

CSK – IPL 2025/26 AUCTION WAR-ROOM PLAYBOOK

Franchise DNA: Leadership · Spin control · Indian experience · Bowling wins trophies

1. BUDGET BLUEPRINT (■100 Cr)

Segment	Target Spend	CSK Logic
Leader / Captain	■8–12 Cr	Calm, tactical, Indian preferred
Spin Bowlers / Spin ARs	■22–26 Cr	Chepauk dominance
Powerplay Bowlers	■14–18 Cr	Swing + accuracy
Death Bowlers (variation)	■16–20 Cr	Slower balls, yorkers
Batting Core (spin-friendly)	■18–22 Cr	Sweep & rotation
Bench / Experience	■4–6 Cr	Reliable backups

2. ROLE PRIORITY (STRICT ORDER)

- 1) Indian spin bowlers / spin all-rounders
- 2) Indian death bowlers with variations
- 3) Indian powerplay swing bowlers
- 4) Spin-friendly top/middle-order batters
- 5) Overseas specialists (only if role-unique)

3. CSK-SPECIFIC BIDDING RULES

- ✓ Prefer experience over hype
- ✓ Captaincy value allowed (within cap)
- ✓ Bowlers > batters at Chepauk
- ✗ No overseas-only finishers
- ✗ No raw pace without control
- ✗ Avoid one-season breakout batters

4. BOWLING ATTACK CHECKLIST

- ✓ 2 quality spinners (at least 1 Indian)
- ✓ 1 spin-bowling all-rounder
- ✓ 2 powerplay bowlers (swing/seam)
- ✓ 2 death bowlers with slower-ball control
- ✓ Minimum 7 bowling options including Impact Player

5. BATTING PROFILE (CHEPAUK-FRIENDLY)

- ✓ Comfortable vs spin
- ✓ Strike rotation > brute power
- ✓ Sweep/reverse sweep ability
- ✓ Batting depth till No.7

6. WALK-AWAY TRIGGERS (CSK)

- Overseas batter above cap
- Pace bowler without variations
- Player unsuitable for Chepauk
- Role already filled by experience

At CSK, control beats chaos. Build for Chepauk, win everywhere.