

# Norcross Roller Hockey Parent's Guide



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## I. Introduction

Welcome to Norcross Roller Hockey! Peachtree Booster Club (PBC) and Norcross Roller Hockey (NRH) are excited you are a part of our league. Norcross Roller Hockey, in partnership with Gwinnett Parks and Recreation and Peachtree Booster Club, is a recreational and travel roller hockey program based at the Pinckneyville Park Rink in Norcross, GA, offering roller hockey opportunities to those of all ages!

### History of NRH

Congratulations! By virtue of playing in our hockey program, you're joining an organization with a long and proud history of serving families in the Atlanta area. Many details of the nearly 50-year history of the Peachtree Booster Club have been lost in time, but here are some recollections.

It all began in 1975, when a group of transplants decided they wanted to bring to Atlanta the game of hockey they all grew up loving in the North. So, they formed the Peachtree Booster Club, a non-profit organization designed to serve the youth and families of Gwinnett County. Play began indoors at the gym in Peachtree Elementary School. Players skated in quad skates (2 wheels in front/2 in back) playing hockey with sticks and a ball in an environment designed exclusively for basketball. For many, it was their first exposure to the game, and the popularity of roller hockey steadily rose.

In the early 1990's, a new opportunity to grow the sport opened up. Pinckneyville Park was being built in southeastern Gwinnett County, and the future park had a parcel of land that was perfect for a hockey rink. With taxpayer funds, the county built a brand new 200' x 85' uncovered rink with a concrete surface and dasher boards.

Throughout the 90's and early 2000's, roller hockey remained very popular. Other hockey rinks opened up around the greater Atlanta area, and competitive leagues began for middle school and high school aged kids.

In 2006, Gwinnett County approved \$1.6 million to build a new roller hockey rink on the site of the previous one. Plans included a roof covering the entire area of the rink, a sport court surface designed specifically for inline hockey, new dasher boards, quality lighting and fans, a new scoreboard and a host of other improvements. This is the rink you see today, probably the finest outdoor roller hockey facility in the Southeast. An adult hockey league was started, the Street Cats were formed to introduce kids 4 – 6 years old to their first hockey experience. Travel teams, hockey camps and special events were created to boost the visibility of the program. Improvements to the rink and the hockey programs have continued to this day.

The Peachtree Booster Club was established to provide a family-friendly environment for kids to experience the game of roller hockey. We have been doing just that for nearly 50 years. Our thanks to the countless parents and volunteers who have made this program a special place for so many families.

## II. Purpose

The purpose of this guide is to provide you with information regarding equipment/gear, league and team communications, and volunteerism. The information contained within this guide can also be found on the NRH website (<http://www.norcrossrollerhockey.com>).

### III. Season Overview

Seasons typically last for 10 weeks. The first week of each season is initiated with an evaluation week. Player's skills are assessed only to enable coaches to establish fairly balanced teams. Interested players do not have to qualify, nor are players cut from a team list. Players are placed in divisions based upon skill levels. The youth league has five divisions, Street Cats, 8U, 11U, Middle School (MS), and High School (HS). Teams are formed within each division dependent upon number of registered players.

A parent meeting will be held at the beginning of each season once the teams have been determined and players assigned.

### IV. NRH Safety Guidelines

In order to do our part to ensure your child's safety, NRH Committee is posting the following safety guidelines regarding NRH hosted events. NRH hosted events are considered any event in which NRH has publicized as a "drop off event" i.e. camps, half/full day clinics. Regular season hockey practices and games are NOT considered drop-off events. Open skate nights are also not considered a drop off event. For non-drop off events, you remain the responsible guardian for your child.

NRH Committee/Coaches requirements:

- NRH Committee members and coaches will undergo a background check
- NRH Committee members and coaches will undergo an injury prevention training

- NRH Committee members and Coaches will attempt to limit one to one interaction with a minor while being in an observable and interruptible distance of another adult.
- Committee members and Coaches may not utilize the facility restroom while occupied by minors.

#### General:

- For drop-off events, parents must sign a drop - off form and indicate who is permitted to pick up your child if not parent dropping off
- Due to our facilities being affiliated with the Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation system and the premises open to the public, kids will be encouraged to visit the bathroom in pairs, so child is not entering the bathroom facility alone.
- It is ultimately the parent/child's responsibility to gear-up. Committee/Coaches may assist with gear adjustments i.e. helmet, shin guards, knee pads, goalie pads... if needed, however, assistance must be done observably.

#### V. Practice/Game Schedule

Team practices are held one night weekly. Individual player's conflict nights are taken into consideration. NRH will do our best to accommodate parent/player schedules.

Games are held on Saturdays between 9AM and 3PM. Games are mainly held at the Mark Ogden Roller Hockey Rink located at Pinckneyville Park. The younger aged divisions are scheduled early in the day i.e. Street Cats 9 AM, 8U 10 AM, ...

**ARRIVE 15 MINUTES EARLY TO PRACTICES AND 30 MINUTES**

EARLY TO GAMES. PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD IS GEARED UP AND READY TO PLAY. PLAYERS SHOULD GATHER OUTSIDE THE ASSIGNED (HOME OR AWAY) BENCH BOX FOR EACH GAME.

Each Season, NRH attempts to coordinate games with other metro Atlanta roller hockey leagues. These games might require travel to other local hockey rinks within the metro Atlanta area. Interleague play increases in the older age divisions.

Picture day is scheduled during each season. NRH uses a third party to take individual player and team pictures. Payment is directed to the third party, not to NRH. Picture day occurs on a game day. Once the date has been determined, you will be notified by your Coach or Team Parent.

At the end of each season, an informal gathering will be scheduled to award trophies/medals to players within the Street Cats/8U and 11U divisions, respectively. Older divisions are not awarded trophies or medals.

## VI. Equipment/Gear

REQUIRED gear for each player consists of helmet, mouthguard, elbow pads, knee/shin pads, in-line skates, hockey stick, and a NRH jersey.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED gear are chest pads, water bottle (preferably with a straw), and athletic cup/supporter for male players.

OPTIONAL gear is padded hockey girdle, roller hockey pants,

and sports tape.

## VII. Communication

Communication from NRH Committee will be received by the parent via email. To make sure that you receive PBC/NRH emails, please Whitelist and/or add to your Safe Sender List the following email address: [no-reply@norcrossrollerhockey.com](mailto:no-reply@norcrossrollerhockey.com).

Each week, you will receive a Team Sideline (TS) game survey. Please ensure you respond with your child's attendance for the upcoming game. This enables the coaches to determine game plan based upon attendance.

Coaches will communicate via TS group chat within the TS app. This app is the quickest way for the Coaches to communicate last minute practice and game cancellations and/or changes.

## VIII. Volunteering

NRH is strictly a volunteer organization. NRH Committee Members nor Coaches receive payment. Registration fees are used to cover costs for electricity bill, rink maintenance, advertising, team jerseys, and purchase of equipment.

For our league to be successful, we rely on the volunteerism from parents. We request one hour from each family/one parent each season. There are various roles which need to be filled: Team Mom/Dad, Bench Parent (Street Cats & 8U divisions only), Concessions, Scoreboard Keeper, and Coaches.

### A. Team Mom/Dad

Role requires the creation and management of sign-ups for



weekly snacks (after each game) and weekly bench parent. We also ask for Team Mom/Dad of the Street Cats and 8U teams to schedule an “end of the season” gathering. Please note, in order to keep celebration fair to all teams, the party should be low key. Expenses incurred will be the responsibility of each parent/player participating and will not be covered by NRH or the Coaches.

#### B. Bench Parent (Street Cats & 8U)

Role requires for a parent to assist coaches with the players on the bench during a game

#### C. Concessions

Role requires “manning” the concessions stand for one-hour time increments

#### D. ScoreKeeper

Role requires keeping of score during a game. A tutorial will be provided prior to the game. Instructions are also provided for use.

Thank you for your participation! We are excited to have your family as a part of our league. We are looking forward to a great season. Our goal is for each player to have fun while learning roller hockey basics. Our committee is always open to suggestions. Should you have comments to share, please seek out and speak with one of our committee members. Roll on!