

Boys Volleyball Manual



SY26

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Volleyball | 2025-2026 CPL Manual

Introduction:

Please review the included manual document for key program information, requirements, and rules and regulations as it relate 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 the coaches' season stipend. All questions can be directed to the Athletic Program Administrator (APA) listed below.

Athletic Program Administrator: Assignor of Officials:

Name Cynthia Irvin (CEIRVIN@CPS.EDU) 773-553-6723

Assignor Pam Young (Pameladyoung@aol.com) 312-388-1852 Nehemiah Battle (nehemiahbattle@gmail.com)

OSA Mission Statement

The Office of Sports Administration oversees the equitable implementation of sports programs across all elementary and high schools within Chicago Public Schools (CPS) and the Chicago Public League (CPL). Through effective sports policy development and program management, OSA helps schools provide essential athletic and academic development for each student-athlete. It is OSA's goal 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 learn the importance of **Academic, athletic, and Social Awareness** as they progress through our program and become leaders in their communities.

Key Links

The official rules of the **National Federation of High School Associations** shall govern all Public League competitions. Any exceptions to these rules are listed in these Terms and Conditions. *The Chicago Public [Schools Athletics Constitution and By-laws govern the Chicago Public League](#). 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 [2026 calendar Boys Volleyball CINDY IRVIN](#) provides additional logistical information for coaches and athletic directors, including the coaches' directory.



2025-2026 Points of Emphasis:

The Chicago Public League (CPL) has updated rules and regulations for the 2025-26 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 or 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 and players who are subsequently identified as exhibiting unsportsmanlike conduct and/or incidents deemed more egregious will be subject to further discipline by the CPS Student Code of Conduct (SCC) and the Unsportsmanship and Misconduct for Student-Athletes and Coaches protocol. The CPL prioritizes sportsmanship and expects our administrators, coaches, and players to uphold these standards as a model, ensuring respect, dignity, and safety for CPL participants in all sports-related activities we oversee.

IHSA

- A) **FAILURE TO WITHDRAW FROM IHSA CONTESTS BY THE DEADLINE** - CPL schools that 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. The IHSA Board recently approved this at its 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 years two and three. The IHSA will provide additional education on this process and rationale throughout the upcoming school year, including explanations of the numeric rating 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 creates opportunities for them to work IHSA Series contests.

- C) **POSTSEASON SEEDING** - It is required that all coaches who enter their schools in the IHSA state series participate in the official seeding process for their 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 be posted to MaxPreps under our data agreement with these companies.

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CPS Calendar – Regular Season Information

Season Starts - 1st Practice	Monday, March 9
Team Roster Loaded to ASPEN Deadline	Monday, March 16
First Contest Allowed	Monday, March 23
Hard Copy Central Office Record Sheets (CORS) Due	Monday, March 30
CPS Regular Season Competition Starts	Monday, March 23
CPS Regular Season Competition Ends	Thursday, May 7
Mandatory Make-up Day for the competition by	Wednesday, May 6

CPS Calendar - Post-Season and Championship Information

Team/Individual Rosters for Qualifier Rounds Due	Friday, May 8
CPL Playoffs Start	Tuesday, May 12
Championship Seed Meeting Virtual Live Brackets	Friday, May 8
Playoff Dates	Tuesday, May 12
CPL Championships	Thursday, May 21

IHSA Series Calendar	
List of Participants Due On-Line (Wed. Week 12)	Thursday, May 7
Regionals (Wed. Week 13)	Monday, May 25
Sectionals (Mon. Week 14)	Saturday, May 30
State Final (Fri.-Sat. Week 14)	Friday, June 5&6
Season Ends (Sat. Week 15)	Sat, June 6

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Team Approval 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 to confirm team approval.

- Teams must have at least 12 Varsity, 10 Sophomore, 8 Frosh student-athletes registered per team and submit a hard copy [Central Office Record Sheet](#) to the Office of Sports Administration by the specified deadline. • Teams must compete in all CPL-sponsored contests, which include conference games and the CPL playoffs (*2 forfeits in a season result in loss of team approval*).
- Teams are expected to participate in the IHSA Series if they have registered. Teams that sign up but do not attend games will be required to pay a \$500 penalty fee, which will be paid directly to the IHSA. [Online Entry Process for the IHSA Series](#) • Teams looking to join the League for the 2026 season must complete the Google form, [School Request to Add a Sport/Level](#).

Host Arrangements

- For Chicago Public League contests, it is the responsibility of the school designated as the home team to procure the playing facility. A legitimate option if the school does not have a home facility is to schedule the game at the opponent's home site.
- A faculty member, student aide, or student leader should welcome the visiting team upon arrival and be available to assist the visiting school throughout their stay at the host school. The host school is responsible for assisting the visiting team on their departure. The coach is responsible for all players until they have left the playing site.
- In the case where a school is playing at their home site, the home school must provide the following
- equipment in good condition:
 - 1) A steel cable net
 - 2) Padded referee's platform
 - 3) Padded floor/wall cables
 - 4) Padded standards
 - 5) Antennae

- 6) 2 balls approved balls and 2 ball retrievers
- E) Ensure that the net is secure and set to 7 feet 11 ⁵/₈ inches.
- F) 1 official scorer (adult preferred) and 1 timer. The coach may select teachers or regularly enrolled students to act as scorekeepers. These individuals must be adequately trained before the games are played.
- G) Court markings should be specified in the National Federation of High School Associations Volleyball 2023-24 Rules Book, Rule 3.
- H) Schools that do not have the specified regulation equipment will not be allowed to host home games and must travel until the equipment is repaired or replaced and deemed safe.
- I) The maximum admission charge for a home game is \$8.

Coach Expectations

- A) [Chicago Public League Coaches' Code of Conduct and General Expectations](#)
- B) Coaches must complete IHSA and CPS certification requirements before coaching student-athletes.
- C) [Certifications for all coaches](#)
- D) Coaches must use the [CPL High School Coaches Registration Link](#) to register prior to acting in a coaching capacity.



- E) The Chicago Public League requires all its students, officials, coaches, spectators, and school staff to promote **sportsmanship** before, during, and after every game. Offensive language, including profanity and derogatory or intimidating remarks directed at officials, event staff, student-athletes, coaches, or team representatives, will not be tolerated. For sportsmanship to prevail, all coaches, students, staff, and spectators must display respect and civility to support our student-athletes enthusiastically, creating a safe and inclusive environment. [Sportsmanship Guidelines](#).
- F) The coaching staff is expected to organize and prepare athletes through consistent practice and workouts designed to enhance their performance in Volleyball matches.
- G) The coaching staff is responsible for the following Game Management for every contest:
 - 1) 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.*
 - 4) Possessing an accurate numerical roster identifying student-athletes by jersey number.
 - 5) Reporting the game score to the Office of Sports Administration designated score reporting mechanism within 24 hours of the contest.
 - 6) 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. *In addition to reporting the score and schedule (Conference and Non-conference Games), the Head Coach is responsible for speaking with officials after their game to confirm the names of all players who received yellow or red cards.*
 - 7) Coaches shall not use tobacco products, drink alcoholic beverages, or be under the influence of alcoholic beverages or any illegal substance at any time while performing their coaching duties.

Playing/League Regulations

	Varsity	Soph	Frosh
Team Contest Limitations	Exclusive of the IHSA series, 35 matches	35 matches	35 matches
Individual Contest Limitations	No boys' volleyball team representing a member school shall play in more than five (5) different matches during any given volleyball tournament.	same	same
Minimum Contests for Team Approval	League schedule and playoffs	8 games	8 games
Length/Time of Contests	Best two out of three games to 25 Rally scoring, win by two (2) points	same	same
Maximum Students on the Roster	15	15	15
Minimum Students on Roster	12 (Varsity)	10 (soph)	8(freshman)
Minimum on Game Day	8	7	6

A) Equipment and Uniforms

1) [Boys Volleyball Uniform Requirements](#)

2) 2 IHSA /NFHS balls (approved by an authentication mark)

3) An AED must be on-site for all games, with personnel trained to operate the machine.

B) The official start time of contests is 5:00 pm unless otherwise approved by the Office of Sports Administration. Varsity teams will play first at 5:00 pm, followed by sophomores.



C) All games are to be played as scheduled. Games may not be canceled or rescheduled without authorization from the Office of Sports Administration.

1) Volleyball's Coordinating Athletic Program Administrator (APA) must approve all rescheduled games. 2) Varsity and Soph games can be scheduled to be played on the same day at an earlier time. Initial arrangements should be reported to the Coordinating APA of Volleyball and included with the formal release of the final schedule. Changes in the order of games played on a given day must be reported to the APA at least 24 hours before the matches.

D) Forfeiture of Games:

1) A school forfeiting two or more conference games based on a lack of players will lose team recognition. A letter to the principal, athletic director, and coach shall be sent to notify the school of the impending action, including the forfeiture of the coaching stipend.

2) If a team and its faculty representative are not ready to play within thirty minutes of the scheduled contest time, the host school must contact the Coordinating APA of Volleyball for a determination of the game's status. E) All non-conference games should be contracted with the opposing school.

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

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

H) Games will be affected due to a work stoppage and will be managed in accordance with the IHSA Constitution and

Bylaws.

- I) Teams in the **Super and Red** Conferences must field both a varsity and a sophomore team to remain in those conferences.

Officials

	Varsity	Varsity Playoff	Soph	Frosh
Number of Game Officials	2		2	2
Fees	\$65.00 each		\$58.00 Each	\$45.00 Each

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

A) Selection of Officials

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

B) What if the Officials do not show?

- 1) If neither official arrives, coaches can officiate or mutually agree on an official. Contact the APA in charge of volleyball or the assignor to attempt to resolve the issue.
- 2) If there is only one official, the match must still be played, and the official will receive an additional \$20.00 for each match officiated. Two (2) officials shall be assigned to all Chicago Public League matches.
- 3) In the event of a game-day forfeit, the scheduled officials will be paid as if they officiated the game.



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:

- 1) Varsity teams shall consist of students in the first, second, third, or fourth year of attendance who will not reach their 20th birthday during the sports season.
- 2) For sophomore competition, the student shall be eligible in the first or second year in attendance and shall not

have reached the seventeenth (17th) birthday before September 1 of the current school year.

- 3) For freshmen competition, the student shall be eligible in the first year of attendance and shall not have reached the sixteenth (16th) birthday before September 1 of the current school year.
 - 4) Varsity and Sophomore teams **will have separate** eligibility sheets. Players may **NOT** appear on both the varsity eligibility roster and a sophomore eligibility roster on the same day.
 - 5) Freshmen-level players **must also have separate** eligibility sheets.
- C) Vertical movement will only be allowed between the sophomore and varsity levels. 2 Players are allowed to participate in three (3) sets total each game day. (Vertical Movement tracking sheets are provided in the Google Folder for boys' Volleyball.)
- D) Once a student appears on the Varsity eligibility certificate, that student is ineligible for the lower levels. Once the student appears on the Sophomore eligibility certificate, the student is ineligible for the Freshman level.
- E) 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.
- F) 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.

League Structure and Conference Standings

[League Alignment](#)

- A) Once the league schedule begins, any adjustments to the final schedule must be communicated to OSA, but *administrative responsibility will not fall on the Office of Sports Administration. The home team of the games in question must procure the alternative site, confirm the new date with the opposing team, and hire the officials.* B) Each team is assigned to a conference for single round robin play.
- C) In the event a scheduled match is not played, the match will be recorded as “no-contest,” and neither team will be awarded a win or loss. *Rescheduled games shall be played on dates approved by the Coordinating APA of Volleyball.*
- D) Standings:
- 1) The ranking of teams determines standings according to the number of conference game wins.
 - 2) The Score of a Forfeit is 2-0.
- E) In case of a tie in Division standings, the higher place shall be determined by:
- 1) Head-to-head competition results.
 - 2) In the case of a tie between three (3) or more teams, the team that has the greatest game differential in games played between tied teams will be awarded the higher place. We will then proceed to head-to-head matchups.



- a. *Whenever two teams remain tied after applying the multiple-team tiebreaker(s), the tiebreaker for two teams are then applied to those tied teams.*
- b. If the game differential does not break a tie between three (3) or more teams, the teams with the greatest point differential of games played with tied teams will be awarded higher places.
 - c. If point differential in games does not break a tie between three (3) or more teams, the teams with the greatest point differential with a maximum of twenty-five (25) points per game from all League games will be awarded the higher places.
 - d. If the previous tiebreakers do not break the tie, two teams will be drawn by lot by the APA. These two teams are then separated by head-to-head competition.

Chicago Public League Championship Tournaments

A) Qualification Criteria

- 1) The Volleyball Championship will consist of a 32-team single-elimination tournament.
- 2) Seeding for the Championship Tournament will be based on Conference standings. The 32 teams qualifying for the Championship tournament are:
 - a. Seeds 1- 10 will be the Ten (10) Gold

Conference teams

- b. Seeds 11-24 will be the Top seven (7) Red Conference teams per conference
 - c. Seeds 25-30 will be the Top three (3) Green Conference teams per conference
 - d. Seeds 31-32 will be the Top Blue Conference teams
- 3) In the event of a forfeit during League games, the team will face further disciplinary action, including probation to enter the CPL Tournament the following season.

B) Championship Tournament Structure

- 1) In the first and second rounds, the higher-seeded teams will host playoff matches unless the court is not regulation size or determined to be unsafe. In that case, the other team will be the home team. If neither court is regulation size or is deemed unsafe, the section chairperson of the higher-ranked team will arrange the neutral site.
- 2) Subsequent rounds will be played at neutral sites.
- 3) There will be a sixteen-tournament bracket for Sophomore Teams
 - a. All Gold Conference teams
 - b. Top two (2) Red Conference teams per conference
 - c. Top Green Conference teams per conference

C) Special Rules

- 1) If a team does not have its playoff roster, the game will be played **under protest**. The offending team **MUST** create a hand-written roster in front of their opponent and the referees. Each athlete will print, sign, and write their name, date of birth, and School ID number. This hand-written roster must be emailed to the APA in charge of Volleyball for comparison with the school team's Playoff Roster. If the names on both rosters do not match, the offending team will forfeit the game.

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.

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

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

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 are 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 effects of online actions on themselves and their community, both in the digital space and in person.

The Chicago Public League asks all athletic staff, coaches, and student-athletes to engage in respectful, positive social media interactions. Should any inappropriate social media be 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 involved.