

Greensboro Panthers FAQ

Who is eligible to play for Greensboro Panthers?

Homeschooled girls ages 10-18 whose families are registered with NCDNPE.

What is Open Gym and is it required to play on the team?

Open gym is “practice-lite” so to speak. We do a few drills, skill development, and scrimmage play but in a more relaxed way than an in-season practice would be. It’s a great opportunity for returning girls to get together again, and for new girls to learn a little about the game and see if they are interested in trying out for the upcoming season. Coming to open gym is in no way an obligation/guarantee to play on the team, nor is it required. It is, however, a good opportunity for the coaches to see you play outside of tryouts; meaning, if you don’t play your best at tryouts or are sick, etc., the coaches have still seen you play for the last several weeks at open gym and they have a broader picture of you than just that one day. Players pay admission fee to Greensboro Sportsplex upon entry (usually \$5 or \$6), spectators are free. Panthers does not charge a fee to participate.

What is the playing season and what teams do we play?

Volleyball is a fall sport and runs from August 1 through the third week in October. We play other homeschooled teams within our NCHE conference, as well as private, charter, and public schools in the area. We travel mostly within the greater Triad area, but we do go as far west as Asheville, south as Charlotte, and east as Durham.

When and where are practices and home games?

It is subject to change season to season, but for now it looks like we will practice at Greensboro Sportsplex. Times are still to be determined, but they will be no earlier than 4:00 and run for two hours on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Except for the NCHE State Championships or other tournaments we may elect to play in, all practices and matches will be within those four days.

Will all athletes who tryout be placed on a team?

There is no guarantee, whether returning player or new, that an athlete will make a team. We do occasionally offer a practice team, called PIT Crew (Panthers In Training), for girls who want to learn the game but do not make the rostered team. PIT Crew will be offered at a reduced fee and the girls would not get uniforms nor play in matches.

What is included in my fees?

Fees cover the cost of facilities, coaches, officials, league fees, insurance, and uniforms. Varsity players do buy their own uniforms and get to keep them, JV may have the option to purchase their own uniforms if parents vote it in.

Are there additional cost beyond the player fees?

Fees do not cover any travel costs or varsity player uniforms, (JV may purchase their own as well, if families wish to). When uniforms are provided they consist of 1 jersey and 1 pair of loose fitting shorts. Spandex, shoes, knee pads and sports bras, as everyone has their own preferences, are not included.

Is there a bus to take athletes to away matches?

No, parents are responsible for travel to matches and practices, whether driving or carpooling. If you choose to allow your teenager to drive themselves, please encourage them to let someone know if they are running behind. We try to keep an extra eye out for young drivers and worry if they don’t show up.

My child made the team, now what?

Congratulations on joining the Panthers family! You will need to formally accept your offer to play on the team and submit your Medical Release Form, Non-Recruit/Non-Transfer Form for new families, and deposit. Your daughter's spot on the team is not secured until we have received these things. We will have a meeting during tryouts where at least one parent is required to attend. We will discuss necessary details about the season as well as sign up for parent duties to be performed throughout the season. Lessons will follow in an additional mandatory meeting for how to perform some of the volleyball specific parent duties.

What are the parent duties?

It wouldn't be possible for the girls to play volleyball without all of the parents pitching in to get it all done. In addition to running the admissions table, there are volleyball specific jobs that must be done for each match, whether home or away. These duties are: line judge, scorebook, scorecard, and libero tracker. We hold a parent duties class at the beginning of the season to go over how to do these jobs so you aren't just thrown in the deep end. We also encourage parents lacking in experience at a specific job to partner with a parent who is experienced at that job for the first time or two. The number of parent duties required to sign up for depends on how many players and matches we have.

What is the required dress for practices?

1. Athletes are required to wear athletic attire consisting of athletic shorts, leggings, or spandex depending on your family's preference, with a sports bra and t-shirt.
2. Volleyball specific requirements include knee pads and volleyball shoes. Street clothes are not allowed to practice in-they do not allow the range of movement needed for an effective practice and could contribute to injury.
3. Wear regular sneakers or other shoes to and from practice and change into your volleyball shoes once inside. The tread of street shoes picks up rocks, dirt, and trash that will ruin the court.
4. Spandex is not allowed into and out of Panthers practice or matches. Shorts or pants must be worn over them before and after practices and matches.
5. No jewelry. If ears are newly pierced and you absolutely cannot remove the earrings, they must be covered with a bandaid. It is highly recommended that your athlete not get their ears pierced during the season.

What if my athlete will miss/be late to a practice or game?

Your athlete must immediately notify their coach by text or email as soon as they know they will be late or miss a practice or match. While we recognize that things come up in life, your player has made a commitment to the team and they are depending on her. When someone is missing it can throw off the dynamics of the others. The sooner we know, the sooner adjustments can be made if needed. If your player doesn't have regular access to phone or email, then a parent may contact the coach instead.

Will my athlete be guaranteed playing time?

While our coaches will make every effort for all athletes to get court time, how much is ultimately up to the individual player. We do not guarantee playing time. Effort, punctuality, being a good team player, putting in extra time outside of practice, etc. are all things that will increase your athlete's chances of getting more court time. If they give minimal effort in practice and don't show that they are engaged, don't expect much court time. We encourage athletes to address any questions they have to their coaches directly. Coaches will not address playing time with parents unless the athlete has come to the coach themselves and has made an effort to address and improve on the coach's suggestions. "What can I do to increase my playing time?" will go far. Just be sure they are ready for the answer.