

Boys Basketball Manual



SY26



The Office of Sports Administration

A DEPARTMENT OF THE OFFICE OF COLLEGE & CAREER SUCCESS



Boys Basketball| 2025-2026 CPL Manual

I. Introduction

Please review the included manual document for key program information, requirements, and rules and regulations as it relates to the season, to the Chicago Public League (CPL), and to the Illinois High School Association (IHSA).

Non-compliance with any of the following information may result in the forfeiture of coaches' season stipend. All questions can be directed to the Athletic Program Administrator (APA) listed below.

Athletic Program Administrator:

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Assignor of Officials:

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II. Table of Contents

III. OSA Mission Statement	1
IV. League Governance & Key Links	2
V. League Calendar	2
CPS Calendar Regular Season	2
CPS Calendar Post Season and Championship	3
IHSA State Series Calendar	3
VI. Team Approvals and Expectations	3
VII. Host Arrangements	4
VIII. Coach Expectations	4
IX. Playing / League Regulations	5
X. Officials	7
XI. Student Eligibility	7
XIII. League Structure and Conference Standings	8
XIV. Chicago Public League Championship Tournaments	9
XV. Media and Social Media Expectations	10
XVI. Misc Sports Information	10

III. OSA Mission Statement

The Office of Sports Administration oversees the equitable implementation of sports programs across all elementary schools and high schools within the Chicago Public School District (CPS) and Chicago Public League (CPL). Through effective sports policy creation and program management, OSA helps create an environment for schools to provide essential athletic and academic development for each student-athlete. It is the goal of OSA to promote sportsmanship, teamwork, integrity, and a sense of community as we prepare students for the next level in athletics and in life. Our



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students will be able to learn the importance of Academic, Athletic and Social Awareness as they advance through our program and become leaders in their communities.

IV. League Governance & Key Links

The official rules of the National Federation of High Schools Association shall govern all Public League competitions. Any exceptions to these rules are listed in these Terms and Conditions. *The Chicago Public League is governed by the [Chicago Public Schools Athletics Constitution and By-laws](#). All coaches must read this document to be informed about CPL policies, procedures and expectations.*

Whereas the specific Terms and Conditions are listed in this document, the following links that make up the [General Chicago Public League Rules](#) is an appendix to this document which lists issues of general governance, coach expectations, roster management/vertical movement/eligibility and eligibility certificates, and other issues of league contest management.

The [2025-2026 Basketball Resource Sheet](#) / [IHSA Girls Basketball](#) contains other logistical information regarding the season for coaches and athletic directors including the coaches directory.

V. League Calendar

CPS Calendar Regular Season

Draft Schedule Release	Spring 2025
Official Release of the Schedule	August 2025
Pre-Season Coaches Meeting	Wednesday , November 5, 2025
Team Roster Loaded To ASPEN	Friday, November 14, 2025
Hard Copy Central Office Record Sheets (CORS) Due	Friday, November 14, 2025
Maxprep Entry Deadline (all levels)	Friday, November 14, 2025
1st Contest (allowable per IHSA)	Monday, November 24, 2025
Season Starts	Thursday, December 4, 2025
Public League Conference Season	
Red Conference	December 4, 2025 - January 22, 2026
White Conference	December 4, 2025 - January 22, 2026
Blue Conference	December 4, 2025 - January 22, 2026

CPS

Calendar Post Season and Championship

Playoffs seed meeting	Saturday, February 7, 2026
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Boys Basketball| 2025-2026 CPL Manual

Playoff Brackets Finalized	Saturday, February 7, 2026
Playoff Rosters Due	Saturday, February 7, 2026
Start of Playoffs Season	Wednesday, February 12, 2026
Sweet Sixteen	Wednesday, February 12, 2026
Elite Eight	Saturday, February 14, 2026
Final Four	Wednesday, February 18, 2026
Public League Championship	Friday, February 20, 2026

IHSA State Series Calendar

IHSA Class 1A - 4A	Date
Season Starts (Mon. Week 19)	Monday, November 10, 2025
1st Contest May be Held (Mon. Week 21)	Monday, November 24, 2025
On-Line Season Summary Form Deadline (Wed. 10:00 a.m. Week 32)	Wednesday, February 11, 2026
On-Line Team Seeding Deadline (Thurs. 12:00 Noon Week 32)	Thursday, February 12, 2026
Regional Quarterfinals (Sat. Week 34)	Saturday, February 23, 2026
Regional Semifinals (Mon,-Tues. Week 34)	Mon/Tues, February 25, 2026
Regional Finals (Thurs. or Fri. Week 34)	Friday, February 27, 2026
Sectional Finals (Thurs. Week 35)	Friday, March 6, 2026
Super-Sectionals (Mon. Week 36)	Monday, March 9, 2026
State Final (Thurs.-Sat. Week 36)	March 12 - 14, 2026
Season Ends (Sat. Week 37)	Saturday, March 21, 2026

VI. Team Approvals and Expectations

Team Approval consists of a series of tasks that must be completed by the Athletic Director and Head Coach from each team. Failure to complete the following tasks will result in the resignation of coaching stipends or delayed payments. Anticipated team approval will be reflected in the [Inventory](#). It is the responsibility of the school Athletic Director (assisted by the head coach) to communicate with the appropriate Athletic Program Coordinator regarding the confirmation of team approval.



Teams must have at least 12 Varsity, 10 Sophomore, 10 Frosh student-athletes registered per team and submit a hard copy [Central Office Record Sheet](#) to the Office of Sports Administration by the specified deadline.

Teams must compete in all CPL sponsored contests, this includes conference games, and the CPL playoffs (2 forfeits in a season result in loss of team approval).

Teams are expected to compete in the IHSA Series, if signed up. Teams that sign up but do not show up to games will be mandated to pay a \$500 penalty fee paid directly to the IHSA. [Online Entry Process for the IHSA Series](#)

Teams looking to join the League for the 2025 season must complete the google form, [School Request to Add a Sport/Level](#).

VII. Host Arrangements

For Chicago Public League contests, it is the responsibility of the school that is designated to be the home team to procure the playing facility. A legitimate option if the school does not have a home facility is to schedule the game at the opponent's home site.

A faculty member, student aide, or student leader should welcome the visiting team on their arrival and should be available to always assist the visiting school during their stay at the host school. The host school is responsible for assisting the visiting team on their departure. The coach is responsible for all players until they have left the playing site.

In the case where a school is not playing at their home site, the home school must ensure formal procurement of the facility through a permit.

Court and Equipment regulations:

- 1) The backboard and basketball must be securely fastened and each basket must be provided with cord net.
- 2) The floor is properly lined.
- 3) The bleachers must be properly erected and inspected and meet a high standard of safety.
- 4) The scorer's table must be provided with a timer with a stopwatch or clock and electric horn.
- 5) The coach must work with the athletic director to ensure mature and experienced individuals serve as scorers and timers. Adults are preferred. These individuals must be properly trained before games are played.

Schools that do not have the specified regulation equipment will not be allowed to host home games and must travel until equipment is repaired or replaced and deemed safe.

If spectators are permitted, no less than 25% of the available space shall be reserved for the visiting school when requested.

The home team shall wear light shirts, while the visiting team may wear any dark contrasting color.

Any game, which is not completed due to the failure of the home management to make proper arrangements, shall be forfeited to the opponent.

Spectators are not permitted to shoot basketballs before, in between, during, or after the game. Crowd control or security personnel should promptly enforce this protocol.

The maximum admission that a school can charge for a CPL conference home game is \$8.

VIII. Coach Expectations

[Chicago Public League Coaches' Code of Conduct and General Expectations](#)

The coaching staff is expected to be well versed in the latest edition of the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) rules and regulations for the sport that they are coaching, the IHSA Constitution and Bylaws, and the Chicago Public Schools Athletics Constitution and Bylaws



Coaches must complete IHSA and CPS certification requirements before coaching student-athletes.

[Certifications for all coaches](#)

In order for coaches to receive the stipend, coaches must be formally hired/staffed as level 1 volunteers, complete all certifications and professional development offerings and represent an approved program by the Athletic Program Administrator of basketball.

Coaches must use the [CPL High School Coaches Registration Link](#) / [CPL Charter High School Coaches Registration Link](#) to register **prior** to acting in a coaching capacity.

The Chicago Public League requires all its students, officials, coaches, spectators, and school staff to promote sportsmanship before, during, and after every game. Offensive language, including profanity and derogatory or intimidating remarks directed at officials, event staff, student-athletes, coaches, or team representatives, will not be tolerated. For sportsmanship to prevail, all coaches, students, staff, and spectators must display respect and civility to enthusiastically support our student-athletes to create a safe and inclusive environment. [Sportsmanship Guidelines.](#)

The coaching staff is expected to organize and prepare athletes through consistent practice/workouts designed to enhance their performance in basketball games.

The coaching staff is responsible for the following Game Management for every contest:

Confirm contest logistics with the opposing coach.

Preparing a printout (preferably laminated) of emergency contact information identified for each student (name and jersey number) for quick reference by medical personnel.

Possessing an ASPEN Generated Eligibility Certificate. *Only students listed on this certificate are eligible for that contest.*

Possessing an accurate numerical roster identifying student-athletes by jersey number.

Reaching out to the host school (coach, athletic director) if there are transportation issues which would delay the start of the game.

Reporting the game score to the Office of Sports Administration designated score reporting mechanism within 24 hours of the contest.

1. All scores should be submitted to the CPL Activity scheduler where the scores are electronically pushed over to MaxPreps (maxpreps.com) website. Athletic Directors must give access to coaches for this submission. Otherwise, scores can be directly submitted to Max Preps

Rating the IHSA officials assigned to the contest through the IHSA Schools Center. It is highly recommended to wait 12 hrs. after the game before submitting an official rating report.

Refraining from using tobacco products, drinking alcoholic beverages, or being under the influence of alcoholic beverages or any illegal substance at any time while performing their coaching duties.

IX. Playing / League Regulations

	Varsity	Soph	Frosh
Team Contest Limitations	Exclusive of the IHSA series, 31 games	same	same
Minimum Contests for Team Approval	League schedule and playoffs	8 games	8 games
Length/Time of Contests	4 Quarters (8 minutes each)	4 Quarters (7 minutes each)	4 Quarters (7 minutes each)



Maximum Students on the Roster	15	15	15
Minimum Students on Roster	12	10	8
Minimum on Game Day	8	8	7

Equipment and Uniforms

- 1) Basketball [NFHS/IHSA Standards for all uniforms](#)
- 2) The baskets are to be painted an orange color as provided by the rules.
- 3) 2 IHSA approved official balls should be ready for play (28.5 inch circumference, 18-20 ounces).
- 4) Alley markings as outlined in the latest rules publications shall be considered official.
- 5) A line 3' (feet) long, 2" (inches) wide, and 28' (feet) from the end shall be inserted to define the mid-court area.
- 6) If the court is not regulation size, lines may be taped on the floor to allow each team to have a full court of 42 feet. This can be done by overlapping the marked center line.
- 7) An AED must be onsite for all games, with personnel trained to operate the machine.

The official start time of contests is 5:00 pm unless otherwise approved by the Office of Sports Administration. Varsity teams will play first at 5:00 pm, and Sophomores will follow.

- i. Any school wanting to play the Sophomore game first must email the opposing school 48 hours before the game and cc the APA. This option is only available for the home team.

All games are to be played as scheduled. Games may not be canceled or changed for any reason without impunity, without the authorization of the Office of Sports Administration.

- 1) Basketball's Coordinating Athletic Program Administrator (APA) must approve all rescheduled games.
- 2) Varsity and Soph games can be scheduled to be played on the same day at an earlier time. Initial arrangements should be reported to the Coordinating APA of Basketball and included with the formal release of the final schedule.

Forfeiture of Games:

- 1) A school forfeiting two or more conference games based on a lack of players will lose team recognition. A letter to the principal, athletic director, and coach shall notify the school of the impending action, including forfeiture of the coaching stipend.
- 2) If a team and faculty representative is not ready to play within thirty minutes of the scheduled time of the contest, the host school must contact the Coordinating APA of Basketball for a determination of the status of the game.

All non-conference games should be contracted with the opposing school.

Late start rules- If a game starts well after the initial start time, the varsity will play first, and we will try to make up the sophomore game.

For use in league discipline, the teams' remaining schedule will be determined as the immediate schedule upon access by Office of Sports Administration personnel. Any games added to the schedule after this time will not be considered in League discipline.

Games will be affected due to a work stoppage and will be managed according to the IHSA Constitution and Bylaws.

All schools that qualify for the Public League Championship Playoffs must fully participate in their scheduled games throughout the tournament.



X. Officials

	Varsity	Varsity Playoff	Soph	Soph/Playoff	Frosh
Number of Officials	2	2-3 Semis & Championship	2	2-3 Semis & Championship	2
Fees	\$85	\$85	\$65	\$65	\$55
Selection of Officials	All officials must be registered with IHSA.				

Officials will be paid through Arbiter and confirmed for payment by the assignor.

a) Selection of Officials

- 1) The APA for Basketball shall designate an assignor of referees for all Chicago Public League conference and playoff games. Schools/Coaches will assign their referees for all non-conference games from a list of approved referees provided by the APA from OSA.
- 2) No official is permitted to work a game in which one of the teams is from the school in which he or she is employed, coached in the past..
- 3) The coach shall rate and evaluate each official on the official eligibility certificate and online to the IHSA (www.ihsa.org – see Athletic Director for assistance) after each match. [IHSA Schools Center](#)

b) What if Officials do not Show?

- 1) If neither official arrives, coaches can officiate or mutually agree on an official. Contact the APA in charge of basketball or the assignor to try to find a resolution to the issue.
- 2) When an official arrives late or fails to appear, and both schools agree to play, the game shall stand as played. If the official assigned arrives in time to assume control of part of the game, she/he shall begin only at the termination of a quarter and be paid for the part of the game that he/she has worked
- 3) If there is only one official, the game can be played, and the official will be paid an additional \$10.00 for each match officiated. Two (2) officials shall be assigned to all Chicago Public League matches.
- 4) In the event of a game-day forfeit, the scheduled officials will be paid as if they officiated the game.

XI. Student Eligibility

A student is eligible to participate in a contest when listed as “Eligible” on an ASPEN-generated Eligibility certificate (or otherwise documented, pertaining to Charter Schools).

- 1) [Student-Athlete Eligibility](#)
- 2) [Home School Student Eligibility](#)
- 3) [Newcomer Student Eligibility](#)
- 4) Students who have transferred to your school since the end of the previous season are ineligible for interscholastic competition without a ruling from the Office of Sports Administration or the IHSA.

Competitive Levels: (Varsity, Sophomore, Freshman) CPL Basketball does not recognize the JV level



- 1) Varsity teams shall consist of students in the first, second, third, or fourth year of attendance who will not reach their 20th birthday during the sports season.
- 2) For Sophomore competition, the student shall be eligible in the first or second year in attendance and shall not have reached the seventeenth (17th) birthday before September 1 of the current school year.
- 3) For Freshmen competition, the student shall be eligible in the first year in attendance and shall not have reached the sixteenth (16th) birthday before September 1 of the current school year.
- 4) Varsity and Sophomore teams will have separate eligibility sheets. Players may NOT appear on both the varsity eligibility roster and a sophomore eligibility roster on the same day.
- 5) Freshmen-level players must also have separate eligibility sheets.

Vertical movement will only be allowed between the sophomore and varsity levels.

- 1) Students are not allowed to play in more than 6 quarters on a given competition day. Once a student appears on the Varsity eligibility certificate, that student is ineligible for the lower levels.
- 2) Once a student appears on the Sophomore eligibility certificate, that student is ineligible for the Frosh level.
- 3) A student is not allowed to participate in more than ninety (90) quarters per season. Individual schools are responsible for tracking the participation of their students.

While a member of a school team, a player shall not be allowed to represent any other organization in that sport during the official sport season.

Contest results can be protested according to [Article XI – Infractions and Protests of the Chicago Public Schools Athletics Bylaws](#) if there is some irregularity or infraction of the rules occurring during the contest.

XII. League Structure and Conference Standings

League Alignment

The Office of Sports Administration, in conjunction with the CPL Coaches Committee, will meet to discuss the current alignment in preparation of the 2026-2027 season. Team conference record during the 2025-2026 season will be strongly considered for program placement in the current alignment of the 2025-2026 Chicago Public League.

- a) Once the league schedule begins any adjustments to the final schedule must be communicated to OSA, but *administrative responsibility will not fall on the Office of Sports Administration. The home team of the games in question must procure the alternative site, confirm the new date with the opposing team, and hire the officials.*
- b) Each team is assigned to a conference for single round robin play.
- c) In the event a scheduled match is not played, the match will be recorded as “no-contest,” and neither team will be awarded a win or loss. *Rescheduled games shall be played on dates approved by the Coordinating APA of Basketball.*
- d) Standings:
 - 1) Standings are determined by the ranking of teams according to the number of conference game wins.
 - 2) The Score of a Forfeit is 2-0.



- 3) For the purposes of conference play and tiebreaker implications, the score of a forfeit is 25-0.
- e) In case of a tie in Division standings, the higher place shall be determined by:
 - 1) Head-to-head competition results.
 - 2) In the case of a tie between three (3) or more teams, the teams that have the greatest point differential in games played between tied teams will be awarded the higher place.
 - i. *Whenever two teams remain tied after applying the multiple-team tiebreaker(s), the tiebreaker for two teams are then applied to those tied teams.*
 - ii. *If the point differential does not break a tie between three (3) or more teams, the teams with the greatest point differential of games played with tied teams will be awarded higher places.*
- c. If point differential in games played between tied teams does not break a tie between three (3) or more teams, the teams with the greatest point differential with a maximum of twenty-five (25) points per game from all League games will be awarded the higher places.
- d. If the previous tiebreakers do not break the tie, two teams will be drawn by lot by the Basketball APA. These two teams are then separated by head-to-head competition.

XIII. Chicago Public League Championship Tournaments

CPL SECTIONAL PLAY-IN TOURNAMENT

- a. ***CPL Sectional Play-in Tournament - All winners will advance to the next round.***
- b. *All approved White & Blue teams will make the CPL Sectional Play-In Tournament and all Red Teams will receive a 1st Round Sectional Bye.*
- c. **64 Teams will play in the 1st Round**
- d. **1st Round (16 Teams)** = *White & Blue Teams by Sections*
- e. *(White West vs Blue West, White South vs Blue South, White North vs Blue North, White Central vs Blue Central)*
- f. **2nd Round (16 Teams)** = *Winners of 1st Round vs Red Teams*
(West Sectional, North Sectional, South Sectional & Central Sectional)
- g. **3rd Round (8 Teams)** = *Winners of the 2nd Round*
- h. **4th Round (4 Teams)** = *Winners of the 3rd Round*

TOP 4 Teams by Sections (West, North, Central, & South) will advance to the CHICAGO PUBLIC LEAGUE CITY PLAYOFFS & CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES!



XIV. Media and Social Media Expectations

The Chicago Public League (CPL) is proud to offer in-depth coverage of all of our student-athletes across each sports season.

a. To continue to tell these stories, the CPL Sports Communications team asks the following of all participating coaches and student-athletes:

- 1) Ensure all student media consent forms are signed via the standard CPS enrollment packet.
- 2) Make coaches/players available as requested for pre- and post-game interviews.
- 3) Share accomplishments and milestones with the CPS Sports Communications Team so they can highlight your school.
- 4) Interact and follow all CPL athletics content via our website, CPSAthletics.com, or Twitter [@CPLAthletics](https://twitter.com/CPLAthletics).

CPS Sports Communications Team:

- 1) Communications Manager - Joey Gelman - jdgelman@cps.edu
- 2) Communications Specialist- Dominic Scianna - dscianna@cps.edu
- 3) Communications Specialist - Michael Wojtychiw - mmwojtichiw@cps.edu

b. Digital Citizenship Expectations

Being a good digital citizen means that athletic staff and student-athletes are positively contributing to the digital space, respecting other people's views even if in disagreement, and reporting issues that disrupt a positive digital environment.

A digital footprint and reputation is left online when videos and pictures are uploaded, and when posts and comments are made on websites and social media. Athletic staff and student-athletes must consider the temporary and/or permanent effect actions online can have for themselves and their community both in the digital space and in person.

That is why the Chicago Public League asks all athletic staff, coaches, and student-athletes to engage in respectful and positive social media interaction. Should there be any inappropriate social media being created or shared in your community, please report it to CPS administration within your school building so the situation can be properly assessed and appropriate action can be taken as necessary to ensure a safe environment for all those involved.

I. Misc Sports Information

a. Accessing Sport Schedules

There are a number of ways to access the schedules of the various levels.

1. Your GoFan School site: [District Managed Schools](#) / [Charter Schools](#)
2. The [CPS athletics site](#) - Choose the sport/level
3. The Rschooltoday mobile app - download this app, change the settings to access different levels
4. The AD can go directly to the AS and print it for you or he can set you up with an administrative log in so that you can enter your team scores.
5. cpsathletics.info - go to school athletic calendar, choose your school and then the sport



b. Protocol for Handling Fights on the Mat

Make sure to review this Guidance: [Protocol for Handling Fights](#).

Additionally we believe that it is important to provide you with guidance toward proactive preparation for these activities hoping to promote the safety of the student-athletes and likewise protect you in these situations.

1. The only person that should run onto the court to stop a fight is the Head Coach.
2. Assistant coaches **must** work to control the bench and keep players from running onto the floor in order to keep them from potential danger.
3. Build your culture and instruct your players that the rules of engagement in regards to interscholastic competition requires absolute sportsmanship and **that all fighting is unacceptable**.
4. **Retaliatory actions also have consequences.**

Instruct/train your players to respond in the moment that are not involved in an/the altercation to take a back away and return to their bench area **rather than run toward** the altercation.

Coaches may face disciplinary action if there are on the court altercations involving multiple students as well as if students leave the bench to join in and contribute to a melee.