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# *Host Cities Information Pack*

**SPORTING CHANCE  
FORUM**



Centre for Sport  
& Human Rights



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# CHILD RIGHTS & THE FIFA WORLD CUP 2026

An opportunity to support a groundbreaking initiative to advance child protections and expand respect for human rights in host cities for the 2026 FIFA World Cup



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# INTRODUCTION

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Major sporting events inspire kids but pose risks like child labor, abuse, and family disruption in host cities. City officials, stadium authorities, and sports teams need guidance on respecting human rights while hosting these events. To make host cities safer for kids, it's essential to understand these risks and best practices for mitigating them.



# ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Centre for Sport and Human Rights (CSHR) is teaming up with North American partners in four host cities—Los Angeles, New York/New Jersey, Toronto, and Guadalajara—to make sports safer for children. Our focus is on the upcoming FIFA World Cup in 2026 and its potential to boost child safety and rights in sports.

## Child Safety

We aim to prevent harm to kids involved in sports. Currently, the sporting world is only starting to tackle issues like abuse and exploitation. Our program educates and collaborates with various stakeholders, such as sports organizations and local governments, to enhance child protection.

### Key Goals:

- Implement abuse prevention programs in at least four sports organizations and World Cup venues.
- Upgrade child safeguarding practices in the four host cities.
- Integrate child protection measures into everyday sports and World Cup preparations.

## Child Participation

We're advocating for including children's voices in planning the FIFA World Cup 2026. Our Youth Journalism Initiative offers kids a platform to share their views on sports and human rights.

### Key Goals:

- Influence World Cup decisions at the city level.
- Engage safely with children through at least four sports programs and host city committees.
- Train 40 young people as sports journalists, amplifying their stories to influence city leaders.

## Program Highlights

- **Athlete Ambassadors:** A coalition of athletes advocating for children's rights.
- **City Checklist:** A guide to safeguard children, including training and implementation support for stakeholders.
- **Youth Journalism:** An initiative encouraging kids to report on the World Cup's impact on their cities.
- **Youth Survey:** A tool capturing child and youth experiences, displayed in a map and dashboard.
- **Global Youth Council:** A forum convened by CSHR for youth input from host cities.
- **North American Alliance:** Partnerships with leading organizations focused on child safety in sports.
- **Best Practice Guide:** A resource for future host cities detailing effective approaches to child safeguarding.

By focusing on these elements, we aim to create a lasting positive impact on child safety and participation in sports.





# A HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION FOR THE WORLD OF SPORT

## About the Centre for Sport and Human Rights

Launched in 2018, the Centre for Sport and Human Rights works towards a world of sport that fully respects human rights by sharing knowledge, building capacity, and strengthening the accountability of all actors through collective action.

Over sixty influential organizations in the global sports ecosystem are members of the [Centre's Advisory Council](#).

The Centre's strategic plan, [Convergence 2025](#), provides a comprehensive view of our mission, vision, theory of change and our strategic priorities.

## Global Sport and Human Rights Academy

CSHR has partnered with the World Academy of Sport to launch the Global Sport and Human Rights Academy. The Academy will be the first of its kind in the field, establishing online open courses and developing bespoke content on critical topics and themes in sport and human rights, including tailored pathways for different stakeholders - federations, sponsors or others in the sports ecosystem.

The first two modules launched this fall will be Sport & Human Rights 101 and a child rights dedicated course.



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# LOS DERECHOS DEL NIÑO Y LA COPA MUNDIAL DE LA FIFA 2026

Una oportunidad para apoyar una iniciativa innovadora para avanzar en la protección de la infancia y ampliar el respeto de los Derechos Humanos en las ciudades anfitrionas de la Copa Mundial de la FIFA 2026



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# INTRODUCCIÓN

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Los mega eventos deportivos inspiran a los niños, pero plantean riesgos como el trabajo infantil, los abusos y la disrupción familiar en las ciudades anfitrionas. Los responsables municipales, las autoridades de los estadios y los equipos deportivos necesitan orientación sobre el respeto de los Derechos Humanos en la organización de estos eventos.

Para que las ciudades anfitrionas sean más seguras para los niños, es esencial comprender estos riesgos y las mejores prácticas para mitigarlos.



# ACERCA DEL PROYECTO

El Centre for Sport and Human Rights (CSHR) colabora con socios de Norteamérica en cuatro ciudades anfitrionas —Los Ángeles, Nueva York/ Nueva Jersey, Toronto y Guadalajara—para hacer que el deporte sea más seguro para los niños. Nos centramos en la próxima Copa Mundial de la FIFA de 2026 y en su potencial para impulsar la seguridad y los Derechos del Niño en el deporte.

## Seguridad infantil

Nuestro objetivo es evitar que los niños que practican deporte sufran daños. En la actualidad, el mundo del deporte está empezando a abordar problemas como el abuso y la explotación. Nuestro programa educa y colabora con diversas partes interesadas, como organizaciones deportivas y gobiernos locales, para mejorar la protección de la infancia.

### Objetivos clave:

- Implantar programas de prevención de abusos en -al menos- cuatro organizaciones deportivas y sedes de la Copa del Mundo.
- Mejorar las prácticas de protección de la infancia en las cuatro ciudades anfitrionas.
- Integrar medidas de protección de la infancia en los deportes cotidianos y en los preparativos de la Copa Mundial.

## Participación infantil

Estamos abogando por incluir las voces de los niños en la planificación de la Copa Mundial de la FIFA 2026. Nuestra Iniciativa de periodismo juvenil ofrece a los niños una plataforma para compartir sus opiniones sobre el deporte y los Derechos Humanos.

### Objetivos clave:

- Influir en las decisiones sobre la Copa Mundial a nivel municipal.
- Involucrar de forma segura a los niños a través de al menos cuatro programas deportivos y comités de la ciudad anfitriona.
- Formar a 40 jóvenes como periodistas deportivos, amplificando sus

historias para influir en los dirigentes de las ciudades.

## Puntos destacados del programa

- **Atletas embajadores:** Coalición de deportistas que defienden los Derechos del Niño.
- **Lista de control de la ciudad:** Una guía para salvaguardar a los niños, que incluye formación y apoyo a la aplicación para las partes interesadas.
- **Periodismo juvenil:** Una iniciativa que anima a los niños a informar sobre el impacto de la Copa del Mundo en sus ciudades.
- **Encuesta juvenil:** Una herramienta que recoge las experiencias de niños y jóvenes en cuatro estadios y ciudades anfitrionas de la Copa Mundial de la FIFA 2026 y sus alrededores y las muestra en un mapa y un panel de visualización.
- **Consejo mundial de la juventud:** Un foro convocado por la CSHR para recabar aportes de los jóvenes de las ciudades anfitrionas.
- **Alianza de América del Norte:** Asociaciones con organizaciones líderes centradas en la seguridad infantil en el deporte.
- **Guía de buenas prácticas:** Un recurso para futuras ciudades anfitrionas en el que se detallan enfoques eficaces para la protección de la infancia.

Al centrarnos en estos elementos, pretendemos crear un impacto positivo duradero en la seguridad y la participación de los niños en el deporte.





# UNA ORGANIZACIÓN DE DERECHOS HUMANOS PARA EL MUNDO DEL DEPORTE

## Acerca del Centro para el Deporte y los Derechos Humanos

El Centro para el Deporte y los Derechos Humanos, lanzado en 2018, trabaja por un mundo del deporte que respete plenamente los Derechos Humanos mediante el intercambio de conocimientos, la creación de capacidades y el fortalecimiento de la rendición de cuentas de todos los actores a través de la acción colectiva.

Más de sesenta organizaciones influyentes en el ecosistema deportivo mundial son miembros del [Consejo Asesor del Centro](#).

El plan estratégico del Centro, [Convergencia 2025](#), ofrece una visión global de nuestra misión, visión, teoría del cambio y nuestras prioridades estratégicas.

## Global Sport and Human Rights Academy

El CSHR se asoció con la World Academy of Sport para poner en marcha la Global Sport and Human Rights Academy. La Academia será la primera de su clase en este campo, estableciendo cursos abiertos en línea y desarrollando contenidos a medida sobre temas críticos en materia de deporte y Derechos Humanos, incluyendo itinerarios personalizados para las diferentes partes interesadas - federaciones, patrocinadores u otros en el ecosistema deportivo. Los dos primeros módulos lanzados este otoño serán Deporte y Derechos Humanos Básicos y un curso dedicado a los Derechos del Niño.

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# CHILDREN'S BILL OF RIGHTS IN SPORTS



*driven by*

**PROJECT  
PLAY**

 aspen institute

**The signature initiative of the Sports & Society Program at the Aspen Institute, Project Play helps stakeholders build healthy children and communities through sports.**

Since 2013, the initiative has developed, applied and shared knowledge that promotes sports participation and supported organizations that are increasing access to sports.

# How We Engage with Children in Sport

Project Play develops frameworks, toolkits and resources for stakeholders and publishes research on youth sports participation and the benefits that derive from it.

- [Youth Sports Playbook](#)
- [School Sports Playbook](#)
- [National State of Play Reports](#)
- [Community State of Play Reports](#)
- [World's Leading Sport Systems](#)
- [International](#)
  - [Project Play México](#)
  - [Play for Life Romania](#)
- [Project Play Summit](#)
- [Resources](#) for Coaches
- [Teamwork Toolkit](#) for Organizers
- [Checklists](#) for Parents
- [Equity Toolkit](#) for Students
- [Healthy Sport Index](#)

# Why a Children's Bill of Rights in Sports?

Other countries that have redeveloped their youth sports systems through a lens of children's rights have achieved higher rates of satisfaction and retention among young people, while also achieving better results in elite adult competition.

We were especially inspired by the Children's Rights in Sport principles developed by leaders in Norway.

## CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN SPORT

### 1. SAFETY

Children have the right to practice in an environment that is safe and secure, without any inappropriate pressure or exploitation. Children under 6 years should be accompanied by an adult to help avoid accidents and prevent injuries.

### 2. FRIENDSHIP AND ENJOYMENT

Children have the right to participate in training and competitive activities which are designed to help develop friendship and solidarity amongst them.

### 3. COMPETENCY

Children have the right to experience the feelings of competency and to learn a varied skill-set. They should also be given the opportunity to experience variation in their sports, training and interactions with others.

### 4. INFLUENCE

Children have the right to express their own opinions and that their opinions should be considered. Children should have the opportunity to participate in planning sessions and can execute their own ideas in sports activities with their coaches and parents.

### 5. THE FREEDOM TO CHOOSE

Children have the right to choose which sport, or how many sports they wish to participate in. Children have the right to determine how much they wish to practise their sport.

### 6. COMPETITIONS FOR ALL

Children have the right to choose whether they would like to participate in competitions, and should have equal opportunities to participate. Children transferring from one club to another in the same sporting discipline have the right to compete in competitive sports for the new sport club, as soon as the registration is completed.

### 7. ON THE CHILDREN'S TERMS

Children have the right to participate in training and competition activities that are suitable to their age, physical development and maturation level.

# Goals for a Children's Bill of Rights in Sports

- Introduce the U.S. youth sports system to the concepts of children's rights and human rights, highlighting the value of using a human rights framing to promote access to safe, quality sports activities
- Inspire stakeholders (athletes and leaders) to advocate for a rights-based reform of the youth sports system
- Generate momentum for the adoption of minimum standards for youth sports providers

# ALL CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT:



TO *PLAY SPORTS*



TO *SAFE AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS*



TO *QUALIFIED PROGRAM LEADERS*



TO *DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE PLAY*



TO *SHARE* IN THE PLANNING AND DELIVERY OF  
ACTIVITIES



TO AN *EQUAL OPPORTUNITY* FOR PERSONAL GROWTH



TO BE TREATED WITH *DIGNITY*



TO *ENJOY THEMSELVES*



# How National Sport Organizations Can Honor Children's Rights in Sports

- **Review policies.** Assess alignment with and departures from the Bill of Rights.
- **Develop tools and incentives for affiliated programs to embrace the rights.** Encourage partners and affiliates to endorse the Bill of Rights.



# How Community Recreation Groups Can Honor Children's Rights in Sports

- **Review policies.** Assess alignment with and departures from the Bill of Rights.
- **Educate youth about their rights.** Communicate to your athletes and parents what your program is doing to align.

# How Policymakers & Civic Leaders Can Honor Children's Rights in Sports

- **Audit city policies.** Assess alignment with and departures from the Bill of Rights.
- **Build consensus among city agencies.** Present the Bill of Rights to city agencies that provide youth sports programming or work with third parties that provide youth sports programming.
- **Use the power of the permit.** Require organizations that use city facilities or apply for city funding to operate youth sports programming to commit to respecting children's rights.
- **Collect feedback from youth sports providers.** Track their understanding of the Bill of Rights.
- **Educate children at scale.** Create kid-friendly "Know Your Rights" resource, potentially in partnership with schools and media.
- **Educate parents at scale.** Set an expectation of respecting children's rights in sports through continuous communication to parents and guardians.
- **Ask kids what they want.** Survey youth to identify the sports they want to play, the barriers that may be preventing them from playing those sports, and providers' adherence to the rights.

# How Parents & Caregivers Can Honor Children's Rights in Sports

- **Ask sport providers about their policies and practices.** Encourage organizations to review their policies from the perspective of children's rights.
- **Give your kids a voice.** Ask kids what they want. Are they being treated with dignity? Are they having fun?

# How Youth Can Honor Children's Rights in Sports

- **Know your rights.**
- **Share what matters to you.** Let your parents and coaches know what sort of youth sports experience you want.

# Transforming Children's Lives & Providing Equitable Opportunities for Play



At the U.S. Soccer Foundation, we provide underserved communities access to **innovative play spaces** and **evidence-based soccer programs** that instill hope, foster well-being, and help youth achieve their fullest potential.





Unfortunately, too many kids don't have an opportunity to play. This is especially true for **children of color and those living in underserved communities.**

Together, we can change this reality and make significant strides toward **creating more access and opportunities for kids to play soccer** and gain all the benefits that come with playing our sport.





# Our work together will result in:

- ✓ A more positive future for kids
- ✓ Healthier and more cohesive communities
- ✓ And more passion and love for our game

# What We Do: Our Proven Programs



*Safe Places to Play* is our program that transforms and revitalizes underutilized areas into state-of-the-art places to play soccer through the creation of mini-pitches.

Mini-pitches have been shown to increase soccer and physical activity time, improve community and safety perceptions, and strengthen communities.



*Soccer for Success* is our program that is proven to help children improve their physical, social, and emotional skills and overall well-being.

Designed for children ages 6-14, the program is offered at little or no cost to participants and their families.

The program can be implemented after school by trained coach-mentors or during the school day by classroom and physical education teachers.



*Coach-Mentor Training* uses best practices from our 25+ years as a leader in sports-based youth development to train coaches from any sport as mentors.

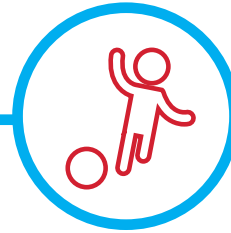
The training builds participants' capacity to create lasting, positive connections with youth and teaches them to build the social and emotional skills of young people in under-resourced communities.



*Just Ball League* is our hyper-local, neighborhood soccer league that prioritizes fun, inclusion, and belonging and utilizes mini-pitches and other community hubs for play.

The *Just Ball League* provides fair, balanced, and equitable access to the sport of soccer by breaking down barriers such as transportation and cost that often stand in the way of children from underserved communities being able to play.

# Our Goals for 2026



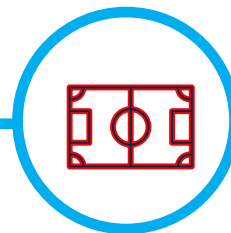
**1M**

Youth engaged in programs that help improve their physical, social, and emotional skills and overall well-being



**50,000**

Coach-mentors and educators trained to support and build the social emotional skills of children living in underserved communities



**1,000**

New mini-pitches created in underserved communities that revitalize underutilized spaces, provide safe places to play, and strengthen communities

# Our Reach to Date



**700,000**

participants in  
*Soccer for  
Success*



**10,000+**

coach-mentors  
trained



**680**

mini-pitches created  
or fully-funded



**274**

community  
partners

# The Need



## Children don't get enough physical activity.

Today, about one in five school-aged children (ages 6-19) has obesity.



## Children lack safe places to play.

Low-income neighborhoods are 4.5 times more likely to lack recreational facilities than high-income areas.



## Children need mentors.

1 in 3 children lack a mentor in their lives — the supportive relationship they need to grow and develop into thriving, productive, and engaged adults.



## Children in underserved communities aren't playing sports.

77% of children living in households that earn less than \$25k are not playing sports.

# Impact: *Soccer for Success*



Improve children's  
health outcomes

**83%**

of children at greater risk of developing health issues improved their health outcomes through participation in the program

**73%**

of children exercise almost every day after participation in the program



Help children develop  
positive social  
outcomes

**88%**

of children in the program work better on a team

**86%**

of children in the program stay away from anti-social behavior like fighting



Uplift children and  
communities

**81%**

of children in the program feel better about their future

**79%**

of children in the program feel better about themselves

# Impact: Mini-Pitches



Strengthen  
ties with local  
community  
organizations



Build a community  
around soccer

**96%**

of mini-pitch users say that  
their mini-pitch is accessible  
to all

**91%**

of mini-pitch users say their  
mini-pitch serves as a  
community hub



Grow soccer  
participation in  
the community

**5x**

more soccer is played at sites  
after installation of a mini-pitch

**31%**

of mini-pitch users  
are new to soccer



Improve lives  
of local  
youth

**99%**

of mini-pitch users say that  
people in their community are  
more active after installation  
of a mini-pitch

**98%**

of mini-pitch users say that  
their community feels safer  
after installation of a mini-  
pitch

# Impact: Just Ball

*Just Ballers reported the following improvements after just one season.*



“I talk to adults in my community who help me if I need help.”

**88%**

of Just Ballers indicated they feel happier since being in the *Just Ball League*.



“I have fun with other kids in my neighborhood.”

**83%**

of Just Ballers shared they have new friends they met through the *Just Ball League*.



I am motivated to do my schoolwork and I work hard.

**47%**

of Just Ball Playmakers shared that parents or guardians told them their children are more active outside and doing better in school since joining the *Just Ball League*.



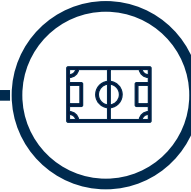
“I set goals for myself and take steps to achieve them.”

**88%**

of Just Ballers shared they developed more confidence since being in the *Just Ball League*.



# Partnership Opportunities



Install mini-pitches so that kids have safe places to play



Expand *Soccer for Success* after school or in schools



Train coaches (of any sport) as mentors



Create neighborhood leagues

# Install Mini-Pitches



## Package includes:

- ✓ Complete project management for mini-pitch installations
- ✓ Premier on-pitch logo branding and branding on surrounding signage
- ✓ Assistance with logistics and marketing of mini-pitch grand opening activation, including amplification on social media channels and earned media opportunities
- ✓ 10-year warranty on modular system

# Mini-Pitch

## Project Details

Each mini-pitch comes complete with:



Benches



ADA-compliant access



Acrylic surfacing



Lighting



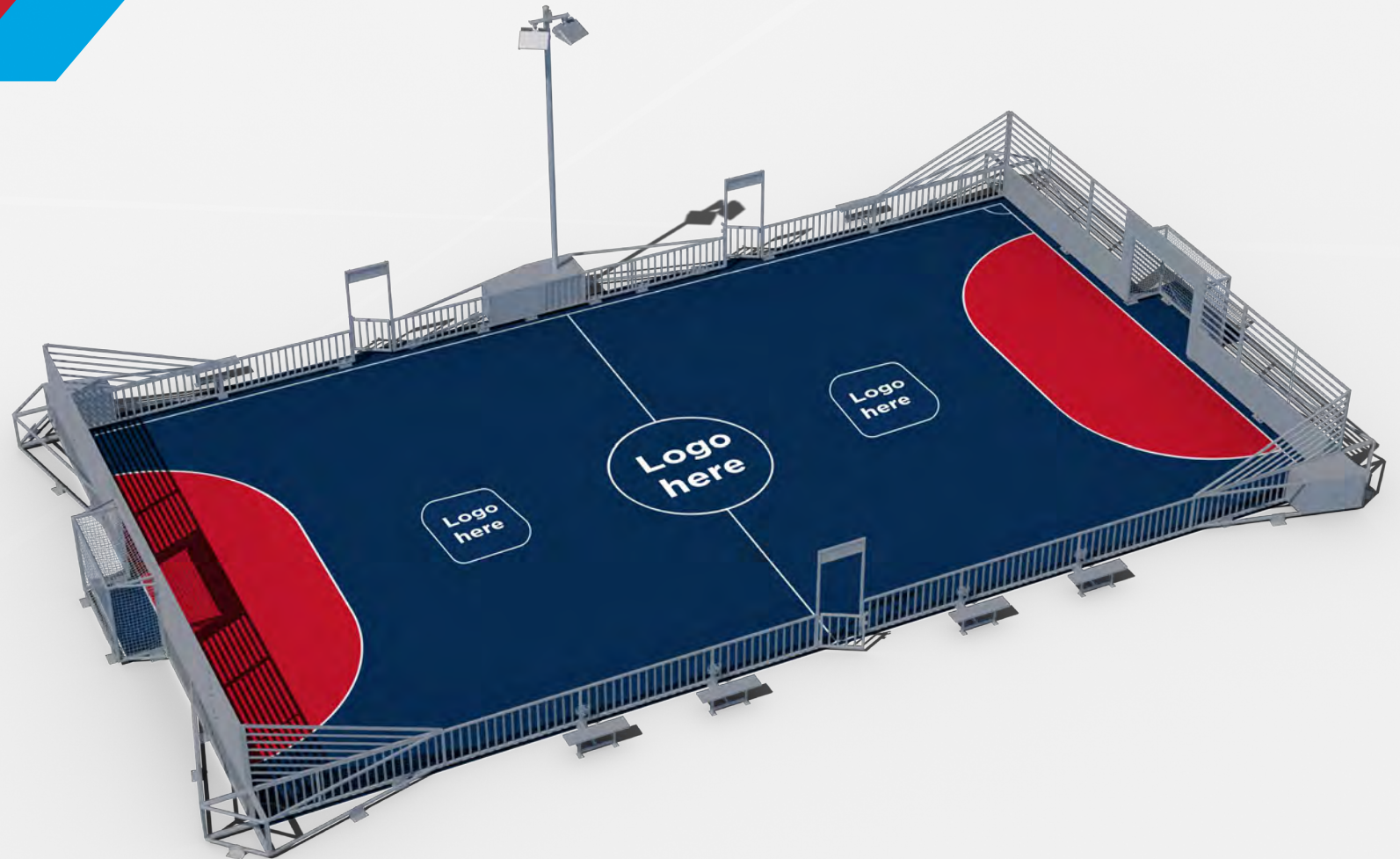
Lockable storage



Fencing and goals

# Sample Mini-Pitch Design

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# Expand *Soccer for Success* After School

The *Soccer for Success* after-school program is led by coach-mentors who are trained to support children's personal growth beyond sports.

Independent studies have shown that the program improves the health outcomes and social behaviors.

After-school providers can access different versions of the *Soccer for Success* curriculum designed to meet specific needs. Curriculum focus areas include: Nutrition Education (approved by federal food assistance programs) and Social Emotional Learning.



## Package includes:

- Sourcing and vetting of local community partner(s) to run *Soccer for Success*, training, and program oversight
- Community engagement opportunities to grow presence and support in key areas
- Rights to use *Soccer for Success* and U.S. Soccer Foundation marks and promotional content
- Opportunity for partner involvement in program and end-of-season celebrations
- National and local earned media and storytelling opportunities

# Expand *Soccer for Success* in Schools

The *Soccer for Success* School Curriculum, powered by the U.S. Soccer Foundation and US Youth Soccer, is designed for K-8 classroom or physical education teachers to use during the school day.

The curriculum is aligned to national physical education standards and infuses health education into every lesson.

The curriculum provides educators with an evidence-based, turnkey way to get kids active while improving their physical and health literacy. Online and in-person training options and other resources are available for educators.



## Package includes:

- The *Soccer for Success* School Curriculum and teacher training in key markets
- Rights to use *Soccer for Success* and U.S. Soccer Foundation marks and promotional content
- National and local earned media and storytelling opportunities

# Train Coaches of any Sport as Mentors

The *Coach-Mentor Training* uses best practices from the U.S. Soccer Foundation's 25+ year experience as a leader in sports-based youth development to train coaches from any sport as mentors.

The training builds coaches' capacity to create lasting, positive connections with youth and teaches them how to strengthen the social and emotional skills of young people.

The training also teaches coaches how to work effectively with youth in and from underserved communities and create a positive team culture that reflects the diversity of the youth they serve. This is especially critical when coaches work with young people of varying racial, gender, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

## Package includes:

- The *Coach-Mentor Training* delivered in key markets (in-person or online options)
- Rights to use *Coach-Mentor Training* and U.S. Soccer Foundation marks and promotional content
- National and local earned media and storytelling opportunities

# Create Neighborhood Leagues

Developed in partnership with adidas, the *Just Ball League* uses mini-pitches and other community hubs to create opportunities for league play at the neighborhood level that prioritizes fun, inclusion, and belonging.

This hyper-local approach reduces the need for transportation and lowers costs, two of the main barriers to participation in sport for children in underserved communities.



## Package includes:

- Opportunity to include logo and/name on *Just Ball League* collateral
- Sourcing and vetting of local community partner(s) to run the league
- Community engagement opportunities to grow presence and support within market
- Rights to use U.S. Soccer Foundation marks and promotional content
- Opportunity for corporate and employee involvement in program and end-of-season celebrations
- National and local earned media and storytelling opportunities





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for every child

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE FOR CHILD RIGHTS U.S. Municipal Action for Child Wellbeing



## Advancing Communities for Every Child: Improving Child Wellbeing through Municipal Action

**UNICEF USA's vision is to create communities for every child – where they are healthy, educated, protected and respected, no matter who they are or where they live.** In the U.S. and globally, far too many children and families live in communities with limited access to healthy food, quality health services and education, parks and playgrounds and other conditions necessary for all children to thrive and develop. Further, in the U.S., children face disparities in terms of wellness and opportunity by race, gender, economic status, and location. As the first major sporting event in history with a human rights strategy, **UNICEF USA seeks to partner with World Cup 2026 U.S. host cities to leverage this historic opportunity to advance innovations in child-centered local governance practices by amplifying the voices and priorities of young people.**

## Advancing Child Rights to Improve Child Well-being

UNICEF USA's mission is to advance the rights of the child as enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and in alignment with UNICEF goals and the Global Goals for Sustainable Development. Through a place-based and municipal strategy in the U.S., UNICEF USA advocates for an approach where government leaders, civil society actors, corporate partners, and children and young people work together to build communities focused on the following goals:



Every child has the right to be valued, respected and treated fairly.



Every child has the right to be heard in decisions that affect them.



Every child has the right to quality social services.



Every child has the right to live in a safe, secure, and clean environment.



Every child has the right to family life, play and leisure.

## Child-Focused Municipal Strategies

UNICEF USA is committed to measurable change and sustainable results for children by partnering with local communities to apply a child rights approach to all aspects of their local governance, environment and services. This includes adoption of a number of child-focused governance and community engagement strategies, including:

- ✓ **Child and equity-centered policies and legal frameworks**, such as the adoption of youth impact statements.
- ✓ **Evidence-based, child-responsive local planning and budgeting**, such as fiscal mapping to analyze public spending from a child-centered perspective.



Child Friendly Cities Initiative



for every child

- ✓ **Sustainable mechanisms for meaningful and inclusive youth participation**, such as Mayor’s Youth Councils.
- ✓ **A community-wide coordinating unit for children**, such as a Children’s Cabinet.
- ✓ **Community-wide child advocacy**, such as through the appointment of an independent ombudsman for children.

## Approach to Municipal Partnerships

UNICEF USA’s approach to engaging municipal partners includes the following four components:

### CHILD FRIENDLY CITIES INITIATIVE (CFCI)

CFCI is a global UNICEF initiative that supports and recognizes local governments to work across sectors and with children/youth to prioritize the needs of children, combat discrimination and elevate youth voices in local governance.

### GLOBAL & NATIONAL NETWORK

UNICEF USA facilitates national and global collaboration, learning and research among municipal partners and subject matter experts on how to improve outcomes for children locally through policies, programs, and practices.

### SKILL DEVELOPMENT & AWARENESS BUILDING

UNICEF USA offers learning opportunities, tools and resources to support municipal partners in their efforts to pursue child-focused local governance and community engagement strategies with and for children and youth.

### YOUTH & VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

UNICEF USA builds connections between municipal partners and its network of over 650 high school and college clubs and regional and national youth leaders to elevate youth voice and advocate for child-focused policies and programs.

## CFCI FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION



UNICEF USA’s support to municipalities is grounded in the local governance framework of Child Friendly Cities Initiative (CFCI), launched by UNICEF in 1996 make children’s rights real in their communities. The CFCI framework has been implemented in over 40 countries reaching over growing global network of more than 3,500 municipalities.

## CFCI Progress in the United States

Since launching in the U.S. in 2020, UNICEF USA is stewarding **seven CFCI communities** – **home to over 1 million children**, and a growing national network of local government leaders and other partners.

To date, UNICEF USA’s CFCI cohort is building upon existing strengths in the adoption of a number of child-focused strategies to identify and address priority issues impacting children and youth such as mental health, migration, early education, child nutrition programs, neighborhood safety, and emergency preparedness.

### CFCI Pilot Communities

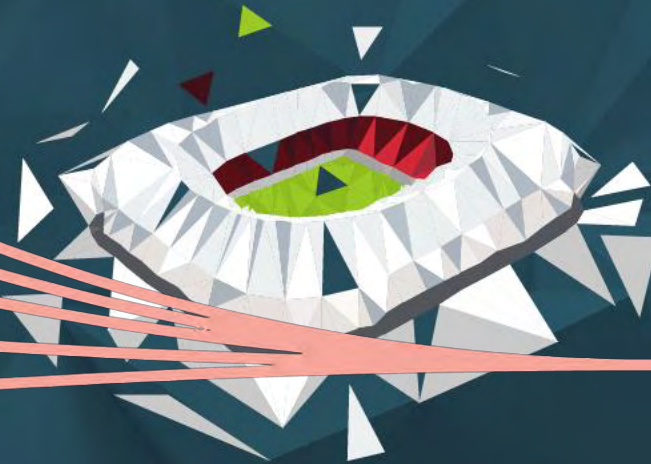
- Houston, TX (*first Child Friendly City in the U.S. Aug. 2023*)
- Minneapolis, MN (*Child Friendly City Candidate Feb. 2023*)
- Decatur, GA
- Johnson City, TN
- Boulder, CO
- Alton, IL
- Prince George’s County, MD

### Sample Results to Date

- 2 children’s cabinets launched
- 2 city youth councils established
- Youth input in 4 city strategic plans
- 400 community members trained in mental health first aid
- 37 service providers convened on welcoming migrant

# INTRODUCTION TO CHILD RIGHTS & MEGA-SPORTING EVENTS

GLOBAL SPORT &  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
ACADEMY



ELEARNING COURSE

An initiative of:



Centre for Sport  
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# BACKGROUND

**Mega-Sporting Events (MSEs) bring significant investment, attention and opportunity but can also be associated with abuses of human rights, and in particular, child rights.**

This course provides an introduction to, and practical guidance on, child rights and participation in the context of MSEs. It will be of interest to public and private entities involved in the planning, delivery and legacy of MSEs. During this course you will learn about risks to, and opportunities for children in the context of MSEs. You will increase your awareness and knowledge of child rights; and learn to apply practical tools and resources to protect, respect, and promote children's rights in the planning and delivery of MSEs.

The course will take between 30–45 minutes to complete. You can return to it as often as you like and you can pick up where you left off on your last session.



# HOW TO REGISTER

## Four Simple Steps

Register to the Global Sport and Human Rights Academy

CLICK HERE

1

2

Verify your email address

Navigate to the course, either via the email verification link or:

CLICK HERE

3

4

Click "Enrol on this course"

Introduction to Child Rights and Mega-Sporting Events



### About this course

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