



LiFE*sports*
LEARNING IN FITNESS AND EDUCATION

Technical Report: *LiFEsports* Survey Tools

The *LiFEsports* Initiative
College of Social Work
The Ohio State University

LiFEsports Survey Tools
Perceived Social Competence Scale II



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

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Perceived Social Competence Scale II

I. Definition of Construct

Social competence is defined as the degree to which youth engage in prosocial behaviors that allow them to successfully create and maintain positive social interactions with others (Gresham, 2002; Masten & Coatsworth, 1998). Assessment of perceived social competence is important as it has been associated with academic success (Chen, Huang, Chang, Wang, & Li, 2010; Welsh, Parke, Widaman, & O’Neil, 2001) and higher levels of self-esteem (Kostelnik, Gregory, Soderman, & Whiren, 2012).

II. Relevance for Practice

Research has demonstrated that the assessment of social competence is crucial to understand the baseline deficits among youth as well as examining the outcomes associated with youth development programs and interventions (Anderson-Butcher, Wade-Mdivanian, Paluta, Lower, Amorose, & Davis, 2014; Crowe, Beauchamp, Catroppa, & Anderson, 2011; Fetro, Rhodes, & Hey, 2012).

III. Scale Description and Instructions

A. *Items*

1. I help other people.
2. I ask others if I can be of help.
3. I show concern for others.
4. I show care for others.
5. I give support to others.

B. *Response Options*

- 1.= Not at all true
- 2.= A little true
- 3.= Somewhat true
- 4.= Pretty true
- 5.= Really true

C. *Instructions for Respondents*

Please read each statement and decide if the statement is “not at all true” for you, “a little true” for you, “somewhat true” for you, “pretty true” for you, or “really true” for you. Fill in the circle that best shows your answer.

D. *Instructions for Scale Administrators*

Once each student has a survey, explain that the purpose of the survey is to learn more about their commitment to others. They should mark one answer per statement, selecting the choice that best reflects how they feel.

IV. Scoring Procedures

An average of the response scores from the five (5) items should be calculated and used as an indicator of social competence, with higher scores reflecting greater levels of social competence.

V. Psychometric Properties of the Scale

The PSCS-II was developed from the original Perceived Social Competence Scale (PSCS) which was a four-item scale used to assess various elements of social competence (Anderson-Butcher, Iachini, & Amorose, 2008). The purpose of revising the original scale was to expand on the initial psychometric work, and to build on the tool by adding new items and modifying the response scale to allow for more variance in responses.

Confirmatory factory analyses (CFAs) examined the factor structure and the invariance of the scale among 420 youth. Correlations between the PSCS-II and self-reported Social Skills Improvement System scores were examined. A longitudinal CFA tested the invariance of the factor structure over time with a different sample of 451 youth. For further detail analysis of the psychometric properties for the scale, please refer to the published manuscript by Anderson-Butcher et al., (2014) titled “The Case for the Perceived Social Competence Scale II” which appears in the journal *Research on Social Work Practice*.

VI. Summary

The results of the psychometric testing indicate support for the PSCS-II scale to measure social competence for practice and research youth development initiatives.

VII. Recommended Citation of Scale

When using the Perceived Social Competence Scale II for program evaluation or research purposes, please use the following citation:

Anderson-Butcher, D., Amorose, A.J., Lower, Leeann M., Riley, A., Gibson, A., & Ruch, D. (2014). The case for the perceived social competence scale II. *Research on Social Work Practice*, 1-10.

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LiFEsports is a university-wide Initiative at The Ohio State University focused on promoting quality youth development experiences through sport, recreation, and play. For more information, please visit our website at: www.osulifesports.org or contact us at LiFESports@buckeyes.ath.ohio-state.edu.