



Startup Information for Georgia High Schools

History

In 2013, a handful of schools participated in a state tournament for boys volleyball and since that time, the sport has been growing at the grass roots level. All coaches, teachers and administrators involved with the sport are working toward attaining GHSA status for the sport as soon as possible.

Administration/Financial/Insurance

Two different tracks have been used to startup boys volleyball teams in Georgia High Schools: 1) Run as a club through the high school or 2) Run through an existing girls HS volleyball booster club. Every school has different rules regarding what they pay for at their school, but these are items to consider for budgeting: coaches stipend, equipment and balls, gym fees, insurance, officials fees, playdate/tournament fees, practice t-shirts, pre-game meals, uniforms and website fees.

Please note that if you choose to be a school club, you may need to request this at the beginning of the school year, not in the spring when you form the team. School clubs have all money paid to their high school and the school bookkeeper cuts checks for expenses. If booster clubs are the base for your support, the booster treasurer will administer your finances.

Coaching

Head girls coaches are involved at almost all schools that play boys volleyball. If the varsity girls coach at your school is not available, try other options for coaching. JV or freshman girls coaches, community coaches, parents and even senior female HS players can be involved with coaching. Most counties require criminal background checks for all community coaches, at a minimum.

Dates/Timing

Schools begin tryouts as soon as basketball has been completed at their school (mid to late February in most cases). Practices begin after tryouts and teams practice 1-3 times per week, depending on coaching/gym availability. Weekday tri-matches begin by March and most schools schedule 4-8 tri-matches, depending on their proximity to other participating schools. There are several Saturday playdates at various locations beginning in mid-March and the state tournament is played by the first or second Saturday in May. Go to www.boysvolleyballgeorgia.net to view Saturday events.

Uniforms/Equipment/Officiating

Some teams purchase permanent uniforms, while others use t-shirts with standard GHSA numbering rules (centered, 6" minimum on back and 4" minimum on front). R1 officials can be scheduled with Michelle Prater of AAVA at praterm11@gmail.com or some schools have used JV coaches or community coaches to help officiate. Most schools use girls players to help scorekeep, libero track, etc.

What you can do to get things started at your school

- Contact your girls head volleyball coach and ask for their support, particularly in using the equipment. Find out what they might need in terms of nets, balls, etc., so your boys club can help pay for these items for the benefit of all programs.
- Contact your athletic director and principal and ask for their support and specifically find out if they will consent to a spring sport using the gym.
- Contact your volleyball booster club, if they are allowed to help at your school.
- Get your club approved by your HS administration in the fall or at least start the conversation at this time.
- Find coaches to help and determine how/if you can pay them your first year.
- Get a practice schedule together and submit it to your administration at the school. Find out who gets priority for the gym, when it rains in the spring.
- Get a budget together to determine what your player fees will be.
- Have a player/parent information meeting in early January to determine interest in a boys volleyball team at your school.
- Start scheduling matches with other schools by January/February when girls scheduling is taking place. An Excel list of schools participating will be provided to you no later than February 1 by the state organizer.

Questions/Contact Information

If you have questions or want to start a team at your high school and you need help, please contact Deb Pia at debpia7@gmail.com. Deb was a community coach at Johns Creek HS for six years and has been the organizer for boys volleyball since 2014. She is the founder/director of Boys Volleyball of Georgia and she keeps up-to-date boys/mens volleyball information online at www.boysvolleyballgeorgia.net.