



**WINDY CITY SPORTS ACADEMY LEAGUE
PROGRAM STATEMENT & GAME REGULATIONS
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WINDY CITY SPORTS ACADEMY

PROGRAM STATEMENT

The Windy City Sports Academy is the premier sports education organization in the city of Chicago. We pride ourselves on our team and our approach, which prioritizes individual and team growth as the pillar of our program. Our innovative coaching strategy maximizes player development, engagement, and training time, while ensuring a safe and rewarding social environment where players can learn the many benefits sports has to offer.

With these main principles in mind, we will always structure format to fit the players, and never the opposite way around. This may lead to some untraditional structuring for our leagues but guarantees weekly competitions that benefit every player in the program and ensures every player gains access to a top-notch coaching crew that can build rapport with the players.

We hold our Coaches to the highest standard to portray respect, professionalism, and courtesy to players, parents, and officials, and we expect anyone associated with the program to follow this standard while at the facility and engaged with our program. Please review the rules and guidelines listed below for all our various leagues and get ready for a fun and rewarding season with the WCSA team.

WINDY CITY SPORTS ACADEMY

GAME REGULATIONS

Section A

OVERVIEW

1. Leagues will consist of divisions and will not have set teams. Each division is provided a Coaching Crew that works in coordination with each other to get to know each individual player and begin building weekly teams that provide for balanced and competitive weekly games. Should attendance remain high, every effort will be made to maintain continuity of teams throughout the season.
2. All teams will be Co-Ed.
3. All participants must be officially registered to play in the league.
4. By participating, players, guardians, and parents agree to the terms of the WCSA waiver and fully indemnify coaches, facility, and support staff for any injury that may occur from playing in the activity or while on premises.
5. A licensed WCSA specialist will run each Division and head each Coaching Crew.
6. For the majority of divisions and leagues, coaching crews will also ref/ officiate during game play unless otherwise noted at the beginning of the season.
7. After the "Scout Week" (2nd week of the season), withdrawals will not be permitted, and players will be responsible for the full fee of the league.
8. It is the intention to keep score each week for games for all ages eight (8) and over. Score and record keeping is at the discretion of the league Manager and will be done so in accordance with league rules.
 - a. For younger divisions, coaches will introduce scoring as they see fit, and when players are appropriately prepared to have the concept introduced.
9. Forfeits are not permitted and will not occur. Games will be held every week regardless of attendance, and appropriate adjustments made to ensure competitive games are held.

Section B

TEAM ROSTER & SCHEDULING

1. Each Division will follow our Max Cap rule, where we guarantee there will not be more than a certain amount of players on a court for a given game, and will keep a Max number of players that will ever be permitted on a team/side based on the available court space. These ratios are as follows:
 - a. **Soccer:** Twelve (12) players per side on a full-length field (twenty-four total), or eight (8) players per side (sixteen total) on half-length field.
 - b. **Basketball:** Twelve (12) players per team/bench, twenty-four (24) player max per full court.
 - c. **Volleyball:** Eight (8) player per side, sixteen (16) players per game.
2. All practices and games will be held within a two-hour window.
3. Officiated Games may be held prior to the practice depending on court availability.
4. Every effort will be made to keep players on the same courts on a weekly basis.

Section C

RULES OF THE GAME

Rules of the game may be amended based on the evaluative process and to optimize player growth and development. Our aim is to adhere to the main governing body of each respective sports recommendation for rules, regulations, policy, and safety measures as detailed on their respective organization's sites.

Timed games will generally consist of two, twenty (20) minute running clock halves, with stoppage if there are licensed IHSAA officials on site. Untimed games will have a clear point benchmark that is presented to both teams prior to the start of each game.

Comprehensive overviews can be found by following the links below:

Soccer/Futsal:

<https://www.windycityfieldhouse.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Soccer-Rules-5-on-5.pdf>

Basketball:

<https://www.usab.com/youth/development/youth-basketball-guidelines.aspx>

Volleyball:

<https://usavolleyball.org/resource/simplified-youth-rules/>

Court space and field construction/playing surface will be decided based on the following criteria:

- Skill Level of Division
- Number of players in each Division and allotted to each team.
- Available court space
- Average Age of players

Goal, net, basketball height/size and ball size is always at the discretion of the League Manager and will be in accordance with the governor bodies recommendations. When mixed ages, players will always use the older/ more advanced size ball.

Section D

CONDUCT

1. Loud or abusive language that is directed from the bench toward the officials, unauthorized entrance of the coach onto the court, or general unsportsmanlike behavior in the gymnasium or on the premises on the part of players, coaches, or spectators, will not be tolerated. Eviction from the gym and/or the program could result from such misconduct. The building Supervisor is in complete charge of the conduct of the game and the supervision of the school plant.
2. Coaches should address the referee only at the quarters or during time outs. Interruption of the game with conversation or comments directed toward the referee can result in the calling of technical fouls. Technical fouls may also be called against players who use abusive language toward the referee. The player will be removed from the game after the second technical foul is levied. The team captain is the official team spokesman on the floor for conversation with the officials upon matters that relate to the game.
3. Technical Foul Rule: Any player or Volunteer Coach receiving a Technical Foul will be benched for the remainder of that half. Persistent misbehavior will result in suspension or even expulsion. Two technical fouls will result in a mandatory one game suspension.
 - a. Poor Sportsmanship: If at any time the Coach believes a player is behaving inappropriately toward the Coach, Ref, or any other players they may be benched indefinitely. All incidents will be reported to the Supervisor. Any concerns about disciplinary action may be directed to the Supervisor as well. At NO TIME should parents approach the Coach without consulting the Supervisor first in regards to any issue in regards to their child.
 - b. Observers: Any observer displaying poor character toward a Coach, Team, or Ref can be asked to leave the premises at any time. Chronic displays of said behavior can result in expulsion from the league for both observer and participant.
 - c. Floor Technicals: There will be no technical fouls called for more than five players on the court or for calling an excessive time out. These will be considered floor violations, and the ball will be awarded to the other team. Violations made simultaneously by both teams will result in a jump ball situation, and the alternating possession rule will be in effect. Any points scored when there are too many players on the court will be negated on the offending team. All fouls called on the offending team when there are

too many players on the court will stand, and the non-offending team will have any fouls called on them cancelled.

- d. It is the intent of these rules to encourage sportsmanship in the program. We are asking that parents, coaches and fans keep in mind that this is a recreational program for children. We want the game to be fun, as well as competitive. Let us all strive to make this a great experience for all of the participants, especially the players.
4. Participation in the program is viewed in the spirit of friendly competition. As a result, it is a general policy of the Windy City Sports Academy not to recognize a petition for a protested game.
5. Care should be taken not to bring money or other valuables to the gyms. Locks and lockers are not furnished and the Sports Academy cannot be responsible for their safekeeping.

Section E

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT CODE

By utilizing the aforementioned words, managers, coaches and supervisors in decision-making positions will be more apt to make correct decisions and handle issues in a professional manner. For example, OBSERVE all situations which might be a cause of concern (forewarned is forearmed). When approached with the concern, LISTEN. What might be unimportant to you may be very important to somebody else. Try to DEFUSE the issue, so nobody is angry and the issue becomes a discussion, not an argument. If a decision cannot be made at the time, EVALUATE the input and, if necessary, COMMUNICATE with the Windy City Sports Academy Supervisor to develop a PROFESSIONAL DECISION.

EVERY COACH SHOULD BE THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH THESE RULES
AND SEE TO IT THAT EACH PLAYER HAS A SIMILAR AWARENESS