

Windy City Power League

League By Laws

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 575 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 board of directors who guide operations and oversee league activities. Board members serve a 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 Domestic Competition Regulations (DCR) handbook. 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 . 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 three seeding days of play. The first two are traditional seeding days, bracket play on the third day included as part of the seeding. Results of seeding will place teams in eight team brackets for future play. Teams will have five days of bracket play. Results of each day of bracket play will create movement within the league. 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 as a result of 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 Age Classifications for additional information). In these instances with multiple age groups a league champion will be identified for each age group and awards provided accordingly (see Awards and Bids section for additional information).

WCPL will also conduct Club level divisions. These divisions will consist of three seeding dates of play. At the conclusion of seeding, teams will be placed into 16 team divisions. Over the course of five playing dates teams will play a round-robin format playing all teams within their division. U12 through U14 open divisions will follow the same format as club divisions.

15 - 18U Open Division Point System.

During League play (usually final 5 dates) of any division using the 8-team bracket format, points will be awarded based on the finish of each play date. The team finishing 1st in A will receive 1 point. The team finishing 2nd in A 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 finish. 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 team with the lowest total league points wins the division.

Age Classifications- all players must be age appropriate for each age division. **Teams in the Open division cannot have age waived players. Those teams with age waived players cannot earn a bid.**

Bids-

GLR has decided to use the league finishes to award bids. Bids will go to 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 others will be in 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. Reallocation 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 club. 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.

Seeding-

Seeding will be done by a committee of the board members each year. The primary criteria used will be the results from the previous year. WCPL has decided that fairness is 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-wavered 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 team. Also, if a team has declared they will not accept the bid, the bid is awarded to the next highest eligible 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 date 6 of 8, 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 6th play date for all divisions. The roster must be signed before play begins on the 6th day of play. Coaches can write in additions that day. Following that date the rosters are frozen and under no circumstances will players be added to those teams in bid contention. 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. Those in other divisions will be able to add players if needed to compete.

Host site administration details- must follow guidelines set up by Region. Ie-health inspection, fire marshal/capacity inspection, safety of courts/seating, adequate parking, adequate bathroom stalls, etc. Host site eligibility- Sandy's form.

Once you are eligible refer to determination section for details.

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 \$5 for entry, seniors 65 and up are free. All sites have a surcharge of \$1 to allow "bring your own coffee" into site. Cleanliness and parking must be monitored.

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 may 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 tournament director, with advising from Paul Albright-Official's chair. Paul's cell: 770-367-7792 Devonie McLarty-International Region Ref-630-452-3838. Angelo lasillo- cell:312-504-6796

Bad Debt Rule- those families in arrears to a hosting site (and currently play for a different club), can deny entry to any player that has not fulfilled their financial obligation to the host site.

Elections- board consists of 9 members. Every 3 years there will be a Region wide election.

-once elected will finish term

-club director or person appointed by club director of that club

-clubs that have a common owner shall be treated as one entity, and only allowed one representative between any or all clubs with that shared owner, which also means one vote.

-every 2 years we appoint the re-election of 1 small club, 1 medium, 1 large club.

Summer of 2020: up for re-election—Mike Faulk, Mike Bui, Ryan Sommers

2021-Sue, Joel, Cathy

2022-Scott Harris, Terri Baranski, Sebastian

1-20 teams- small

21-40 teams- medium

31-+ teams- large

****let each director vote for one in each grouping**

**** open nominations the end of April 1-15, voting takes place the first week, May 1-7, to open voting. First meeting new members in July. Internal elections take place at first meeting(July)**