

Norcross Junior Blue Devils Volleyball Frequently Asked Questions

What is NJBD?

Norcross Junior Blue Devils is the feeder volleyball program for Norcross High School, hosted at Pinckneyville Middle School. Girls that are rising 6th- 8th grade are invited to try out; all skill levels are encouraged to participate. We are very proud that every graduating 8th grader from our program made a team at NHS last year!

Is this a sanctioned GCPS Sport in Middle School?

Gwinnett County Public Schools offers Basketball and Cheer (grades 7 & 8) only. As such, our program is a volunteer-run private club. There are fees required to participate and to run the club.

TRYOUTS

When are tryouts?

Tryouts are typically held the week prior to the start of school. We host two-day tryouts that are considered “blind tryouts”. Each girl is given a tryout number to assist the coaches with making assessments of their skills. Parents and Board members are not allowed in the gym during tryouts.

Please check the website for the latest tryout information.

When will the tryout results be posted?

Team assignments will be posted to the NJBD Website by 6pm on the last day of tryouts. Additionally, there is a Parent Orientation meeting scheduled the day after tryouts to get additional information about the season, assigned team specifics, complete registration, pay fees and order NJBD practice package/gear.

What Forms and Fees are required for tryouts?

There is a \$25 non-refundable fee for tryouts. Additionally, a copy of a current physical is required that is valid through the entire volleyball season (i.e. 10/1). Finally, we have several additional player information and parent/guardian contact forms that will be available on the NJBD website prior to tryouts to download and populate in advance.

These include:

- Concussion Awareness Form
- Gwinnett County Consent & Insurance Form (2 pages)
- Emergency Contact & Player Information Form

How many girls or teams does this program typically field?

We field three teams at NJBD:

A Team	Coach CJ Johnson	10- 12 players	Strong fundamentals, experience with individual position(s), court positioning and rotations. Competitive play, and goal of continuing to develop players, though equal play time is not guaranteed.
B Team	Coach Julie Ottmann	10- 12 players	Develop fundamentals. Introduce/develop knowledge of individual positions, court positions and rotations. Goal is to develop players, and allow for equal play time as possible.
C Team *new addition starting with the 2019 season	Coach Eric Shipley	varies	New to volleyball. Teach fundamentals, rotations, and rules of game. Purely developmental with an emphasis on skills and drills. 1- 2 games scheduled toward end of season, with equal playing time as the goal.

PRACTICES

When do the teams practice?

Practices are held Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs from 4:15pm - 6pm. Tuesday is considered an Optional Skills & Drills practice to focus on specific positional work. While most players tend to regularly attend, there is no repercussion for girls that have other commitments. Please note: Tuesday is the only practice day for our C Team.

Please pick up your daughter promptly at 6pm, as the coaches (i.e. adult supervision) leave immediately after practice. Coaches are not permitted to transport players in their cars.

How does practice work?

Players go to the gym when bus riders are called. They should pack a light snack, and change into their practice uniforms (see next item). Once changed, they will set up the nets, and warm up to be ready to start when the coaches arrive. Players will work through a series of drills, some positional work, or scrimmage each other or other NJBD teams.

What are the Practice Uniforms?

Practice uniforms are purchased at the start of the season, and include a 3-pack of Norcross Volleyball tshirts (navy, light grey, dark grey); Team captains select the daily

color and communicate to the team which tshirt is designated for each day. C Team wears the navy Norcross Volleyball tshirt only. Girls may wear black or navy spandex. Knee pads are recommended (white or black). Ankle guards (especially for front row players) are considered optional. Players may also choose to purchase specific volleyball court shoes, though regular tennis shoes are acceptable.

What if my daughter is sick or absent from school-- can she still practice?

If your daughter leaves school early, or is absent for any reason, she is not eligible to practice or play on that day.

How are injuries handled at practice?

The coach should be notified immediately to assess the injury and address any first aid needs quickly. All coaches have their team roster and parent or guardian contact information with them at all times, and will make every effort to notify the parent or guardian.

GAMES

Who do the NJBD teams play?

All three of our teams play local public and private schools, primarily from Gwinnett, DeKalb or Fulton counties. We make every effort to schedule a mix of home and away games with a variety of teams to help the girls continue to develop their skills through competition. Pinckneyville Middle School is so fortunate to have two gyms, so we are often asked to host our matches because both A & B teams can play simultaneously.

Because our C team is a purely developmental team, they will play 1-2 games toward the end of the season, against like-skilled local teams. A & B Teams will also play in the Gwinnett County Middle School Championship which includes public and private school feeder teams from all over Gwinnett county. An additional tournament may be scheduled, as available.

What is the game uniform?

In addition to the blue or black spandex, and any knee pads, ankle guards, etc., the club provides two uniform shirts provided by the high school team. These are to be returned, washed, at the end of the season. There is a \$50 fee for any unreturned uniforms at the end of the season.

FEES & FORMS

What are the fees? What do they cover?

This is a club, so we do require fees to simply cover the costs of running the organization. This includes: expenses for practice, training, equipment, coaches fees, tournament fees, and insurance. The actual fees are based on the number of girls that join each year, and run approximately \$350- \$400 for A & B teams. Additionally, there is a required uniform package for new players (~\$110) that includes practice shirts, and a Norcross backpack. This backpack is the same backpack used at the highschool, so it can be used for many years to come. Additional equipment may be purchased (see practice section/uniforms), as well as spirit wear for parents and players.

Note: C team pays a pro-rated fee that is based on the number of girls the team fields. This adjustment to our fees and uniform package is made with consideration to the significantly less practice, coaching, and game time for these players. They are required to purchase the navy practice shirt only.

We do not require any fundraising programs to supplement our club fees.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

What are the expectations for Parents or Guardians?

We are a volunteer-run organization and require participation from all parents in order to have a successful season. In addition to board positions which help plan and run the season, there are a wide variety of ways to volunteer time, and still cheer on your daughter. These include:

- Team Photographer
- Communications Chair
- Score Keeper*
- Libero Tracker*
- Line Judge*
- Take Down Nets (post-game)
- Food Coordinator for tournaments and end of season celebration

**Training will be available for these roles*

We look forward to seeing you on the court! Any additional questions, please email:

NJBDvball@gmail.com