

Badminton Manual



SY26

Introduction

Please review the included Terms & Conditions 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.

Any and all questions can be directed to the Athletic Program Administrator (APA) listed below.

For communication purposes, all coaches must utilize their cps.edu email address to send and receive correspondence, as well as to obtain access to program documents. (Note: Coaches from charter schools must obtain a "cps.edu" email address. Each charter campus has a "Rapid Portal Sponsor" that can generate usernames for staff at that school. Refer to that individual to obtain an account.)

Athletic Program Administrator:

Email: Thomas Smith

Phone: (773) 553-6735

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I. OSA Mission Statement

The Office of Sports Administration (OSA) oversees the equitable implementation of sports programs across all elementary schools and high schools within the Chicago Public School District (CPS). 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.

II. League Governance & Key Links

The [Illinois High School Association](#) (IHSA) regulates the competition of interscholastic sports for the state of Illinois, providing guidelines via the [IHSA Constitution & By-Laws](#) and sport-specific [IHSA Terms & Conditions](#). Any exceptions to these rules are listed in the CPL Girls Badminton Terms & Conditions included herein.

The Chicago Public League is governed by the [Chicago Public Schools Athletics Constitution & By-Laws](#). All coaches must read the CPS Athletics Constitution & By-Laws in order to be informed of CPL policies, procedures, and expectations.

Whereas the Terms & Conditions specific to the sport season are listed in this document, the [Chicago Public League General Rules & Regulations](#) serves as an appendix to this document, incorporating topics of general governance, coach expectations, roster management, vertical movement, eligibility and eligibility certificates, as well as other issues of league contest management.

All sport-specific resources relevant to the season are included in the [SY2025–26 CPL Girls Badminton Resource Sheet](#).

III. Coach Expectations

Athletic coaches are expected to comply with each of the below governing rules and regulations.

Failure to comply with any of the following will result in forfeiture of the coaching stipend and a possible loss of approval for that team.

- [IHSA Constitution & By-Laws](#)
- [IHSA Girls Badminton Terms & Conditions](#)
- [Chicago Public Schools Athletics Constitution & By-Laws](#)
- [Chicago Public League General Rules & Regulations](#)
- The CPL Terms & Conditions of the sport (included herein)

Additional sport-specific requirements include:

- All coaches must comply with the [CPS Student Travel Policy](#).
- Coaches are responsible for ensuring student-athlete eligibility compliance as outlined in the [CPS No-Pass, No-Play Policy](#). Coaches are **required** to have eligibility certificates in their possession for **each contest**, available for trade with the opposing team (whether printed or electronic). Weekly eligibility certificates, valid Monday through Sunday, must be generated by the school Athletic Director and must be kept on file at the school.
- Coaches are responsible for maintaining accurate and up-to-date rosters in Aspen (with the help of the school Athletic Director) and in the OSA Roster Upload Folder.
- **Coaches must submit all league competition results to the League Score Sheet (in the resource sheet) within 48 hours of the contest.** The **host team** is responsible for maintaining accurate scores and results for home matches throughout the season.
- Coaches are expected to be aware of challenges that may impede their competition schedule, which may include but are not limited to: facility maintenance challenges, transportation challenges, athlete eligibility challenges, etc. As such, coaches are expected to proactively communicate and problem-solve these challenges in a productive manner. Should a challenge arise, rescheduling of league contests **must** be approved by the Athletic Program Administrator **before 12:00 pm on the day of competition**, as manageable. **Failure to properly notify the APA may result in a forfeit.**
- Coaches are **prohibited** from serving simultaneously as coach and as an IHSA official during any one sport season. Similarly, **coaches can only receive one stipend for one interscholastic coach position within the same season**; participation with more than one sport/team will result in the forfeiture of the lesser stipend of the two.

IV. Team Approval

Team approvals consist 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 approvals will be reflected in the [HS Sport Inventory](#). It is the responsibility of the Athletic Director, assisted by the Head Coach, to communicate with the Athletic Program Administrator regarding confirmation of team approval.

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In order for CPL Girls Badminton teams to be approved, coaches must account for the following:

- Teams must meet CPL roster minimums by the team roster deadline
- Teams must meet CPL contest requirements, including:
 - Minimum number of contests as applicable
 - Completion of the CPL schedule
 - Participation in all city-wide competitions for which they qualify
 - Delivery of results within required time frame
- Teams must report dates of all non-conference competitions and ensure they are reflected in their team schedules
- Teams that opt into the IHSA series must meet IHSA requirements, including but not limited to:
 - Participation in IHSA-sponsored activities as scheduled
 - Participation in the IHSA seeding process where applicable
 - Rating of officials according to IHSA ratings requirements and deadlines

Failure to comply with IHSA series requirements will result in consequences put forth by the Illinois High School Association as outlined in the IHSA Terms & Conditions of the sport.

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V. CPL Calendar - Regular Season

Pre-Season Coaches' Meeting	February 17, 2026
Start of Season (First Practice)	March 2, 2026
Team Roster Deadline (Aspen, OSA Folder)	March 13, 2026
First Contest Allowed	March 16, 2026
CPL Regular Season Begins	March 16, 2026
CPL Regular Season Ends	April 25, 2026

VI. CPL Calendar - Championship

Championship Entries Deadline	April 26, 2026 @ 11:59 PM
Championship Brackets Distributed	April 28, 2026 by 5:00 PM
CPL Championship	May 1 - 2, 2026

VII. IHSA State Series Calendar

IHSA Sectional Entries Deadline	May 4, 2026 @ 10:00 AM
IHSA Sectional Seed Meeting	May 4, 2026 beginning at 5:30 PM
IHSA Sectional Competitions	May 7, 2026
IHSA State Final Seed Meeting	May 11, 2026
IHSA State Hit Around	May 14, 2026
IHSA State Finals	May 15 - 16, 2026

VIII. Team Regulations	
REGULATION	VARSITY
Minimum Requirements for Team Approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student-athlete roster minimum • Completion of league schedule • Receipt of results in league score sheet • Participation in CPL Championship (as eligible)
IHSA Contest Limitations	18 dates, exclusive of the IHSA series and inclusive of CPL Championship tournament matches
Minimum Students on Roster	9
Minimum Students Eligible on Competition Days	9
Uniform Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All players shall appear in the universally accepted badminton clothing – blouse or school issued t-shirt, shorts or skirt and smooth rubber- or composition-soled shoes. • Shorts/skirts must be a predominantly solid color. • If players wish to maintain an increased level of modesty, leggings will be permitted, provided the color is a predominantly solid color. • The only writing (screened or embroidered) shall be a school logo or name, NOT across the back of the short/skirt. • Uniforms MUST be worn as the manufacturer intended. • Hats may NOT be worn during competition. • School-approved uniforms MUST be worn during warm-ups and competition. • It is required that doubles partners wear uniform tops and bottoms of the same color. • The Office of Sports Administration reserves the right to determine appropriateness of all uniforms and the language/messages printed on the uniforms.
Special Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is CPS policy and the general stance of the Office of Sports Administration to allow student participation in a manner that aligns with students' identity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ See the CPS LGBTQ+ Supportive Environments site for more information and guidelines ◦ See the IHSA Transgender Policy for IHSA state series protocol • It is the policy of the IHSA to provide students with disabilities full and equal opportunities to be integrated in IHSA interscholastic sports and activities whenever possible and pursuant to the IHSA Policy for Accommodations.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o A disability is an impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity. Disability includes, but is not limited to, physical impairments, mental impairments, visual impairments, hearing impairments, intellectual impairments, learning disabilities. o A request for an accommodation should be submitted prior to the start of the applicable athletic or activity season, or as soon as is practically possible in light of the accommodation being sought. A student, parent/guardian, or member school may request an accommodation by submitting the Request for Accommodation Form to the IHSA.
<p>Stipend Forfeiture</p>	<p>Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the sport will result in forfeiture of the coaching stipend and possibly loss of recognition for that team.</p>

IX. League Regulations

<p>IHSA Rules & Regulations</p>	<p>The Illinois High School Association (IHSA) regulates the competition of interscholastic sports for the state of Illinois, providing guidelines via the IHSA Constitution & By-Laws and sport-specific IHSA Terms & Conditions.</p> <p>Any exceptions to these rules are listed in the CPL Girls Badminton Terms & Conditions included herein.</p>
<p>Conference Alignments, League Schedule, & Coach Directory</p>	<p>SY2025–26 CPL Girls Badminton Resource Sheet</p>
<p>Conference Format</p>	<p>Single Round Robin</p>
<p>Conference Standings</p>	<p>Conference standings shall be determined on the basis of conference matches won and lost, as recorded in the League Score Sheet, which can be found in the season resource sheet.</p>
<p>Tie-Breaker Rules</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In the case of a tie in conference standings between two teams, the higher place shall be determined by head-to-head competition. ● In the case of a tie between three teams, the teams that have the greatest score differential in games played between tied teams will be awarded the higher place.
<p>Awards & Recognition</p>	<p>Conference Champion trophies will be awarded to the team with the best win-loss record in each conference.</p>

<p>Promotion & Relegation of Teams</p>	<p>The promotion and relegation of teams will be determined by the Athletic Program Administrator.</p>
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X. League Competition

<p>Official Start Time of Contests</p>	<p>5:00 PM</p>
<p>Regular Season Dates</p>	<p>Regular season competitions may begin on Monday, March 16, 2026. All league competitions must be completed by end of day on Saturday, April 25, 2026.</p>
<p>Contest Regulations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● For Chicago Public League competitions, student-athletes must play singles OR doubles; they may NOT play both. ● Match winners are determined by the best 2 of 3 games to 21 rally scoring (i.e. win by 2). If the game score becomes tied at 29 - 29, the 30th point determines the winner. ● A minimum of 5 total matches of 3 singles matches and 2 doubles matches will constitute a formal match. The team winner is determined by a majority of matches won. ● Teams can agree to play more than the minimum 5 matches, provided the total is an odd number, and that more singles matches than doubles matches are played (e.g. 7 total, with 4 singles and 3 doubles). ● Prior to the match, coaches should provide rosters, which shall be signed with the terms of the number of matches as a formal agreement.
<p>Equipment & Court Regulations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Yonex Aeroclear 30 (ACL303), Speed 3 is the official IHSA shuttlecock. ● Badminton rackets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Must be of a length—including the handle, shaft, and face—no greater than 26 inches in length ○ Must not exceed 9 inches in width at its widest point ○ Must include a stringed area that is not greater than 11 inches in length and 8 2/3 inches in width ● Badminton courts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Must be properly lined with 44 mm wide tape in either white or yellow ○ Must be 20 ft x 44 ft for doubles ○ Must be 17 ft x 44 ft for singles ● Badminton nets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Must measure 30" from bottom to top ○ Must consist of a uniform, dark-colored mesh

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Must have a white tape running along the top to make the net’s full height visible to players and officials o Must measure 5’ high at the center and 5’ 1” at the sides, attached to vertical posts on either side of the court
<p>Home Team & Site Requirements</p>	<p>In coordination with the Athletic Director, the home coach is required to coordinate all necessary details for successful hosting, including proactive communication to the visiting team(s).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Secure a permit for use of the building where applicable ● Provide at least two courts for competition ● Ensure the court and net meet competition regulations ● A faculty member, student aide, or student leader should welcome the visiting team on their arrival and should be available to assist the visiting school at all times 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.
<p>Results Reporting</p>	<p>All scores must be submitted to the Office of Sports Administration through the league score sheet. Results must be submitted within 48 hours following the completion of the competition. The host team is responsible for maintaining accurate scores and results for home matches throughout the season.</p>
<p>Rescheduling Protocol</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Any rescheduling of a league contest must be approved by the Athletic Program Administrator. The rescheduling of a league contest without approval may result in a forfeit and/or will not be recognized as a true league contest. ● Coaches are expected to be aware of challenges that may impede their competition schedule, which may include but are not limited to: school and facility limitations, transportation challenges, athlete eligibility challenges, etc. As such, coaches are expected to proactively communicate and to be self-sufficient in working toward a resolution, with communication taking precedence.
<p>Determination of a Forfeit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If a team is running late, it is up to the traveling coach to communicate that with the hosting coach. A late arrival of 30 minutes or more without communication will result in a forfeit. ● If a team does not show for a contest, the Athletic Program Administrator has the exclusive authority to determine whether the contest shall be recorded as a forfeit, as no contest, or if it must be rescheduled. ● Two forfeits resulting from the failure to show for contests (with the appropriate number of eligible athletes) will result in the loss of approval/recognition for that team. Article X of the Chicago Public

	Schools Athletics Constitution & By-Laws addresses cancellations and forfeitures in full.
Score of a Forfeit	1 - 0 (i.e. win/loss)

XI. CPL Championship Tournament

Tournament Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CPL Championship tournament will consist of four components: Singles 1 tournament, Singles 2 tournament, Doubles 1 tournament, and Doubles 2 tournament. • Each bracket will consist of 12 qualifiers with one entry per bracket for each of the top four teams in each conference. • Players will progress in a double-elimination format and tournament brackets will be cross-seeded, with points ascribed so as to prevent stacking. • The team with the most points will be recognized as the Chicago Public League Champion. • In the event of a tie between teams, the CPL Championship will be awarded to the team with the least amount of points given up.
Distribution & Explanation of Seeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeding will be based on singles' and doubles' individual overall season records. • In the event of a tie, head-to-head competition results will first be taken into consideration, followed by common opponent results with the least amount of points given up.
Substitutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each team will be allotted up two two substitutes for singles and two substitutes for doubles. • Substitutes will ONLY be permitted in the event of injury or illness, and must be documented in writing by the school principal (email) or doctor (formal doctor's note). If the injury/illness occurs on the day of competition, written documentation by the principal or doctor will not be required. • Request for substitution MUST be made known via written email ASAP. • Only student-athletes included in the entry form will be allowed to substitute in place of entries. • Moving a player from one bracket to another, or from doubles to singles or singles to doubles, will NOT be permitted.
Awards & Recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chicago Public League Championship shields will be awarded to the team champion and to the team runner-up. • Team medals will be awarded to the team champion and team runner-up. • Individual medals will be awarded to 1st - 4th place finishers of each of the singles and doubles tournaments.

XII. Officials & Fees

REGULATION	VARSITY
Number of Officials	Not applicable
Officials Fees	Not applicable
Selection of Officials	Not applicable
OSA League Costs	<p>The Office of Sports Administration budget accounts for payment of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Awards for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Conference Champion trophies ○ CPL Champion & CPL Runner-Up trophies ○ CPL Championship team and individual medals ● CPS Safety & Security for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CPL Championship ● CPL Championship coach hospitality

XIII. Additional Sport Notes

- While a member of a school team, a student-athlete shall not be allowed to represent any other organization without permission from the IHSA through a waiver request in that sport during the official sport season.
- The IHSA offers state-wide [Awards & Recognition](#) in a variety of areas, including:
 - IHSA All-State Academic Team
 - IHSA Team Academic Award
 - IHSA Scholastic Recognition Program
 - Sportsmanship Banner Award
 - Student Section Showdown
 - IHSA Officials of the Year
 - IHSA Distinguished Service Award

XIV. Media & 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 athletic staff and student-athletes:

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

CPS Sports Communications Team

- Communications Manager: Joey Gelman – jdgelman@cps.edu
- Communications Specialist: Michael Wojtychiw – mmwojtichiw@cps.edu

XV. 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.