

Girls and Boys Lacrosse Manual



SY26



LACROSSE Terms and Conditions SEASON 2026

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The Office of Sports Administration (OSA) is excited to welcome you to another Chicago Public League Spring Sports Season!

Please review the included Terms & Conditions 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.

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

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

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2026-2027 Points Of Emphasis

The Office of Sports Administration is prioritizing these points of emphasis for the 2023 season.

Non-compliance with any of the following may result in a coach forfeiting their athletic stipend.

Non-compliance with any of the following may also require the school to have a supervisory conference with OSA.

- **An individual can only receive a 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.
- Schools that opt into the IHSA playoffs and then drop out of any state series events will be **required** to pay a financial penalty to the IHSA and be placed on potential probation per their rules and regulations.
- It is **required** for all teams to participate in the online IHSA seeding process for your sport when applicable.
- It is **required** for all teams and coaches to rate their officials via the IHSA guidelines throughout the season.
- Teams that qualify are expected to participate in OSA sponsored post season activities. Any school that drops out of the Chicago Public League City Playoffs will be **required** to meet with OSA for a supervisory conference and further consequences may be forthcoming.
- It is **required** to upload all non-conference schedules to the rSchoolToday Activity Scheduler **and** to the sport's specific online results mechanism prior to the start of the season.
 - [MaxPreps](#) | [SwimCloud](#) | [Athletic.net](#) | [IWanaMaker](#)
- All participating teams are **required to upload complete rosters (numbers, name, position, grade as applicable) to the sport's specific online results mechanism and to turn accurate rosters into OSA** prior to the start of their season through the folder system below.. Active rosters must be maintained throughout the season and schools are required to update their rosters accordingly throughout the season. Use this linked folder and the following template.
 - [Roster Template](#) | [Roster Upload Folder](#)
 - [MaxPreps](#) | [SwimCloud](#) | [Athletic.net](#) | [IWanaMaker](#)

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](#)

Non-Conference Schedules

The Office of Sports Administration (OSA) **is requiring** all teams to submit their non-conference schedules prior to the start of the season and are required to update non-conference schedules throughout the season.

- **Coaches must submit their non-conference schedules to their Athletic Directors/ Coordinators to be input in the rSchool City-Wide Activity Scheduler.**
- **All conference and non-conference games within the rSchool Activity Scheduler will automatically be pushed to Max Preps and each school's VNN Athletics Site.**
- **This allows the public and District to have a complete and accurate schedule through the official CPL Scheduler with rSchoolToday.**

This request is being made to ensure that all Chicago Public League (CPL) schools are in compliance with schedule limits as stated by the Illinois High School Association (IHSA). This also includes adherence to any CPL policies regarding the health, safety and welfare of student athletes and coaches for travel inside/outside the city of Chicago. OSA wants to ensure that all teams have received the necessary permissions from building principals and athletic directors for non-conference team travel.

By having full conference and non-conference schedules, OSA will have accurate record keeping of won-loss records during the regular season for the purpose of city playoff rankings and state series competition placement. Additionally, the information provided will allow OSA to recognize achievements by athletes, coaches and teams for historical record keeping purposes and interest by local and national media outlets.

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 all of the following certification/training for the current year.

[Certifications for all coaches](#)

Media / 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.

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

- Ensure all student media consent forms are signed via the standard CPS enrollment packet.
- Make coaches / players available as requested for pre and post game interviews.
- Share accomplishments and milestones with the CPS Sports Communications Team so they can highlight your school.
- 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- Dominic Scianna - dscianna@cps.edu
- Communications Specialist - Michael Wojtychiw - mmwojtichiw@cps.edu

Key Links

The Chicago Public League is governed by the [Chicago Public Schools Athletics Constitution and By-laws](#). All coaches must read this document in order 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.

- [General Governance](#)
- [Team Approval](#)
- [Student Eligibility](#)
- [Central Office Record Sheets \(CORS\) Roster Management](#)
- [Eligibility Certificates and Playoff Rosters](#)
- [League Regulations – Eligibility, Forfeits, Contest Results, etc.](#)

Required Meetings & Trainings

Pre-Season Coaches Meeting
Online Lacrosse Coaches Meeting
February 18,2026
**PCA Training Session/
Professional Development Head Coaches**

[Pre-Season / In-Season Safe Schools Trainings](#)



League Calendar

CPS Calendar - Regular Season Information

Draft Schedule Release	Thursday, December 7, 2025
Official Release of the Schedule	Friday, January 26, 2026
Pre-Season Coaches Meeting	Wednesday, February 18, 2026
Team Roster Loaded To ASPEN	Monday, February 26, 2026
Hard Copy Central Office Record Sheets (CORS) Due	Wednesday, March 13, 2026
Maxprep Entry Deadline (all levels)	Monday, February 26, 2026
1st Contest (allowable per IHSA)	Monday, March 16, 2026
Season Starts	March 2 2026
Public League Conference Season	
Boys' League	Thursday, April 3, 2026
Girls' League	Thursday, April 3, 2026

CPS Post Season and Playoff Calendar

Playoffs seed meeting	TBD
Playoff Brackets Finalized	Friday, April 28, 2026
Playoff Rosters Due	Friday, April 28, 2026
Start of Playoffs Season	Monday, May 5, 2026

CPS Post Season and Playoff Calendar - Boys

City Tournament Quarterfinals @ Rockne	Monday, May 4, 2026
City Tournament Semifinals @ Winnemac	Thursday, May 7, 2026
City Tournament Final @ Lane	Saturday, May 9, 2026

CPS Post Season and Playoff Calendar - Girls

City Tournament Quarterfinals @ Lane Stadium & Winnemac	Monday, May 4, 2026
City Tournament Semifinals @ Lane Stadium	Thursday, May 6, 2026
City Tournament Final @ Lane Stadium	Saturday, May 9, 2026

Alignment/IHSA Page:

IHSA Page:
[Boys Lacrosse](#)
[Girls Lacrosse](#)

Coach Expectations

- A.** All coaches are especially required to abide by [Article III – Specific Responsibilities of Coaches](#) which outlines coach certification criteria, comportment and sportsmanship, and other instances of compliance. In order to satisfy the coaching certification requirements and individual must: [HS Coaching Eligibility Handbook](#)
- Satisfy all CPS staffing requirements, which include but are not limited to an online application, background check and drug test;
 - Complete an IHSA-approved Coaches Certification program;
 - Complete the concussion management training specified by the Office of Sports Administration;
 - Complete the PES awareness training mandated through the IHSA;
 - Complete CPR/AED training;
 - Satisfy annual professional development and training requirements specified by the Office of Sports Administration;
 - 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.
 - Assist and monitor students in regards to COVID-19 screening and in the maintenance of attendance during team practices and functions.
 - Violations of any Section of this Article could lead to disciplinary action taken against the coach and/or the school.
- B.** The criteria for a coach to receive the stipend from the Office of Sports Administration is listed in the Terms and Conditions for that sport and must be fulfilled in order for a coach to be remunerated. Only coaches of approved teams will be eligible for the stipend.
- C.** Head coaches are expected to assist the school athletic director in generating Central Office Record Sheets and Eligibility Rosters. All coaches are expected to assist the school athletic director in the monitoring of weekly eligibility (active/inactive students) and likewise enforce the academic eligibility rules within the Chicago Public League program.
- D.** Coaches are expected to prepare teams for competition through consistent and appropriate practice sessions.
- E.** Whereas the professional conduct of coaches and the exhibition of true sportsmanship by student-athletes is a point of emphasis for the Chicago Public League.
- F.** Coaches must ensure that details pertaining to contests are properly arranged and ensure that provisions are made to start contests according to the scheduled start time.
- G.** Coaches are responsible for submitting league and non-league contest results to the reporting mechanism established by each sport. Scores/results must be reported within 24 hours of the contest.
- H.** Coaches are responsible for rating officials through the IHSA School Center.



Playing Regulations

	Varsity	JV
Contest Limitations	Nineteen (19) games	Twelve (12) games
Minimum Contests for Team approval	League Schedule and Playoffs	7
Length/Time of Contests	Girls: 50 min (2x25min halves) Boys: 48 min (4x12min quarters)	Girls: 40 min (2x20min halves) Boys: 40 min (4x10min quarters)
Halftime Length	10 min	8 min
Maximum Students on the Roster	21	21
Minimum Students on Roster	19	12
Minimum on Game Day	19	12
Uniform Considerations	All contest will be played according to the 2023 NFHS Rules Book	



Protocols For League Play

Official Start Time of Contests	5:00 pm - unless otherwise indicated on the schedule or by special consideration of the Athletic Program Administrator in charge of Boys & Girls Lacrosse League
End of the League Schedule	All league games must be completed by May 12, 2026
Schedules	Schedules provided by the Office of Sports Administration: Athletic Program Administrator.
Rescheduling Protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Any rescheduling of a league contest must be approved by the Athletic Program Administrator in charge of Boys & Girls Lacrosse League. ● The rescheduling of the Boys & Girls Lacrosse League contest without the approval from the Athletic Program Administrator may not be recognized as an official league contest.
Forfeitures and/or Failure to Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Any team that does not show or participate in a scheduled contest/game. ● A forfeiting team must notify their opposing team before 10:00 am the day before the scheduled contest to give the necessary time to cancel transportation. ● Each team must rate the game officials through the school's IHSA portal.
Home Team/Site Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Secure a permit for the use of the building/field. ● 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. ● <u>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.</u> ● If spectators are permitted, no less that 50% of the available space shall be set aside for the visiting school when it is requested. ● Any game, which is not completed, due to the failure of the home management to make proper arrangements, shall be forfeited to the opponent.
Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Each school will provide teams Lacrosse equipment i.e. helmets, sticks, pads, balls, jerseys, etc. ● No one can share equipment i.e. helmets, sticks, pads, jerseys, etc...
Coaches Expectations and Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coordinate grade checks every week for all team members. ● The coach must see that all details pertaining to the game are properly arranged. ● The coach shall see that provisions are made to start the game on time in order to finish the game within the limit of the building permit. ● The coach shall see that the eligibility certificates are exchanged with the opposing coach and submitted to the school athletic director. Officials' names and comments must be registered on the reverse side of the eligibility certificate. ● The coach may select teachers or regularly enrolled students to act as scorers and timers. These individuals must be properly trained before games are played ● Coaches must enter the scores of all games on MaxPreps.

Stipends

- Coaching positions eligible for a stipend: Head Varsity Coach, Varsity Assistant Coach, and Head JV Coach
- All OSA approved teams must participate in the following to receive a stipend:
 - Conference meets and additional non-conference meets for a minimum of 10 meets.
 - CPL City Championship Tournament.
- Non-Participation fines:
 - Any school that does not participate in all conference meets will be fined up to 75% (varsity) and 100% (JV) of stipend.
 - Any school that does not participate in the CPL Varsity Championship Tournament will be fined 25% of coaches' stipend. The fines will be deducted from the coaching stipend.
 - Any school team that forfeits two (2) dates will not be recognized as having team status and eliminated from conference participation and will not receive a stipend from OSA.



Officials				
-	Varsity	Varsity Playoff	JV	JV Playoff
Number of Officials	2 Person	2 Person	2 Person	1 Person
Fees	\$84.00	\$84.00	\$72.00	\$89.00
Selection of Officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All officials must be registered with IHSA. Assignments are made by the APA in charge of Boys & Girls Lacrosse League. 			
What if Officials do not show?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When an official arrives late or fails to appear, and both schools agree to play, the game shall stand as played. If the official assigned arrives in time to assume control of part of the game, she/he shall begin only at the termination of a quarter/half and be paid for the part of the game that he/she has worked. If assigned official shows for the game, the host school should contact the Athletic Program Administrator (APA) in charge of Boys & Girls Lacrosse League for further instructions. 			

Game Day Eligibility
<p>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).</p> <p>B. 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.</p>



League Structure & Conference Standings

League Alignments	
League Format and Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All teams participating in the Chicago Public League will play a single Conference round robin schedule. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Team standings are determined based upon Conference games wins and losses. ○ All scores must be entered into Maxpreps.com. Athletic Directors and Head Coaches are responsible for verifying scores/results.
Standings Determination	Team standings shall be determined on the basis of games won and lost.
Scores/Results Reporting	All scores should be submitted to the MaxPreps (maxpreps.com) website.
Score of a forfeit	Forfeit score is 1-0 per the IHSA terms and conditions.
Tie breaker rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Head to head competition winner. ● Common opponent winner, if more than 2 teams are tied. ● IHSA “for” points, also known as power points.

Chicago Public League Playoffs & Championships

Tournament Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Top 8 teams move to the play-offs. ● Single round elimination
Distribution and Explanation of Seeds	Seeding will be based on conference standing.