



WINDY CITY

POWER LEAGUE

Windy City Power League

League Handbook

Welcome to the Windy City Power League! This document has been created to provide coaches, players and parents with direction and insight into the structure and rules of our league. Originally established in 2011, the Windy City Power League (WCPL) has developed into one of the largest and most competitive volleyball leagues in the nation with over 600 teams from four different regions participating from across the Midwest.

Operated by the Great Lakes Region of USA Volleyball, the league is managed by a nine-member committee who guide operations and oversee league activities. Committee members serve a two-three-year term and are elected through a region wide election process.

As a USA Volleyball sanctioned event, the WCPL follows all rules as documented in the USA Volleyball Rulebook. Participants, coaches, team representatives and spectators participating in the league are subject to and must comply with all rules, regulations and policies of USA Volleyball here in and otherwise written.

Additional rules unique to the WCPL have been documented below.

Competition Structure and Organization

At the beginning of a season, the WCPL board may make alterations to the planned schedule if the number of teams in a division do not permit the intended schedule. Excluding this exception, the following describes the intended format for WCPL age divisions:

The WCPL will consist of two divisions of play: Open and Club. The Club division may be further divided, geographically, into North and South sub-divisions. Clubs may register teams for either division with no pre-qualifying criteria required. The Board reserves the right to make suggestions regarding team placement in order to allow for the most beneficial competition format.

For u15-u18 Open divisions, competition will consist of multiple seeding days of play. Results of seeding will place teams in eight team brackets for future play. Teams will have multiple days of point-bracket play. Results of each day of bracket play will create movement within the competition with 1-3rd place finishers moving “up” a bracket. 4-5th place finishers remain in same bracket and 6-8th place finishers move “down” a bracket.

U15-U18 open level teams are also awarded points based on their bracket finish (see below for details). WCPL will have Open level divisions with multiple age group participation i.e., 18/17- and 16/15-year-old divisions (See USAV Age Classifications for additional information). In these instances, with multiple age groups a league champion will be identified for each group and awards provided accordingly (see Awards and Bids section for additional information). Bids will be awarded to the highest finishing age group team in the open division in their respective age category.

WCPL will also conduct Club level divisions. These divisions will typically consist of two seeding dates of play. At the conclusion of seeding, teams will be placed into (usually 16 team) divisions. Over the course of five playing dates teams will play a round-robin format playing all teams within their division. The final playing date will be a crossover day where teams from

Club-North play similarly ranked teams from their Southern counterparts. If a bid is in the club's age division, a bid will be awarded to the winner of the Red Division's top bracket tournament (top 1-4 teams from North Club and South Club divisions).

U12 through U14 open divisions may have different formats each season. The inherently small numbers in these age groups do not easily lend themselves to a 'multiple groups of 16' format used in club divisions, nor a 'multiple brackets of 8' format used in older open divisions. For this reason, the WCPL committee will recommend a schedule suitable for the division based on the division size and playing dates. This is usually a single or double round robin, sometimes with seeding and sometimes with a tournament afterwards.

2024 USAV Season Format Chart

Division	Total Days	Structure	Seeding Days	League/Points Days	Tournament or Crossover
12 Club	7	Round Robin	1 Day	5 League	1 Crossover
13 Club					
14 Club					
15 Club	8	Round Robin	2 Days	5 League	1 Crossover
16 Club					
17/18 Club					
12 Open		TBD based on div. size.			
13 Open	7				
14 Open					
15/16 Open	7	Brackets of 8	2 Standard 1 Bracket	4 Points Days	No
17/18 Open	6	Brackets of 8	2 Standard 1 Bracket	4 Points Days	No

15 - 18U Open Division Point System

During League play (usually final 3-4 dates) of any division using the 8-team bracket format, standing points will be awarded based on the finish of each day of play.

The team finishing 1st in A will be considered in 1st and will receive 1 point. The team finishing 2nd in A will be considered in 2nd and will receive 2 points. This process will continue for all of Bracket A. Assuming there are 8 teams in Bracket A, the first team in Bracket B will get 9 points. The 2nd team in Bracket B will receive 10 points. This will continue through the entire league so that each team receives 1 point for each place they are in. The team in 27th place (likely 3rd in D) would receive 27 points.

Teams will receive points for each day of play and points will be added to determine total league points. The first bracket day is the final seeding day and has no points associated with it but allows teams to move brackets before points are awarded (if a division has less than 7 dates, and less than 64 teams the first bracket day WILL count towards the total amount of points).

The team with the lowest total league points wins the division.

Age Classifications

All players must be age appropriate for each age division. Teams in open cannot have age waivered players. Those teams with age waivered players cannot earn a bid.

Bids

GLR has decided to use the league finishes to award bids. The region has decided to put 1 American bid and all reallocation bids in the Great Lakes Regional Championships. Other bids will go to WCPL divisions based on the “rule of 3.” Every third bid that the region has in a particular age group will be placed in the club division (the lowest bid in terms of level of play will go to the club division). The other bids will be in the open division (the higher bids in terms of level of play will be allocated to the Open division). For example, if GLR has 2 national bids and 2 American bids, the first 2 national bids (being the highest) will go to open. The 3rd bid which is an American bid, will go to the club division. The fourth bid, also an American bid, will be in open. The lowest division bid will be allocated for the club division should the region receive a lower division bid. In region trickle down bids will go to the division from the team that earned them. For example, if a team finishing 1st in club earns an American bid through the league and also earns a USA bid at a qualifier, that team accepts the USA bid and that team’s American bid stays in the club division. Similarly, if 2 teams in WCPL Open earn American bids at a national qualifier, then also earn bids in the league, their national qualifier bids go to the open division even if they are the 3rd or the 6th bid, because it was an open division team who brought the bids back to the region.

General Guideline Initial Bid Starting Chart (not reallocation bids)

Number of GLR Bids	Bids Starting in GLRC*	Bids Starting in WCPL Open	Bids Starting in WCPL Club
1	1		
2	1	1	
3	1	2	
4	1	2	1
5	1	3	1
6	1	4	1
7	1	4	2

*Except for u11 divisions, which will be highest u11 finishing team in WCPL. The GLRC has no u11 division.

**The GLRC bid will be an American bid. The Club division bids will be the lowest of the remaining bids. (usually freedom).

***This chart is a reference for how GLR bids would be used and is not indicative of how many bids the region currently has.

If a division has a round robin format and a tournament format, the bids will alternate between the round robin portion and the tournament. The highest bid goes to the team with the best record from round robin. The second highest bid goes to the winner of the tournament. Trickle downs will stay within the reason for the bid (tournament trickle downs will be awarded to the next highest tournament finish and same with the pool play).

Seeding

Seeding will be done by age division committees of the WCPL committee members each year. The primary factor of seeding will be the finish during the previous year. WCPL has decided that fairness is of a high priority and even though teams change in strength from season to season, using the previous season’s WCPL results to seed is an extremely fair method. In instances where there was not an obvious comparison the committee will be asked

to use best judgement. An example might be when seeding a 17/18s division the need will arise to compare a 17s team and an 18s team who competed in different divisions the year prior.

Trickle Down Bids

Teams not from the GLR, coed teams, and teams with age-waived players cannot win bids. If a team meeting one of these categories finishes in a place where that team would normally earn a bid, the bid is awarded to the next highest eligible finishing team. Also, if a team has declared they will not accept the bid, the bid is awarded to the next highest eligible finishing team. In the open division, bids can trickle down as far as necessary. In the club division, bids can only trickle down to the 5th place, and then will be added to open division bids.

Bid Contention

After the 3rd to final playing date (6 of 8, 5 of 7, or 4 of 6), any eligible team who mathematically could finish in bid contention for both open and club divisions must declare their intention to accept or decline a bid.

Frozen Rosters

Rosters will be frozen prior to the start of the 3rd to final playing date for all divisions, unless otherwise stated. The roster must be submitted electronically in AES before play begins on the roster lock day of play. Following that date the rosters are frozen and under no circumstances will players be added to those teams in bid contention. For divisions with 6 dates or less, the roster lock will occur prior to the start of play on the team's 5th playing date.

Teams with less than six players for a given date will forfeit and not be able to add players, which are not listed on your roster.

Teams in other divisions (non-bid contention divisions) will be able to add players if needed to compete.

Teams requesting an addition to their roster must submit to region admin for approval on an as needed basis and must be approved or denied prior to participation.

Tie Breakers

For Round Robin Divisions:

During Seeding- For divisions that end up in a round Robin format, tie breaking procedures will be as follows:

1. If no teams can advance to the top division OR if all of the teams will advance to the top division, there will be no tie-breaker sets. Teams will be placed according to GLR tie-breaker procedures and will default to USAV tie-breaking procedures if GLR has no such procedures.
2. If some, but not all of the teams may advance to the top division, a tie-breaker set may be required. WCPL will follow GLR tie-breaking procedures as they are for the year that the tie occurs.

During Final Day of play - If teams are tied in match record, they will be placed according to GLR tie-breaking procedures. A tie-breaking set may or may not be required based on what GLR tie-breaking procedures would indicate following the spirit of the GLR guidelines for multi-day events.

For Points (Bracket) Divisions:

During Seeding- For divisions that have bracket play where teams can continuously move throughout the league, there will be no tie-breaker sets played. Teams will be ranked according to GLR tie-breaking procedures. The rationale is that since teams are

not “locked” into a certain division, they still have a chance to move to the location they belong.

During Final Day of play - For division that have bracket play and where winners are determined by overall points, there will be no tie-breaker sets played. If teams are tied in points at the end of the league, they will share the finish. If some but not all of the teams tied earn bids, the order will be based on the higher finish on the final day.

For Hybrid or unforeseen playing structures -

If a situation arises likely due to inefficient division sizes or unforeseeable circumstances that does not fit one of the above two scenarios, the spirit of the rule for tie-breaking will be followed: The spirit of the rule is that teams will not be eliminated from a contention of winning the league & /or earning a bid based on points or coin flip. Outside of that normal GLR tie-breaking procedures will be followed. If GLR tie-breaking procedures change over the years, then WCPL tie-breaking procedures change with them unless otherwise added to this document.

Awards

Teams winning their divisions will all get awards. These will be handed out at the last play date when the league is finished.

Protests

Will be handled by the head ref at each site. If that ref needs input on the ruling, they will contact GLR Ref Chairs Janice McGeary or Krystian Krzyzak. If there are no head refs at a site, the site director should call whoever is on the weekend contact list.

Elections

The WCPL Committee consists of 9 members. Terms are 3 years in length for each individual. Clubs are categorized as small (1-20 girls USAV registered teams), medium (21-40 girls USAV registered teams), and large (41+ girls USAV registered teams) club size and there will be 3 representatives on the committee from each club size.

Host Site Eligibility

Used to be considered for the Great Lakes Region Windy City Power League, may include but is not limited to:

- Entity must be located within the Great Lakes Region or receive approval by neighboring Region to host.
- Venue must be zoned a SPORTS facility for athletic competition (Special Use Permit will be allowed) including but not limited to restroom and parking requirements within the municipality.
- Adequate parking and adequate bathrooms are a necessity.
- Person(s) responsible for applying for sanction must be registered with the Great Lakes Region of USA Volleyball, have a current background check and be SafeSport trained.
- Facilities must be insured with USA Volleyball insurance.
- All applicants must have full control of all scheduling in any facility they would like to host.
- The facility and equipment must be approved via the criteria listed in the current USA rule book.
- For facilities pending final development, architectural drawings may be submitted for preliminary approval with a visual inspection required upon completion.

- Any member in good standing who requests to host the WCPL must agree that during tournament competition all volleyball participants on all courts within the facility must be registered members of USA Volleyball.
- In order to be considered as a host for the WCPL the host group must be a primary tenant of the facility and either have a lease with the owners of the venue or own the facility.

Host Facilities will be determined on the following tier criteria:

Tier 1 facility: To be a Tier 1 facility, the club must meet all of the requirements plus be an owner or 24/7 lessee throughout the duration of the league. The schedule will attempt to ensure Tier 1 facilities host an appropriate number of dates according to the hosting percentage (see below).

Tier 2 facility: Tier 2 facilities are potential facilities that do not fulfill all of the requirements of a Tier 1 facility and will only be used if Tier 1 facilities are full/occupied. To prevent an excessive number of sites, any Tier 2 site(s) must be attached to a GLR member club qualifying for dates due to their team support of the league to be considered in the schedule (see below).

Tier 3 facility: Tier 3 facilities do not qualify for hosting rights due to failing to meet multiple hosting requirements; however, in cases of extreme needs, the WCPL board can authorize the use of facilities falling in this category.

- All facilities used for the WCPL must be ADA accessible.
- Any club who hosts the WCPL must agree to enter at least their top two highest level teams in each age division (i.e. 18/17/16/15/14/13/12) into the WCPL each year. Any exceptions to above must be submitted in writing to WCPL Committee for evaluation and consideration.
- All host facilities must have a minimum of four regulation volleyball courts under one roof.
- Entity must be able to guarantee Saturday and/or Sunday on a given weekend.
- Cleanliness and parking must be monitored.
- All facilities must provide a full-service concession stand offering healthy choices and a gluten free choice.
- Appropriate health certificates must be on display in the concession area from the appropriate county.
- All facilities must provide designated eating area.
- All facilities must provide a resting area for officials.
- The facility must display the appropriate "no firearms" allowed decal in the entrance area.
- The facility must agree to follow all of the Health and Safety mandates from the Illinois Department of Health and Local Health Departments.
- The facility must follow all local and state guidelines.
- All facilities must be approved for the specific use of a sports venue by the local municipality/village/city, etc. and must have a visible occupancy sign as required by the local authorities.
- The WCPL may use additional facilities (courts) on an "as needed" basis.
- The Great Lakes Region reserves the right to refuse entry into any GLR sponsored event to any individual/club or team that may disrupt/distract/adversely affect the

- tournament and/or Great Lakes Region's mission/goals/objectives or otherwise have the potential to adversely affect the reputation of the Great Lakes Region and/or USA Volleyball.

Host Site Determination

The WCPL scheduler(s) assign specific dates to a host site. The amount of courts & dates that a host site is granted depend on their target court usage; however, the scheduling of sites is hinged on court number and proximity to other sites, and ease of college coaches to see most open teams at one site on a given weekend. Within these constraints, the target court usage will be determined by the following equation:

*Target # of court-shifts for a host = (# of teams that the host site places into WCPL / total # of teams that all host sites place into WCPL) * Total number of court shifts needed for the year.*

Host Site Guest Details

Must have a full-service concession stand offering healthy choices and a gluten free choice. All parents pay \$10 for entry, \$5.00 for seniors 65 and up and children 12 years and younger are free. All sites have a surcharge of \$1 to allow "bring your own coffee" into site. Cleanliness and parking must be monitored. Must follow guidelines set up by Region. ie-health inspection, fire marshal/capacity inspection, safety of courts/seating, adequate parking, adequate bathroom stalls, etc.