

Baseball Manual



SY26



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:

Name: Eddie Curry
Email: ecurry@cps.edu
Phone: 773.553.6752

Assignor of Officials:

Name: Carl Redmond
Email: jaspercarr2@aol.com
Phone: 773-759-9264

II. 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 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.

III. 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 Baseball Resource Sheet /IHSA Baseball](#) contains other logistical information regarding the season for coaches and athletic directors including the coaches directory.



IV. NEW IN 2024-2025 Updated Penalties For Team / Coach Participation Non-Compliance

The Chicago Public League (CPL) has updated rules and regulations for the 2024-25 sports seasons. CPL League schools will be accountable for penalties and possible financial consequences during the regular season and postseason during Illinois High School Association (IHSA) events for the following actions:

SPORTSMANSHIP- Any unsportsmanlike conduct resulting in fighting and/or abusive language including taunting during interscholastic contests is unacceptable. Players/coaches ejected from contests by officials for unsportsmanlike conduct, including leaving the bench area during an altercation must serve a one game suspension per IHSA rule. Coaches/players that are subsequently identified as exhibiting unsportsmanlike conduct and/or incidents determined to be more egregious, will be subject to further discipline according to the CPS Student Code of Conduct (SCC) and the Un-Sportsmanship and Misconduct for Student-Athletes and Coaches protocol. The CPL holds sportsmanship as our highest priority and expects our administrators, coaches, and players to abide by these standards as a model to ensure respect, dignity, and the safety for CPL participants in all sports-related activities that we oversee.

IHSA

- A) **FAILURE TO WITHDRAW FROM IHSA CONTESTS BY THE DEADLINE** - CPL schools who agree to participate and/or host IHSA state series playoff competition and then default as a non-participant, will be assessed a \$500 fine to the school. This was recently approved by the IHSA Board of Directors at their June 2024 meeting.
- B) **RATING OFFICIALS** - The IHSA's officiating sub-committee, in a move to highlight ways their governing body can jointly improve the experience for officials and the overall quality of officials, has mandated a minimum number of officials' ratings that each varsity head coach must submit during their specific sports season beginning in 2024-25 or face the following action:
 - 1) Failure to submit ratings for officials will result in an IHSA member coach being put on notice in year one, with the potential for the coach to miss IHSA State Series playoff contests in year two and three. The IHSA will have more education on this process and reasoning throughout the upcoming school year with explanations on the numeric ratings thresholds in future communications to member schools.
 - 2) Schools are strongly encouraged to submit their Top 15 list of officials for each sport in the IHSA Schools Center. Rating our CPL officials promotes the chances for them having the opportunity to work IHSA Series contests.
- C) **POSTSEASON SEEDING** - It is required that all coaches who enter their schools in the IHSA state series must take part in the official seeding processes for your designated sport as guided by the IHSA.

NON-CONFERENCE CONTESTS SUBMISSION - It is required that all non-conference contests be submitted to the Office of Sports Administration in the Activity Scheduler for proper accounting and game season limitations. Most importantly games submitted to the Activity Scheduler will populate to MaxPreps according to our data agreement with these companies.



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VI. League Calendar

Event	Day/Date	Time	Location
Release of the Schedule	09/29/25		
Pre-Season Coaches Meeting	2/21/26		Whitney Young 9:30 am
First Day of Practice	3/02/26		Monday 3:30 PM
Electronic CORS Check	TBA		
CORS Hard Copy Due	2/28/26		
1 st Contest Allowed	3/16/26		
Conference Start Dates	4/06/26	4:30 & 7:30	
Lower Level Start Dates	4/11/26	10:00	
Mandatory Make-up Dates	Before 5/07/26		
Formal End of the Conference Season	5/8/26		
Playoff Seed Meeting	TBD	TBD	
Playoff Rosters Due	5/08/26		
Start of Playoffs	5/11/26		
Championships	TBA		UIC or Cubs Park
IHSA Regionals	5/25/26		
IHSA Sectionals	6/03/26		
IHSA Finals	6/13/26		

VII. 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.

- A. Teams must have at least 15 Varsity, 15 Sophomore, 15 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.
- B. 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).
- C. 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](#)
- D. Teams looking to join the League for the 2025 season must complete the google form, [School Request to Add a Sport/Level](#).

VIII. 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. Adjustments to the schedule in certain situations may be necessary, regarding home and away games, so that each team is fairly accommodated relative to the numbers of home and away games.

- A. The home team is responsible for ensuring the playability of the field.
- B. The home team will furnish at least four (4) new baseballs at the beginning of the game. Baseballs used during the game shall be returned to the home team.
- C. Have the provision for a scorekeeper for each contest.
- D. If the home team's field is unplayed due to weather conditions in the first round, then the game may be switched to the visiting team's field, and the second round game may be then switched back to the first round home team's field. Any game, which is not completed due to the failure of the home management to make proper arrangements, shall be forfeited to the opponent.
- E. The home team's coach is responsible for notifying the Athletic Program Administrator in charge of Baseball of the postponement by 1:00 p.m. on the day of the game. Failure to do so makes the home team responsible for the umpire's fee and bus fees for the visiting team. The athletic director should notify the opposing team by 1:00 p.m. Both coaches must agree upon the postponement of the game.
- F. If due to weather conditions or other reason, the home field of either team is not playable, an alternate field which is playable may be used. The home coach is responsible for all arrangements and the condition of the alternate field. If necessary, it is permissible to play on an alternate grass field.
- G. 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.

IX. Coach Expectations

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



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- B. 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.
- C. Coaches must complete IHSA and CPS certification requirements before coaching student-athletes.
- D. [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 Baseball.
- E. 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.
- F. 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 umpires, 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](#).
- G. The coaching staff is expected to organize and prepare athletes through consistent practice/workouts designed to enhance their performance in baseball games.
- H. **The coaching staff is responsible for the following Game Management for every contest:**
 1. The coach of the home team must contact the visiting team’s coach at least one day before the scheduled game to confirm the game arrangements which includes directions to the playing site, field conditions and expected time of the visiting team's arrival. Otherwise, confirm contest logistics with the opposing coach.
 2. Preparing a printout (preferably laminated) of emergency contact information identified for each student (name and jersey number) for quick reference by medical personnel.
 3. Possessing an ASPEN Generated Eligibility Certificate. *Only students listed on this certificate are eligible for that contest. Making this information available upon request to the opponent.*
 4. An accurate numerical roster identifying student-athletes by jersey number represented in the official scorebook.
 5. Reaching out to the host school (coach, athletic director) if there are transportation issues which would delay the start of the game.
 6. Reporting the game score to the Office of Sports Administration designated score reporting mechanism within 24 hours of the contest.
 7. All scores should be submitted to the CPL Activity scheduler within 24 hours 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.
 8. 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 game. [IHSA Schools Center](#) 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.
 9. 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.

X. Playing / League Regulations

	Varsity	Soph	Frosh
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Team Contest Limitations	Exclusive of the IHSA series, 35 games	same	same
Minimum Contests for Team Approval	14 games	10 games	10 games
Length/Time of Contests	7 innings	7 innings	7 innings
Maximum Students on the Roster	27	same	same
Minimum on Game Day	9	9	9

Coaches' Uniforms

- A. Head Coaches must wear a top that identifies the coach with the school uniform, shirt, pull-over, etc. as well as the team baseball cap.

Players' Uniforms

- A. Uniforms of all team members should be of the same color and style. Caps and shoes are required equipment (no track spikes allowed). When a player is required to wear a head protector, it replaces the cap as mandatory equipment.
- B. For Individual players, uniform sleeve lengths may vary. However, sleeves of each individual player shall be approximately the same length and shall not be ragged, frayed or slit. If the pitcher's undershirt sleeves are exposed, they shall not be white or gray. Compression sleeves that are solid black or solid dark colored shall be the only colors allowed to be worn by the pitcher below his elbow. A pitcher shall not wear any item on his hands, wrists or arms which may be distracting to the batter. A pitcher shall not wear white or gray exposed under-shirt sleeves or any white or gray sleeve that extends below the elbow. A vest and coordinating shirt that is worn underneath is viewed as a type of uniform top.
- C. A uniform shall not have any dangerous or reflective buttons or ornaments. Each player shall be numbered on the back of his shirt with a plain number of solid color contrasting with the color of the shirt. This number shall be a plain Arabic style and shall be at least eight inches high, and no players on the same team shall wear identical numbers. A number may have a border of not more than one-quarter inch in width.
- D. The school's official uniform (including uniform pants, jersey, visible undergarments, socks, stockings, caps and headwear) may bear only a visible single manufacturer's logo (partial or whole) or trademark. A manufacturer's logo/trademark shall not exceed 2 ¼ square inches with no dimension exceeding 2 ¼ inches. No more than one manufacturer's logo/trademark or reference shall be permitted on the outside of each item. (the same restriction shall apply to either the manufacturer's logo/trademark or reference.) One American flag 2 inches x 3 inches may be worn or occupy space on each item of uniform apparel. By state association adoption, to allow for special occasions, commemorative or memorial patches, that will be uniformly placed, not to exceed 4 square inches, to be worn on jerseys in an appropriate and dignified manner without compromising the integrity of the uniform.
- E. Players are **strongly recommended** to wear a protective cup.

Balls and Legal Bats

- A. The recommended ball is the Wilson 1010
- B. Legal bats shall:
 1. Be one piece, multi-pieces and permanently assembled, or two pieces with interchangeable barrel construction.
 2. Not have exposed rivets, pins, rough or sharp edges or any form of exterior fastener that would present a hazard.



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3. Be free of rattles, dents, burrs, cracks and sharp edges. Bats that are broken, altered or that deface the ball are illegal. Materials inside the bat or treatments/devices used to alter the bat specifications and/or enhance performance are prohibited and render the bat illegal.
- C. Each legal wood, aluminum or composite bat shall have the following components:
1. *Knob*: The bat knob shall protrude from the handle. The knob may be molded, lathed, welded or permanently fastened. Devices, attachments or wrappings are permitted except those that cause the knob to become flush with the handle. A one-piece rubber knob and bat grip combination is illegal.
 2. *Handle*: The bat handle is the area of the bat that begins at, but does not include, the knob and ends where the taper begins.
 3. *Barrel*: The barrel is the area intended for contact with the pitch. The barrel shall be round, cylindrically symmetric, with a smooth contour. The barrel may be aluminum, wood or composite (made of two or more materials). The type of bat (wood, aluminum or composite) shall be determined by the composition of the barrel.
 4. *Taper*: The taper is an optional transition area which connects the narrower handle to the wider barrel portion of the bat. Its length and material may vary but may not extend more than 18 inches from the base of the knob.
 5. *End Cap*: The end cap is made of rubber, vinyl, plastic or other approved material. It shall be firmly secured and permanently affixed to the end of the bat so that it cannot be removed by anyone other than the manufacturer, without damaging or destroying it. By definition, a one-piece construction bat does not have an end cap.
- D.. Each bat not made of a single piece of wood shall:
1. Have a safety grip made of cork, tape (no smooth, plastic tape) or commercially manufactured composition material. The grip must extend a minimum of 10 inches, but not more than 18 inches, from the base of the knob. Slippery tape or similar material shall be prohibited. Resin, pine tar or any drying agent to enhance the hold are permitted only on the grip. Molded grips are illegal.
 2. Be 2 5/8" or less in diameter at the thickest part and 36 inches or less in length.
 3. Not weigh, numerically, more than three ounces less than the length of the bat (e.g., a 33-inch-long bat cannot be less than 30 ounces).
- E. Bats that are not made of a single piece of wood shall meet the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) performance standard, and such bats shall be labeled with a silkscreen or other permanent certification mark. No BBCOR label, sticker or decal will be accepted on any non-wood bat. The certification mark shall be rectangular, a minimum of one inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting color to read: "BBCOR .50."

NOTE: The NFHS has been advised that certain manufacturers consider alteration, modification and "doctoring" of their bats to be unlawful and subject to civil and, under certain criminal action.

- F. A bat made of a single piece of wood may be roughened or wound with tape not more than 18 inches from the handle end of the bat. No foreign substance may be added to the surface of the bat beyond 18 inches from the end of the handle. Each bat made of a single piece of wood shall be:
1. 2¾ inches or less in diameter at the thickest part
 2. 36 inches or less in length
- G Only bats may be used in warming up (including weighted bats used for this purpose) at any location. Only bats and items designed to remain part of the bat, such as weighted bats, batting donuts, and wind-resistant devices are legal at any location.



- H. Bats that are altered from the manufacturer's original design and production, or that do not meet the rule specifications, are illegal (See 7-4-1a). No artificial or intentional means shall be used to control the temperature of the bat. No foreign substance may be inserted into the bat. Bats that are broken, cracked or dented or that deface the ball, i.e., tear the ball, shall be removed without penalty. A bat that continually discolors the ball may be removed from the game with no penalty at the discretion of the umpire."

League Play

- A. **Games shall be played as scheduled.** Under no circumstances shall games be rescheduled without the sanction of the Athletic Program Administrator, unless weather conditions, rain, etc., interfere. (Penalty for violation of this provision can result in a forfeit or double forfeit.) Game time is 4:30. Games may not be canceled or changed without impunity for any reason without the authorization of the Office of Sports Administration.
- B. For time considerations, the home team will have infield practice from 4:00-4:10 the visiting team from 4:10-4:20 and the meeting at the plate with the umpire is at 4:25.
- C. Each game shall be seven (7) innings. In the case of a tie, as many innings as necessary shall be played to determine a winner. For Junior Varsity and Freshman extra innings, a runner for each team will start second base. That runner must be the player from the batting order spot who made the last out in the previous inning.
- D. All games will be suspended at 10:00 pm. if not completed by that time.
- E. **Official Games**
1. *During the Regular Season*, a game is official after (4 ½) innings of play, and a team may be declared the winner if the game is suspended (weather, darkness, miscellaneous incident).
 2. *During the Playoffs*, if a game is called/suspended before five (5) innings, the game shall be considered incomplete. For incomplete games, play must be resumed the following day with line-up and actual play situation at the time of suspension.

Forfeiture of Games

- A. 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. Forfeiting schools must reimburse expenses of non-forfeiting teams.
1. 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 Baseball for a determination of the status of the game.
- B. In the event any team withdraws from the league during the first half of the schedule, the team forfeits all games scheduled and played. If any school withdraws during the second half, that team forfeits all games of second half play only.

Special Considerations

- A. Games affected due to a work stoppage will be managed according to the IHSA Constitution and Bylaws.
- B. All schools that qualify for the Chicago Public League Playoffs **must** fully participate in their scheduled games throughout the tournament.
- C. If the weather conditions are at or **below 35 degrees**, all games shall be canceled and rescheduled by the Coordinating Athletic Program Administrator in charge of baseball.
- D. Coaches and players must avoid sitting or standing in an area exposed to a line drive foul ball by a right handed batter toward the right side (first base side dugout), or a left handed batter toward the left side (third base dugout).
- E. Coaches or team members may coach both bases (1st and 3rd) provided their names appear on the eligibility sheet and they are in uniform. All coaches that are coaching the bases are expected to be in uniform.
- F. **Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated.** A player or coach ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct must at least serve a suspension from in the next scheduled game.



XI. Officials

	Varsity	Varsity Playoffs	JV	JV Playoff	Frosh
Number of Officials	2	4	1	2	1
Fees	\$80	\$85	\$75	\$75	\$65

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

A. Selection of Officials

1. The APA for Baseball 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.

B. What if Officials do not Show?

1. If neither umpire arrives, contact the APA in charge of baseball or the assignor to try to find a resolution to the issue. If there is no resolution, the game must be rescheduled.
2. When an umpire arrives late and both schools agree to play, the game shall stand as played. If there is only umpire, the game can be played, and the umpire will be paid an additional \$10.00 for each match officiated.
3. In the event of a game-day forfeit, the scheduled officials will be paid as if they officiated the game.
4. Umpires will be paid from Arbiter by the end of each week of the weekly contest game, however if rain is imminent or the game is postponed due to weather, then the umpire that has already been paid must return to complete the game (rescheduled) until it becomes official.

XII. Student Eligibility

A. 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.

B. Competitive Levels: (Varsity, JV, Freshman)

1. Varsity and Junior 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 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.



3. Varsity and JV teams will have separate eligibility sheets. Players may NOT appear on both the varsity eligibility roster and a JV eligibility roster on the same day.
4. Freshmen-level players must also have separate eligibility sheets.
- C. Vertical movement allows coaches the flexibility to allow Junior Varsity level students to gain varsity level experience while maintaining eligibility on the JV level.
 1. Vertical movement will only be allowed between the JV and Varsity levels.
 2. Once a freshman player is moved up to the Varsity/JV level (e.g. during the middle of the season) and listed on the Varsity or JV CORS, that student is no longer eligible to participate on the Freshmen level.
 3. For playoffs and post-season tournaments, rosters by level are locked and vertical movement is not allowed while the teams are active in tournament play.
- D. 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.
- E. 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.

XIII. League Structure and Conference Standings

League Alignment

CPL Baseball Committee Members

- A. Once the league schedule begins any adjustments to the final schedule must be communicated to OSA, but the follow through of adjustments at this time *will become a school responsibility. The home team of the games in question must procure the alternative site and officials, and confirm the new date with the opposing team.*
- B. Each team is assigned to a conference for double round robin play.
 1. Games that are not played 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 Baseball.*
- C. 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 7-0.
 3. In case of a tie in Division standings, the higher place shall be determined by:
 - i. Head-to-head competition results.
 - ii. If head to head does not resolve the tie, the team with the greater number of runs scored in games played between tied teams will assume the higher position.
 - iii. If runs scored does not resolve the tie, the team that played the most league games will assume the higher position.
 - iv. If league games played do not resolve the tie, the Coordinating APA of Baseball will flip a coin for the higher position
 4. In the case of a tie between three (3) or more teams, the teams that have the greatest run 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 two teams are tied in this ranking, the tie breaker for two teams will be applied to resolve the tie. If more than two teams are tied in this ranking, the Coordinating APA of Baseball will determine what to do in this very rare situation.

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D. Promotion and Relegation

1. The last place teams in the Jackie Robinson will relegate respectively to the North and South conferences.
2. The first place teams in the North and South will advance to the respective Jackie Robinson conferences.
3. The last place teams in the North and South will relegate to the respective American/National Central conferences.
4. The first place teams in the American and National Central conferences will be promoted to the respective North and South conferences.
5. The last place teams in the American and National Central conferences will relegate to the respective American and National 1 conferences.
6. The first place teams in the American and National 1 conferences will be promoted to the respective American and National Central conferences.

XIV. Chicago Public League Championship Tournaments

- A. The top twenty-four 24 teams will compete in the single elimination tournament to decide the CPL Champion.
- B. Qualification Criteria
 1. Each team in the Jackie Robinson conferences will qualify for the Championship tournament.
 2. The top 3 teams from the North and South, will qualify for the Championship tournament.
 3. The first place teams from the American and National Central will qualify for the Championship tournament.
- C. Distribution of Seeds
 1. The 8 teams in the Jackie Robinson South will assume the 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, 11th, 13th, and 15th seeds.
 2. The 8 teams in the Jackie Robinson North will assume the 2nd, 4th, 6th, 8th, 10th, 12th, 14th and 16th seeds.
 3. The top 3 teams in the South will assume the 17th, 19th, 21st seeds.
 4. The top 3 teams in the North will assume the 18th, 20th, and 22nd seeds.
 5. The top seeds in the American Central will assume the 23th seed.
 6. The top team in the National Central will assume the 24th seed.

XV. 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 [@CPLAthletcs](https://twitter.com/CPLAthletcs).

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.

XVI. 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 Floor

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 field to intervene with an altercation is the Head Coach.
2. Assistant coaches **must** work to control the dugout and keep players from running onto the field 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 turn away and return to their dugout area **rather than run toward** the altercation. Coaches may face disciplinary action if there are on the field altercations involving multiple students as well as if students leave the dugout to join in and



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contribute to a melee.