



2021-22 Blue Sky Sand Volleyball Year Round Elite Program Information

We are looking forward to a fun and competitive beach season with the year round elite team. Below, you will find all of the information, policies, and expectations regarding the year round program.

Coaching Staff

The year round elite team will be primarily supported by club directors Coach Amy and Coach Stan. We may have additional coaches step in throughout the season.

Coach Amy Van Sant
amy@blueskysandvb.com
(770) 296-7485

Coach Stan Van Sant
stan@blueskysandvb.com
(404) 276-0758

Practice Locations

Most practices will be held at the sand court at Twin Lakes and some at Howell Park's two sand courts when available.

Twin Lakes Swim & Tennis Club (TL)
2841 Briarlake Rd NE, Atlanta, GA 30345

John C Howell Park (JH)
797 Virginia Ave NE, Atlanta, GA 30306

Player Requirements

Each player needs to register or renew their membership for the Southern Region USAV (SRVA) by January 8, 2022. Any new members will be prompted to create a SportsEngine account.

- If you have never registered with the SRVA:
<https://www.srva.org/page/show/6577561-new-member-instructions>
- If you have previously registered with the SRVA, renew at:
<https://www.srva.org/page/show/6577558-returning-members-instructions>

Pricing and Payment Information

- Please review the [Year Round Pricing and Payment document](#)
- Reminder emails will be sent out for the payment due dates

Practices

- The year round season will run November 2021 through May 2022
- Practice schedules will be sent out on a monthly basis via email. Should changes occur to the schedule, we will do our best to communicate them in advance.
- Most weeks will consist of 2 practices that will be held on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and/or Sundays. We may have 3 practices for certain designated weeks.
- Strength & conditioning will be incorporated into training, as physical fitness is very important to compete in beach doubles.



Makeup Practice Protocol

- Any weather concerns, delays, location changes, and/or cancellations will be communicated via email and/or group text.
- There are 3 factors to determine practice conditions: temperature, wind, and moisture. For example, if there is no wind and the ground is dry, we would likely still practice in 43-degree weather. However, if it is windy and the sand is damp, we would likely cancel practice even if the temperatures are 46-48 degrees.
- Rain will not be a sole reason for cancelling. If there is lightning, we will retreat under a covered area and wait for 20 minutes without lightning to resume. If the weather does not improve, we may cancel the remainder of practice.
- Should we cancel practice, we will assign an at-home workout for the players to complete and try to schedule a make-up practice.

Tournaments

- The official tournament schedule has been released, but changes may occur as beach organizations release their tour schedules.
- For each tournament, our goal is to provide the most optimal partnerships, taking into account all players competing. Partners will be determined on a tournament-by-tournament basis with player and coach input, however coaches will make all final decisions.
- Age will also be a factor into pairing decisions, since tournaments are organized into age divisions. Players cannot compete beneath their age division, but they could potentially be partnered with a teammate in a higher age division (if below 18U). For reference, USAV tournaments use the following age divisions:
 - 18U – Players who were born on or after July 1, 2003, or Players who were born on or after July 1, 2002 and a high school student during the current academic year
 - 16U – Players who were born on or after July 1, 2005
 - 14U – Players who were born on or after July 1, 2007
 - 12U – Players who were born on or after July 1, 2009
- We will make sure everyone has a partner for competition. This can sometimes require the coaches to seek out a partner from another club.

Travel and Tournament Policies

- Parents are responsible for their player's registration fees, membership fees, travel costs, commute, hotel, food, etc.
- Each team of 2 players will need to sign up for tournaments as a pair. Only one person will need to register the team and submit payment online. Memberships for the corresponding NGB (National Governing Body such as AAU, AVP, etc.) may also be necessary if the tournament is sanctioned. We will send out registration and membership instructions as these tournaments arise.
- All players should wear Blue Sky swag upon arrival to tournaments and for medalist photo opportunities.
- Beach volleyball culture is different from indoor. Parents and spectators are encouraged to cheer but there is no coaching allowed, except from a designated coach at very specific times. The sport is designed for partners to work together and make their own adjustments to succeed with little outside influence.



- At least one coach will be at each tournament on the official schedule, likely bouncing from court to court. Depending on how many players are competing at a given time, your player may not have a coach on their court. This is a common occurrence and is expected given the culture.
- While at tournaments, our players are representing Blue Sky at all times. This means players are respectful of others, have excellent sportsmanship, and clean up after themselves. Failure to uphold these standards may result in consequences and/or being permanently removed from the team.
- There is absolutely no drinking, drugs, and/or illegal activities of any kind permitted during any Blue Sky scheduled events. Failure to follow this rule will result in being permanently removed from the team.

Absence Policy

- We expect each player to attend every Blue Sky scheduled event. However, we understand that previously scheduled commitments or travel may interfere. All we ask is that you **communicate all expected absences as soon as possible.** This is crucial for practice planning and preparing tournament partners.
- We also understand that last-minute changes, illnesses, and emergencies may pop up. All we ask is that you communicate these absences as soon as possible.
- Please be aware that missing practices may affect a player's beach development and their performance at tournaments. Absences will be taken into consideration for partner matching.

Additional Tournament Opportunities

- Players are welcome to compete in other tournaments outside of the Blue Sky schedule during and after our season. Please review our [Tournament Resources Page](#) for recommendations and NGB tournament sites.
- For any additional tournaments, coaching can be requested for \$60/day.
- After the season has ended in May, year round players can join our regularly scheduled Summer sessions and tournaments.

Swag & Recommended Apparel

- Each player will receive 1 tank top, 1 hoodie, 1 pair of sand socks, and car magnets. There will be an opportunity to purchase t-shirts for parents/supporters at an additional cost.
- Season starts in the cold months so we recommend players wear leggings, sand socks, and layers that can be removed if needed. Some players prefer to wear wool or ski socks instead of sand socks, or a combination. Players may also want to wear gloves, hand warmers, hats, and/or ear warmers.
- As it warms up, most players wear a tank top or t-shirt and spandex or athletic shorts. Players may also want to consider hats, visors, and/or sport sunglasses.