



Esports Sport Handbook

Winter of 2025-26

Section 1: Rules

All contests under the jurisdiction of the RIIL shall be played according to the National Federation of State High School Associations and PlayVS Rules, except for any special rulings adopted by the Committee and listed in Section 8 of this handbook below.

- Any school participating in a RIIL Esport Title must have each student complete the [RIIL Esport Title Acknowledgement Form](#). All forms must be submitted to your district Athletic Director.
- Any school looking to participate in any additional titles not offered by the RIIL must have each student complete the [Additional Esport Title Request Form](#). All forms must be submitted to your district Athletic Director.

Section 2: Mandatory Coaches Certification & Continuing Education

- A. ALL Coaches must be appointed by their School Administration and upload their valid certificates to the Coaches' Certification website below. A coach is any adult with access to student-athletes through an education-based athletic program.
 - a. Including, but not limited to: [Volunteer Coaches](#), Assistant Coaches, and Head Coaches.
- B. Coaching Requirements: Article 13
- C. Coaching Out of Season Rules: Article 7, Section 8
- D. Rules on Recruitment: Article 3, Section 11
- E. Sportsmanship Expectations for Coaches: Article 12, Section 3

Section 3: Medical Coverage/Emergency Action Plans

- A. Medical Coverage should be provided by the host school, be in attendance and on duty for the duration of all interscholastic scrimmages and games during the regular season and all tournament round games. The medical personnel must introduce themselves to both coaches and referee prior to the start of the game.
 - a. Pre-Game Safety Checklist
- B. Schools are responsible for providing Medical Coverage for their team throughout the playoffs, including the Semis and Finals/Championships.
- C. Home team medical coverage shall be responsible for both teams unless the visiting school provides its own medical coverage.
- D. The judgment of the medical person will be final with regard to the medical condition of a player. No player may continue to play against the medical person's advice under any circumstance.

- E. An Emergency Action Plan with clearly defined written and practice protocols as required by RI General Laws must be developed and in place at every high school.
- When possible, an athletic trainer should be present at all practices and games. An athletic trainer is a key component in any strategy to minimize injury risk and optimize safety for all participants.
 - Rationale:* An effective emergency action plan (EAP) must be in place as a prompt and appropriate response to any emergency situation that can save a life. The EAP should be designed and practiced to address all teams (freshman, junior varsity, and varsity) and all practice and game sites.

Section 4: General Regulations for all Sports

- Heat Acclimatization: Article 7, Section 3
- Definition of a Game/Scrimmage: Article 7, Section 2
- Use of Equipment During the Summer: Article 6, Section 13
- Sportsmanship Expectations for Coaches, Student-Athletes, & Spectators: Article 12, Section 3
- Loyalty to Home School: Article 7, Section 7
- National Events: Article 7, Section 11
- Penalties for Ejections: Article 6, Section 7
- Protest Procedure: Article 5

Section 5: Sport Advisory Committee

- Each Sport Advisory Committee is comprised of Member School Administrators, Athletic Directors, Coaches, Officials, and other relevant individuals who work with and report to the RIIL on all matters concerning their sport.
- Esports' Advisory Committee Membership:

<u>Committee Role</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>School</u>
Sport Director		
Co-Director	Sam Schachter	Barrington
Athletic Director	Bob Morris	Times2
Athletic Director	Justin Erickson	Johnston
Coach	Brandon Lahoud	Lincoln
Coach	Dave Carnevale	Ponaganset

Section 6: Regular Season:

A. School Registration on PlayVs

- a. Participating Schools are required to register their team(s) through PlayVs
- b. Registration Opens: July 11, 2025
- c. Registration Closes: November 1, 2025

B. Overview of Preseason, Regular Season, and Postseason:

School Year	2025-26
Sport	Esports
Start Date	Monday, December 1, 2025
Days in the Preseason	10
Games Can Begin	Thursday, December 11, 2025
Regular Season Weeks	7
Week #1 Begins On	Monday, December 15, 2025
Week #2 Begins On	Monday, January 5, 2026
Week #3 Begins On	Monday, January 12, 2026
Week #4 Begins On	Monday, January 19, 2026
Week #5 Begins On	Monday, January 26, 2026
Week #6 Begins On	Monday, February 2, 2026
Week #7 Begins On	Monday, February 9, 2026
Last Day of the Regular Season	Thursday, February 12, 2026
Championships Concluded By	Sunday, March 8, 2026

C. Divisions:

- a. Esports has One (1) Division

<u>School</u>	<u>Titles per School</u>	<u>MarioKart 8</u>	<u>Super Smash Bros.</u>	<u>Rocket League</u>
20 Schools	39 Teams	12	18	9
Achievement First	1		X	
Barrington	2	X	X	
Bishop Hendricken	2		X	X
Central Falls	1		X	
Chariho	3	X	X	X
Classical	2	X	X	
Cranston East	3	X	X	X
Cranston West	3	X	X	X
East Providence	2		X	X
Hope	2	X	X	
Lincoln	2	X	X	
Middletown	2		X	X
Mt. Pleasant	1		X	
North Providence	2	X	X	
Ponaganset	2		X	X
Prout	1	X		
Smithfield	3	X	X	X
Times2	2	X	X	
Toll Gate	3	X	X	X

D. Game Cap: 9 Regular Season Games prior to the start of the playoffs

E. PlayVS shall set a date/time for all contests.

- a. If there is a conflict in the date/time of the contest with the visiting team(s) and mutual agreement cannot be reached, the visiting school Principal/Athletic Director shall submit ***a written request*** to the RIIL to review the circumstances of the disagreement and render a decision. **This must be done prior to the submission of the Home Confirmation Schedule.**
- b. Once the Home Confirmation Schedule is submitted, changes will not be allowed unless there are extenuating circumstances.

F. Postponement of Regular Season Games after the confirmation deadline:

- a. Varsity Esport League Games must be rescheduled for the next day unless mutually agreed upon by both schools and within all other guidelines contained in this handbook
 - i. League games must take precedence over non-league games or lesser events

G. Practice Limitations:

- a. Preseason Practice Limitations are also located in Heat Acclimatization: [Article 7, Section 3](#)
- b. Scrimmages allowed after 5 days of practice
- c. Games allowed after 10 days of practice, not including Sundays

H. Rosters shall be completed on the RIIL website and made available to the public no later than 10 days after the start of practice. Rosters must be updated when students are added/removed from the team.

- a. PlayVS Rosters must include: name, grade, and gamer tag (if applicable to the title).

Section 7: Postseason Qualification & Format:

A. Postseason Qualification:

- a. League Games Required to Qualify for the Postseason: 8 league games
- b. Teams will be ranked according to their Win/Loss in all league games
- c. Top-8 eligible teams in each title shall qualify for the playoffs

B. Single Elimination throughout the playoffs

- a. Quarterfinals – Semifinals - Finals

C. Straight Bracket, no reseeding

D. Postseason Tiebreaker

- a. Playoff Seeding will be determined by a team's Win/Loss as calculated on the PlayVS website.
- b. Win/Loss Tiebreaker:
 - 1) Head-to-Head result(s) in League Games between the tied teams
 - 2) Winning Percentage in all League Games vs teams in your division
 - 3) Wins in all League Games vs teams in a higher division
 - 4) Win Percentage in all League Games
 - 5) Opponents' Win Percentage
 - 6) Highest-rated win (according to the final Win/Loss standings)
 - 7) Next-highest-rated win (exhaust all possibilities)
 - 8) Coin Toss

E. In the event a "playoff game" must be suspended because of conditions which make it impossible to continue to play, the game will be rescheduled and restarted from the time of the suspension of play.

Section 8: Regulations Specific to Esports

- A. "RIIL Esport Titles" refer to any games offered by The Rhode Island Interscholastic League during the year. Two of those games will be offered in the fall, and two of those games will be offered in the winter. All students participating in a RIIL Esport Title must complete the [RIIL Esport Title Acknowledgement Form](#). One form must be completed for each student.
- B. PlayVS offers additional titles that are not offered by The Rhode Island Interscholastic League. Any school looking to participate in any additional titles must complete the [Additional Esport Title Request Form](#). One form must be completed for each student.
- C. A player, coach, or bench personnel shall be disqualified for:
 - a. Taunting

- b. Inappropriate communication
 - c. A disqualified player shall be ineligible to participate in the next League contest(s) as per Article 6, Section 6.
- D. There shall be no negative, foul, or abusive dialogue between and/or among coaches, players and referees during the course of a game.
- E. Game Clock:
 - a. Based on the game being played, it is managed by the software and ends at the necessary time.
 - b. In some instances the game clock will not expire as certain titles are finalized either by total points or time expiration.

Section 9: Officials

- A. RIIL assigned official's authority extends to pre and post-game oversight. Fighting and unsportsmanlike penalties will be within the authority of the officials at all times at the contest site.