identity is built on football, modern soccer success, and a major upcoming expansion into professional hockey.

This guide focuses only on **current professional teams and confirmed upcoming franchises**.

Hamilton Tiger-Cats (CFL Football)

Hamilton's most iconic professional sports franchise.

The Tiger-Cats are one of the CFL's historic teams and the backbone of the city's sports culture. Game days define the summer in Hamilton, with a passionate fan base and long-standing football traditions.

The team represents the city's deep-rooted sports identity and community pride.

What to expect: CFL football, rivalries, strong fan culture

League: Canadian Football League

Hamilton Tiger-Cats

Forge FC (CPL Soccer)

Hamilton's modern professional soccer club.

Forge FC is one of the most successful teams in the Canadian Premier League, regularly competing for championships and building a strong supporter culture.

The club represents Hamilton's newer era of professional sports — fast-growing, modern, and nationally competitive.

What to expect: professional soccer, supporter atmosphere, national competition

League: Canadian Premier League

Forge FC

Hamilton AHL Hockey Team (New York Islanders Affiliate – Starting 2026–27)

Hamilton's major new entry into professional hockey.

Starting in the **2026–27 season**, Hamilton will become home to the American Hockey League affiliate of the New York Islanders, bringing professional hockey back to the city.

This places Hamilton directly into the NHL development system, with players competing at the highest level below the NHL.

What to expect: professional hockey, NHL prospects, full AHL schedule

League: American Hockey League

Bridgeport Islanders

Why Hamilton's Sports Scene Stands Out

- One of the few Canadian cities with **CFL + CPL + AHL presence**
 - Year-round professional sports identity
 - Strong mix of legacy (football) and emerging (soccer + hockey expansion)
 - Direct connection to NHL development pipeline
 - Deeply local, highly engaged fan culture
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Seasonal Sports Overview

Summer:

Hamilton Tiger-Cats + Forge FC

Winter (starting 2026–27):

AHL Hockey Team