

Boys Soccer Manual



SY26



Introduction

The Office of Sports Administration (OSA) is excited to welcome you to another season of CPS SCORE!

Please review the included Terms and Conditions document for key program information and requirements.

Non-compliance with any of the following information may result in the forfeiture of coaches' season stipend.

Any and all questions can be directed to the Athletic Program Administrator (APA) or Commissioner of your Network.

Thank you for your support of our student-athletes and programs across the District!

Contact Information

A CPS Elementary Athletic Program Administrator (APA) is assigned to assist each of the 13 networks across the District. Please send any general questions regarding this document or the CPS SCORE! Program to sportsad@cps.edu or contact the Office of Sports Administration at 773-534-0700.

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OSA Mission Statement

The Office of Sports Administration (OSA) oversees the equitable implementation of sports programs across all elementary schools (CPS SCORE!) 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 students will be able to learn the importance of **Academics, Athletics, and Social Awareness** as they advance through our program and become leaders in their communities.



2025-2026 Points of Emphasis

Prior to the start of each season, the Office of Sports Administration will prepare a form to collect anticipated interest sports for each school.

This interest form will generate a spreadsheet based on teams who wish to participate that season. Any team that does NOT complete an interest form/submit a principal/assistant principal signed Aspen Roster by the communicated deadlines, are subject to non-approval and may not be included in the league schedule.

Non-compliance with any of the following may result in a coach/liaison delay or forfeiture of their athletic stipend. Any of the following may also require the school to have a supervisory conference with OSA.

- A. Students, Officials, Coaches, Spectators and School Staff are expected to promote sportsmanship. Any unsportsmanlike behavior may result in immediate removal from the property, and further investigation may result in the potential suspension of SCORE! program at your school.
- B. Teams that opt-in are expected to participate in the program in its entirety. Teams that drop out will be subject to further consequences. More details can be found in the Forfeits and Penalties section. See Page 7 for details.
- C. All participating teams that have met roster minimums are required to upload rosters to Aspen, complete the Coaches Directory, complete column "D" of the Attestation Form, and upload this information into the correct school folder located in the Google Classroom, by the communicated deadlines. Updated, signed rosters by the principal, must be turned in to the designated cps admin weekly.
- D. A certified coach may receive up to four stipends each athletic season (fall, winter, spring) maximum of twelve for the entire SY26. *Please see payment criteria breakdown for more details.
- E. **Mandatory Certification**
 1. Sports Liaisons must keep certificates in a file pending OSA audit and can be found under the Extra Training Tab in SafeSchools.
 - a. PCA Workshop Completion - Separate Training Outside Of Safe Schools
 - b. Concussion Training *required every 2 years - Athletics Sub Tab In Safe Schools
 - c. CPR/AED Training - Health Sub Tab in [Safe Schools](#)

[Roster/Pre- attestation Upload Folder](#)
| [Athletic.net](#) | [Aspen Guide](#)

Coach Certification Statement

All individuals working in a coaching capacity must be formally hired as CPS Employees or CPS Level 1 Volunteers, as well as hold the following certification/training for the current year prior to coaching:

- A. Complete the SafeSchools Concussion Training
- B. Complete PCA Training Workshop
- C. Complete SafeSchools CPR/AED Training

Sportsmanship Statement & Guidelines

The Chicago Public League asks all of its students, officials, coaches, spectators and school staff to promote sportsmanship before, during and after every game. Offensive language including profanity and/or derogatory or intimidating remarks of any kind directed at officials, event staff, student-athletes, coaches or team representatives will not be tolerated. In order for sportsmanship to prevail, all coaches, students, staff, and spectators must display respect and civility in an effort to enthusiastically support our student-athletes to create a safe and inclusive environment.

[Click Here For Full Sportsmanship Policy](#)

Forfeits, No Contest Penalties

- A. If a team is not present for a contest, OR is not ready to play within 10 minutes of the assigned start time, the Office of Sports Administration will record the contest as a forfeit.
- B. Two forfeits will result in your school being dropped from the remaining schedule and the coach may NOT be paid.
- C. A No Contest is considered a game not completed due to extenuating circumstances, not to include postponements or cancellations initiated by the Office of Sports Administration.
 1. No Contest Results: A game that is neither won nor lost

Payment Criteria

- A. ***CPS SCORE! Coaching stipends are determined by the CTU / CPS Contract and are subject to change. Please contact your CTU representative for more information.***
- B. A certified coach may receive no more than four stipends during each athletic season (fall, winter, spring) maximum of twelve for the entire SY25. Each athletic season will consist of 2 parts separated by grade level.
 1. Teams must meet the minimum number of student athletes to participate in SCORE!
 2. Any team sport with over 40 athletes must add a second certified coach
 3. Cross Country does NOT have a SCORE! And SCORE!+ team, there are NO MAXIMUM numbers for this sport
- C. **Multiple Sport Coaches**
 1. An individual may receive one stipend per team with a maximum of two per grade level Coaching more than one sport at any given time may result in the forfeiture of the lesser stipend of the two in cases of competition conflict.
 2. Cross Country coaches may **NOT** coach multiple sports as it will run through both sessions.
- D. **Multiple Sport Players**
 1. Players that want to participate in more than one sport may do so with the understanding that schedules created will NOT accommodate for game time conflicts.
- E. **Season One: 7th & 8th Grade Boys and Girls**
 1. Maximum 2 stipends can be awarded per coach for 7th/8th grade season
 - a. Boys and Girls Teams **or** SCORE!+ and SCORE! Teams.
- F. **Season Two: 5th & 6th Grade Boys and Girls**
 1. Maximum 2 stipends can be awarded per coach for 5th/6th grade season
 - a. Boys and Girls Teams **or** SCORE!+ and SCORE! teams.



Calendar

CPS Regular Season Information

Interest Form Registration Open	Aug 4, 2025
Interest Form Registration Closed (deadline)	Aug 25, 2025
First Official Practice	Aug 25, 2025
Aspen Roster/Coaches Directory/Pre-Attestation Deadline	Aug 29, 2025
SCORE! 7th/8th Regular Season Competition Starts	Sep 13, 2025
SCORE! 7th/8th Regular Season Competition Ends	Oct 25, 2025
SCORE! 5th/6th Regular Season Competition Starts	Oct 4, 2025

CPS Calendar—Post Season & Championship Information

SCORE! 7th/8th Playoffs Starts	Oct 27, 2025
SCORE! 7th/8th Playoffs City Championship	Nov 13, 2025

League Terms and Conditions

Section One: Forming A Team

This section identifies general program rules and requirements associated with the SCORE! Elementary School Sports Program. The rules and requirements contained in this section apply to all CPS SCORE! Elementary school sport offerings.

A. CPS SCORE!+

- The CPS SCORE!+ program is the official interscholastic athletics league for 5th-8th graders. Students will participate in practices during the week and gameplay each Saturday at a select site, featuring other schools from within their network. Teams are broken up into respective grade level teams and leagues (Cross Country 5-8) and will compete in a regular season, playoffs and CPS SCORE!+ City Championship. 15 players are eligible to be on the roster for Saturday games for indoor events and 20 players are eligible to be on the roster for outdoor events. Coaches may rotate players should they have 15+ / 20+ students in the program or CPS SCORE! intramural teams below. Schools may choose to participate in additional non-conference gameplay at their discretion.

B. CPS SCORE! IntraSchool Play (Weekday Games)

- The program follows a “no cut” policy. Accordingly, all eligible students who register to participate shall be permitted to participate assuming a sufficient number of students register to allow for the formation of a team at the students’ gender and grade level. If an elementary school has enough registered students to form multiple teams, said elementary school may participate in the CPS SCORE! program that will be held during the week. It is the school’s responsibility to provide a location/gym, coach, schedule games, and pay officials for all SCORE! competitions. You must share your competition and intramural schedule with the APA and Commissioner.



C. Participation Time

1. The program strongly encourages that all student-athletes have an opportunity to participate during game competitions. Students who register to participate in a sport will be provided the opportunity to participate during both practices and games. Coaches are encouraged to provide each athlete with the opportunity to learn and compete in different positions during the practices and games.

D. Student-Athlete Eligibility

1. Students must satisfy several criteria to be eligible to participate in the CPS SCORE! Program. The student criteria is as follows:

a. Age / Grade

- i. CPS SCORE! Sports are for 5th, 6th, 7th, or 8th grade students only. Students must be registered at the school in which they are participating

b. 5th/6th Grade Level

- i. All 5/6th grade students are eligible for CPS SCORE! Sports.
- ii. 5th grade students are not allowed to play up on the 7/8th grade level during the regular season and conference playoffs.
- iii. EXCEPTION: 6th graders are allowed to participate on the 7th/8th grade level. But they cannot go back down a level once they come up.
- iv. Any student that starts the academic school year at the age of 13 has “aged out” of participating at the 5/6th grade level and must be enrolled and participate on the 7/8th level.
- v. If there are not enough 5/6th grade registrants at a particular school, this does not permit a school to allow 5th grade students to play up on the 7/8th grade level. EXCEPTION: 6th graders are allowed to participate on the 7th/8th grade level. But they cannot go back down a level once they come up.

c. 7th/8th Grade Level

- i. Any student that starts the academic school year at the age of 15 has “aged out” of participating in CPS SCORE! Sports.
- ii. All current 7/8th grade students registered at the school in which they are participating.
- iii. All 7/8th grade students are prohibited from playing down on the 5/6th grade level.
- iv.

NOTE: Schools violating any student-eligibility rules shall receive a forfeit for that game and all games in which the rules were violated (violation of the spirit of the rules may result in removal from playoffs per the discretion of OSA). Teams will be removed from the remainder of the schedule upon their 2nd forfeiture.

d. School

- i. Be a full-time student or a home-schooled student who is registered at a CPS elementary school.

e. Academic Standing

- i. Be academically eligible based on their school’s standards requirements. NOTE: Each participating elementary school principal shall set academic eligibility standards for their school.

f. Medical Requirement

- i. According to school records, student-athletes must have approval by a physician to participate in physical education to participate in CPS SCORE! Sports.



E. Student Registration

1. Participating elementary schools are responsible for registering participating students using the method(s) designated by the Office of Sports Administration:
 - a. Schools are required to submit students and coach registration information in ASPEN.
2. Each participating school's final roster must be signed by the school principal and submitted to their assigned CPS Conference Commissioner prior to the start of the season. Signed rosters are also required on a weekly basis. The liaison shall make team rosters available to the assigned coach(es).

F. Team Rosters

1. The sports liaison shall be solely responsible for the formation of team rosters.
2. In order for a school team to be recognized for participation in SCORE!+ Conference league play, that school must field a team consisting of at least nine (9) participants and a maximum of twenty (20). ASPEN Rosters must be signed by the principal and submitted to the Office of Sports Administration prior to the start of each game.
3. Each student registered in ASPEN to a sport/team MUST remain on that team roster for the remainder of that athletic sport season.
4. Score! Intraschool Play: Coaches must have more than (21) student-athletes participating to receive an additional SCORE! team.
5. Once all interested participants are entered in ASPEN and an Official Roster has been submitted, a coach may begin conditioning and practice. Conversely, if an Official Roster has not been submitted, students are not insured by the Chicago Public Schools insurance policy and coaches are not allowed to begin conditioning and practices until above stated requirements have been completed.
6. Students must be added prior to the second game of the season
7. The coach is responsible for bringing the most recent ASPEN team roster to each contest. The roster must be signed by the school principal. Any athlete whose name does not appear on the game day roster, is not permitted to participate.

G. 5th/6th Grade Back to the Basics AYSO

1. The American Youth Soccer Association will be collaborating with Score! to host soccer clinics throughout Chicago. The clinics will focus on skill development, gameplay and social and emotional learning (SEL) components for students in 5th and 6th grade with strategic partnerships with sports and SEL experts. Within this 10-week program, teams will focus on school-based skill development, curriculums, and gameplay, including four district-wide game days.
2. **AYSO's 6 Philosophies**
 - a. Everyone Plays: Every player on a team must play at least half of each game, regardless of their ability.
 - b. Balanced Teams: AYSO tries to create new teams that are as evenly balanced as possible.
 - c. Open Registration: The only criteria for playing is interest and enthusiasm, and the program is open to all children in this age range.
 - d. Positive Coaching: Coaches are expected to create a positive experience for every player, and to instruct without condemning. Some coaching tips include staying in the coaching area, remaining quiet, and letting the kids play.
 - e. Good Sportsmanship: AYSO aims to create a positive environment based on mutual respect, rather than a win-at-all-costs attitude. Some examples of good sportsmanship include losing graciously, improving through practice, and acknowledging good play by teammates and opponents.



- f. Player Development: AYSO's programs are designed to help players develop their skills and knowledge. One coaching philosophy is that attractive soccer involves all players working together to maintain possession of the ball, with the goal of maneuvering it towards the opponent's goal

NOTE: Schools violating any roster rules shall receive a forfeit for that game and all games in which the rules were violated. Teams will be removed from the remainder of the schedule upon their 2nd forfeiture. If you forfeit one game, your seeding may be impacted significantly

Section Two: Program Regulations

A. Regular Season Dates:

1. No practices will be permitted before the official start date of each season or after the official end date of each season, as communicated by the Office of Sports Administration.
2. The Office of Sports Administration will establish and communicate the girl's and boys' soccer season dates each year.
 - a. Each 7/8th grade team will be scheduled to play a minimum of five (5) games.
 - b. Game times and opponents will be determined at random prior to the creation of the official schedule.
 - c. Note- It is the responsibility of the coach/school to read the schedule each week; if you miss a double-header game, you will be issued a forfeit.

B. Equipment:

1. Shin guards: Shin guards and socks to cover them are highly recommended.
2. Mandatory Cleats / Gym Shoes: Eligible players without appropriate shoes will not be allowed to play. (No Dress or casual shoes).
 - a. We recommend players wear rubber soccer cleats. NO SPIKES!
3. Sportswear glasses/goggles are recommended to participate.
4. Teams with numbered and same-colored jerseys/T-shirts is highly recommended- if colors are too similar between home and away team, pinnies will be provided to the away team
 - a. Eligible players will be allowed to play with warm-up pants, skull hats and/or winter gloves.
 - b. 5/6th and 7th/8th Division will play with a size 5 ball.
 - c. Sports Administration will provide and install soccer goal nets.
 - d. Sports Administration will provide and install soccer corner flags and/or cones.
 - e. Mouthpieces are encouraged, but not required.

C. Uniforms

1. During scheduled soccer games, all team members are recommended to wear matching jerseys / t-shirts with numbers.
 - a. If the home and visiting teams have on similar colors, the visiting team will wear pinnies that are provided by the site manager at the designated location
2. Teams are encouraged to wear school issued uniforms with matching colors and numbers
3. Players are not allowed to wear jewelry. If religious or medical medals are worn, they shall be taped to the body under the uniform.
4. Prohibited attire/accessories: earrings (may not be covered by band aids), head rags, jewelry, and hoods.
 - a. Per CPS, teams have to allow uniform modifications for the purpose of cultural value, religion and modesty preference.
 - i. Officials are responsible for enforcing these uniform rules.



D. Forfeits / No Contests

1. All reasonable efforts should be made to avoid forfeits.
2. If a team is not ready to compete at the scheduled time of the soccer game with all of their players present, the team will play the game as long as the minimum number of seven (7) players is present.
 - a. The game IHSA Official or court monitor may make special allowances for weather or other special circumstances, if necessary.
 - b. If the minimum is not present at the start of the game, the team has ten (10) minutes to show up. The game should be started promptly when the team shows up. If the team does not show up within the ten-minute window, the game will be forfeited.
 - c. No coach or liaison is permitted to cancel a game or refuse to play the scheduled game
3. If the team and/or the team's coach is not present at the officially scheduled start time, the APA will use discretion in the event of inclement weather or other appropriate circumstances, such as having been notified of a team's anticipated arrival.
4. A No Contest is considered a contest not completed due to extenuating circumstances, not to include postponements or cancellations initiated by the Office of Sports Administration. No Contest Results: A game that is neither won nor lost.

During the ten (10) minute grace period, only a CPS cleared staff member or volunteer can step in to serve as the coach (CPS ID Required). No parent or non-approved board volunteer can step in.

5. In the absence of a CPS "cleared" coach, the school principal must submit the substitute's information to our Office so that we can provide the clearance to the coach prior to game day.
6. Should a team be delayed, they should contact their assigned CPS Network Commissioner and Opposing team Coach who will inform the Site Manager. *coaches can be found on the SCORE! Master Directory
7. A contest forfeiture will be treated as a loss in the season standings
8. Student-Eligibility and team roster infractions are considered forfeitures and will count towards your total number of forfeits during the season.

Teams that forfeit two (2) games during a single sports season will be removed from participation for the remainder of the season at the discretion of the Office of Sports Administration.

E. Advanced Contest Cancellations

1. The Office of Sports Administration will administer all advanced cancellations.
2. All participating schools are responsible for developing a communication policy and procedures for all participants and their families regarding notifying them of a cancellation.
3. Coaches, elementary school liaisons, conference commissioners, and/or principals may not cancel or reschedule games.
4. Schools must notify the Office of Sports Administration by close of business (4:00pm) on the Thursday before that game for any school-sanctioned cancellations.
5. Weather cancellations will be determined by the Office of Sports Administration and communicated to the Site Manager.

F. CPS SCORE!+ Playoff Format *2 forfeits - your team will be dropped from the schedule

1. All 7/8th grade teams will not qualify for the Network Tournament.
2. A single forfeit may disrupt your seeding in tournament play
3. On the 7/8th grade level, the Network Tournament winners from each network will advance to the SCORE! City Championship Tournament.



4. Seeding for the 7th/8th grade SCORE! City Championship will be a random draw
- G. Contest Outcome Tracking and Reporting
 1. The Officials must complete and sign the contest score sheet provided by the Office of Sports Administration.
 2. Each coach must sign the scoresheet which indicates their agreement with the final score of the contest.
 3. The Site Manager is responsible for collecting and reporting all final contest scores to the Office of Sports Administration within 48 hours after the scheduled contest date.
- H. Coach Responsibilities
 1. Prior to the start of the sports season:
 - a. Attend the Coaches Meeting.
 - b. Provide proof that the Concussion Certification training has been completed within the last two (2) years. (Must be on file with the school principal/liaison).
 - c. Complete the Protecting Chicago Children training (PCC)
 - d. Complete the mandatory PCA training workshop(Positive Coaching Alliance)
 - e. Complete the KIPP training (highly recommended)
 2. During the course of the sport season
 - a. Prepare your student-athletes through daily practice sessions during the season.
 - b. Monitor your student-athletes progress on the field and in the classroom.
 - c. Accompany your team to all games.
 - d. Monitor the conduct of your athletes for the duration of each game.
 - e. Always have in your possession:
 - i. A copy of your official roster
 - ii. A copy of the terms and conditions
 - iii. Emergency contact information for each student-athlete completed within the last two (2) years. (Must be on file with the school principal).
- I. Coaches Stipend
 1. Coaches can receive up to a maximum of 4 stipends per season
 - a. 5/6th Level: CTU Negotiated Rate
 2. Coaches may not receive payment/stipend if all mandatory requirements are not complete.
 - a. 7/8th Level: CTU Negotiated Rate
 - i. Coaches may not receive payment/stipend if all mandatory requirements are not complete.
 3. Mandatory requirements include;
 - a. Attend mandatory coaches clinic for the respective sport they are coaching
 - b. 5th/6th Grade Coaches must attend ALL 4 "Back to the Basics" clinic/game dates for their sport
 - c. 7th/8th Grade Coaches must complete the season without their team being dropped
 - i. If a team is dropped during the season, the coach may forfeit their stipend. (Please refer to the Forfeit Section)
 - ii.

***Coaches/liaisons that are on a leave of absence at any time during a SCORE! season will NOT receive payment**

***Coaches that do not fully participate in a season under the Coach Stipend Eligibility guidelines, will affect payment**

Each Sports Liaisons must complete the Pre-Attestation form via Google Classroom before the start of the season. Please confirm the coaches/sports are correct prior to docusign completion.



Section Three: Game Rules

This section identifies rules and requirements that are specific in nature to the CPS SCORE! Soccer Program.

- A. National Federation of High Schools and the Illinois High School Association
 1. The official rules of the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) in conjunction with the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) rulebook govern all athletics rules and regulations at Chicago Public Schools.
 2. This rulebook communicates additional rules and regulations that are specific to Chicago Public Schools' athletics programs and activities.
 3. The rules and regulations in this rulebook supersede NFHS and/or IHSA rules and regulations where applicable.
 4. The CPS SCORE! Program is not a member of the Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA).
 - a. <http://www.nfhs.org/articles/rules-books-and-case-books-available-as-e-books/>
- B. Contest Officials
 1. The Office of Sports Administration will assign an IHSA Official and a Court Monitor to each scheduled contest.
 2. There will be one (1) IHSA Official assigned to each game.
 - a. The IHSA Official shall examine and approve the court and game equipment.
 - b. At the end of games, the IHSA Official shall write the final score, sign and return the CPS official score sheet to the court monitor or CPS Conference Commissioner on site.
 - c. The IHSA Official shall be the sole judge of play, conduct of players, coaches, spectators, and other factors affecting the game.
 - d. The IHSA Official keeps the official score and time of the game
 3. There will be a Court Monitor assigned to each court.
 - a. The Court Monitor is a person designated by the Office of Sports Administration to ensure rosters are present for each team playing, the ages and grade restrictions are being followed, students are playing at their appropriate grade level, and ensure that pinnies are distributed and collected when necessary, etc.
 4. During a situation when the assigned IHSA Official is not present at game time, the coach from each team will be expected to officiate the game.
- C. Game Times
 1. All matches are scheduled 45 mins to an hour apart.
 2. **If a team is late by ten (10) minutes or more, they will forfeit the game.**
 - a. **If a team is not ready to compete at the scheduled time of the soccer game with all of their players present, the team will play the game as long as the minimum number of seven (7) players is present.**
 3. Game Length Regular Season:
 - a. 7th/8th Grade: Two (2) 25-minute halves with a running clock.
 - b. Halftime: Five (5) minutes.
 - c. Regular season games can end in a tie, no extra time during regular season games
- D. Team Configuration
 1. Team Captain
 - a. Each team shall designate a team captain.
 - b. This player is the team representative.
 - c. May address an official to obtain essential information
 - d. May address an official on matters of interpretation
 2. A game shall not be started with fewer than seven (7) properly uniformed eligible players on the field. After the game is started, it may be continued with a maximum of eleven (11) eligible players. If a team has fewer than seven (7) eligible players on the field, the opponent will be declared the winner by forfeit.



- a. All eligible players participating in the game must appear on the team’s Official Game Roster. This roster shall be given to the CPS Conference Commissioner prior to the start of the season. The roster must be signed by the school’s principal. Teams not adhering to this rule shall forfeit the game.

E. Competition Information

Grade	Game Format	Minimum Team Roster	Game Length Halves	Ball size
7 th /8 th	11 v 11	9	2 x 25	5

F. Heading

1. Heading will be allowed for the 7/8th grade level.

G. Slide Tackles

1. Slide tackles will NOT be permitted during gameplay towards opponents. Game will be restarted as a foul and the ball will go to the other team. Continuous slides will be rewarded with a caution/yellow card.

H. Substitutions

1. Substitutions shall be unlimited.
2. When the ball is not in play, the coach shall signal the official for the substitution.
3. Substituting players shall be standing on the sideline by the midfield line.
4. Substitutions will be permitted during the course of the game when the following conditions exist:
 - a. On a goal kick by either team
 - b. On a corner kick by either team
 - c. On a throw in by either team
 - d. Between halves
 - e. For injured players
 - f. After a goal is scored by either team
 - g. In the case of the substitute reporting as a goalie, the player must identify themselves to the official as the goalie.

I. Playoff Tiebreakers

1. The site champion will be decided based on the total points after week 7.
2. If two teams are tied on points the site champion is decided based on the head to head matchup results during the regular season.
3. Only one team per network qualifies for the City Playoffs. If a network has two sites, a Network Championship will be scheduled to decide who qualifies for the City Playoffs.
4. If the head to head matchup was a draw the goals allowed will be used to decide who advances.

J. Playoff Overtime Rules

1. After the regular time the game will go directly to penalty kicks.
2. Each team gets five (5) penalty kicks. If teams are tied after their kicks, penalties will continue as sudden elimination.

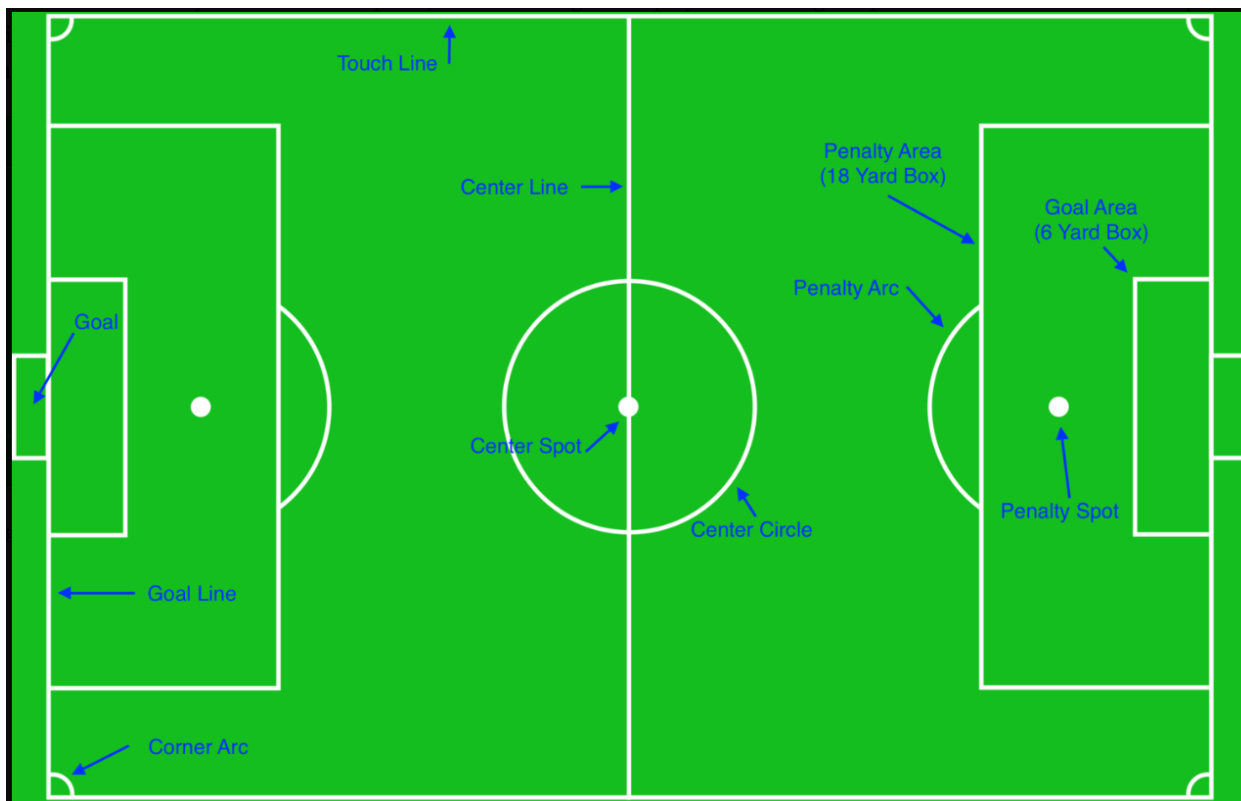
Sports-Specific Definitions & Key Terms

- A. **Caution:** a disciplinary action in which the referee shows a player the yellow card (for violating a soccer rule). A second caution in the same match results in the player being shown the red card (ejected from the game).
- B. **Center Circle:** a circular marking with a 10-yard radius in the “center” of the field from which kickoffs are taken to start or restart the game. A reference line for the referee and defenders. Defenders must be at least 10 yards away from the ball prior to start or restart.
- C. **Center Line/Midfield Line:** a line in the center of the field that divides the field in half along its width and runs parallel to the goals. Used for start and restart as well as for calling offside. A player cannot be offside on their half of the field.
- D. **Center Spot:** The “center” of the center circle from which kickoffs are taken to start or restart the game.

- E. **Corner Arc:** an arc or quarter-circle with a radius of one (1) yard located at each of the four (4) corners of the soccer field. Also a reference line, the ball must be kicked from inside this arc on a corner kick.
- F. **Corner Flag:** the flag located at each of the four (4) corners of the soccer field, inside the corner area.
- G. **Corner Kick:** a direct free kick that is awarded when the defending team puts the ball over the end line. A corner kick is taken by the offensive team from next to the corner flag. A place kick taken by the attacking side from a corner of the field, where the sideline and end-line meet, after the ball has been sent over the end line outside the goal by a defender.
- H. **Dangerous Play:** an action by a player that the referee considers dangerous to that player or others. Examples are high kicking, playing while lying on the ground, or playing the ball while it is in the possession of the goalkeeper.
- I. **Direct Free Kick:** a free kick that is awarded at the spot of the infraction for a physical contact foul such as tripping, holding, pushing, tackles from behind, jumping into an opponent, or for hand balls. A direct free kick can be scored directly into the goal. It does not have to be touched by anyone other than the kicker.
- J. **Drop Ball:** a method of restarting a game where the referee drops the ball between 2 players facing each other. A drop ball restarts the game after play is stopped for no penalty situation (e.g. after an injury) and in other circumstances (more than one soccer rule about this). The ball is dropped where it was last in play or at the nearest point outside the penalty area.
- K. **End Line/Goal Line:** the boundary line extending from corner to corner along its width at each end.
- L. **Field/Pitch:** the rectangular area where soccer matches are played.
- M. **Foul:** when the referee judges a violation against an opposing player. The team that suffers the foul is awarded with a direct free kick unless the foul is committed by a defensive player inside his own penalty area, in which case the foul results in a penalty kick.
- N. **Goal Area:** the rectangular area (20 x 6 yd. on a full-size soccer field) marked within the penalty area (or inside the larger rectangle) and directly in front of goal. Marks the area from which all goal kicks must be taken.
- O. **Goal Box:** the goal area or sometimes the penalty area.
- P. **Goalkeeper:** the player positioned directly in front of the goal who tries to prevent shots from crossing the goal line; the only player allowed to use their hands and arms, though only within the 18-yard penalty area.
- Q. **Goal Kick:** a type of restart that is awarded when the attacking team puts the ball over the end line. The ball is kicked from anywhere inside the goal area away from the goal to restart play. After the kick is taken, the ball cannot be touched again by any player until it is outside of the penalty area.
- R. **Header/Heading:** a shot or pass made by hitting the ball with your head.
- S. **Indirect Free Kick:** a method of restarting play in a game of soccer. A free kick that is usually awarded to a team when a player on the other team has committed a rule violation, but has not fouled an opponent on a dangerous play. A free kick that is awarded at the spot of the infraction for other fouls that are judged not to be serious as well as for offside. Indirect kicks must touch another player (either team) before the ball goes into the net in order to score. A goal may not be scored directly from the kick. If the ball goes into the goal without touching any other player, a goal kick is awarded.
- T. **Linesmen/Flagger:** the person/s who will assist the officials in calling out of bounds and offsides.
- U. **Obstruction:** a foul in which a defensive player, instead of going after the ball, illegally uses their body to prevent an offensive player from playing it.
- V. **Offside:** a violation that occurs when an offensive player is closer to the opponent's goal than both the ball and the second-to-last opposing player at the time that the ball is passed to the offensive player by his or her teammate. Players cannot be called offside if they are in their own half of the field or if they receive the ball from a throw-in, corner kick, or goal kick. When a player is called offside, the opposing team is awarded an indirect free kick.
- W. **Penalty Arc:** The arc at the top of the penalty area. Designates how far back all players must be away from the ball while a penalty kick is being taken.

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- X. **Penalty Area:** the larger rectangle (18 x 44 yd. on a full size field) in front of the goal that includes the goal area. Marks both where the goalkeeper is allowed to touch the ball with their hands and the area where harsh fouls committed by the defending team result in penalty kicks.
- Y. **Penalty Kick:** a kick taken from 12 yards in front of the goal as a result of a contact foul or hand ball that takes place inside the penalty area.
- Z. **Penalty Mark/Spot:** the mark from which penalty kicks are taken. It is 12 yards from the goal line.
- AA. **Red Card:** a referee shows a player a red card to signal that the player has been banned from the rest of the match. A red card can be shown for a single serious offense or as the result of being shown a second yellow card in the same game. After a player is shown a red card, the player must leave the field of play and cannot be replaced by a substitute, meaning that his or her team must finish the match with one fewer player.
- BB. **Referee:** the person who serves as the official game timer and scorekeeper.
- CC. **Save:** the act of a goalkeeper in stopping a shot that would have otherwise gone into the goal.
- DD. **Seeding/Seed:** where a team finishes in the standings and their placement in the playoffs.
- EE. **Sending Off:** an ejection resulting from a player being shown a red card.
- FF. **Sideline/Touchline:** the line that runs along the length of each side of the field.
- GG. **Team Captain:** the team's representative who may address an official to obtain essential information or matters of interpretation.
- HH. **Throw-In:** a way to restart play when the ball goes out over the sidelines. The team that did not touch the ball last is allowed an overhead throw.
- II. **Yellow Card:** see Caution.





Section Four: Safety and Sportsmanship

Coaches are expected to act in the best interest of the health and safety of the injured child. That means exercising reasonable caution, particularly as it relates to loss of consciousness, tears, strains, or suspected breaks or fractures.

According to school records, student-athletes must have approval by a physician to participate in physical education in order to participate in the CPS SCORE! Soccer Program.

- A. Injuries and Serious Incidents
 - 1. The safety and security of students is always of paramount importance and cannot be over-emphasized.
 - 2. In the case of student injury, it is the responsibility of each coach to seek appropriate care.
 - 3. If of a serious nature, the coach should call 911 immediately.
- B. Emergency Ambulance Transport
 - 1. Any student-athlete who is not accompanied by a parent/guardian on contest day and has to receive transport to the hospital due to a severe injury, the following must occur:
 - a. The Head Coach or Volunteer Coach must ride with the student-athlete to the hospital.
 - b. Site Manager, CPS or CPD Commissioner or Office of Sports Administration staff must supervise the remaining teammates at designated sites.
 - c. Above personnel must notify school officials and parent/guardian to arrange for student-athlete pick-up.
- C. Blood Protocol
 - 1. If blood is involved, it may endanger others as well as the injured.
 - 2. Individuals who have uncovered or open wounds or blood on themselves or clothing must leave the contest or practice immediately.
 - 3. A participant may return only when the bleeding has stopped, the wound is covered, and/or the clothing has been changed.
- D. Head Injuries
 - 1. In the event of a concussion, the coach must follow the appropriate procedures identified in the CPS Concussion Management Policy: <http://policy.cps.edu/download.aspx?ID=258>
- E. Reporting Incidents
 - 1. All serious incidents must be reported to the Office of Safety and Security by completing the appropriate Incident Reporting Form.
 - a. The coach of the athlete(s) involved in the incident is responsible for completing the Incident Reporting Form provided by the Office of Sports Administration.
 - b. The coach must provide the Incident Reporting Form to the appropriate elementary school liaison(s).
 - i. It is the responsibility of the elementary school liaison to report the incident within Verify, the CPS Incident Management System.
 - 2. All Incident Reporting Forms must be filed with the injured student's school liaison on the next business day.
- F. First Aid & Safety
 - 1. Coaches are responsible for hydrating their student athletes.
 - 2. All schools must travel with a first aid kit and emergency contact information for every student athlete.
- G. Sportsmanship
 - 1. All participating student-athletes, coaches, and staff are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship.
 - 2. To begin the match, the starting teams must line-up on the end lines. The official will call the teams together to shake hands before the match begins.
 - 3. A handshake at the end of each match is required.
 - 4. CPS enforces a zero tolerance policy as it relates to unsportsmanlike conduct related to fighting. Any participant who is involved in a fight or similar unruly or threatening behavior before, during, or after an



activity may be barred from continued participation in the sport for the remainder of the season at the discretion of the Office of Sports Administration.

H. Spectator Conduct

1. Parents, guardians, and other spectators are expected to exhibit good behavior.
2. If a spectator, in the opinion of a contest IHSA Official or site manager, exhibits inappropriate or unsportsmanlike behavior, they may ask the spectator to leave the contest location. The Coach, IHSA Official, or Site Manager should work with the assigned CPS security personnel to assist in these situations.
3. The contest IHSA Official shall make the High School Site Manager aware of any issues regarding spectator conduct.
4. The High School Site Manager, as appropriate, shall report issues concerning inappropriate spectator conduct to the Office of Sports Administration.

Section Five: Protests

- A. All protests must be written to Jenni Dant at jldant@cps.edu and include sportsad@cps.edu.
- B. Must be submitted within 24 hours of the contest.
- C. If the contest is on a Saturday, the protest must be submitted by close of business (4:00pm) on the following Monday.
- D. No protest will be considered regarding judgment calls made by the official.
- E. Protests will only be considered where there is a question of rules interpretation, which affects the outcome of the game.
- F. No protest will be considered if the coach could not immediately produce a copy of the league rules for the contest official at the time of the questioned call.
- G. The protest letter must include the following:
 1. School check (\$50.00) made out to the Office of Sports Administration.
 2. Reason and details of protest.
 3. Proof of protest.
 4. Signature of person protesting.

Media and Social Media Expectations

The Chicago Public League is proud to offer in-depth coverage of CPS teams and student-athletes across each sports season. In order to continue to publish these stories, the CPL Sports Communications team asks the following of all participating athletics staff members and student-athletes:

- A. Ensure all student media consent forms are signed via the standard CPS enrollment packet
- B. Ensure coaches and/or players are available as requested for pre- and post-game interviews
- C. Share accomplishments and milestones with the CPS Sports Communications team so your teams and athletes can be recognized
- D. Interact and follow all CPL athletics content via our website CPSAthletics.com or via [Social Media](#).

CPS Sports Communications Team:

- A. Communications Manager: Joey Gelman – jdgelman@cps.edu
- B. Communications Specialist: Dominic Scianna – dscianna@cps.edu
- C. Communications Specialist: Michael Wojtychiw – mmwojtychiw@cps.edu



Digital Citizenship Expectations

Being a good digital citizen means that athletics staff members 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. Athletics staff members 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 athletics staff members, 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.